

1888-9.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

VOTES

AND

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DURING THE SESSION

OF

1888-9,

WITH THE VARIOUS DOCUMENTS CONNECTED THEREWITH.

IN THREE VOLUMES.
VOL. III.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:
NEW SOUTH WALES.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS.

SESSION 1888-9.

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1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS,

BEING FOR THE YEAR

1887.

Presented in accordance with Resolutions of both Houses of Parliament.

SYDNEY : CHARLES POTTER, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1888.

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1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS.

(REPORT FOR 1887.)

Printed in accordance with Resolutions of both Houses of Parliament.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 30 November, 1888.

I have the honor to submit the Eighth Annual Report of this Department, having reference to transactions during the year 1887, each subject being concisely dealt with under a special head.

Reorganization.

In the latter part of 1886 Mr. Copeland, who was then Minister for Lands, directed a thorough and searching inquiry to be made into the inner working of the Department, with a view to general retrenchment, and the introduction of a more simple but at the same time a more comprehensive system of conducting the business of the office. The gentlemen selected for this responsible duty were Mr. W. H. Traill, Mr. W. Houston (who now occupies the position of Assistant Under Secretary of this Department) and Mr. R. D. Fitzgerald, who at the time was Deputy Surveyor-General, but has since retired from the Service. As early as February, 1887, the Board had made a thorough investigation into the Department, so far as the officers at head quarters were concerned, and submitted a report which has already been laid before the public. In this report they evidenced how completely and patiently they had examined into the merits of individual officers, and of the different systems which they found existing; and a sufficient proof of the high value of their recommendations was afforded by the fact that their scheme of reorganization was, with a few comparatively unimportant modifications, carried into effect.

A statement is herewith, which shows the effect of the reorganization of the Department following the Board of Inquiry's report. It need hardly be stated that the figures refer only to the staff which was employed in 1887 at head quarters, excluding those branches which were not reported upon by the Board, viz., the Detail Survey, General Survey, and Triangulation.

The total annual salaries paid on the 30th June, 1887, amounted to £96,713 18s., and in December of the same year they stood at £65,657 16s. Thus in the last half, as compared with the first half of the year, a saving was effected at the rate of £31,056 2s. per annum.

The numerical strength of the staff for the respective periods was as follows, viz.:—January to June—officers, 421; messengers, office-cleaners, 38; and July to December—officers, 276; messengers, &c., 38; showing a reduction of 145 officers.

COMPARATIVE

COMPARATIVE Statement of the Salaries paid to the Head Quarter's Staff on the 30th June, 1887, and the 31st December, 1887, respectively, excluding the Detail Survey, General Survey, and Triangulation Branches:—

| | Permanent Staff. | | | Temporary Staff. | | | Total. | | | |
|---|------------------|--------|----|------------------|--------|----|--------|---------|----|----|
| ANNUAL SALARIES, 30TH JUNE, 1887. | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Lands—</i> | | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| Staff | | 18,230 | 0 | 0 | 8,092 | 18 | 0 | 26,322 | 18 | 0 |
| Messengers, Office-cleaners, &c. | | 1,827 | 0 | 0 | ..... |  |  | 1,827 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | 28,149 | 18 | 0 |
| <i>Survey—</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Staff | | 29,445 | 0 | 0 | 37,410 | 0 | 0 | 66,855 | 0 | 0 |
| Messengers | | 1,085 | 0 | 0 | 624 | 0 | 0 | 1,709 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | 68,564 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | | | | | | | £96,713 | 18 | 0 |
| ANNUAL SALARIES, 31ST DECEMBER, 1887. | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Lands—</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Staff* | | 22,805 | 0 | 0 | 6,388 | 10 | 0 | 29,193 | 10 | 0 |
| Messengers | | 1,757 | 0 | 0 | ..... |  |  | 1,757 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | 30,950 | 10 | 0 |
| <i>Survey—</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Staff | | 21,567 | 16 | 0 | 11,509 | 8 | 0 | 33,077 | 4 | 0 |
| Messengers | | 1,057 | 0 | 0 | 573 | 2 | 0 | 1,630 | 2 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | 34,707 | 6 | 0 |
| Total | | | | | | | | £65,657 | 16 | 0 |
| RECAPITULATION. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Salaries, 30th June, 1887 | | | | | | | | 96,713 | 18 | 0 |
| Do 31st December, 1887 | | | | | | | | 65,657 | 16 | 0 |
| <i>Difference—Saving</i> | | | | | | | £ | 31,056 | 2 | 0 |

Expenditure in 1887.

The amount voted for the expenses of the Department (exclusive of the Survey Branch) was £146,576. The vouchers in connection with the services of the year, passed for payment from the vote, represented the sum of £131,687 0s. 3d., leaving a balance of £14,888 19s. 9d. to pay for outstanding claims on the 31st December. Those passed for payment from the Treasury Vote for advertising amounted to £1,252 8s. 8d.; thus the authorized payments amounted to £132,939 8s. 11d., as against £133,136 4s. 8d. for the year 1886—a decrease of £196 15s. 9d.

Head Quarters' Staff.

The administrative branch on the 31st December comprised 134 officers and 20 messengers, office-cleaners, &c., making a total of 154. Of this number 114 were on the permanent staff, and 40 were temporarily employed. The actual payments for salaries to permanent officers during the year amounted to £24,791 6s. 6d., and to temporary officers £7,518 14s. 3d., or a total of £32,310 0s. 9d.

Local Land Boards' Staff.

The actual payments for salaries to the permanent and temporary staffs of the several Local Land Boards were: To chairmen and clerks, £25,841 7s. 9d.; messengers and office-cleaners, £913 15s., and to inspectors of conditional purchases, £6,415 16s. 8d., making a total of £33,170 19s. 5d. The number of officers employed in the Local Land Board and District Survey offices on the 31st December, 1887, and the amount of their salaries on that particular date, will be found in Schedules II and III respectively.

Parliamentary

* Including a number of officers whose salaries, from January to June, were provided under the heading "Survey."

Parliamentary Returns.

39 Returns were moved for by Parliament during the year, and 17 were completed before 1888.

Appeals against decisions of Local Land Boards.

The privilege conferred by section 17 of the Crown Lands Act of 1884 of appealing to the Minister against decisions of Local Land Boards was taken advantage of in 182 cases, and of the appeals so put forward, 44 were sustained, 106 dismissed, 14 returned to the Local Boards for further action, and the remaining 18 postponed. Of those referred back to the Board 5 were ultimately sustained, and 6 dismissed. In two cases which had come in this way before the Minister he availed himself of the provisions of section 140 of the Act, and instead of deciding the questions himself referred them for solution to the Supreme Court. In the first case the question was whether an applicant for a conditional lease under section 54 of the Act could be put in possession of the land applied for after the land (which was available at the date of his application) had been included in a leasehold area. All such applications had been made prior to the notification of the division of the pastoral holdings and were consequently antecedent to the date of the leasehold areas coming into existence. The Local Boards, however, had not been able to confirm the conditional lease applications sufficiently soon to be in advance of the notification of the leasehold areas, and hence the question arose whether the land did not form part of that under pastoral lease, and such being the case whether the conditional lease applicant was not effectually barred. The Supreme Court ruled that he was. In many cases, however, the Land Boards had acted contrary to the law as it thus came to be explained, and in view of this fact, and having regard to the general merits of the question, looked at from other than the mere technical point of view, provision was made in the Conditional Purchases and Leases Validation Act of 1887, 50 Vic. No. 34, to cure the invalidity attaching to such conditional lease applications.

In the second case the question was whether a conditional purchase in existence when the land surrounding it was reserved from sale became, on forfeiture, part of the area so reserved. The official contention was that it did not, but in ordinary circumstances became vacant land available for reconditional purchase. The Supreme Court overruled this in consequence of the decision on a somewhat analogous question in the case of *Edols v. Tearle*, in which the surrounding land, instead of being reserved, was comprised within a leasehold area. As, however, the ruling in the latter case has been set aside by the Privy Council, it has followed that in the case dependent upon it the decision of the Court has not been final.

Local Land Board Meetings, &c.

From Schedule IV may be ascertained particulars of the number of cases dealt with at meetings of the several Local Land Boards, together with the expenses attached thereto. Schedule V exhibits the number of caveats which were lodged against applications to purchase or lease land under the Act, and the number of such as were sustained or dismissed.

Auction Sales.

From the Schedule following it will be seen that 4,402 lots of town land comprising an area of 1,737 acres and $28\frac{1}{4}$ perches were submitted to sale, of which 1,848, representing an area of 729 acres 1 rood $6\frac{3}{4}$ perches, were sold for £51,293 15s. 3d., or an average price of £70 6s. 8d. per acre. As compared with 1886 this represents an increase in every respect, as during that year 421 acres 3 roods 14 perches were disposed of for £21,074 16s., or an average of £49 19s. $2\frac{1}{4}$ d. per acre.

The most considerable sales in 1887 were of land situated at Stockton and Beecroft. At the former place the whole of the 341 lots offered were sold, and realized an average of nearly £369 per acre, while at the latter place 160 lots were disposed of for £4,695, or an average of over £55 per acre. (See Schedules VI and IX.)

Of

Of suburban land (*vide* Schedules VII and IX) 665 lots of an area of 2,896 acres and 14 perches were sold in 1887, as against 517 during 1886 containing an area of 1,843 acres and 32 perches, and although the land sold in 1887 brought £25,059 6s. 3d. as against £18,933 2s. 3d. in 1886, the average price per acre fell from £10 5s. 5¼d. to £8 13s. 0½d., owing, no doubt, to the fact that the land offered was deemed to be less attractive than that offered in 1886.

Country land to the extent of 103,748 acres 1 rood 15 perches was sold in 1,124 lots, and brought £158,746 10s. 9d., being an average of £1 10s. 7d. per acre. This represents a difference between 1886 of 331 lots, 45,660 acres 2 roods 34 perches, and £58,119 4s. 4d., in favour of 1887; but the average price per acre of the latter year, £1 10s. 7d., compares unfavourably with that of 1886, viz., £1 14s. 7¾d. (*See* Schedule VIII.)

It is satisfactory to report that only one auction purchase was forfeited in 1887 on account of the purchaser failing to pay his balance (*See* Schedule XI.)

Forty-eight applications were made for refund of guarantee deposits paid under section 30 of the now repealed Lands Act Amendment Act of 1875, 39 Vic. No. 13, and in response to these £1,505 17s. 11d. was refunded. (*See* Schedule X.)

| | Year. | No. of lots offered. | Area offered. | | | No. of lots sold. | Area sold. | | | Amount realized. | | | Average price per acre. | | |
|---------------|-------|----------------------|---------------|----|-----|-------------------|------------|----|----|------------------|----|----|-------------------------|----|----|
| | | | a. | r. | p. | | a. | r. | p. | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| Town | 1886 | 2,322 | 985 | 0 | 10½ | 1,014 | 421 | 3 | 14 | 21,074 | 16 | 0 | 49 | 19 | 2½ |
| | 1887 | 4,402 | 1,737 | 0 | 28¼ | 1,848 | 729 | 1 | 6¾ | 51,293 | 15 | 3 | 70 | 6 | 8 |
| Suburban ... | 1886 | 1,476 | 5,012 | 0 | 14 | 517 | 1,843 | 0 | 32 | 18,933 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 5 | 5¼ |
| | 1887 | 1,905 | 9,044 | 3 | 38½ | 665 | 2,896 | 0 | 14 | 25,059 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 13 | 0½ |
| Country | 1886 | 2,267 | 166,990 | 0 | 24 | 793 | 58,087 | 2 | 21 | 100,627 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 14 | 7¾ |
| | 1887 | 3,127 | 279,781 | 1 | 19¼ | 1,124 | 103,748 | 1 | 15 | 158,746 | 10 | 9 | 1 | 10 | 7 |

Applications to purchase by virtue of improvements.

These may be divided into two classes—those made under the 2nd section of the Lands Act Amendment Act of 1875 and those made under the 46th section of the present Act. The former could not of course be put forward after the present Act came into operation, and it follows that such applications requiring final action must become fewer and fewer each year. Such as were disposed of during 1887 are exhibited in Schedule XII, from which it will be seen that £160,342 0s. 11d. were paid for 844 portions, comprising a total area of 124,994 acres and 20½ perches. Of these 723 represented country, 40 town, and 81 suburban land.

Applications under the 46th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884 were put forward to the number of 335 (or 21 less than those received during 1886), for an area of 217 acres 2 roods 18½ perches. For 6 of the portions applied for, comprising an area of 3 acres 3 roods, the purchase money, £148 4s., was paid, and 28 of the applications were disallowed. In addition to these, 93 portions were alienated in satisfaction of applications under the same section which had been advanced prior to 1887. The area thus disposed of represented 45 acres and 10½ perches, the amount realized being £1,637 2s. 3d. Including purchases completed in satisfaction of applications made before, as well as after the commencement of the Act of 1884, there were sold by virtue of improvements 943 portions, containing in the aggregate 125,042 acres 3 roods and 31 perches, for £162,127 7s. 2d., not including penalties incurred through the payments having been made after they had become due. (*See* Schedules XII, XIII, and XIII A.)

Special Purchase Applications.

Of these 172 were made, 25 being for rescission of water frontages, 35 for permission to reclaim land, 34 for permission to purchase small areas unavailable for conditional purchase, &c., 76 for the closing and alienation of unnecessary roads, and 2 for exchange of roads. (*See* Schedule XIV.)

In satisfaction of such applications made under the existing Act, but not necessarily put forward during 1887 alone, 289 acres 3 roods 16 perches were sold for £2,192 9s. 4d. (*see* Schedules XVI and XVIII), while in satisfaction of similar applications which had been advanced under the repealed Acts (*see* Schedules XV and XVII), 248 acres 3 roods 17 perches were disposed of for £9,594 16s. 1d., making a total of 538 acres 2 roods 33 perches for £11,787 5s. 5d., as against 149 acres 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ perches for £2,648 18s. 11d. during 1886. Of the area thus alienated in 1887 106 acres and 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ perches were situated in the county of Cumberland, for which £9,630 8s. 8d. were realised.

Conditional Purchases.

From Schedule XIX it will be seen that 4,769 applications were made to purchase land conditionally, the area applied for amounting to 793,004 acres and 31 perches, and the deposits to £82,670 10s. 11d. These were made up of 2,369 for original conditional purchases, 2,196 for additional conditional purchases, and 204 for purchases carrying no obligation as to residence, and 98 of these were for land within special areas proclaimed under section 24 of the Act. These particulars are amplified in the following schedule which (exhibiting as it does a comparison between 1886 and 1887) shows that during the later year a falling off occurred of 1,311 applications, the difference of area being 170,192 acres 1 rood 36 perches, and of deposits £19,123 12s. A summary of conditional purchases applied for since 1862 is given in Schedule XXXIV.

SCHEDULE.

| Year. | Section 26. | | | Section 42. | | | Section 47. | | | Special Area. | | | otal. | | |
|--------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|---------------|------------|------------|-------|--------------|--------------|
| | No. | Area. | Deposit. | No. | Area. | Deposit. | No. | Area. | Deposit. | No. | Area. | Deposit. | No. | Area. | Deposit. |
| 1886.. | 2660 | 579,539 2 28 | 57,954 0 1 | 2987 | 330,279 3 2 | 33,023 0 4 | 355 | 43,636 2 37 | 8,350 5 0 | 78 | 9,690 2 0 | 2,121 17 6 | 6080 | 963,193 2 27 | 101,794 |
| | | | | | Not within Special Areas. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1887 | 2300 | 529,628 2 14 | 52,962 17 5 | 2185 | 231,912 2 5 | 23,191 5 3 | 186 | 20,073 3 12 | 4,014 16 0 | .. | ..... | ..... | 4769 | 793,004 0 31 | 82,670 10 11 |
| | | | | | Within Special Areas. | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 69 | 8,451 2 0 | 1,614 6 0 | 11 | 634 3 0 | 125 10 3 | 18 | 2,253 0 0 | 761 16 0 | 98 | 11,389 1 0 | 2,501 12 3 | | | |

The mere putting forward of an application does not, at present, as it did under the former Acts, create a title to the land; the claim of the selector being now dependent upon action by the Local Land Board, who, after investigation, either confirm, or disallow, the application; the date of confirmation then determining the date of commencement of the purchase, and consequently that of the holder's obligations in connection therewith. The present Law in this respect has, undoubtedly, many advantages, but in the report for 1886 the disadvantages consequent upon the delay which necessarily arises before the applicant can legally enter upon his land were touched upon, and reference made to, what then, appeared to be a probability of some desirable amendment being made in the existing system. Of the applications made in 1887, 1,694 were finally disposed of during the same year, 1,066 having been confirmed and 628 disallowed; but in addition to these the Boards confirmed 3,412 and disallowed 711 applications which had not been finally dealt with at the close of 1886, and thus set at rest 5,817 claims which (excluding the disallowed applications) represented an addition of 4,478 conditional purchases to the previous stock of such holdings.

The provisions of section 35 of the Act of 1884, which admits of the holders of conditional purchases under the repealed Acts obtaining a reduction from 5 to 4 per cent. of the interest chargeable on the balance of purchase money, were made applicable to a number of conditional purchases referred to in 2,647 applications. (*See* Schedule XX.)

From Schedule XXI it will be seen that in 17,080 cases Inspectors of Conditional Purchases were directed to report as to the fulfilment by conditional purchasers of the obligations attaching to their selections, and that 16,386 reports were made in pursuance of these instructions. This schedule explains the work performed by each inspector for the several Land Board Districts. With reference to these it may be explained that the Chairmen of Local Boards are authorized to instruct

instruct inspectors, who discharge their duties under the immediate superintendence of these officers; but with regard to conditional purchases under the repealed Acts it necessarily happens that cases requiring inspection or inquiry before the Local Boards have to be collected and classified at head-quarters, and despatched to the proper districts. Of such 9,763 were forwarded, 286 being for inquiry in open Court, and the remaining 9,477 for inspection of the land in the first instance. (*See Schedule XXII*).

Particulars of cases in connection with Conditional Purchases under the repealed Acts investigated by the Local Boards will be found in Schedule XXIII, from which it will be learnt that in 597 cases the selectors were found to have failed in fulfilling the law, while in 1,233 the decisions were in their favour. In 77 cases the Minister's decision was sought on special considerations surrounding each case, and in 5,291 the Boards held there were no sufficient reasons to carry the cases into open Court for special investigation.

Declarations as to fulfilment of conditions relating to conditional purchases were received to the number of 12,811, and 10,847 certificates were issued that such conditions had been discharged as by law required. Of these, however, 180 were amended certificates, the amendments having reference for the most part to matters of detail, such as alterations of area, &c., which had taken place since the original certificates were prepared. (*See Schedule XXIV*).

The number of notices of transfers received was 9,376. Of these 7,443 were finally dealt with in this Department, and 14,949 conditional purchases thereby changed hands. Apart from the task of examining these documents, such as were passed involved the despatch of 12,031 notices. (*See Schedules XXV and XXVI, which contain further particulars not referred to here.*)

Schedules XXVII and XXVIII contain detailed information respecting the number of conditional purchases under the repealed Acts and the present Act which were declared forfeited during 1887. The total area which thus reverted to the Crown was 138,479 acres and 21 perches, representing 628 conditional purchases taken up under the old and 74 taken up under the present law. (*See Schedules XXVII, XXVIII, and XXX*. Against these, however, have to be set off 28 cases, in which the forfeiture of 3,674 acres 2 roods, and 47 cases, in which the lapsing of 5,911 acres 1 rood 24 perches, came to be reversed. Summaries of conditional purchases which have lapsed or become forfeited since 1864 and 1865 are contained in Schedule XXX and XXXI.

147 purchases (applied for prior to the commencement of the Act of 1884), and representing 22,301 acres 2 roods 15 perches were declared void for the various reasons set forth in the appendix to Schedule XXXII, and in 65 instances voidance was revoked and 5,948 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres restored to the applicants. In the same schedule particulars are contained of 264 conditional purchases the areas of which were increased, and 409 in which the full area applied for could not be granted, the difference amounting to a reduction of 2,159 acres 3 roods.

Schedule XXXIII gives details of £207 4s. 4d. made up of miscellaneous amounts authorized for refund in connection with conditional purchases.

The 138th section of the present Act contains several provisions to meet difficulties which were found to stand in the way of the legal recognition of conditional purchases applied for under the Act which it repealed, and as will be seen from Schedule XXXV. 100 conditional purchases comprising an area of 12,266 acres 3 roods were freed from objections which otherwise would have proved fatal to them.

The provisions of the Act, 50 Vic. No. 21, were also made applicable to 135 Mining Conditional Purchases, comprising an area of 19,956 acres 3 roods 24 perches.

An approximate statement of the number and area of conditional purchases existing on 31st December, 1887, is given in Schedule XXXVIII, showing that over 17,655,873 acres were held under 141,474 separate applications.

Conditional Leases.

Applications for conditional leases under the provisions of section 48 of the Act were fewer by 272 than those received during 1886, being 2,228, as against 2,500, though the area applied for (1,242,380 acres) was somewhat greater than that (1,207,953 acres) applied for during the earlier year. As will be seen from Schedule XXXIX, the Local Boards disposed of 719 of these, having disallowed 319 and confirmed

confirmed 400 for 245,762 acres. In addition to these they disposed of a large number of claims under the same section or section 54, which had been advanced during 1885 or 1886, but which had not been finally dealt with at the close of the latter year, and thus brought to completion 2,852 cases, details of which are given in Schedules XL and XLII, and a summary in the Schedule hereunder:—

| No. of applications under section 48 made in 1887 and confirmed in 1887 | | Area granted. | | |
|---|--|---------------|-------|-------|
| | | a. | r. | p. |
| 400 | Do do do | 245,762 | 0 | 0 |
| 319 | Do do do disallowed | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| 1,561 | Do do 1885 or 1886 and confirmed in 1887 | 735,954 | 2 | 35 |
| 235 | Do do do disallowed | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| 300 | Do 54 made in 1885 or 1886 and confirmed in 1887 | 145,797 | 0 | 0 |
| 37 | Do do do disallowed | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| 2,852 | | 1,127,513 | 2 | 35 |

To these may be added 148 applications under section 52 (for the conversion of pre-emptive leases into conditional leases), 37 of which were refused and 111 granted for 107,187 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres. (*See* Schedule XLI.)

During 1887, 4,425 conditional leases came before the Minister for determination of rent, the Land Boards having made their recommendations in this connection and submitted their valuations for Ministerial acceptance or modification. This involved a much larger amount of work than any mere figures would suggest, as the necessity existed of considering each individual case on its merits, adjusting each account after the Minister's decision was arrived at, and informing the lessee, &c., of the result.

Conditional leases to the number of 601 changed hands, being mostly under clause 52 of the Act, the transfer of the conditional purchases by virtue of which the leases were granted carrying the leases with them.

Annual Leases.

It became necessary to limit the date up to which applications to convert old pre-emptive or auction leases into annual leases should be received, and accordingly only 6 applications under the 3rd clause of the Act were allowed to be put forward—these having special considerations warranting their recognition. Including applications made during 1885, 1886, and 1887, 68 leases were granted for 37,199 acres, and 21 applications declined. (*See* Schedule XLIII.)

Annual leases are now disposed of by auction or tender under section 85 of the Act. Under the first system 73 lots were offered and 60, comprising an area of 33,283 acres, sold, at an annual rental of £698 5s. 11d. Under the second system 1,233 lots were submitted, and 278 tenders made, 268 of which were accepted for 169,351 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres, at an annual rental of £1,139 15s. 6d. Such leases, it must be admitted, do not offer any special advantages, as they carry no security of tenure, being open to conditional purchase, conditional lease, &c., in the same way as unoccupied Crown land. (*See* Schedules XLIV, XLV, XLVI, XLVII, and XLVIII.)

During the year 695 leases, comprising a nominal area of 434,917 acres, and representing an annual rent of £1,814, were notified forfeited (*see* Schedule XLIX), and 79 were transferred.

Reserves and Dedications.

Very full particulars of reserves from sale or lease made or cancelled during 1887 are contained in Schedules L to LIII inclusive, from which it will be gathered that 1,807 reserves, comprising 1,743,657 acres, were made from sale, and 1,352 of such, comprising 1,529,026 acres, revoked, while 923 reserves, comprising 314,829 acres were made from lease, and 111 of such reserves, comprising 93,281 acres, were cancelled. It should be mentioned that some of the reserves from sale and lease covered the same land, it being found desirable in some cases to make double reservations in this way, as reservation under one head alone would not have precluded the land from occupation. A large number (660) of such reserves were made in consequence of the appeal to the Privy Council from the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of *Edols v. Tearle*, as some uncertainty existed as to whether forfeited conditional purchases, &c., within the bounds of leasehold areas became

became part of the land under pastoral lease, and it was considered expedient to avoid the complications which necessarily arise when the law comes to be interpreted differently by different tribunals.

Such reserves as are here referred to may be, and usually are, of a temporary character, and therefore differ from what are termed dedications, of which 228 were made for public and 7 for religious purposes,* covering in all an area of 5,377 acres and 23½ perches. (See Schedule LIV.)

Pastoral Leases and Occupation Licenses.

As explained in previous Report for 1886 the division of runs was practically completed during 1885, only a few cases having to remain over in consequence of the special and difficult features which they presented. Of these 4 were completed in 1887, 2 leasehold and 2 resumed areas in the Eastern, and the same number in the Central division having been gazetted. In one instance the entire run was converted into a leasehold area in accordance with sub-section 12 of section 78 of the Act, the area being too small to require sub-division, and thus 5 holdings were brought under the provisions of the "Crown Lands Act of 1884." During the past year the Department had cast upon it the large responsibility of determining the rents of land under pastoral lease and occupation license; and the extent and trouble connected with this it would be difficult, if not impossible, for any one not engaged in the work to appreciate. No fewer than 1,452 leasehold and 1,338 resumed areas thus came under review, each case involving a perusal of its own mass of evidence, and the weighing of the discrepant representations or arguments which were brought forward to support a higher or lower rental. Apart from this there followed appeals or subsequent protests which necessitated patient consideration of the cases in their new shape, and by thus coming forward again and again they, in effect, multiplied themselves, and each time necessarily became more complicated and difficult of treatment. The rents so determined in connection with leasehold areas were £54,978 8s. 5d. for 6,882,021 acres in the Eastern, £190,656 12s. 7d. for 18,760,703 acres in the Central, and £144,498 4s. 9d. for 28,962,717 acres in the Western divisions of the Colony, while in connection with resumed areas, following the same order of divisions, the amounts were £32,035 8s. 4d. for 5,984,812 acres; £103,730 4s. 0d. for 17,182,325 acres; and £88,205 6s. 6d. for 25,835,640 acres respectively.

In connection with holdings in the Western Division a large amount of trouble existed in adjusting the accounts in consequence of certain provisions in section 78 of the Act, one of which declared that the new lease was to commence from the mean date of expiration of the previously existing leases, while the other set forth that the rent was to apply from the date of notification of the leasehold areas. In the Department these provisions were interpreted to mean that while in some instances the leases were to have a longer currency than fifteen years the new rent was to commence from date of the leasehold area, notwithstanding that such date might be antecedent to the date of expiration of the previously existing leases. This interpretation was repeatedly challenged by parties interested, who argued that the new lease could not be regarded as commencing until the former ones had expired, and that consequently no alteration of rent could take place in the meantime. The point was ultimately tested in the Supreme Court, in the case of *Reid v. Garrett* during the current year, and although there was apparently a confident expectation on the part of a large number of leaseholders that the action of the Department would be over-riden, the Court pronounced it to have been warranted by law.

During the year 226 pastoral leases and 203 occupation licenses were transferred (see Schedule LVII); and 6 applications were made for the subdivision of leasehold areas, of which 5 were refused and 1 not disposed of. (See Schedule LVIII.)

In connection with 9 pastoral leases and 33 occupation licenses, refunds on account of alteration of area, &c., were authorized to the amounts of £534 18s. 3d. and £3,057 5s. 6d. respectively; and 91 refunds were directed covering an amount of £3,531 7s. 4d., which had been paid in excess on leases as existing under the repealed Acts. (See Schedules LIX and LX.)

As will be seen from Schedule LXI a large number of applications by pastoral lessees to surrender lands held by them within the boundaries of resumed areas in exchange for lands within their leasehold areas stood over from 1886; but it will be observed that few of these were accepted, a large number were refused, and action on the remainder postponed.

Under

* The reservations for religious purposes were effected in pursuance of promises made prior to 11 May, 1880, being the date upon which Parliament resolved to discontinue such dedications.

Under the provisions of section 75, sub-section 3, of the Act, 27 portions within resumed areas were (prior to 1887) offered to the Government in consideration of a refund of the money paid for them; but these were declined except in one instance, and in this action had not been taken during 1887. (*See* Schedule LXII.)

Homestead Leases.

So far as homestead lease applications are concerned there is little difference to record between 1886 and 1887, seeing that during the former year 121 applications for 1,141,963 acres were made, while during the latter year 128 for 1,198,286 acres were put forward. Of the last mentioned 52 were granted, and 22 refused, thus leaving 54 outstanding at the end of the year. (*See* Schedule LXV.)

A total of 149 leases were granted during the year, and 51 applications disallowed or withdrawn. The leases granted were in satisfaction of applications made prior to, as well as during, 1887; the area leased being 1,420,052 acres, and the annual rent £10,597 2s. 6d. (*See* Schedules LXVII and LXVIII.)

Applications to the number of 238 were received for refund of value of improvements on the land under lease, and including some of these with some put forward before 1887, 246 were dealt with. (*See* Schedule LXIX.)

At the close of last year there were current 302 homestead leases, containing in all 2,930,374 acres, for which an annual rent of £20,870 4s. 4d. was received. (*See* Schedule LXVI.)

Scrub Leases.

No scrub leases were granted, although 37 applications for land within leasehold and 9 for land within resumed areas were received, apart from the fact that 198 applications remained over from previous years. It has already been explained in the report for 1886 that difficulties have stood in the way of satisfying any applications of this character with a due regard to the public interest. The rents of pastoral leases and occupation licenses have been based on the average character of the land, and therefore an allowance has been made in consideration of the existence of any portion reported to be infested with scrub. In such circumstances the occupants have no legitimate cause of dissatisfaction, assuming the appraisement to have been fair; while to grant a distinct lease of the scrub-land would justify a re-appraisement of the remainder (for which a higher average rental should be received), and an inducement would be offered to the persons interested to abandon their scrub leases and confine their interest to land which demanded less attention. (*See* Schedules LXX and LXXI.)

Special Leases.

Such leases as these are sought for various purposes, such as for wharves, quarries, &c., &c., and (as will be seen from Schedule LXXII) 177 applications came to hand. Taking into account 98 applications, which were incomplete at the close of 1886, 275 applications required action, of which 113 were declined and 107 granted for 1,801 acres 1 rood $3\frac{1}{4}$ perches, at an annual rent of £1,937 15s. In addition to these 6 applications which had been made prior to the present Act were refused. (*See* Schedule LXXIII.)

Schedule LXXIV shows that 417 leases were current in 1887. These comprised an area of 4,586 acres 2 roods $6\frac{1}{4}$ perches, from which was derived an annual revenue of £5,148 14s. The purposes for which these were held are summarized in Schedule LXXV. During the year 44 leases were forfeited and 43 expired, representing together a termination of rent amounting to £734 13s.

Volunteer Land Order Applications.

Eighteen applications for grants of land by virtue of volunteer certificates were put forward during 1887, the area claimed being the maximum (50 acres) in each case; 5 of these matured during the same year and 14 were refused. (*See* Schedule LXXVIII). From Schedule LXXIX, however, it will be understood that 45 applications for 2,250 acres were satisfied, such applications having, except in 5 instances, been made prior to 1887. In all 14 applications were disallowed for the reasons enumerated in Schedule LXXX.

Deeds of Grant.

Deeds of grant to the number of 4,434 were prepared, representing an alienation of 333,981 acres 1 rood 25 perches. An explanation of the number of deeds, and the areas granted under particular sections of the Act of 1884, as well as other Acts, is given in Schedule LXXXI.

Applications

Applications for Permission to Ringbark.

Applications under section 93 of the Act, for permission to ringbark land held under lease, &c., to the number of 212, were submitted for consideration, of which 14 were disallowed, and 122 satisfied—the applicants being allowed to carry out ringbarking operations over 542,786 acres. In addition to these 270 applications which had stood over from previous years were disposed of, 41 having been rejected, and 229 granted, applying to 883,769 acres—thus making a total of 1,426,555 acres over which permission to ringbark extended. (*See Schedule LXXXII.*)

Cases of Trespass on Crown Lands.

Particulars of these are contained in Schedule LXXXIII. 314 cases, of which 158 were reported in 1887, came forward for action, and 208 were terminated during 1887, leaving 106 to be further proceeded with.

Correspondence.

Attention is invited to Schedules LXXXIV to LXXXVI inclusive under this head. No fewer than 19,285 manuscript letters, 2,286 telegrams, 144 circulars, 68,123 printed letters, 619 schedules, and 10,674 miscellaneous packets were forwarded from head-quarters, while from the Local Land Board Offices 14,225 manuscript letters, 56,861 printed letters, and 3,345 packets were despatched. The number of documents which reached the Head Office, each of which required action was 127,154, being an increase of 17,083 over 1886; and the local offices exhibit a record of 100,779, being an increase of 19,653 between the same period.

Forest Conservancy.

This is a subject recognized as deserving very great consideration; but the Department has only comparatively recently had transferred from the Department of Mines the duties connected with it, and it has, therefore, not been considered expedient to offer any very distinct proposals on so large a question, in the absence of a wider experience than time and opportunity have so far afforded. It seems, however, safe to say that there is much room for expansion or improvement of the present system; but at the same time it is not overlooked that forest culture on a large scale would necessarily involve some amount of expense; and, as it would require large areas to be permanently set apart, any efforts in this direction would have to be made, keeping in view the Land Law which may now or which may subsequently exist. Appended hereto is a report from the Inspector of Forests, but before inviting perusal of it, it may be useful to give a slight sketch of the present system.

The large area of 5,656,831 acres is at present reserved from sale for the preservation and growth of timber, and is made up of 894 reserves.* These reserves have been made, some at the instance of district surveyors, but, for the most part, on the recommendation of forest rangers, who are given certain districts to supervise (*see* Schedule XCI), and who are expected, among other things, to propose the reservation of such areas as may contain useful timber, and to prevent as far as possible any timber being cut or destroyed without authority. This timber is, of course, of natural growth; and the object of the reservation is to permit of the Crown keeping control over the timber, which would necessarily pass out of its possession should the land be alienated. Over these reserves licenses to cut timber are purchasable from the Crown at from 5 to 15 shillings per man per month, and in some cases royalty is charged on the timber obtained. Restrictions are imposed as to the girth, &c., of trees which may be felled, and in this way the reserves become revenue-producing areas, and at the same time admit of the growth of such young immature trees as they may from time to time contain. At Gosford a nursery of 65 acres has been some time formed, where useful trees are propagated, and from which transplanting should take place to suitable localities. A few other plantations exist elsewhere, reference to which is made in the Inspector of Forests' report. Up to the present, transplanting on any extensive scale does not appear to have taken place. This work merits attention, and together with the reservation of suitable areas, placed under effective supervision, which would extend both to protecting matured or maturing timber, and the thinning out of young growths (which are apt to impede their own proper development), seem to present important matters for consideration.

Report

* Includes considerable areas recommended for cancellation.

Report of the Inspector of Forests.

Adelaide Jubilee International Exhibition of 1887.

For several months my time was chiefly occupied in selecting and supervising the preparation of indigenous timber specimens, flowering and leaf specimens, seeds and seed-vessels of same; samples of woods, suitable for veneering, engraving, and articles of turnery, tanning and medicinal barks, fibres, gums, resins, &c., and in compiling descriptive lists of the botanical and local names, habitats, qualities, uses, dimensions, &c., of the exhibits. In this work I was assisted by Mr. John M'Coig, overseer of the State Forest Nursery, who also accompanied me to Adelaide to assist with the arrangement of the exhibits in the Exhibition.

A very creditable, but not a complete, collection of the forest products of New South Wales was exhibited, which attracted much attention, most of which exhibits received the highest awards in their several classes, the collection consisting of 135 timber specimens, chiefly distinct species, 30 inches long by the average diameter of the trees and 6 inches thick, showing the bark on edges and planed and polished on one side; also 151 dried leaf and flowering specimens of each species of timber, &c., arranged in books for reference and identification of the species; 48 species of seeds and seed-vessels of the timbers; 12 samples of gums and resins; 9 samples of tanning, medicinal, and fibre barks; 5 samples of fibres; 54 samples of polished articles of turnery of numerous species of woods and varied designs; 30 samples of distinct species of polished veneered woods; and 13 samples of distinct species of woods known or considered to be suitable for wood-engraving.

In conjunction with the above exhibits a collection of commercial timbers were exhibited by Professor Warren, M.I.C.E., Sydney University, showing tests of their strength by tension, compression, cross-breaking, and shearing, the samples of timbers having been supplied by the Forest Branch to Professor Warren, with names and descriptions to enable him to conduct the experiments.

State Forest Nursery, Gosford.

From the month of July, when work was first commenced at the nursery, about half the area (65 acres) of the land was enclosed with a 6 feet close paling fence; $1\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land was cleared of timber, and several galvanized iron buildings erected, consisting of carpenter's and potting sheds, store, temporary residence for the overseer, &c.

A small area of land was cleared, enclosed with a fence, and trenched for raising trees, of which there are now from 20,000 to 25,000 seedling plants in boxes and the open ground ready for planting.

Two wells have been made on the ground, one of which was sunk to the rock, a depth of 43 feet, is 5 feet diameter, its top being lined with brick, domed, and cemented. In this well the water has risen 20 feet, and is produced at the rate of 250 gallons per hour.

The second well was sunk 25 feet into drift sand, is 6 feet x 4 feet wide, the top being covered with logs and slabs; the water in this well has risen 9 feet, and is produced at the rate of 1,000 gallons per hour.

A brick and cement tank, 10 feet deep by 12 feet square, has been constructed for the reception of overflow water from the tanks attached to the buildings, the water in this tank being required for watering pot plants.

5 acres of the nursery site have been separately enclosed with a fence for immediate use, the area to be afterwards extended as required, around the inside boundary of which a border 12 feet wide has been trenched to the depth of 2 feet for the purpose of growing specimen trees and shrubs, for procuring seeds and cuttings, test purposes, ornament, and shelter. This border will be planted during the present winter and ensuing spring, as a large number of plants are now available, and will be obtained for the purpose.

Twelve bush frames (with tea-tree shading) have been made for raising seeds and protecting newly-potted plants from the sun and wind, and also a small bush shed.

A large bush shed, 100 feet long x 18 feet wide, will shortly be erected for the growth of pot plants.

As the land at present under cultivation is too light and sandy for some descriptions of plants, it is intended to clear, trench, and fence about 1 acre of rich loamy soil for plants requiring it.

I may state that soil suitable for the growth of all kinds of plants, from sand to peat, and stiff clay, is available upon the nursery site in sufficient extent for all future requirements.

The total expenditure upon the nursery for wages, erection of buildings, clearing, trenching, fencing, well-sinking, &c., from 19th July, to 31st December, 1887, was £602 19s. 9d.

Hogan's Brush Plantation, near Gosford.

Early in spring about 6 acres of this reserve were planted with the following species and numbers of trees, viz.:—4,000 red cedar (*Cedrela Toona*), 2,000 Catalpa speciosa, 50 Tasmanian Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*), 100 Camphor Laurel (*Laurus camphora*), 200 Brush or White Box (*Tristania conferta*), 100 Evergreen Oaks (*Quercus virens*), 100 Silky Oaks (*Grevillea robusta*), total, 6,550 trees to remain till mature; and the following species and number of trees were planted out in nursery rows for transplanting, viz.:—10,000 Red Cedar (*Cedrela Toona*), 1,000 Catalpa speciosa, 5,000 Kurrajong (*Sterculia diversifolia*), and 500 White Cedar (*Melia composita*); total, 16,500 trees.

All the trees planted upon this reserve have grown remarkably well, the red cedar, catalpas, brush, box, and silky oaks having made from 2 to 3 feet of growth, but unfortunately a large number of the smallest catalpas especially have had their tops and branches eaten off by wallabies, which if continued would ultimately kill the trees, and I therefore intend to remove them to the State Forest Nursery, where they can remain until large enough to be beyond the reach of wallabies, and to replace them with red cedar trees, which these animals have not interfered with.

A number of the brush box trees have also been similarly damaged by wallabies, but not to such an extent as to permanently injure their growth.

The undergrowth and weeds are now very tall and dense upon this plantation, and it is intended to put on several men to remove them.

The expenditure upon this reserve for 1887, in planting, staking, clearing off weeds, &c., was £60 5s. 6d. *Catalpa*

Catalpa and other Timber Tree Plantation, Cootamundra.

In the spring the catalpa and other trees upon this reserve were pruned and tied, and all the trees (area about $6\frac{1}{4}$ acres) are reported to be progressing satisfactorily.

The catalpa trees are now bearing seeds, and a large quantity of its seeds have been collected and forwarded to this Department by direction of the Mayor of Cootamundra (J. Barnes, Esq.), for raising plants in the State Forest Nursery.

Arrangements have been made with the Trustees of the Albert Park Recreation Reserve, adjoining the Catalpa Plantation, to keep the latter reserve clear of weeds throughout the year for the sum of £35.

The total expenditure upon this plantation for 1887 was £46 6s. 9d.

Cedar Plantations, Dorrigo Forest Reserve, and Forest Reserve No. 5, Bellinger and Macleay Rivers.

The number of red cedar-trees planted upon the above reserves in 1887 was 3,882 and 400 respectively, making a total number of 21,121 trees planted upon the Dorrigo Reserve to date, and of 5,140 upon reserve No. 5, upon which an area of $\frac{1}{4}$ acre was dug and fenced for a cedar seed-bed.

Authority has been obtained to enclose a small area upon reserve No. 3753, adjoining reserve No. 5, with 33 chains of fencing, to form a cedar plantation and nursery, at a cost of £26 8s.

A man has been employed during the year upon the Dorrigo cedar plantation in filling up vacancies and removing undergrowth from around the planted and self-sown cedar-trees, all of which are reported to be progressing satisfactorily.

A large number of cedar seedlings has been raised upon the Dorrigo Reserve, which are now ready for transplanting wherever required, and it is proposed to continue cedar planting upon these reserves during the present winter and ensuing spring; and probably upon the Olney Forest Reserve No. 70, county Northumberland, a portion of which has recently been proclaimed a State forest, chiefly for the preservation of the cedar and other trees now growing upon it, and the future planting of cedar.

The total expenditure for planting and clearing upon the Dorrigo Reserve, and reserve No. 5 for 1887, was £282 and £22 respectively.

Wattle Plantations, Southern Railway Reserves.

As it was reported by the District Forest Ranger that the telegraph employés had again cut down a large number of the wattle trees, alleged to have been in contact with the telegraph wires and interrupting the communication, I recommended that the Telegraph authorities be requested to inform this Department when any of the wattle trees were interfering with the wires, with the view of despatching an officer of the Forest Branch to supervise the judicious removal or lopping of the trees, to which request the Telegraph officials demurred; consequently it has now been decided by the Secretary for Lands that no further extension of the wattle plantations shall be made upon the Railway Reserves, which will be a decided advantage to the Forest Branch, inasmuch as it will be more easy and much less expensive to form and attend to large plantations apart from the long narrow strips of land available on the Railway Reserves, and the risk of the trees being destroyed or damaged by fire and other causes will be greatly lessened.

No expenditure has been incurred upon the wattle plantations for the year 1887.

Collecting plants, seeds, and specimens.

Instructions having been issued to all the Forest Rangers and Assistant Rangers to collect and forward seeds of timber trees and samples of vegetable products, known or considered to possess properties of commercial value, the seeds to be used for raising plants of the most useful and rare species of timber trees in the State Forest Nursery and exchanging with kindred departments, a large collection of seeds has been received, portion of all of which has already been despatched to the Forest Nursery, the remainder being available for exchanging, and a small collection of gums, resins, fibres, tanning, and medicinal barks, has been made for test and museum purposes.

About 7,104 red cedar plants were forwarded by Mr. Forest-Ranger Mecham, Boat Harbour, for planting at Hogan's Brush and elsewhere, and a small collection of dried flowering and leaf specimens of timber trees, &c., for herbarium purposes, has been received.

There is now in this Department a large collection of dried flowering and leaf specimens of indigenous timber and fodder trees, shrubs, grasses, and poisonous plants, together with seeds and seed-vessels of same, gums, resins, tanning and medicinal barks, fibres, &c., all of which, including samples of all the leading useful indigenous timbers, should be systematically arranged in a small museum for readily inspecting and identifying the genus, and species to which each specimen or sample belongs.

Thinning, Scrubbing, and Ringbarking upon Forest Reserves.

The ringbarking of useless trees and saplings, and eradication of scrub upon Forest Reserve No. 3,037, county Cooper, area 3,200 acres, has been completed; also on the portion of Forest Reserve No. 2,211, county Cooper, situated within the area of North Baxellan Pastoral Holding, the whole expense of the work having been defrayed by the lessees of the runs upon which the reserves are situated.

Permission has been granted to destroy useless trees, scrub, &c., upon the following forest reserves, but the work has not yet been commenced, viz.:—Forest Reserve No. 1,792, and the Millewa Forest Reserve, both in county of Townsend; Forest Reserve No. 1,439, parish of Robertson, county of Bourke; and Forest Reserve No. 2,048, county of Ashburnham.

Several applications to ringbark useless trees, thin out saplings, and destroy scrubs, are now pending the Minister's decision.

The destruction of useless trees, thinning out of saplings, and eradication of scrub upon forest reserves, has the beneficial effect of promoting the growth of the useful trees and saplings left growing, and increasing the growth of grass; therefore it is desirable that the pastoral lessees should receive every encouragement to continue this useful work.

Forest

Forest Flora.

Owing to my time being fully occupied with office duties, travelling in various parts of the country inspecting forest reserves, selecting sites for additional reserves and plantations, also with laying out the grounds and erection of buildings at the State Forest Nursery, and reporting thereon, I have been unable to compile the technical and popular descriptions of the timber trees to be illustrated and described in the first part of the forest flora; but I intend as soon as the planting season is over to devote my time and attention to this work, and as sufficient drawings of indigenous trees are completed, to enable several parts of the work to be published, I trust that I may be able to furnish the manuscript to enable one or more parts of the flora to issue from the printer within a few months.

The expenditure upon drawings of timber trees for the Forest Flora for 1887 was £65.

Testing strength of indigenous Timbers by Professor W. H. Warren, Professor of Engineering, Sydney University.

Professor Warren is continuing to test the strength of the leading useful timbers, and he has recently informed the Department that the samples of timbers received from the Forest Branch will occupy him about three years, so that a further supply of samples is not at present required.

The result of Professor Warren's experiments upon the timbers, so far as then tested, is fully explained and recorded in the Annual Report of the Forest Branch for 1886.

Sets, chiefly of 15 pieces, of each of the following species of timbers were forwarded, together with duplicate sets of several of the species, from different districts, to Professor Warren in 1887, viz. :—

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Swamp Mahogany— | <i>Eucalyptus robusta.</i> |
| Grey Ironbark— | „ <i>crebra.</i> |
| Red Ironbark— | „ <i>leucoxydon.</i> |
| Spotted Gum— | „ <i>maculata.</i> |
| Blackbutt— | „ <i>pilularis.</i> |
| Woollybutt— | „ <i>longifolia.</i> |
| Grey Box— | „ <i>hemiphloia.</i> |
| Forest Mahogany— | „ <i>resinifera.</i> |
| Mountain Ash— | „ <i>virgata.</i> |
| Grey or White Box— | „ <i>saligna.</i> |
| Red Gum— | „ <i>rostrata.</i> |
| Stringybark— | „ <i>obliqua.</i> |
| Bloodwood— | „ <i>corymbosa.</i> |
| Rosewood— | <i>Dysoxylon Fraserianum.</i> |
| White Beech— | <i>Gmelina Leichhardtii.</i> |
| Blackwood— | <i>Acacia melanoxylon.</i> |
| Forest Oak— | <i>Casuarina torulosa.</i> |
| Moreton Bay or Hoop Pine— | <i>Araucaria Cunninghamii.</i> |
| Turpentine— | <i>Syncarpia laurifolia.</i> |
| Beech or Negrohead— | <i>Fagus Moorei.</i> |
| Red Cedar— | <i>Cedrela Toona.</i> |

Plants, Seeds, Specimens, &c., received in 1887.

Received from J. E. Brown, Esq., J.P., F.L.S., Conservator of Forests, Adelaide :—500 plants, *Catalpa speciosa*; 500 plants, *Eucalyptus globulus* (Blue Gum); also, copies of his annual report upon State Forest administration for 86–87, and of list of timber trees for free distribution.

Received from F. M. Bailey, Esq., F.L.S., Government Botanist, Brisbane, copy of his book upon “Plants reputed poisonous and injurious to stock.”

Received from Wm. R. Guilfoyle, Esq., F.L.S., Director Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, copy of Catalogue, descriptive of his exhibits at the Adelaide Exhibition.

Received from Thomas Croudace, Esq., Lambton Lodge, New Lambton, a large collection of plants and cuttings of ornamental, foliated, and flowering plants for State Forest Nursery.

Received from Mr. Forest-Ranger Meham, Boat Harbour, 7,104 plants red cedar (*Cedrela toona*); also 240 red cedar root-cuttings.

Received from Messrs. Shepherd & Co., nurserymen and seedsmen, Sydney, 14 species of timber-tree seeds, for State Forest Nursery.

Received from Messrs. Anderson & Co., seedsmen, Sydney, 13 species and varieties of timber-tree and flower seeds for State Forest Nursery.

Received from Messrs. Washington and Bennett, Bellinger River, plants of diseased maize, to enable Baron Müller, K.C.M.G., F.R.S., &c., to identify the disease affecting the maize crops in the Bellinger district.

Received from R. Aberdeen, Esq., Shoalhaven, tubers and tops of early and late “Rose” and “Prolific” potatoes to enable Baron Müller to identify the disease affecting the potato crops in the Shoalhaven district.

Plants, Seeds, Specimens, &c., sent away in 1887.

Sent to Wm. R. Guilfoyle, Esq., F.L.S., Director, Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, sixty-eight plants, indigenous trees and shrubs, and seven species indigenous trees and shrub seeds.

Sent to the overseer, State Forest Nursery, Gosford, thirty species of timber tree and flower seeds.

Sent to T. Kirk, Esq., F.L.S., Chief Conservator of Forests, New Zealand, 240 root-cuttings red cedar (*Cedrela Toona*.)

Sent to F. M. Bailey, Esq., F.L.S., Government Botanist, Brisbane, 230 dried flower and leaf specimens of indigenous timber trees.

Sent to Professor Warren, M.I.C.E., Sydney University, sets (chiefly of fifteen pieces) of twenty-one species, of indigenous timbers, together with duplicate sets of several of the species from different localities, to enable the professor to test their strength by tension, compression, cross-breaking, and shearing.

Timber

Timber Licenses, &c.

A summary of timber revenue is given in Schedule LXXXVII, showing a total amount of £11,710 0s. 3d., of which fuller particulars are contained in Schedule LXXXVIII. Licenses to cut timber are applicable to ordinary Crown lands, and to land within timber reserves, which, according to their importance, are classed as A, B, or C. Permits to cut timber other than cedar upon unreserved land cost 5s. per man per month. If cedar be included the fee is twice this amount; but in either case the license carries the right of stripping wattle-bark. Licenses to cut upon reserves under Class B cost 15s. per month, while for licenses applying to reserves under Class A or C the charge is 10s. per month. Such licenses included, as a rule, any timber not specially exempted, or below a certain girth; but with respect to reserves under Class C, royalty, ranging from 3d. to 1s. 3d. per 100 superficial feet, is payable on the timber felled, and forms an additional fee to the cost of the license itself. Some reserves are proclaimed State Forests, over which licenses are sold only by auction, royalty being in such cases also payable; and in connection with all lands, instead of a license being issued, a charge is sometimes made per tree, according as circumstances render such an arrangement convenient. This explanation is made with a view to the Schedules referred to being readily understood; but with reference to Schedule LXXXVIII, it may be mentioned that in the first part, which refers to reserves under Class C, the absence in some instances of any amount under the head of royalty is explained by the fact that royalty has not become due in consequence of the licensee having deferred felling the timber.

During the year 351,486½ acres were reserved for the preservation and growth of timber (*see* Schedule XCII), and 154,780 acres which had been reserved were relieved from reservation (*see* Schedules XCIII *a* and *b*), the total number of timber reserves at the close of 1887 being 894, comprising an area of 5,656,831½ acres, divided (as explained in Schedule XC) into:—

| | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|------------------------|-----|-----|------------|
| 616 | under Class A | of a total area of ... | ... | ... | 3,501,226½ |
| 7 | " | B | " | ... | 48,740 |
| 258 | " | C | " | ... | 2,015,138½ |
| 13 | State Forests | " | " | ... | 91,726 |

The situation and area of each reserve under Classes B and C, and the same information with respect to State forests, will be found in Schedules XCIV and XCV respectively.

Certain areas, particulars of which are exhibited in Schedule XCVI, have been exempted from the operation of wood-cutters or cedar licenses, there having been special reasons why this course should be adopted.

In 162 cases forest rangers were instrumental in initiating prosecutions for the illegal cutting or removing of timber, in nine for quarrying or removing materials from Crown lands, and in nine for trespass; and of 180 prosecutions thus conducted 142 resulted in favour of the Crown, who received £120 3s. 8d. as penalties.

Prickly Pear.

The owners of land upon which prickly pear is growing are under the Prickly Pear Destruction Act of 1886 obliged to destroy the pest after notice to do so has been given to them. In addition to their ordinary duties the Forest Rangers are expected to report to the Minister for Lands the existence of any prickly pear, and it then rests with this Department to see that the provisions of the Act referred to are not ignored by such persons who have become liable to its obligations. In cases where the pear is growing upon Crown lands the Crown is liable for its destruction, and may employ labour for the purpose or lease the land to private individuals who undertake the responsibility.

It having been reported by the Inspectors that other varieties besides the *opuntia vulgaris* had spread so as to become a nuisance, three other kinds were, upon recommendation of the Inspector of Forests, proclaimed on the 18th March, 1887, to be prickly pear within the meaning of the Prickly Pear Destruction Act, viz.,—*opuntia brasiliensis*, *opuntia monacantha*, and *opuntia tuna*.

754 notices to eradicate prickly pear were served upon owners or occupiers and the work is reported to be proceeding satisfactorily, but there has been some difficulty in inducing persons to undertake the work on Crown lands. In one case three blocks of 640 acres each were offered for lease twice, but though extensively advertised, and the leases were for twenty-one years at the nominal rental of 1s., no tenders were received. Tenders were then twice called for eradication of the prickly pear, the successful tenderer to be granted a lease for twenty-one years at the above nominal rent, but the amount asked was so far above the estimated cost, though the long leases were to be given in addition, that no tenders were accepted.

Nineteen leases, comprising an area of 10,615 acres, have been granted under the Prickly Pear Destruction Act of 1886; the terms vary from three to twenty-one years, and the rent amounts to £77 13s. 6d.

The lease of seventeen other portions have been offered in some cases three times but no tenders were received.

Tenders have also been called for the eradication of prickly pear on nineteen portions, comprising an area of about 63,624 acres, and accepted in fourteen cases (area, 9,370 acres), the cost being £550 10s.; in some cases no tenders were received, in others, the cost was considered excessive, and it was not found desirable to proceed with the work at present.

In November, a patented specific called the Scrub Exterminator was brought under notice of the Department; and in December, boxes containing 50 lb. each were procured and forwarded to Ranger Rudder, at Booral, and Inspector Brodie, at Muswellbrook, with instructions to experiment with it in the destruction of prickly pear. The experiments were favourably reported upon by Mr. Rudder, who estimated that the cost would be reduced to one-eighth of what it would be were the plant buried or burned, as prescribed by the Act; but the fact of the mixture containing poison may to some extent limit its use.

Appended hereto is the Report of the Surveyor-General.

STEPHEN FREEMAN,
Under Secretary.

1

SCHEDULE I.

RETURN of Appeal Cases dealt with during the year 1887, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884.

| Land Board Districts. | No. of Appeals. | Sustained. | Dismissed. | Postponed. | Referred back to Board. | Decision on return from Board. | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| | | | | | | Sustained. | Dismissed. |
| Albury | 9 | 1 | 7 | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Armidale | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Bourke | 2 | 2 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Cooma | 5 | 2 | 2 | ..... | 1 | ..... | ..... |
| Dubbo | 10 | ..... | 10 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Forbes | 7 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | ..... | ..... |
| Goulburn | 17 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | ..... |
| Grafton | 8 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ..... |
| Hay | 49 | 19 | 21 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| Maitland | 14 | ..... | 12 | 2 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Moree | 3 | ..... | 3 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Orange | 8 | 1 | 6 | ..... | 1 | ..... | ..... |
| Sydney | 12 | 2 | 7 | ..... | 3 | ..... | 1 |
| Tamworth | 15 | 3 | 12 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Wagga Wagga | 16 | 6 | 8 | 2 | ..... | ..... | 2 |
| Wilcannia ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | 182 | 44 | 106 | 18 | 14 | 5 | 6 |

SCHEDULE II.

RETURN showing number of Persons employed at the several Local Land Board Offices on the 31st December, 1887, and salaries of same, calculated at annual rate of pay.

| Land Board District. | No. of Persons. | | | Total. | Salaries. |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| | Chairman and Clerical Staff. | C.P. Inspectors.* | Messengers and Office Cleaners. | | |
| Albury | 4 | 2 | 1 | 7 | £ s. d. 1,861 13 4 |
| Armidale | 5 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 2,847 13 9 |
| Bourke | 3 | ..... | ..... | 3 | 1,385 0 0 |
| Cooma | 7 | 1 | ..... | 8 | 2,016 0 0 |
| Dubbo | 5 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 2,307 16 0 |
| Forbes | 5 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 2,201 10 0 |
| Goulburn | 8 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 2,388 0 0 |
| Grafton | 5 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 2,426 13 0 |
| Hay | 5 | ..... | 1 | 6 | 1,487 0 7 |
| Maitland | 5 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 2,801 0 0 |
| Moree | 3 | 1 | ..... | 4 | 1,586 10 0 |
| Orange | 7 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 2,411 13 6 |
| Sydney | 4 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 2,345 10 0 |
| Tamworth | 6 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 2,211 18 0 |
| Wagga Wagga | 8 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 2,855 4 5 |
| Wilcannia | 2 | ..... | 1 | 3 | 701 17 8 |
| | 82 | 19 | 15 | 116 | 33,815 0 3 |

* Exclusive of C.P. Inspectors temporarily employed, paid by fees.

SCHEDULE III.

RETURN showing number of Officers employed at District Surveyors' Offices, and Aggregate Annual Amount of Salaries of each Staff, on the 31st December, 1887.

| District. | No. of Office Staff. | Annual Salary. | | | No. of Field Staff.* | Annual Salary. | | | Total. | | |
|--|----------------------|----------------|-------|-------|----------------------|----------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| | | £ | s. | d. | | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| Albury (included in Wagga Wagga) ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Armidale | 12 | 3,102 | 8 | 0 | 5 | 2,065 | 0 | 0 | 5,167 | 8 | 0 |
| Bourke | 6 | 1,626 | 15 | 0 | 3 | 1,224 | 15 | 0 | 2,851 | 10 | 0 |
| Cooma | 11 | 2,938 | 14 | 0 | 4 | 1,870 | 0 | 0 | 4,808 | 14 | 0 |
| Dubbo | 12 | 3,122 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 1,490 | 0 | 0 | 4,612 | 8 | 0 |
| Forbes | 10 | 2,730 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1,065 | 0 | 0 | 3,795 | 0 | 0 |
| Goulburn | 10 | 2,690 | 18 | 0 | 6 | 1,799 | 2 | 0 | 4,490 | 0 | 0 |
| Grafton | 15 | 3,617 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 2,750 | 0 | 0 | 6,367 | 2 | 0 |
| Hay | 12 | 3,076 | 14 | 6 | 4 | 1,320 | 0 | 0 | 4,396 | 14 | 6 |
| Maitland | 17 | 4,353 | 16 | 0 | 7 | 2,620 | 0 | 0 | 6,973 | 16 | 0 |
| Moree | 11† | 2,914 | 16 | 0 | 2 | 340 | 0 | 0 | 3,254 | 16 | 0 |
| Orange | 14 | 3,454 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 1,715 | 0 | 0 | 5,169 | 2 | 0 |
| Sydney | 20 | 5,035 | 10 | 0 | 11 | 3,865 | 0 | 0 | 8,900 | 10 | 0 |
| Tamworth | 10 | 2,682 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1,000 | 0 | 0 | 3,682 | 0 | 0 |
| Wagga Wagga | 16 | 4,040 | 12 | 0 | 8 | 2,873 | 0 | 0 | 6,913 | 12 | 0 |
| Wilcannia (included in Bourke) ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | 176 | 45,385 | 15 | 6 | 68 | 25,996 | 17 | 0 | 71,382 | 12 | 6 |

* Exclusive of Licensed Surveyors who are paid by fees.

† The District Surveyor, Moree, receives salary as Chairman of the Local Land Board.

SCHEDULE IV.

SCHEDULE shewing Meetings of Local Land Boards held during 1887, the number of cases heard, with Analysis of Expenses (excepting Salaries and Advertising).

| Land Board Districts. | Number of cases set down for hearing or inquiry. | | Number of cases adjourned till further hearing. | | Number of cases disposed of. | | Expenses. | Total. | Number of Sittings. |
|----------------------------|--|------------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|--|------------|---------------------|
| | Under repealed Acts. | Under 48 Vic., No. 18. | Under repealed Acts. | Under 48 Vic., No. 18. | Under repealed Acts. | Under 48 Vic., No. 18. | | | |
| Albury | 60 | 857 | 25 | 183 | 35 | 674 | Chairman's and deposition clerk's travelling expenses. £ s. d. 137 3 9 Members' travelling expenses 114 11 6 Members' fees 161 4 0 Fees to surveyors, witnesses, and others 26 17 6 Travelling expenses of witnesses 1 10 0 | 441 6 9 | 59 |
| Bourke | 166 | 911 | 34 | 463 | 133 | 447 | Chairman's and deposition clerk's travelling expenses. 169. 1 0 Members' travelling expenses 103 0 0 Members' fees 296 13 0 Fees to surveyors, witnesses, and others 39 18 0 | 608 12 0 | 131 |
| Cooma | 207 | 1,493 | 54 | 242 | 149 | 1,255 | Chairman's and deposition clerk's travelling expenses. 374 1 5 Members' travelling expenses 123 5 0 Members' fees 191 2 6 Fees to surveyors, witnesses, and others 75 0 0 Travelling expenses of witnesses 27 3 0 | 790 11 11 | 105 |
| Dubbo | 46 | 1,852 | 14 | 170 | 31 | 1,683 | Chairman's and deposition clerk's travelling expenses. 199 1 0 Member's travelling expenses 227 17 0 Members' fees 519 8 6 Fees to surveyors, witnesses, and others 104 11 6 | 1,050 18 0 | 141 |
| Forbes | 136 | 2,041 | 13 | 454 | 123 | 1,627 | Chairman's and deposition clerk's travelling expenses. 192 1 0 Members' travelling expenses 61 0 0 Members' fees 284 11 6 Fees to surveyors, witnesses, and others 174 10 8 | 712 3 2 | 115 |
| Armidale, late Glen Innes. | 176 | 1,984 | 43 | 79 | 134 | 1,904 | Chairman's and deposition clerk's travelling expenses. 197 2 0 Member's travelling expenses 1 10 0 Members' fees 289 6 0 Fees to surveyors, witnesses, and others 110 16 0 | 598 14 0 | 160 |
| Grafton | 150 | 1,113 | 42 | 91 | 107 | 1,023 | Chairman's and deposition clerk's travelling expenses. 355 16 6 Members' travelling expenses 79 13 0 Members' fees 295 14 6 Fees to surveyors, witnesses, and others 47 5 0 Travelling expenses of witnesses 16 0 0 | 794 9 0 | 94 |
| Goulburn | 638 | 1,842 | 210 | 201 | 418 | 1,651 | Chairman's and deposition clerk's travelling expenses. 178 16 6 Members' travelling expenses 29 5 0 Members' fees 104 8 6 Fees to surveyors, witnesses, and others 67 4 0 Travelling expenses of witnesses 3 9 0 | 383 3 0 | 76 |
| Hay | 101 | 995 | 10 | 26 | 91 | 969 | Chairman's and deposition clerk's travelling expenses. 500 18 8 Members' travelling expenses 54 0 0 Members' fees 157 10 6 Fees to surveyors, witnesses, and others 70 7 0 Travelling expenses of witnesses 19 7 6 | 802 3 8 | 150 |
| Moree | 156 | 832 | 24 | 67 | 140 | 757 | Chairman's and deposition clerk's travelling expenses. 149 1 6 Members' travelling expenses 156 12 0 Members' fees 343 16 0 Fees to surveyors, witnesses, and others 102 14 0 Travelling expenses of witnesses 31 15 6 | 788 19 0 | 93 |
| Maitland | 101 | 1,976 | 18 | 81 | 86 | 1,892 | Chairman's and deposition clerk's travelling expenses. 239 9 6 Members' travelling expenses 65 0 0 Members' fees 240 9 6 Fees to surveyors, witnesses, and others 44 4 0 Travelling expenses of witnesses 3 6 0 | 592 9 0 | 92 |
| Orange | 251 | 2,202 | 26 | 115 | 225 | 2,087 | Chairman's and deposition clerk's travelling expenses. 277 6 0 Members' travelling expenses 118 14 0 Members' fees 307 3 0 Fees to surveyors, witnesses, and others 227 16 0 Travelling expenses of witnesses 13 18 0 | 944 17 0 | 64 |

SCHEDULE IV—continued.

| Land Board District. | Number of cases set down for hearing or inquiry. | | Number of cases adjourned till further meeting. | | Number of cases disposed of. | | Expenses. | Total. | Number of Sitings. |
|----------------------|--|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| | Under repealed Acts. | Under 48 Vic. No. 18. | Under repealed Acts. | Under 48 Vic. No. 18. | Under repealed Acts. | Under 48 Vic. No. 18. | | | |
| Sydney | 361 | 1,341 | 50 | 64 | 311 | 1,287 | Chairman's and deposition clerk's travelling expenses. £ 203 19 8 Members' travelling expenses..... 64 15 6 Members' fees..... 196 7 6 Fees to surveyors, witnesses, and others.. 55 6 0 Travelling expenses of witnesses 14 17 6 | £ s. d. 535 6 2 | 97 |
| Tamworth | 139 | 1,746 | 40 | 145 | 99 | 1,601 | Chairman's and deposition clerk's travelling expenses. 271 10 0 Members' travelling expenses..... 288 4 0 Members' fees..... 613 12 0 Fees to surveyors, witnesses, and others.. 280 19 0 Travelling expenses of witnesses 53 14 0 | 1,507 19 0 | 131 |
| Wagga Wagga.. | 206 | 1,244 | 48 | 176 | 158 | 1,068 | Chairman's and deposition clerk's travelling expenses. 325 11 6 Members' travelling expenses..... 79 4 6 Members' fees..... 314 10 0 Fees to surveyors, witnesses, and others.. 127 17 0 Travelling expenses of witnesses 21 16 2 | 868 19 2 | 123 |
| Wilcannia | 49 | 343 | 16 | 38 | 33 | 305 | Chairman's and deposition clerk's travelling expenses. 65 16 0 Members' travelling fees..... 60 15 11 Members' fees..... 31 0 0 Fees to surveyors, witnesses, and others.. 9 9 0 Travelling expenses of witnesses..... 1 1 0 | 168 1 11 | 31 |
| | | | | | | | | £11,588 12 9 | 1,662 |

Average cost per sitting, £6 19s. 5½d.

SCHEDULE V.

RETURN showing the number of Caveats received and dealt with by the Local Land Boards during the year 1887.

| Land Board District. | Land District. | No. against Conditional Purchase applications. | No. upheld. | No. not sustained. | No. unacted upon. | No. against Conditional Lease applications. | No. upheld. | No. not sustained. | No. unacted upon. | No. against Homestead Lease applications. | No. upheld. | No. not sustained. | No. unacted upon. | Total No. upheld. | Total No. not sustained. | Total No. unacted upon. | Gross Total. |
|----------------------|------------------------|--|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|---|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|---|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Corowa | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Tumut | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bourke | Bourke | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Brewarrina | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Brewarrina, East | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Cobar | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Cobar, East | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cooma..... | Bega | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Bombala | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Cooma | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Eden | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Queanbeyan | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | 4 | | | | |
| Dubbo..... | Coonamble..... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Dubbo | | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 2 | | | | |
| Forbes..... | Condobolin | 2 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 3 | | | | |
| | Forbes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Grenfell..... | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| | Parkes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Glen Innes | Armidale | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| (vel Armidale.) | Glen Innes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Inverell | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Tenterfield..... | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| | Walcha | 2 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | 3 | | | | |

SCHEDULE V—continued.

| Land Board District. | Land District. | No. against Conditional Purchase applications. | No. upheld. | No. not sustained. | No. unacted upon. | No. against Conditional Lease applications. | No. upheld. | No. not sustained. | No. unacted upon. | Total No. upheld. | Total No. not sustained. | Total No. unacted upon. | Gross Total. | |
|----------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Goulburn | Burrumbidgee..... Bridgwood..... Goulburn..... Gunning..... Yass..... Young..... | 2 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | |
| Grafton..... | Casino..... Grafton..... Kempsey..... Lismore..... Murrumbidgee..... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Hay | Balranald..... Balranald, South .. Demighun..... Hay..... Hay, North .. Hillston..... Hillston, North..... Wentworth | .. 6 2 | .. 2 | .. 2 | .. 1 | .. 1 | .. 1 | .. 1 | .. 1 | .. 1 | .. 1 | .. 3 2 | .. 7 3 | |
| Matland | Casalis..... Dungog..... Matland..... Muswellbrook .. Newcastle .. Palerson..... Port Macquarie .. Raymond Terrace .. Seone..... Singleton .. Stroud .. Three .. Wollombi .. | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Moree | Bingara..... Moree..... Walgett..... Walgett, North..... Warialda | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | |
| Orange | Bathurst..... Carcoar..... Corry..... Molong..... Mudgee..... Orange..... Rylstone..... Wellington | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sydney | Berrima..... Camden..... Campbelltown .. Gosford..... Kiama..... Lithgow..... Liverpool..... Metropolitan..... Milton..... Moruya..... Nowra..... Paramatta..... Penrith..... Windsor..... Wollongong ..... | .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. |  |
| Tamworth | Coonabarabran .. Gunnedah..... Murumbidgee..... Narrabri..... Tamworth..... | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | |
| Wagga Wagga | Cootamundra .. Gundagai..... Narrandera..... Urana..... Wagga Wagga..... | 1 1 3 8 7 | .. 1 1 1 2 | 3 5 | .. .. .. .. | .. .. 2 | .. .. .. | .. .. .. | .. .. .. | .. .. .. | .. .. 2 | 7 | 3 3 9 | |
| Wilcannia | Wilcannia..... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| | | 48 | 19 | 22 | 7 | 15 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | .. | |

SCHEDULE VIII—continued.

| Land Districts | Counties. | No of Lots offered | Area offered | No of Lots sold | Area sold | Area not bid for. | Per centage of Area sold | Amount realized | Average price per acre. |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|-----------------|------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Wagga Wagga | Clarendon .. | 7 | a r p 489 3 0 | 4 | a r p 315 0 0 | a. l. p. 174 3 0 | 64 | £ s. d. 403 0 0 | £ s. d. 1 5 7 |
| " | Bourke | 41 | 3 923 1 0 | 24 | 2,016 0 0 | 1,907 1 0 | 51 | 4,738 7 6 | 2 7 0 |
| " | Wynyard | 5 | 687 1 0 | 2 | 82 3 0 | 604 2 0 | 12 | 103 8 9 | 1 5 0 |
| Walcha | Vernon | 17 | 1,335 2 0 | 5 | 493 3 0 | 841 3 0 | 37 | 721 11 3 | 1 15 0 |
| " | Hawes | 42 | 2,984 3 0 | 29 | 2,085 3 0 | 899 0 0 | 70 | 2,848 15 9 | 1 7 3 ³ / ₄ |
| Walgett | Clyde .. | 20 | 6,444 0 0 | | | 6,444 0 0 | | | |
| " | Denham | 55 | 14 422 3 0 | | | 14,422 3 0 | | | |
| " | Leichhardt | 1 | 100 0 0 | 1 | 100 0 0 | | 100 | 125 0 0 | 1 5 0 |
| Wainalda | Stapylton | 3 | 310 3 0 | 1 | 160 3 0 | 150 0 0 | 52 | 200 18 9 | 1 5 0 |
| " | Bunnett | 30 | 4,733 0 0 | 14 | 2,132 0 0 | 2,601 0 0 | 45 | 2,665 0 0 | 1 5 0 |
| Wellington | Wellington | 11 | 485 0 30 | 2 | 23 1 30 | 461 3 0 | 5 | 46 17 6 | 1 19 11 ¹ / ₄ |
| " | Lincoln | 1 | 40 0 0 | 1 | 40 0 0 | | 100 | 50 0 0 | 1 5 0 |
| Windsor .. | Cumberland .. | 5 | 360 0 0 | | | 360 0 0 | | | |
| Wollombi | Northumberland | 19 | 894 2 34 | | | 894 2 34 | | | |
| " | Hunter .. | 16 | 637 2 0 | | | 637 2 0 | | | |
| Yass | Harden .. | 12 | 438 0 34 | 7 | 238 0 34 | 200 0 0 | 54 | 358 14 3 | 1 10 2 |
| " | King | 11 | 547 0 0 | | | 547 0 0 | | | |
| " | Murray | 6 | 621 3 0 | | | 621 3 0 | | | |
| " | Cowley | 2 | 84 2 0 | 2 | 84 2 0 | | 100 | 105 12 6 | 1 5 0 |
| Young | Monteagle | 27 | 417 2 7 | 8 | 143 2 39 | 273 3 8 | 34 | 365 7 9 | 2 10 10 |
| " | Harden .. | 5 | 116 3 0 | 5 | 116 3 0 | | 100 | 311 14 9 | 2 13 6 ¹ / ₄ |
| | | 3,127 | 279,781 1 19 ¹ / ₄ | 1,124 | 103,748 1 15 | 176,033 0 4 ¹ / ₄ | 37 | 158,746 10 9 | 1 10 7 |

SCHEDULE IX

RETURN showing the situation of, and amount realized for, Town and Suburban Lands sold at auction during 1887.

| Town or Village of | Town | | | Suburban. | | |
|------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Lots | Area | Total amount realized | Lots. | Area | Total amount realized |
| Aberdeen | No. 4 | a. r. p. 2 0 0 | £ s. d. 24 0 0 | No. | a. r. p. | £ s. d. |
| Adelong | 7 | 3 0 39 ³ / ₄ | 155 0 0 | 7 | 11 0 31 | 53 16 0 |
| Albury | 3 | 8 0 21 ¹ / ₂ | 477 10 0 | 5 | 23 3 20 | 477 10 0 |
| Araluen | 5 | 6 2 16 | 33 0 0 | 1 | 8 0 21 ¹ / ₂ | 50 0 0 |
| Armidale | 7 | 3 0 20 ¹ / ₂ | 116 0 0 | 1 | 6 2 16 | 33 0 0 |
| Arthur | 1 | 3 1 8 | 8 10 0 | 1 | 3 1 8 | 8 10 0 |
| Ballina | 2 | 0 3 4 ³ / ₄ | 63 0 0 | | | |
| Balranald | 19 | 9 0 30 | 325 0 0 | | | |
| Barmedman | 11 | 2 2 38 | 113 0 0 | | | |
| Barry | 13 | 7 0 0 | 56 0 0 | 8 | 18 1 24 | 48 0 0 |
| Bateman | 13 | 2 3 1 | 40 10 0 | | | |
| Beecroft | 160 | 84 2 22 | 4,695 0 0 | 78 | 158 0 39 | 7,251 15 0 |
| Berawinnia | 20 | 5 1 37 ¹ / ₂ | 50 5 0 | | | |
| Berowra | 33 | 14 1 9 | 297 10 0 | 15 | 86 1 18 | 608 0 0 |
| Berrima | 21 | 46 2 16 | 198 10 0 | 21 | 46 2 16 | 198 10 0 |
| Bethungra | 5 | 2 2 0 | 20 0 0 | | | |
| Blackheath | | | | 38 | 416 2 20 | 2,525 10 0 |
| Bombala | 10 | 4 2 30 | 61 0 0 | 4 | 14 1 23 | 74 0 0 |
| Bookham | 2 | 1 0 0 | 10 0 0 | 8 | 39 3 18 | 121 0 0 |
| Booligal | 6 | 3 0 0 | 24 0 0 | | | |
| Bungonia | 2 | 0 3 30 | 10 0 0 | | | |
| Bulla | 1 | 0 2 0 | 10 0 0 | | | |
| Bullah Delah | 37 | 17 0 23 | 200 10 0 | 16 | 50 1 12 | 219 1 0 |
| Bunyan | 24 | 11 2 8 | 94 0 0 | | | |
| Byerock | 7 | 3 2 0 | 106 10 0 | | | |
| Cargo | 1 | 0 2 0 | 6 10 0 | | | |
| Casino | 4 | 1 3 28 | 95 0 0 | | | |
| Curranba | 26 | 10 3 13 ¹ / ₂ | 1,130 10 0 | | | |
| Clive | 5 | 1 1 0 | 37 0 0 | | | |
| Codrington | | | | 3 | 7 3 22 | 48 0 0 |
| Coolabah | 20 | 10 0 0 | 286 0 0 | | | |
| Cooloon | 26 | 7 2 2 ¹ / ₂ | 1,275 0 0 | | | |
| Cooper | 4 | 2 0 0 | 20 0 0 | | | |
| Copeland | 1 | 0 0 4 | 4 0 0 | | | |
| Copmanhurst | 15 | 7 0 28 | 128 0 0 | | | |
| Cungog | | | | 10 | 46 3 13 | 189 10 0 |
| Currawong | 26 | 13 0 0 | 104 0 0 | | | |
| Deepwater | 17 | 8 1 12 | 393 4 0 | | | |
| Dubbo | | | | 1 | 20 0 0 | 120 0 0 |
| Dungog | 11 | 5 0 11 | 166 15 0 | | | |
| Engowra | 22 | 5 2 3 ¹ / ₂ | 359 7 6 | | | |
| Fitzroy | | | | 3 | 27 2 7 | 74 0 0 |
| Forbes | 18 | 11 0 38 | 536 12 0 | 40 | 101 1 22 | 677 3 6 |
| Germanton | 10 | 4 3 5 | 189 10 0 | | | |

SCHEDULE IX—continued

| Town or Village of | Town | | | Suburban | | |
|-------------------------|-------|----------|-----------------------|----------|------------|-----------------------|
| | Lots | Area | Total amount realized | Lots | Area | Total amount realized |
| | No | r r p | £ s d | No | a i p | £ s d. |
| Glenbrook | 59 | 28 0 9½ | 851 10 0 | | | |
| Glencoe | 11 | 5 2 0 | 73 10 0 | | | |
| Clon Innes | 4 | 2 0 0 | 146 0 0 | 9 | 76 1 29½ | 395 10 0 |
| Gooloogong | 6 | 2 2 14 | 47 10 0 | 6 | 32 0 15 | 128 0 0 |
| Goombalgie | 15 | 7 2 0 | 83 15 0 | | | |
| Goulburn | | | | 13 | 14 2 6¼ | 139 5 0 |
| Grafton (South) | | | | 7 | 16 0 0 | 340 0 0 |
| Grenfell | 1 | 0 2 0 | 15 0 0 | 42 | 76 1 31 | 392 16 0 |
| Greta | 58 | 28 0 13 | 898 10 0 | | | |
| Grong Grong | 19 | 7 3 15 | 146 10 0 | | | |
| Gulgong | 4 | 1 0 5 | 34 7 0 | 3 | 4 0 0 | 19 10 0 |
| Gundagai (North) | 38 | 18 0 32½ | 308 17 0 | | | |
| Do (South) | | | | 32 | 376 2 26 | 1,482 5 0 |
| Gunning | | | | 2 | 21 1 37 | 71 10 0 |
| Guyra | | | | 3 | 36 1 10 | 91 0 0 |
| Harbord | | | | 07 | 76 3 17 | 1,540 16 5 |
| Heathcote | 24 | 10 2 3 | 137 1 9 | 9 | 33 1 35 | 281 18 10 |
| Howlong | 32 | 15 3 37½ | 216 0 0 | | | |
| Huon | 7 | 1 2 26½ | 63 10 0 | | | |
| Iluka | 3 | 1 0 28½ | 13 10 0 | 2 | 1 2 14 | 16 0 0 |
| Laverell | 10 | 4 0 9 | 55 0 0 | | | |
| Ivanhoe | 15 | 7 2 0 | 73 5 0 | | | |
| Jerry's Plains | 17 | 7 3 11½ | 135 10 0 | 23 | 58 0 9 | 235 10 0 |
| Katoomba | | | | 10 | 45 2 4 | 561 10 0 |
| Kempsey (West) | | | | 8 | 8 2 0 | 211 11 0 |
| Lawrence | 1 | 0 2 0 | 25 0 0 | | | |
| Lismore | | | | 21 | 86 1 14 | 1,661 0 0 |
| Maitland (East) | 29 | 13 1 5 | 782 0 0 | | | |
| Manildra | | | | 3 | 5 3 35 | 32 0 0 |
| Manilla | 25 | 11 1 20 | 366 19 0 | 3 | 46 3 8 | 235 0 0 |
| Marsden | 6 | 3 0 0 | 24 0 0 | | | |
| Maude | 2 | 0 3 24 | 10 0 0 | | | |
| Mendooran | 54 | 15 2 29 | 127 0 0 | | | |
| Merinda | 6 | 1 1 28¼ | 24 10 0 | 2 | 2 1 32 | 10 0 0 |
| Moama | | | | 5 | 81 0 0 | 452 10 0 |
| Molong (West) | 10 | 4 3 18 | 153 0 0 | | | |
| Morangrell | 1 | 0 1 33 | 4 0 0 | | | |
| Moulamein | | | | 2 | 5 0 0 | 60 0 0 |
| Mudgee | | | | 1 | 20 0 0 | 50 0 0 |
| Mulwala | 30 | 15 0 0 | 271 10 0 | 1 | 20 0 0 | 60 0 0 |
| Mulwaree | 1 | 0 2 0 | 5 0 0 | | | |
| Murray | 3 | 0 3 0 | 7 10 0 | | | |
| Murrumburrah | | | | 1 | 11 0 0 | 55 0 0 |
| Nana | 1 | 0 1 0 | 2 0 0 | | | |
| Narrabri (West) | 15 | 5 3 14 | 203 1 0 | | | |
| Narrellan | 10 | 3 2 25 | 30 0 0 | | | |
| Narromine | 22 | 11 0 0 | 106 2 0 | | | |
| Nerangundah | 1 | 0 0 29½ | 25 0 0 | | | |
| Nevertire | 7 | 1 3 0 | 35 0 0 | 12 | 75 1 15 | 190 0 0 |
| Nyngan | | | | 5 | 58 2 26 | 550 10 0 |
| Oxley | 10 | 4 2 0 | 121 0 0 | | | |
| Parkes | 1 | 0 0 23½ | 6 10 0 | | | |
| Port Macquarie | | | | 6 | 50 2 36 | 255 0 0 |
| Do (East) | | | | 6 | 16 1 18 | 56 10 0 |
| Quinn's | 61 | 29 0 21 | 374 2 0 | 13 | 79 2 12 | 590 6 0 |
| Rockley | 39 | 13 2 6¼ | 155 18 6 | 6 | 17 3 7 | 51 13 0 |
| Silverton | 19 | 4 2 14½ | 156 5 0 | | | |
| Stockton | 341 | 84 1 5½ | 31,077 0 0 | | | |
| Sunny Corner (Mitchell) | 1 | 0 1 0 | 10 0 0 | | | |
| Talbingo | | | | 3 | 36 3 24 | 111 0 0 |
| Tamworth | | | | 9 | 47 1 20 | 1,055 10 0 |
| Temoia | 80 | 20 0 0 | 566 4 6 | 35 | 113 3 30 | 305 0 0 |
| Tibooburra | 31 | 7 1 11 | 93 14 0 | | | |
| Tintenbar | 1 | 0 0 34 | 8 10 0 | 1 | 0 2 24 | 26 0 0 |
| Tucabia | 10 | 3 3 38 | 33 0 0 | | | |
| Tucamwal | 5 | 2 2 0 | 25 0 0 | | | |
| Tuena | 2 | 0 3 6 | 16 0 0 | | | |
| Tumberumba | | | | 1 | 1 0 0 | 4 0 0 |
| Tumut | 22 | 11 0 0 | 484 10 0 | | | |
| Umaralla | | | | 2 | 12 1 5 | 37 0 0 |
| Uialla | 19 | 8 3 32 | 165 5 0 | | | |
| Wagga Wagga | | | | 3 | 3 1 16¼ | 48 8 6 |
| Walgett | 8 | 4 0 0 | 420 7 0 | | | |
| Wanderer | 19 | 8 3 31 | 76 18 0 | 6 | 27 2 24 | 84 10 0 |
| Wee Wee | 1 | | | 1 | 4 1 26 | 11 10 0 |
| Wellingrove | 5 | 2 2 0 | 20 0 0 | 6 | 73 2 20 | 185 10 0 |
| Wollombi | 3 | 1 0 32 | 15 0 0 | | | |
| Woomargama | 5 | 2 2 0 | 20 0 0 | 4 | 5 3 39 | 24 10 0 |
| Wyaldra | 1 | 0 0 30¾ | 3 0 0 | | | |
| Wyndham | 17 | 8 0 0 | 143 10 0 | 6 | 18 2 39 | 115 6 0 |
| Yantabulla | 1 | 0 2 0 | 8 0 0 | | | |
| Young | 1 | 0 2 0 | 50 0 0 | 3 | 7 2 39 | 57 5 0 |
| | 1,848 | 729 1 6¾ | 51,293 15 3 | 665 | 2,896 0 14 | 25,059 6 3 |

SCHEDULE X.

RETURN showing the number of Applications made for Refund of Guarantee Deposits during the year 1887, paid under Section 30 of the Lands Act of 1875 (Repealed)

| Number of applications made for refund of Guarantee Deposits paid under the Repealed Act | Amount authorized to be refunded during the year 1887, having been paid in previous years | Amount forfeited in 1887. |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| 48 | £ s d 1,505 17 11 | Nil |

SCHEDULE XI.

RETURN of Deposits forfeited in 1887, under the 62nd Section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, on account of non-payment of Balances of Purchase-money within the required time

| Description of Land. | Land District | County | No of Lot | Area of Portion | Amount of Deposit forfeited |
|----------------------|---------------|----------|-----------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Town | Grafton | Clarence | 7 | a. r. p. 3 0 15 | £ s. d. 28 2 6 |

SCHEDULE XII.

RETURN of Applications to purchase Land in virtue of improvements under 2nd Clause of the Lands Amendment Act of 1875, upon which the purchase money was paid during 1887.

| County | Land District | Total number of portions purchased in each county, area purchased, and amount paid, exclusive of penalties, during 1887 | | | Class of Land | Total number of portions, a.c., and amount paid, exclusive of penalties, and land contained within each Land District | | | Penalties | Total amount paid |
|------------|---------------|---|---------------------|------------|---------------|---|----------------------|------------|-----------|-------------------|
| | | No. | a r p | £ s d | | No. | a i p | £ s d | | |
| Arrawatta | Inveill | 3 | 434 0 0 | 542 10 0 | County | 3 | 434 0 0 | 542 10 0 | | |
| Ashburnham | Forbes | 5 | 2 0 21 | 101 6 3 | Town | | | | 4 10 0 | 542 10 0 |
| " | " | 3 | 171 0 0 | 213 15 0 | County | | | | | |
| " | " | 20 | 38 1 0 | 210 10 0 | Suburban | 23 | 211 1 21 | 255 11 3 | | |
| " | Molong | 2 | 80 0 0 | 120 0 0 | County | | | | | |
| " | " | 2 | 2 1 34 ³ | 23 12 4 | Suburban | 4 | 82 1 34 ³ | 143 12 4 | | |
| " | Parke | 3 | 390 3 0 | 488 8 9 | County | | | | | |
| " | " | 2 | 4 0 0 | 17 0 0 | Suburban | 7 | 394 3 0 | 505 8 9 | | |
| Bathurst | Cucoar | 4 | 7 0 0 | 20 0 0 | " | 4 | 7 0 0 | 20 0 0 | 1 0 0 | 1,179 2 4 |
| " | Co via | 0 | 81 3 0 | 1,075 18 2 | County | 5 | 811 3 0 | 1,075 18 2 | | 1,075 18 2 |
| Buialine | Narrabri | 1 | 60 0 0 | 75 0 0 | " | 1 | 60 0 0 | 75 0 0 | | |
| " | Walgett | 2 | 680 0 0 | 850 0 0 | " | 2 | 680 0 0 | 850 0 0 | 42 10 0 | 967 10 0 |
| Barrona | Bourke | 5 | 200 0 0 | 250 0 0 | " | 5 | 200 0 0 | 250 0 0 | | 250 0 0 |
| Berrima | Yocoe | 4 | 1,358 0 0 | 1,697 10 0 | " | 4 | 1,358 0 0 | 1,697 10 0 | | 1,697 10 0 |
| Bland | Cootamundra | 14 | 3 0 12 | 158 0 0 | Town | | | | 11 0 0 | |
| " | " | 6 | 1,232 3 0 | 1,584 8 9 | County | | | | | |
| " | " | 6 | 5 1 8 | 73 0 0 | Suburban | 26 | 1,244 0 33 | 1,515 8 9 | | |
| " | Forbes | 1 | 270 0 0 | 337 10 0 | County | 1 | 270 0 0 | 337 10 0 | | |
| " | Glenfell | 2 | 318 0 0 | 397 10 0 | " | | | | | |
| " | " | 5 | 1 1 0 | 56 0 0 | Town | 7 | 319 1 0 | 453 10 6 | 3 0 0 | |
| " | Young | 5 | 1,464 0 0 | 1,983 13 9 | County | 5 | 1,464 0 0 | 1,983 13 9 | | 4,604 12 6 |
| Blaxland | Hillston | 8 | 1,661 0 0 | 1,425 5 0 | " | 8 | 1,661 0 0 | 1,425 5 0 | 5 0 0 | 1,331 5 0 |
| Bligh | Cassilis | 3 | 370 0 0 | 493 3 9 | " | 3 | 370 0 0 | 493 3 9 | | 493 3 9 |
| Boyd | Hay | 6 | 1,239 0 0 | 1,748 15 0 | " | 6 | 1,239 0 0 | 1,548 15 0 | 62 2 6 | 1,610 17 6 |
| " | Narrandera | 4 | 844 3 0 | 1,236 1 3 | " | 4 | 844 3 0 | 1,236 1 3 | | 1,236 1 3 |
| Bourke | Wagga Wagga | 18 | 5,493 2 0 | 6,928 19 9 | " | 18 | 5,493 2 0 | 6,928 19 9 | 40 0 0 | 6,963 19 9 |
| Boroondra | Cobar | 11 | 1,099 0 0 | 1,338 15 0 | " | 11 | 1,099 0 0 | 1,338 15 0 | | 1,373 15 0 |
| Burnett | Inveill | 1 | 351 3 0 | 439 15 9 | " | 1 | 351 3 0 | 439 15 9 | | |
| " | Warralda | 2 | 191 0 0 | 126 5 0 | " | 2 | 191 0 0 | 126 5 0 | | |
| Burdett | Guadagai | 1 | 582 0 0 | 727 10 0 | " | 1 | 582 0 0 | 727 10 0 | | 565 18 9 |
| " | Pamut | 1 | 600 0 0 | 750 0 0 | " | 1 | 600 0 0 | 750 0 0 | | |
| " | Yass | 1 | 50 0 0 | 62 15 0 | " | 1 | 50 0 0 | 62 15 0 | | |
| Burdett | Gunredah | 3 | 235 3 0 | 370 2 6 | " | 3 | 235 3 0 | 370 2 6 | 8 7 3 | 1,540 0 0 |
| " | Murrumbidgee | 4 | 213 3 0 | 277 3 9 | " | 4 | 213 3 0 | 277 3 9 | | |
| " | Tamworth | 2 | 219 0 0 | 318 10 0 | " | 2 | 219 0 0 | 318 10 0 | | 664 3 6 |
| Camden | Swansea | 1 | 605 0 0 | 997 10 0 | " | 1 | 605 0 0 | 997 10 0 | | 997 10 0 |
| Canbelego | Cobar | 11 | 444 0 0 | 585 10 0 | " | 11 | 444 0 0 | 585 10 0 | 6 0 0 | 591 10 0 |
| Cura | Bulanald | 2 | 225 0 0 | 281 5 0 | " | 2 | 225 0 0 | 281 5 0 | | 281 5 0 |
| Cadell | Denbigh | 2 | 719 1 0 | 899 1 3 | " | 2 | 719 1 0 | 899 1 3 | | 899 1 3 |
| Clarendon | Wagga Wagga | | 1,126 3 0 | 1,498 8 9 | " | 5 | 1,126 3 0 | 1,498 8 9 | 8 11 3 | 1,417 0 0 |
| Clarendon | Grafton | 1 | 177 0 0 | 221 5 0 | " | 1 | 177 0 0 | 221 5 0 | | 221 5 0 |
| Clarke | Glen Innes | 1 | 58 0 0 | 116 0 0 | " | 1 | 58 0 0 | 116 0 0 | | 116 0 0 |
| Clyde | Brewarrina | 10 | 2,797 2 0 | 3,334 7 6 | " | 10 | 2,797 2 0 | 3,334 7 6 | | 2,584 7 6 |
| Courallah | Moree | 7 | 891 3 0 | 1,114 13 9 | " | 7 | 891 3 0 | 1,114 13 9 | 15 17 6 | 1,130 11 3 |
| Cowley | Queanbeyan | 1 | 40 0 0 | 50 0 0 | " | 1 | 40 0 0 | 50 0 0 | 5 0 0 | 50 0 0 |
| Cooper | Narrandera | 17 | 4,673 3 0 | 5,870 3 9 | " | 17 | 4,673 3 0 | 5,870 3 9 | | 5,870 3 9 |
| Cowie | Bourke | 22 | 1,700 0 0 | 2,150 0 0 | " | 22 | 1,700 0 0 | 2,150 0 0 | 50 0 0 | 2,150 0 0 |
| Culgoora | Liverpool | 1 | 40 0 0 | 50 0 0 | " | 1 | 40 0 0 | 50 0 0 | | 50 0 0 |
| Cunningham | Cordobana | 13 | 2,385 2 0 | 2,772 3 9 | " | | | | | |
| " | " | 1 | 2 0 0 | 16 0 0 | Suburban | 14 | 2,387 2 0 | 2,805 3 9 | 1 12 0 | |
| " | Forbes | 3 | 523 3 0 | 654 13 0 | County | 3 | 523 3 0 | 654 13 0 | | |
| " | " | 3 | 795 1 0 | 997 16 3 | " | 3 | 795 1 0 | 997 16 3 | | |
| Darling | Tamworth | 1 | 165 0 0 | 205 5 0 | " | 1 | 165 0 0 | 205 5 0 | | 4,462 5 0 |
| Denison | Corowa | 11 | 1,578 1 0 | 2,043 2 6 | " | 11 | 1,578 1 0 | 2,043 2 6 | | 2,043 2 6 |
| Denham | Walgett | 3 | 614 3 0 | 768 8 9 | " | 3 | 614 3 0 | 768 8 9 | | |
| " | Narrabri | 1 | 400 0 0 | 500 0 0 | " | 1 | 400 0 0 | 500 0 0 | | 1,263 8 9 |

SCHEDULE XIII.

RETURN showing Number and Area of Improvement Purchases applied for during 1887, under the 46th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, and action taken thereon, to the 31st December, 1887.

| County. | Land District | Number of applications and area applied for | | | Total number of applications made and area applied for in each county | | | Number submitted by Local Land Board to District Surveyor for report | Number disallowed | Number of applications approved, and area | | | Class of Land | Amount realized | Number of applications not finally dealt with on 31st Dec., 1887 | Land Board District | | | |
|-------------|---------------|---|-----|----|---|-----|-----|--|-------------------|---|----|----|---------------|-----------------|--|---------------------|----|----|-----|
| | | No | a. | r. | p. | No | a. | | | r. | p. | No | | | | | a. | r. | p. | £ | s | d |
| Ashburnham | Forbes | 9 | 2 | 1 | 0 | | | | 4 | | | | Town | | | Forbes. | | | |
| Do | do | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | | | | 2 | | | | Suburban. | | | do | | | |
| Do | Molong | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | | | | | | | Town | | | Orange. | | | |
| Do | do | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | Suburban. | | | do | | | |
| Do | Parkes | 13 | 3 | 0 | 7 | | | | 4 | | | | Town | | | Forbes. | | | |
| Do | do | 16 | 19 | 3 | 7 | 45 | 31 | 0 | 16 | | | | Suburban. | | 31 | do | | | |
| Bathurst | Bathurst | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | do | | | Orange. | | | |
| Do | Carcoar | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | | | | | | | | Town | | | do | | | |
| Do | Cowra | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | | | | do | | 5 | do | | | |
| Eland | Grenfell | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | | | | | | | | do | | | Forbes. | | | |
| Do | do | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | | | | Suburban. | | 4 | do | | | |
| Bligh | Wellington. | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | | | do | | 2 | Orange. | | | |
| Clarendon | Wagga | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | do | | | Wagga Wagga. | | | |
| Do | Gundagai | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | | | | do | | 3 | do | | | |
| Dampier | Bega | 11 | 3 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | Town | | | Cooma. | | | |
| Do | do | 3 | 1 | 3 | 10 | | | | | | | | Suburban. | | | do | | | |
| Do | Moruya | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 5 | 0 | 10 | | | | Town | | 15 | Metropolitan. | | | |
| Dowling | Hillston | 8 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | | | do | | 8 | Hay. | | | |
| Farnell | Wilcannia | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | | | | | | | | do | | | Bourke. | | | |
| Do | do | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | | | | Suburban. | | 4 | do | | | |
| Georgiana | Carcoar | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | | | | | | | | Town | | | Orange. | | | |
| Do | do | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | | | | Suburban. | | 4 | do | | | |
| Goulburn | Albury | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | Town | | 1 | Wagga Wagga. | | | |
| Harden | Young | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | | | | Suburban. | | 4 | Goulburn. | | | |
| Hardinge | Inverell | 3 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 10 | 0 | 0 | | | | do | | 2 | Armidale. | | | |
| Monteagle | Grenfell | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | | | | | | | | Town | | | Forbes. | | | |
| Do | do | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | do | | | |
| Do | Young | 17 | 4 | 3 | 20 | | | | | | | | Town | | | Goulburn. | | | |
| Do | do | 28 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 57 | 46 | 1 | 20 | | | | Suburban. | | 53 | do | | | |
| Murray | Queanbeyan | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | | | | do | | 3 | Cooma. | | | |
| Narromine | Dubbo | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | | | do | | 2 | Dubbo. | | | |
| Parry | Tamworth | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | Town | | | Tamworth. | | | |
| Do | do | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 0 | | | | Suburban. | | 4 | do | | | |
| Phillip | Mudgee | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | do | | | Orange. | | | |
| Do | do | 3 | 0 | 2 | 36 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 36 | | | | Town | | 5 | do | | | |
| Roxburgh | Bathurst | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | | | | Suburban. | | 3 | do | | | |
| Sandon | Armidale | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | Town | | 1 | Armidale. | | | |
| Selwyn | Albury | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | Suburban. | | | Wagga Wagga. | | | |
| Do | do | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | | | | Town | | 9 | do | | | |
| St. Vincent | Braidwood | 6 | 6 | 0 | 34 | | | | | | | | Suburban. | | | Goulburn. | | | |
| Do | do | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | Town | | | do | | | |
| Do | Moruya | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | Suburban. | | | Metropolitan. | | | |
| Do | Nowra | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 13 | 0 | 34 | | | | do | | 10 | do | | | |
| Tongowoko | Wilcannia | 7 | 1 | 1 | 31 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 31 | | | | Town | | 7 | Bourke. | | | |
| Ularara | Bourke | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | do | | 4 | do | | | |
| Wellington | Mudgee | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | Suburban. | | | Orange. | | | |
| Do | Wellington. | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | | | | | | | | Town | | | do | | | |
| Do | do | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 14 | 3 | 0 | | | | Suburban. | 2 | 10 | 0 | | | |
| Wynyard | Gundagai | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | do | | | Wagga Wagga. | | | |
| Do | Tamut | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | | | | do | | 5 | do | | | |
| Yancoinna | Wilcannia | 85 | 20 | 3 | 27 | | | | | 2 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 95 | 14 | 0 | | |
| Do | do | 19 | 17 | 2 | 4½ | 104 | 38 | 1 | 31½ | | | | Suburban. | 40 | 0 | 0 | 98 | | |
| | Totals | 335 | 217 | 2 | 18½ | 335 | 217 | 2 | 18½ | | 28 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 148 | 4 | 0 | 301 |

SCHEDULE XIII A.

RETURN showing Number of Improvement Purchase Applications applied for prior to 1887, under the 46th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, and for which the Purchase Money was paid during 1887.

| County | Land District | Number of applications and area alienated. | | | Total number of applications and area alienated in each county | | | Class of Land | Amount realized | |
|------------|---------------|--|----|----|--|-----|----|---------------|-----------------|--------|
| | | No. | a. | r. | p. | No. | a. | | | r. | p. |
| Ashburnham | Forbes | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | | | Town | 37 10 0 | |
| Do | do | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | | | Suburban. | 28 0 0 | |
| Do | Parkes | 4 | 0 | 3 | 39 | | | Town | 24 5 0 | |
| Do | do | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 5 | 1 | 39 | 3 10 0 |
| Bathurst | Carcoar | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 10 0 |
| Bland | Cootamundra | 6 | 1 | 2 | 0 | | | Town | 39 0 0 | |
| Do | Grenfell | 6 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 55 6 0 |
| Evelyn | Wilcannia | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 20 0 0 |
| Georgiana | Carcoar | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 6 0 |
| Gloucester | Stroud | 1 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 15 0 0 |

SCHEDULE XIII A—continued

| County | Land District | Number of applications and area alienated | | | Total number of applications and area alienated in each county | | | Class of Land | Amount realized. | | |
|-------------|---------------|---|----|-------|--|----|-------|---------------|------------------|-------|-----|
| | | No. | a. | r. p. | No. | a. | r. p. | | £ | s. | d. |
| Monteagle | Grenfell | 3 | 2 | 1 6 | | | | Suburban | 14 | 10 | 0 |
| " | Young | 1 | 1 | 0 0 | | | | " | 5 | 10 | 0 |
| " | " | 1 | 0 | 1 0 | 5 | 3 | 2 6 | Town | 12 | 10 | 0 |
| Mootwingee | Wilcannia | 1 | 1 | 0 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 0 | Suburban | 20 | 7 | 0 |
| Narromine | Dubbo | 1 | 1 | 0 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 0 | " | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Roxburgh | Bathurst | 3 | 0 | 3 0 | 5 | 2 | 0 0 | Town | 120 | 0 | 0 |
| " | " | 2 | 1 | 1 0 | | | | Suburban | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| St. Vincent | Braidwood | 1 | 0 | 1 23½ | | | | " | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| " | Moruya | 1 | 1 | 0 0 | | | | " | 4 | 19 | 0 |
| " | " | 1 | 0 | 1 0 | | | | Town | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| " | Shoalhaven | 1 | 0 | 2 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 23½ | Suburban | 3 | 6 | 0 |
| Phillip | Mudgee | 3 | 0 | 3 0 | | | | Town | 21 | 4 | 0 |
| " | " | 4 | 4 | 0 0 | 7 | 4 | 3 0 | Suburban | 19 | 6 | 0 |
| Tongwoko | Wilcannia | 3 | 0 | 2 28 | 3 | 0 | 2 28 | Town | 36 | 15 | 0 |
| Wellington | Mudgee | 1 | 1 | 0 0 | | | | Suburban | 4 | 8 | 0 |
| " | Wellington | 2 | 2 | 0 0 | | | | " | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| " | " | 1 | 0 | 1 0 | 4 | 3 | 1 0 | Town | 4 | 8 | 0 |
| Wynjaid | Tumut | 1 | 1 | 0 0 | | | | Suburban | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| " | Wagga Wagga | 1 | 1 | 0 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 0 | " | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Yancowinna | Wilcannia | 28 | 6 | 3 5 | | | | Town | 1,001 | 18 | 3 |
| " | " | 6 | 6 | 0 0 | 34 | 12 | 3 5 | Suburban | 66 | 14 | 0 |
| | | 93 | 45 | 0 10½ | 93 | 45 | 0 10½ | | £ | 1,637 | 2 3 |

SCHEDULE XIV.

RETURN showing the number of Special Purchase Applications received within the various Land Districts during 1887.

| Land Board District | Land District | Clause | | | | | Total. |
|---------------------|----------------|--------|----|----|----|----|--------|
| | | 63 | 64 | 66 | 67 | 69 | |
| Armidale | Armidale | | | 1 | 1 | | 4 |
| | Walcha | | | 2 | | | |
| Bourke | Bourke | | | 2 | | | 2 |
| Cooma | Bega | | | | 1 | | |
| | Queanbeyan | | | 2 | 2 | | 5 |
| Dubbo | Coonamble | | | | 2 | | |
| | Dubbo | | | | 1 | | 3 |
| Forbes | Forbes | | | | 7 | | |
| | Grenfell | | | | 1 | | 9 |
| | Parkes | | | | 1 | | |
| | Goulburn | | | 2 | 1 | | 5 |
| | Young | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| Grafton | Grafton | | | | 4 | | 13 |
| | Kempsey | 2 | | 3 | 4 | | |
| Hay | Deniliquin | | | | 4 | | 9 |
| | Hay | | | | 2 | 2 | |
| | Wentworth | | | 1 | | | 14 |
| Maitland | Maitland | | | 1 | 2 | | |
| | Musclebrook | | | | 1 | | 14 |
| | Port Macquarie | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| | Stroud | | | 1 | 2 | | 9 |
| | Stone | | | | 1 | | |
| Orange | Newcastle | 3 | 1 | | | | 5 |
| | Carcoar | | | 1 | | | |
| | Molong | | | | 3 | | 5 |
| | Wellington | | | | 1 | | |
| Metropolitan | Berrima | | | 3 | 1 | | 4 |
| | Gosford | 4 | | | 1 | | |
| | Liverpool | | | | 1 | | 79 |
| | Milton | | | | 1 | | |
| | Moruya | | | 3 | 3 | | 79 |
| | Penrith | | | | 1 | | |
| | Sydney | 15 | 34 | 7 | 1 | | 16 |
| | Nowra | | | 1 | 3 | | |
| Tamworth | Cooniberabian | | | | 1 | | 8 |
| | Gorredah | | | | 3 | | |
| | Narrabri | | | | 1 | | 8 |
| | Tamworth | | | | 3 | | |
| Wagga Wagga | Albury | | | 2 | 4 | | 16 |
| | Corowa | | | | 2 | | |
| | Tumut | | | | 4 | | 16 |
| | Urana | | | | 3 | | |
| | Wagga | | | | 1 | | 16 |
| | Totals | 25 | 35 | 34 | 76 | 2 | |

SCHEDULE XV.

RETURN of Lands alienated during 1887 in satisfaction of Special Purchase Applications made under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, in the County of Cumberland.

| Clause. | Area alienated. | Purchase money paid. | Remarks. |
|-----------|-----------------|----------------------|--|
| | a. r. p. | £ s. d. | |
| 9th..... | 25 0 25½ | 5,278 4 4 | Reclamations. Unnecessary roads. No way of access. Rescissions of reservations. |
| 10th..... | 1 1 18½ | 355 15 6 | |
| 11th..... | 0 0 8½ | 44 7 0 | |
| 12th..... | 36 3 29½ | 2,407 10 0 | |
| | 63 2 1½ | 8,085 16 10 | |

SCHEDULE XVI.

RETURN of Lands alienated during 1887 in satisfaction of Special Purchase Applications made under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, in the County of Cumberland.

| Clause. | Area alienated. | Purchase money paid. | Remarks. |
|-----------|-----------------|----------------------|---|
| | a. r. p. | £ s. d. | |
| 63rd..... | 1 0 5½ | 336 14 3 | Rescission of reservation. Reclamation. No way of access. |
| 64th..... | 1 3 3½ | 764 19 10 | |
| 66th..... | 39 3 21 | 442 17 9 | |
| | 42 2 30 | 1,544 11 10 | |

SCHEDULE XVII.

RETURN of Lands alienated during 1887, in satisfaction of Special Purchase Applications made under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.

| County. | Area alienated. | | | | Purchase money paid. | Land Board District. |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Clause 9. | Clause 10. | Clause 11. | Clause 12. | | |
| | a. r. p. | a. r. p. | a. r. p. | a. r. p. | £ s. d. | |
| Ashburnham | | | 0 2 0 | | 9 5 0 | Forbes. |
| Auckland | | 4 3 0 | | | 62 0 0 | Cooma. |
| Bligh | | | 27 1 10 | | 47 16 11 | Maitland. |
| Cook | | 0 2 17 | | | 50 5 0 | Metropolitan. |
| Clarence | | 2 2 31 | | | 90 16 3 | Grafton. |
| Gloucester | | 2 3 0 | | | 6 6 0 | Maitland. |
| Gough | | 0 2 16 | | | 15 0 0 | Armidale. |
| Lincoln | | 18 0 32 | | | 113 13 0 | Dubbo. |
| Northumberland | 0 0 4½ | 0 0 31 | 0 3 26 | 112 1 0 | 1,027 3 9 | Maitland. |
| Wellington | | 5 3 8 | | | 62 9 0 | Orange. |
| Wynyard | | 8 3 0 | | | 24 4 4 | Wagga Wagga. |
| | 0 0 4½ | 44 1 15 | 28 2 36 | 112 1 0 | 1,508 19 3 | |

SCHEDULE XVIII.

RETURN of Lands alienated during 1887, in satisfaction of Special Purchase Applications made under the Crown Lands Act of 1884.

| County. | Land alienated. | | | Purchase money paid. | Land Board District. |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Section 66. | Section 67. | Section 69. | | |
| | a. r. p. | a. r. p. | a. r. p. | £ s. d. | |
| Ashburnham | | 5 1 12 | | 42 12 0 | Forbes. |
| Auckland | | | 9 0 0 | 40 0 0 | Cooma. |
| Bathurst | 1 2 8 | | | 15 10 0 | Orange. |
| Culgoa | | 3 2 29 | | 36 16 3 | Bourke. |
| Clyde | | 53 0 0 | | 66 5 0 | Bourke. |
| Dampier | | 7 2 28 | | 24 0 0 | Metropolitan. |
| Denison | | 60 3 11 | | 121 15 3 | Wagga Wagga. |
| Gough | | 6 0 0 | | 15 0 0 | Armidale. |
| Gowen | | 1 2 0 | | 4 5 0 | Tamworth. |
| Hume | | 38 0 16 | 3 0 0 | 77 4 0 | Wagga Wagga. |
| Monteagle..... | 0 0 6 | 17 2 4 | | 71 1 0 | Young. |
| Macquarie | 4 1 36 | | | 30 17 9 | Maitland. |
| Sandon | 2 2 36 | 1 0 0 | | 23 3 9 | Armidale. |
| Wellington | 31 3 0 | | | 79 7 6 | Orange. |
| | 40 2 6 | 194 2 20 | 12 0 0 | 647 17 6 | |

XIX.

Deposits received, and the action taken by the Local Land Boards in respect thereof, together with action taken applications received prior to that year.

Table with multiple columns: Special Area (No., Area, Deposit), Total number, Area, and Deposit (No., Area, Deposit), Number sent to District Surveyor, Number of 1887 applications confirmed, Area, Number of previous years' applications confirmed, Area, Number of 1887 applications disallowed, Number of previous years' applications disallowed. Data is organized in rows with sub-columns for area (a.r.p.) and deposit (£ s. d.).

| Land Board District | Land District. | Section 26. | | | Section 42. | | | Section 47. | | |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | | No. | Area. | Deposit. | No. | Area. | Deposit. | No. | Area. | Deposit. |
| Sydney | Picton | 18 | a. r. p. 3,660 0 0 | £ s. d. 366 0 0 | 8 | a. r. p. 1,430 0 0 | £ s. d. 143 0 0 | 10 | a. r. p. 860 0 0 | £ s. d. 172 0 0 |
| | Sydney | | | | | | | | | |
| | Windsor | 31 | 1,680 0 0 | 168 0 0 | 10 | 463 0 0 | 46 6 0 | 19 | 1,265 0 0 | 253 0 0 |
| Tamworth | Wollongong | | | | | | | | | |
| | Coonabarabran | 26 | 5,251 2 0 | 525 3 0 | 22 | 4,308 2 0 | 430 17 0 | 1 | 320 0 0 | 64 0 0 |
| | Gunnedah | 16 | 6,123 0 0 | 612 6 0 | 17 | 2,318 0 0 | 231 16 0 | 1 | 320 0 0 | 64 0 0 |
| | Murrurundi | 9 | 2,215 0 0 | 221 10 0 | 11 | 1,832 1 0 | 183 4 6 | 1 | 320 0 0 | 64 0 0 |
| Wagga Wagga | Narrabri | 32 | 16,017 0 0 | 1,601 14 0 | 16 | 5,707 3 0 | 570 15 6 | 1 | 320 0 0 | 64 0 0 |
| | Tamworth | 47 | 7,585 1 0 | 758 10 6 | 51 | 6,734 3 0 | 673 9 6 | 1 | 70 0 0 | 14 0 0 |
| | Cootamundra | 37 | 7,806 0 0 | 780 12 0 | 28 | 3,210 3 0 | 321 1 6 | 9 | 640 0 0 | 128 0 0 |
| | Gundagai | 10 | 1,776 2 0 | 177 13 0 | 10 | 835 3 0 | 83 11 6 | 1 | 297 2 0 | 59 10 0 |
| | Narrandera | 31 | 13,357 0 0 | 1,335 14 0 | 8 | 2,097 0 0 | 209 14 0 | 2 | 195 0 0 | 39 0 0 |
| Wilcannia | Urana | 8 | 1,813 3 0 | 181 7 6 | 6 | 924 1 0 | 92 8 6 | 1 | 300 0 0 | 60 0 0 |
| | Wagga Wagga | 59 | 17,212 0 0 | 1,721 4 0 | 67 | 11,734 2 30 | 1,173 9 5 | 10 | 1,689 2 0 | 337 18 0 |
| | Wilcannia | | | | | | | | | |
| | Grand Total | 2,300 | 529,628 2 14 | 52,962 17 5 | 2,185 | 231,912 2 5 | 23,191 5 3 | 186 | 20,073 3 12 | 4,014 16 0 |

* Note—These applications consist of—69 conditional purchases under 26th section, of 8,451 acres 2 roods, deposit £1,614 6s.; 11 conditional purchases under 42nd section, referred to in the previous columns.

SCHEDULE XX.

RETURN showing the number of applications to convert Conditional Purchases, under the Crown Lands Act of 1861 (repealed), into Conditional Purchases under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, as regards payment of balance of purchase money.

| Land Board District. | Land District. | No. of applications received. | Land Board District. | Land District. | No. of applications received. |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Albury | Albury | 39 | Maitland | Port Macquarie | 3 |
| | Corowa | 26 | | Raymond Terrace | 38 |
| | Tumut | 14 | | Scone | 70 |
| Bourke | Bourke | 7 | Moree | Singleton | 2 |
| | Brewarrina | 6 | | Stroud | 233 |
| | Brewarrina, East | 1 | | Taree | 8 |
| Cooma | Cobar | 15 | Orange | Wollombi | 8 |
| | Cobar, East | 20 | | Bingara | 8 |
| | Bega | 27 | | Moree | 40 |
| Dubbo | Bombala | 9 | Sydney | Walgett | 6 |
| | Cooma | 54 | | Walgett, North | 12 |
| | Eden | 46 | | Warialda | 6 |
| Forbes | Queanbeyan | 62 | Wagga Wagga | Bathurst | 24 |
| | Coonamble | 1 | | Carcoar | 8 |
| | Dubbo | 47 | | Cowra | 22 |
| Glen Innes (vel Armidale) | Forbes | 19 | Wilcannia | Molong | 1 |
| | Grenfell | 18 | | Mudgee | 21 |
| | Parkes | 24 | | Orange | 3 |
| Goulburn | Armidale | 76 | Tamworth | Rylstone | 8 |
| | Glen Innes | 48 | | Wellington | 21 |
| | Inverell | 7 | | Berrima | 3 |
| Grafton | Tenterfield | 2 | Wagga Wagga | Campbelltown | 8 |
| | Burrowa | 139 | | Gosford | 1 |
| | Braidwood | 72 | | Kiama | 1 |
| Hay | Goulburn | 167 | Wagga Wagga | Lithgow | 2 |
| | Gunning | 179 | | Liverpool | 4 |
| | Yass | 236 | | Metropolitan | 1 |
| Maitland | Young | 2 | Wagga Wagga | Milton | 1 |
| | Casino | 1 | | Nowra | 1 |
| | Grafton | 2 | | Parramatta | 1 |
| Maitland | Kempsey | 1 | Wagga Wagga | Penrith | 8 |
| | Lismore | 1 | | Picton | 1 |
| | Murwillumbah | 19 | | Windsor | 1 |
| Maitland | Balranald | 14 | Wagga Wagga | Wollongong | 40 |
| | Balranald, South | 19 | | Coonabarabran | 47 |
| | Deniliquin | 2 | | Gunnedah | 30 |
| Maitland | Hay | 1 | Wagga Wagga | Murrurundi | 46 |
| | Hay, North | 2 | | Narrabri | 46 |
| | Hillston | 1 | | Tamworth | 46 |
| Maitland | Hillston, North | 1 | Wagga Wagga | Cootamundra | 18 |
| | Wentworth | 244 | | Gundagai | 51 |
| | Cassilis | 4 | | Narrandera | 24 |
| Maitland | Dungog | 9 | Wagga Wagga | Urana | 30 |
| | Maitland | 12 | | Wagga Wagga | 120 |
| | Muswellbrook | 13 | | Wilcannia | 2,647 |

XIX—continued.

| Special Area. | | | Total number, Area, and Deposit. | | | Number sent to District Surveyor in year. | Number of 1887 applications confirmed in year. | Area. | Number of previous years' applications confirmed in year. | Area. | Number of 1887 applications disallowed in year. | Number of previous years' applications disallowed in year. |
|---------------|------------|------------|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---|--|-------------|---|--------------|---|--|
| No. | Area. | Deposit. | No. | Area. | Deposit. | | | | | | | |
| ... | a. r. p. | £ s. d. | 36 | a. r. p. | £ s. d. | 32 | 8 | a. r. p. | ..... | ..... | 2 | 1 |
| ... | ..... | ..... | 60 | ..... | ..... | 58 | 19 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 10 | 8 |
| ... | ..... | ..... | 49 | ..... | ..... | 49 | 4 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 6 | 2 |
| ... | ..... | ..... | 34 | ..... | ..... | 31 | 4 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 6 | 5 |
| 7 | 1,120 0 0 | 224 0 0 | 28 | ..... | ..... | 28 | 3 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 11 | 8 |
| ... | ..... | ..... | 49 | ..... | ..... | 46 | 4 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 7 | 1 |
| ... | ..... | ..... | 99 | ..... | ..... | 96 | 33 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 30 | 20 |
| ... | ..... | ..... | 74 | ..... | ..... | 72 | 12 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 10 | 9 |
| ... | ..... | ..... | 21 | ..... | ..... | 20 | 2 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 6 | 6 |
| ... | ..... | ..... | 41 | ..... | ..... | 40 | 6 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | 10 |
| 6 | 943 1 0 | 196 13 0 | 21 | ..... | ..... | 21 | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3 | 14 |
| 6 | 876 0 0 | 151 8 0 | 142 | ..... | ..... | 141 | 30 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 17 | 19 |
| ... | | | ... | | | ... | ... | | | | ... | ... |
| *98 | 11,389 1 0 | 2,501 12 3 | 4,769 | 793,004 0 31 | 82,670 10 11 | 4,513 | 1,066 | 168,878 1 8 | 3,412 | 554,272 2 24 | 628 | 711 |

of 684 acres 3 roods, deposit £125 10s. 3l.; 18 conditional purchases under 47th section, of 2,253 acres, deposit £761 16s.; and are exclusive of those under the sections

SCHEDULE XXI.

RETURN showing the number of Instructions issued to, and Reports made by, Inspectors of Conditional Purchases during the year 1887.

| Land Board District. | Name of Inspector. | No. issued in 1887. | No. Reports received. | Land Board District. | Name of Inspector. | No. issued in 1887. | No. Reports received. |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Armidale | Harper, W. | 660 | 416 | Moree | Cropper, C. | 385 | 461 |
| | Wisdom, J. B. | 608 | 523 | | Sands, L. | 105 | 255 |
| Cooma | *Manton, W. A. | 214 | 349 | Maitland | Deer, E. | 645 | 559 |
| | Roche, M. | 604 | 633 | | Higgins, E. | 410 | 335 |
| | Spicer, W. | 482 | 820 | | Keele, Jas. | 503 | 535 |
| Dubbo | Thompson, F. A. | 114 | 140 | Orange | Griffin, J. H. | 534 | 486 |
| | Franks, R. C. | 608 | 711 | | Langley, G. H. | 481 | 493 |
| Forbes | Page, J. C. | 598 | 428 | Sydney | Sim, J. R. | 647 | 619 |
| | | | | | Brown, J. B. | 748 | 470 |
| Goulburn | Adams, P. F. B. | 838 | 696 | | O'Hara, J. S. | 581 | 503 |
| | Deighton, R. | 465 | 548 | Tamworth | Broun, W. | 657 | 680 |
| | Harrison, G. | 248 | 360 | | Cox, J. W. G. | 322 | 312 |
| | Manton, W. A. | 109 | 171 | Wagga Wagga | Barnes, W. J. | 795 | 621 |
| | Rowlandson, J. G. | 1 | 27 | | Cumming, V. | 392 | 311 |
| Grafton | Miller, T. | 361 | 375 | | Mulligan, F. B. | 929 | 788 |
| | Wilshire, T. H. | 744 | 557 | | M'Phillamy, J. S. | 849 | 719 |
| | West, G. W. | 599 | 553 | | North, S. C. V. | 404 | 413 |
| Hay | Russom, E. S. | 334 | 422 | | Total | 17,080 | 16,386 |
| | Stanton, W. | 106 | 97 | | | | |

* Mr. Manton also inspected in the Goulburn Land Board District, which see.

SCHEDULE XXII.

RETURN showing the number of Cases referred to the Local Land Boards, and the purpose of such reference, from 1st January to 31st December, 1887.

| Land Board Districts. | Cases for Inquiry. | Cases for Inspection. | Total. |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Albury* | 5 | 263 | 268 |
| Armidale | 11 | 825 | 836 |
| Bourke | 2 | 159 | 161 |
| Cooma | 33 | 1,278 | 1,311 |
| Dubbo | 11 | 352 | 363 |
| Forbes | 4 | 329 | 333 |
| Goulburn | 31 | 790 | 821 |
| Grafton | 35 | 844 | 879 |
| Hay | 7 | 214 | 221 |
| Maitland | 9 | 900 | 909 |
| Moree | 10 | 299 | 309 |
| Orange | 52 | 918 | 970 |
| Sydney | 27 | 467 | 494 |
| Tamworth | 13 | 536 | 549 |
| Wagga Wagga | 35 | 1,288 | 1,323 |
| Wilcannia† | 1 | 15 | 16 |
| | 286 | 9,477 | 9,763 |

*Albury Land Board District was amalgamated with that of Wagga Wagga on the 1st July, 1887.

† Wilcannia Land Board District was amalgamated with that of Bourke on the 1st July, 1887.

SCHEDULE XXIII

RETURN showing the Number and Area of Conditional Purchases (applied for under the repealed Acts) investigated by the several Local Land Boards during the year ending 31 December, 1887

| Land Board District | Land District | Cases investigated in open Court | | | | | | Cases returned to Head Office after investigation in open Court | | Cases returned by Chairman with report, no investigation in open Court being necessary | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--|--------|---|------|--|-------|---|------|--|--------|--------|----|----|
| | | A Cases in which conditions of residence or improvements found not to have been fulfilled | | B Cases remitted for decision of Minister on special grounds | | C Cases in which conditions were found to have been fulfilled | | No | Area | No | Area | | | |
| | | No | Area | No | Area | No | Area | | | | | | | |
| | | | a | r | p | | a | r | p | | a | r | p | |
| Albury | Albury | 7 | 740 | 0 | 0 | | 3 | 889 | 3 | 30 | 10 | 1,629 | 3 | 30 |
| | Corowa | 2 | 735 | 0 | 0 | | 6 | 3,292 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 2,991 | 2 | 0 |
| | Tumut | 1 | 200 | 0 | 0 | | 5 | 570 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 690 | 0 | 0 |
| Bourke | Bourke | 4 | 904 | 0 | 0 | | 27 | 7,770 | 1 | 0 | 29 | 8,554 | 0 | 0 |
| | Brewarrina | 4 | 709 | 2 | 0 | | 14 | 5,588 | 3 | 0 | 18 | 6,298 | 1 | 0 |
| | Cobar East | 2 | 360 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 200 | 0 | 0 | 53 | 7,469 | 2 | 0 | |
| Cooma | Bega | 1 | 100 | 0 | 0 | | 14 | 930 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 1,030 | 0 | 0 |
| | Bombala | 10 | 1,077 | 0 | 0 | | 15 | 4,284 | 3 | 4 | 25 | 5,361 | 3 | 4 |
| | Cooma | 28 | 2,927 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 245 | 0 | 0 | 39 | 5,304 | 3 | 10 | |
| | Eden | 3 | 220 | 0 | 0 | | 3 | 120 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 340 | 0 | 0 |
| | Queanbeyan | 8 | 841 | 2 | 0 | | 15 | 1,256 | 2 | 0 | 23 | 2,098 | 0 | 0 |
| Dubbo | Coonamble | 3 | 1,920 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 970 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2,616 | 0 | 0 | |
| | Dubbo | 2 | 1,246 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 571 | 2 | 0 | 18 | 8,415 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forbes | Condobolin | | | | | 1 | 120 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 6,622 | 1 | 0 | |
| | Forbes | 3 | 1,330 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1,964 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 10,057 | 3 | 0 | |
| | Grenfell | 1 | 200 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 38 | 7,211 | 1 | 0 | |
| | Parke | 2 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 2,657 | 2 | 0 | |
| Glen Innes (<i>vel</i> Armidale) | Armidale | 16 | 1,486 | 2 | 0 | | | | | 28 | 5,956 | 3 | 0 | |
| | Glen Innes | 4 | 420 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 23 | 4,262 | 2 | 13 | |
| | Inverell | 2 | 80 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 14 | 2,748 | 0 | 0 | |
| | Tenterfield | 1 | 40 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 9 | 1,322 | 0 | 0 | |
| | Walcha | 4 | 760 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1,280 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 3,170 | 0 | 0 | |
| Goulburn | Burrowa | 16 | 2,746 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 210 | 0 | 0 | 39 | 5,008 | 2 | 0 | |
| | Braidwood | 6 | 654 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 120 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 260 | 1 | 0 | |
| | Goulburn | 14 | 860 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 345 | 0 | 0 | 36 | 3,111 | 0 | 0 | |
| | Gunning | 4 | 320 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 387 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 3,460 | 1 | 0 | |
| | Yass | 3 | 280 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 24 | 2,347 | 3 | 0 | |
| | Young | 18 | 4,067 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 1,130 | 2 | 0 | 45 | 8,006 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | 13,203 | 2 | 0 |
| Grafton | Casino | 7 | 2,000 | 2 | 0 | | | | | 2 | 237 | 0 | 0 | |
| | Grafton | 16 | 2,162 | 2 | 0 | | | | | 14 | 980 | 0 | 0 | |
| | Kempsey | 1 | 60 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 1 | 60 | 0 | 0 | |
| | Lismore | 42 | 4,674 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 150 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 1,604 | 1 | 0 | |
| | Murwillumbah | | | | | | | | | 1 | 300 | 0 | 0 | |
| Hay | Balranald | 2 | 647 | 2 | 0 | | | | | | | | | |
| | Deniliquin | 16 | 4,506 | 1 | 0 | | | | | 8 | 2,949 | 3 | 0 | |
| | Hay | 18 | 8,323 | 1 | 0 | | | | | 12 | 4,612 | 3 | 0 | |
| | Hillston | 3 | 1,380 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 9 | 4,622 | 2 | 0 | |
| | Wentworth | 5 | 1,180 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 9 | 2,960 | 0 | 0 | |
| Maitland | Cassils | 12 | 19,770 | 2 | 0 | | | | | 9 | 730 | 1 | 0 | |
| | Dungog | 3 | 130 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 8 | 361 | 0 | 0 | |
| | Maitland | | | | | 1 | 320 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 250 | 0 | 0 | |
| | Muswellbrook | 1 | 40 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 2 | 90 | 0 | 0 | |
| | Newcastle | 5 | 1,171 | 1 | 0 | | | | | 7 | 3,502 | 1 | 0 | |
| | Paterson | | | | | | | | | 3 | 122 | 0 | 0 | |
| | Port Macquarie | 8 | 418 | 2 | 0 | | | | | | | | | |
| | Raymond Terrace | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Scone | 2 | 477 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 18 | 1,412 | 1 | 0 | |
| | Singleton | 4 | 180 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 17 | 1,980 | 3 | 0 | |
| | Stroud | 1 | 322 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | |
| | Taree | 6 | 312 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 9 | 433 | 3 | 0 | |
| Wollombi | 2 | 180 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Moree | Bingara | 7 | 1,003 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 7 | 992 | 0 | 0 | |
| | Moree | 14 | 5,706 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 29 | 11,924 | 2 | 0 | |
| | Walgett | 8 | 1,530 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 640 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 6,917 | 3 | 0 | |
| | Warilda | 20 | 3,348 | 3 | 7 | | | | | 15 | 1,577 | 2 | 0 | |
| Orange | Bathurst | 8 | 630 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 1,170 | 0 | 0 | |
| | Carcoar | 13 | 865 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 170 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 1,105 | 0 | 0 | |
| | Cowra | 14 | 1,570 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 260 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 2,190 | 0 | 0 | |

SCHEDULE XXIII—continued.

| Land Board District | Land District | Cases investigated in open Court | | | | | | Cases returned to Head Office after investigation in open Court | | Cases returned by Chairman with report, no investigation in open Court being necessary | |
|---------------------|---------------|--|-------------|---|------------|--|--------------|---|--------------|--|-------------|
| | | A Cases in which conditions of residence or improvements found not to have been fulfilled | | B Cases remitted for decision of Minister on special grounds | | C Cases in which conditions were found to have been fulfilled | | No | Area | No | Area |
| | | No | Area | No | Area | No | Area | | | | |
| | | | a r p. | | a. r p | | a. r p | | a. r. p | | a. r. p. |
| Orange .. | Molong ... | 16 | 2,100 0 0 | 2 | 640 0 0 | 53 | 4,002 0 0 | 67 | 6,175 0 0 | 3 | 200 0 0 |
| | Mudgee | 8 | 420 0 0 | | .. . | 11 | 720 0 0 | 17 | 980 0 0 | .. | .. |
| | Orange | 5 | 240 0 0 | | | 11 | 440 0 0 | 15 | 610 0 0 | 1 | 40 0 0 |
| | Rylstone | 11 | 895 0 0 | 2 | 140 0 0 | 4 | 645 0 0 | 17 | 1,680 0 0 | | |
| | Wellington .. | 7 | 860 0 0 | | | 13 | 1,604 0 0 | 19 | 2,384 0 0 | | |
| Sydney | Berrima .. | 4 | 166 0 0 | | | 3 | 320 0 0 | 7 | 486 0 0 | 48 | .. |
| | Camden | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Campbelltown. | | | | | 4 | 764 2 28 | 4 | 764 2 28 | | |
| | Gosford | 6 | 934 3 0 | | | 33 | 4,514 0 0 | 39 | 5,448 3 0 | 36 | |
| | Kiama | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Lithgow | 5 | 200 0 0 | | | 39 | 2,074 0 15 | 44 | 2,274 0 15 | 37 | |
| | Liverpool | | | | | | | | | 2 | |
| | Metropolitan | 1 | 40 0 0 | 2 | 118 3 0 | 8 | 2,309 0 0 | 11 | 2,467 3 0 | | |
| | Milton | 1 | 40 0 0 | | | 1 | 96 1 0 | 2 | 136 1 0 | 1 | |
| | Moruya | 1 | 50 0 0 | | | 14 | 949 3 0 | 15 | 999 3 0 | 31 | |
| | Nowra | 1 | 150 0 0 | | | 5 | 230 0 0 | 6 | 380 0 0 | 11 | |
| | Paramatta | 3 | 120 0 0 | | | 2 | 80 0 0 | 5 | 200 0 0 | 17 | |
| | Penrith | | | | | 2 | 100 0 0 | 2 | 100 0 0 | 2 | |
| | Windsor | 2 | 98 3 0 | | | 3 | 180 0 0 | 5 | 278 3 0 | 12 | |
| | Wollongong | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tamworth. | Coonabarabran | 4 | 1,317 2 0 | | | 24 | 5,872 1 0 | 18 | 3,890 2 0 | 28 | 2,861 0 0 |
| | Gunnedah | 6 | 2,687 1 0 | 1 | 640 0 0 | 3 | 1,476 0 0 | 7 | 3,108 0 0 | 59 | 15,256 0 0 |
| | Murrumbidgee | 1 | 160 0 0 | | | 3 | 261 3 0 | 3 | 331 2 0 | 36 | 4,490 3 0 |
| | Narrabri | 3 | 800 0 0 | 5 | 1,381 0 0 | 30 | 10,941 0 0 | 32 | 10,601 0 0 | 47 | 17,023 1 0 |
| | Tamworth | 5 | 629 3 0 | 1 | 40 0 0 | 17 | 2,936 3 0 | 19 | 1,229 2 0 | 97 | 11,452 0 0 |
| Wagga Wagga | Cootamundra | 11 | 1,183 0 0 | | | 2 | 540 0 0 | 12 | 1,503 0 0 | | |
| | Gundagai | 25 | 5,955 2 0 | 4 | 1,200 0 0 | 32 | 7,123 3 0 | 52 | 12,559 1 0 | | |
| | Narrandera | 7 | 2,520 0 0 | | | 4 | 2,320 0 0 | 10 | 4,200 0 0 | .. | |
| | Urana | 9 | 2,767 2 0 | | | 4 | 1,959 1 0 | 13 | 4,726 3 0 | | |
| | Wagga Wagga | 41 | 14,344 3 0 | 2 | 800 0 0 | 17 | 6,055 1 0 | 50 | 16,903 1 0 | | |
| Wilcannia | Wilcannia | 7 | 840 0 0 | 4 | 440 0 0 | 35 | 6,300 2 0 | 43 | 7,138 2 0 | .. | |
| | Total | 597 | 127,438 1 7 | 77 | 14,582 3 0 | 1,233 | 232,550 1 20 | 1,841 | 331,807 1 17 | 5,291 | 685,148 2 4 |

SCHEDULE XXIV.

RETURN showing number of Certificates of Conformity issued to Conditional Purchasers during the year 1887, together with the number of Amended Certificates issued on account of alterations in area, and the number of Declarations received as to residence and improvements.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Number of Certificates issued | 10,667 |
| „ Amended Certificates issued | 180 |
| „ Declarations received | 12,811 |

SCHEDULE XXV.

RETURN showing the number of Transfers of Conditional Purchases received from 1st January to 31st December, 1887, and the number dealt with, inclusive of those on hand during that period.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| No of Transfers received | 9,376 |
| „ „ intimated to Treasury | 7,443 |
| „ Conditional Purchases thereby transferred | 14,949 |
| „ Transfers upon which stamp duty was paid | 3,291 |
| Amount of stamp duty paid thereon | £5,268 18 0 |
| No of transfers registered in Registrar General's Office | 7,428 |
| „ „ in Registrar General's Office for registration | 2,839 |
| „ Crown Solicitor's certificates received | 330 |
| „ Notices dispatched informing parties and Crown Land Agents of Registration | 12,031 |

SCHEDULE XXVI.

RETURN showing the number of Transfers intimated to the Treasury, and the area of Land transferred, during the year ending 31st December, 1887.

| District | Transfers | Area. | District. | Transfers | Area |
|---|-----------|--------------|---|-----------|----------------|
| | | a. r. p. | | | a. r. p. |
| Albury | 290 | 76,802 3 9 | Metropolitan | 3 | 758 3 0 |
| Armidale | 266 | 67,953 2 33 | Milton. | 6 | 428 1 0 |
| Balranald | 7 | 3,075 2 0 | Moama . | Nil. | Nil. |
| Bathurst | 76 | 10,199 0 7 | Molong . | 175 | 39,701 2 36 |
| Bega .. | 173 | 29,454 2 29 | Moree . | 47 | 26,045 1 0 |
| Berrima | 70 | 8,844 2 30 | Moruya . | 35 | 6,730 3 38 |
| Bingera | 36 | 7,414 0 11 | Mudgee . | 82 | 10,491 2 18 |
| Bombala | 167 | 54,044 0 24 | Murrurundi | 79 | 18,525 1 32 |
| Bourke . | 14 | 7,131 3 0 | Murwillumbah | 50 | 10,454 1 0 |
| Braidwood | 24 | 3,509 1 0 | Muswellbrook | 41 | 5,896 3 5 |
| Brewarrina | 8 | 4,286 2 0 | Narrabri . | 64 | 25,795 0 0 |
| Burrowa . | 202 | 53,073 2 2 | Narrandera | 131 | 56,731 1 39 |
| Campbelltown | 2 | 80 0 0 | Newcastle | 6 | 746 2 0 |
| Carcoar | 66 | 13,806 1 30 | Nowra . | 59 | 5,771 2 17 |
| Casino . | 64 | 15,214 3 4 | Orange . | 87 | 11,049 0 19 |
| Cassilis | 48 | 10,149 1 28 | Parkes . | 19 | 8,205 3 0 |
| Cobar . | 15 | 2,838 0 0 | Parramatta | Nil. | Nil. |
| Condobolin | 45 | 22,080 0 0 | Paterson | 1 | 48 2 0 |
| Cooma . | 247 | 79,714 2 18 | Penrith . | 1 | 100 0 0 |
| Coonabarabran | 29 | 6,979 3 0 | Picton . | 16 | 1,412 0 20 |
| Coonamble | 120 | 51,500 0 25 | Port Macquarie | 16 | 1,814 0 0 |
| Cootamundra | 125 | 35,605 0 26 | Queanbeyan | 120 | 26,649 0 26 |
| Corowa . | 230 | 100,552 3 12 | Raymond Terrace | 5 | 430 0 0 |
| Cowra . | 117 | 27,948 0 10 | Rylstone . | 65 | 10,387 2 22 |
| Deniliquin | 201 | 82,635 1 26 | Scone . | 35 | 5,704 2 0 |
| Dubbo . | 202 | 72,693 2 0 | Singleton . | 54 | 8,412 0 36 |
| Dungog . | 9 | 972 2 0 | Stroud . | 10 | 1,759 0 0 |
| Eden . | 42 | 10,459 0 26 | Tamworth . | 251 | 63,119 0 6 |
| Forbes . | 126 | 48,806 0 0 | Taree . | 57 | 5,635 2 30 |
| Glen Innes . | 97 | 32,162 1 21 | Tenterfield | 20 | 5,094 0 0 |
| Gosford . | 34 | 2,999 0 0 | Tumut . | 120 | 28,879 1 29 |
| Goulburn . | 114 | 19,086 3 18 | Urana . | 229 | 113,559 0 34 |
| Grafton . | 106 | 19,634 2 25 | Wagga Wagga | 337 | 159,529 2 0 |
| Grenfell . | 156 | 65,446 0 0 | Walcha . | 34 | 9,198 3 10 |
| Gundagai . | 205 | 68,332 3 29 | Walgett . | 4 | 1,683 0 0 |
| Gunnedah . | 51 | 19,756 3 26 | Warialda . | 43 | 18,217 2 0 |
| Gunning . | 88 | 18,988 0 30 | Wellington . | 60 | 5,279 1 34 |
| Hay . | 116 | 62,609 3 0 | Wentworth . | 11 | 2,857 0 0 |
| Hillston . | 21 | 7,202 2 0 | Wilcannia . | 15 | 1,540 0 0 |
| Inverell . | 159 | 37,546 0 19 | Windsor . | 6 | 248 1 0 |
| Kempsey . | 97 | 10,378 0 10 | Wollombi . | 4 | 279 3 0 |
| Kiama . | 5 | 487 2 28 | Wollongong | 2 | 136 0 0 |
| Lismore . | 304 | 48,205 1 21 | Yass . | 78 | 17,770 0 8 |
| Lithgow . | 25 | 2,373 1 33 | Young . | 350 | 117,744 3 36 |
| Liverpool . | 9 | 962 0 0 | Total .. | 7,440 | 2,159,428 2 25 |
| Martland . | 4 | 610 0 0 | | | |

SCHEDULE XXVII—continued.

| District. | No | Section 13 | | No | Section 14 | | No | Section 19 | | No | Section 21 | | No | Section 22 | | Total No | Total area | | |
|------------------|-----|------------|------|----|------------|-----|----|------------|-----|-----|------------|---|----|------------|-----|----------|------------|------|--|
| | | Area. | | | Area | | | Area | | | Area. | | | a. r. p. | | | | | |
| Wentworth | 8 | a. r. p. | | | a. r. p. | | | a. r. | | | a. r. | | | a. r. p. | | 11 | a. r. p. | | |
| | | 1,200 | 0 0 | | | | | 3 | 442 | 0 | | | | | | 4 | 1,642 | 0 0 | |
| Wilcannia | 1 | 100 | 0 0 | 3 | 120 | 0 0 | 1 | 58 | 3 | | | | | | 1 | 220 | 0 0 | | |
| Windsor | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 58 | 3 0 | |
| Wollombi | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wollongong | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yass | 2 | 141 | 1 0 | | | | | | 1 | 92 | 0 | | | | | 3 | 233 | 1 0 | |
| Young | 5 | 670 | 0 0 | 2 | 132 | 0 0 | | | 2 | 223 | 1 | | | | 9 | 1,030 | 1 0 | | |
| Total | 415 | 97,332 | 2 21 | 64 | 12,795 | 2 0 | 7 | 656 | 2 | 123 | 14,919 | 3 | 19 | 1,376 | 1 0 | 628 | 127,080 | 2 21 | |

SCHEDULE XXVIII.

RETURN showing Number and Area of Conditional Purchases (made under the Crown Lands Act of 1884), declared forfeited during the year 1887.

| District. | Section 24. | | Section 26 | | Section 42 | | Section 47. | | Total. | |
|---------------------|-------------|----------|------------|-----------|------------|----------|-------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| | No | Area. | No | Area | No. | Area | No. | Area. | No | Area. |
| Albury | | a. r. p. | | a. r. p. | | a. r. p. | | a. r. p. | | a. r. p. |
| Armidale | | | 1 | 50 0 0 | | | | | 1 | 50 0 0 |
| Balranald | | | 1 | 128 0 0 | | | | | 1 | 128 0 0 |
| Bathurst | | | 4 | 240 0 0 | 1 | 80 0 0 | | | 5 | 320 0 0 |
| Bega | | | | | | | | | | |
| Berrima | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bingera | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bombala | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bourke | | | | | | | | | | |
| Braidwood | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brewarrina | | | | | | | | | | |
| Burrowa | | | 1 | 167 1 0 | 1 | 80 0 0 | | | 2 | 247 1 0 |
| Campbelltown | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carcoar | | | | | | | | | | |
| Casino | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cassilis | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cobar | | | | | | | | | | |
| Condobolin | | | 2 | 770 0 0 | | | | | 2 | 770 0 0 |
| Cooma | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coonabarabran | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coonamble | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cootamundra | | | | | | | | | | |
| Corowa | | | | 729 1 0 | 1 | 135 0 0 | | | 4 | 864 1 0 |
| Cowra | | | | | 1 | 80 0 0 | | | 1 | 80 0 0 |
| Deniliquin | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dubbo | | | 1 | 640 0 0 | | | | | 1 | 640 0 0 |
| Dungog | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eden | | | 2 | 180 0 0 | | | | | 2 | 180 0 0 |
| Forbes | | | 3 | 1,000 0 0 | | | | | 3 | 1,000 0 0 |
| Glen Innes | | | 1 | 200 0 0 | | | | | 1 | 200 0 0 |
| Gosford | | | 2 | 840 0 0 | | | | | 2 | 840 0 0 |
| Goulburn | | | 3 | 178 1 0 | 1 | 40 0 0 | | | 4 | 218 1 0 |
| Grafton | | | 1 | 100 0 0 | | | | | 1 | 100 0 0 |
| Grenfell | | | 2 | 462 3 0 | 1 | 225 0 0 | | | 3 | 687 3 0 |
| Gundagai | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gunnedah | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gunning | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hay | | | 1 | 200 0 0 | | | | | 1 | 200 0 0 |
| Hillston | | | | | | | | | | |
| Inverell | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kempsey | | | 1 | 132 0 0 | | | | | 1 | 132 0 0 |
| Kiama | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lismore | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lithgow | | | 5 | 315 0 0 | 2 | 80 0 0 | | | 7 | 395 0 0 |
| Liverpool | | | | | | | | | | |
| Maitland | | | | | | | | | | |
| Metropolitan | | | | | | | | | | |
| Milton | | | | | | | | | | |
| Moama | | | | | | | | | | |
| Molong | | | | | | | | | | |
| Moree | | | 2 | 832 0 0 | | | | | 2 | 832 0 0 |
| Moruya | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mudgee | | | 4 | 220 0 0 | | | | | 4 | 220 0 0 |
| Murrumbidgee | | | | | | | | | | |
| Murrumbidgee | | | | | | | | | | |
| Murwillumbah | | | | | | | | | | |
| Muswellbrook | | | | | | | | | | |
| Narrabri | | | 1 | 142 2 0 | | | | | 1 | 142 2 0 |
| Narrandera | | | 1 | 360 3 0 | | | | | 1 | 360 3 0 |
| Newcastle | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nowra | | | 2 | 172 3 0 | | | | | 2 | 172 3 0 |
| Orange | | | | | | | | | | |
| Parkes | | | 2 | 1,280 0 0 | | | | | 2 | 1,280 0 0 |
| Parramatta | | | 4 | 170 0 0 | | | 3 | 200 0 0 | 7 | 370 0 0 |

SCHEDULE XXVIII—continued.

| District. | Section 24. | | Section 26. | | Section 42. | | Section 47. | | Total. | |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|------------|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|--------|------------|
| | No. | Area. | No. | Area. | No. | Area. | No. | Area. | No. | Area. |
| | | a. r. p. | | a. r. p. | | a. r. p. | | a. r. p. | | a. r. p. |
| Paterson | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penrith | | | | | | | | | | |
| Picton | | | | | | | | | | |
| Port Macquarie | | | | | | | | | | |
| Queanbeyan | | | 2 | 290 0 0 | | | | | 2 | 290 0 0 |
| Raymond Terrace | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rylstone | | | 4 | 240 0 0 | | | | | 4 | 240 0 0 |
| Scone | | | | | | | | | | |
| Singleton | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stroud | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tamworth | | | | | | | | | | |
| Taree | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tenterfield | | | 1 | 88 0 0 | | | | | 1 | 88 0 0 |
| Tumut | | | | | | | | | | |
| Urana | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wagga Wagga | | | | | | | | | | |
| Walcha | | | | | | | | | | |
| Walgett | | | | | | | | | | |
| Warialda | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wellington | | | | | 2 | 120 0 0 | | | 2 | 120 0 0 |
| Wentworth | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wilcannia | | | | | | | | | | |
| Windsor | | | 3 | 140 0 0 | 1 | 90 0 0 | | | 4 | 230 0 0 |
| Wollombi | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wollongong | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yass | | | | | | | | | | |
| Young | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total..... | | | 60 | 10,268 2 0 | 11 | 930 0 0 | 3 | 200 0 0 | 74 | 11,398 2 0 |

SCHEDULE XXIX.

RETURN showing the number of Conditional Purchases (under the Repealed Acts) declared lapsed during the year 1887 in each Land District, with Total Area under each section.

NIL.

SCHEDULE XXX.

RETURN showing the number and area of Conditional Purchases forfeited each year to 31st December, 1887.

| Year. | Number. | Area. | Year. | Number. | Area. |
|------------|---------|--------------|------------|---------|----------------|
| | | a. r. p. | | | a. r. p. |
| 1864 | 26 | 1,666 1 0 | 1877 | 802 | 107,536 3 5 |
| 1865 | 24 | 1,490 0 0 | 1878 | 1,075 | 136,308 0 0 |
| 1866 | 29 | 1,658 2 0 | 1879 | 141 | 15,510 0 0 |
| 1867 | 366 | 23,750 0 0 | 1880 | 492 | 66,658 0 0 |
| 1868 | 357 | 20,253 0 0 | 1881 | 557 | 71,924 3 3 |
| 1869 | 631 | 45,654 3 0 | 1882 | 523 | 78,551 2 5 |
| 1870 | 180 | 11,546 0 0 | 1883 | 822 | 104,534 2 17 |
| 1871 | 335 | 18,602 0 10 | 1884 | 1,163 | 190,936 2 0 |
| 1872 | 139 | 9,304 3 0 | 1885 | 1,227 | 225,610 2 31 |
| 1873 | 288 | 39,778 1 16 | 1886 | 386 | 48,556 0 20 |
| 1874 | 234 | 42,003 2 29 | 1887 | 702 | 138,479 0 21 |
| 1875 | 1,166 | 126,342 2 35 | | | |
| 1876 | 724 | 89,915 1 0 | Total..... | 12,389 | 1,616,571 1 32 |

SCHEDULE XXXI.

RETURN showing the number and total Area of Conditional Purchases lapsed (under the Repealed Acts) in each year up to 31st December, 1887.

| Year. | Number. | Area. | Year. | Number. | Area. |
|------------|---------|--------------|------------|---------|---------------|
| | | a. r. p. | | | a. r. p. |
| 1865 | 415 | 32,748 3 6 | 1878 | 1,811 | 210,014 3 18 |
| 1866 | 556 | 38,821 3 2 | 1879 | 1,241 | 135,524 0 33 |
| 1867 | 392 | 28,394 1 24 | 1880 | 1,308 | 185,255 0 31 |
| 1868 | 178 | 11,045 2 24 | 1881 | 990 | 119,880 2 34 |
| 1869 | 372 | 30,009 3 34 | 1882 | 451 | 43,830 2 10 |
| 1870 | 366 | 26,259 0 1 | 1883 | 341 | 35,568 1 6 |
| 1871 | 136 | 9,630 0 0 | 1884 | 958 | 125,274 2 0 |
| 1872 | 213 | 13,085 3 0 | 1885 | 998 | 124,827 2 10 |
| 1873 | 663 | 48,330 0 28 | 1886 | 753 | 126,283 0 39 |
| 1874 | 143 | 10,375 3 0 | 1887 | Nil. | Nil. |
| 1875 | 503 | 33,043 0 10 | | | |
| 1876 | 966 | 78,841 1 37 | Total..... | 16,176 | 1,703,409 2 8 |
| 1877 | 2,422 | 236,364 2 21 | | | |

SCHEDULE XXXII

RETURN showing number of conditional purchases increased or reduced in area, or declared void, with general reasons for such voidance, and a synopsis of the areas and sums called for and refunded in connection therewith.

| | Increased | | | Reduced | | | Void | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|------|---|---------|----|------|------|----|----|-------|---|----|
| | No | Area | | | No | Area | | | No | Area | | |
| | | a | r | p | | a | r | p | | a | r | p |
| Albury | 7 | 104 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 624 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 80 | 0 | 0 |
| Aimdale | 3 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 11 | 1 | 20 | 2 | 340 | 3 | 0 |
| Balranald | | | | | | | | | 2 | 567 | 1 | 0 |
| Bathurst | | | | | 3 | 8 | 2 | 30 | 3 | 156 | 0 | 0 |
| Bega | 3 | 31 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 0 | | | | |
| Berrima | 3 | 15 | 3 | 30 | 3 | 140 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 310 | 0 | 0 |
| Bingera | 1 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 10 | | | | |
| Bombala | 5 | 51 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 22 | 1 | 18 | 2 | 300 | 0 | 0 |
| Bourke | 4 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 215 | 0 | 20 | | | | |
| Bradwood | 1 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 14 | 2 | 29 | | | | |
| Brewarrina | | | | | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 360 | 0 | 0 |
| Burrowa | 2 | 30 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 47 | 2 | 15 | 4 | 170 | 0 | 0 |
| Campbelltown | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carcoar | 3 | 17 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 46 | 1 | 17 | 5 | 314 | 1 | 0 |
| Casino | 4 | 14 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 120 | 0 | 0 |
| Cassilis | 2 | 37 | 0 | 20 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 23 | 1 | 80 | 0 | 0 |
| Cobai | | | | | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| Condobolin | 1 | 19 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| Cooma | 14 | 141 | 2 | 38 | 71 | 242 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 654 | 2 | 0 |
| Coonabarabian | | | | | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| Coonamble | 2 | 77 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 120 | 0 | 0 |
| Cootamundra | 9 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 244 | 3 | 34 | 1 | 640 | 0 | 0 |
| Corowa | 6 | 95 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 96 | 1 | 10 | | | | |
| Cowra | 5 | 100 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 64 | 0 | 26 | 1 | 83 | 0 | 0 |
| Deniliquin | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 157 | 2 | 10 | | | | |
| Dubbo | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| Dungog | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 12 | | | | |
| Eden | 2 | 12 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 10 | 2 | 32 | 1 | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| Foibles | 3 | 6 | 2 | 22 | 2 | 46 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| Glen Innes | 5 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 23 | 2 | 33 | 2 | 86 | 0 | 0 |
| Gosford | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 3 | 18 | | | | |
| Goulburn | 3 | 50 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 60 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 320 | 0 | 0 |
| Grafton | 7 | 69 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 10 | 4 | 223 | 0 | 0 |
| Grenfell | 3 | 34 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 220 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 220 | 0 | 0 |
| Gundagai | 4 | 27 | 1 | 32 | 9 | 280 | 0 | 16 | 3 | 120 | 0 | 0 |
| Gunnedah | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 2 | | | | |
| Gunning | 2 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 564 | 0 | 0 |
| Hay | 3 | 135 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 3,480 | 0 | 0 |
| Hillston | | | | | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 640 | 0 | 0 |
| Inverell | 6 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 72 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Kempsey | 16 | 220 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 954 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 300 | 0 | 0 |
| Kiama | 2 | 6 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| Lismore | 18 | 217 | 0 | 30 | 11 | 24 | 3 | 12 | 7 | 750 | 0 | 0 |
| Lithgow | 6 | 54 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 76 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 94 | 2 | 15 |
| Liverpool | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Martland | 2 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | | | | |
| Metropolitan | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Milton | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Moama | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Molong | 8 | 104 | 3 | 23 | 18 | 160 | 0 | 35 | 4 | 435 | 0 | 0 |
| Moree | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Moruya | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| Mudgee | 1 | 28 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 2 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Murrurundi | 4 | 53 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| Murwillumbah | 4 | 49 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 43 | 2 | 0 | | | | |
| Muswellbrook | 2 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | | | | |
| Narrabri | | | | | | | | | 1 | 260 | 0 | 0 |
| Narrandera | 3 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 25 | 1 | 293 | 0 | 0 |
| Newcastle | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nowra | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | | | | | 1 | 69 | 0 | 0 |
| Orange | 5 | 56 | 0 | 31 | 6 | 25 | 3 | 20 | 2 | 88 | 0 | 0 |
| Parles | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Paramatta | | | | | | | | | 2 | 200 | 0 | 0 |
| Paterson | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| Penrith | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| Picton | | | | | | | | | 3 | 650 | 0 | 0 |
| Port Macquarie | 4 | 48 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 640 | 0 | 0 |
| Queanbeyan | 6 | 68 | 0 | 0 | 42 | 186 | 1 | 30 | 4 | 351 | 2 | 0 |

SCHEDULE XXXII—continued.

| | Increased. | | | Reduced. | | | Void. | | |
|-----------------------|------------|-------|-------|----------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| | No. | Area. | | No. | Area. | | No. | Area. | |
| | | a. | r. p. | | a. | r. p. | | a. | r. p. |
| Raymond Terrace | | | | | | | | | |
| Rylstone | | | | | | | 1 | 320 | 0 0 |
| Scone..... | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 0 | 2 | 400 | 0 0 |
| Singleton..... | 8 | 23 | 3 22 | 2 | 6 | 3 26 | | | |
| Stroud | 2 | 10 | 2 0 | 1 | 7 | 2 0 | | | |
| Tamworth..... | 7 | 29 | 2 0 | 11 | 79 | 0 .3 | 1 | 40 | 0 0 |
| Taree..... | 4 | 47 | 1 20 | 7 | 12 | 2 16 | | | |
| Tenterfield | 3 | 3 | 1 0 | 14 | 224 | 2 4 | 3 | 160 | 0 0 |
| Tumut | 9 | 47 | 3 10 | 12 | 92 | 3 22½ | 4 | 764 | 0 0 |
| Urana | 5 | 6 | 1 13 | 6 | 35 | 0 34 | 4 | 1,140 | 1 0 |
| Wagga Wagga..... | 4 | 178 | 3 0 | 10 | 138 | 0 14 | 11 | 3,051 | 2 0 |
| Walcha | 2 | 207 | 3 0 | | | | 2 | 177 | 0 0 |
| Walgett..... | | | | 1 | 7 | 0 0 | | | |
| Warialda | 2 | 51 | 0 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 0 | | | |
| Wellington | 4 | 26 | 3 0 | 3 | 5 | 0 16 | 1 | 40 | 0 0 |
| Wentworth..... | 1 | 18 | 0 0 | | | | | | |
| Wilcannia..... | 2 | 2 | 1 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 0 | 9 | 1,240 | 0 0 |
| Windsor | 1 | 0 | 2 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 20 | 2 | 80 | 0 0 |
| Wollombi..... | | | | 1 | 4 | 1 0 | | | |
| Wollongong..... | 1 | 2 | 0 0 | | | | | | |
| Yass | 2 | 2 | 1 0 | 3 | 7 | 0 25 | 3 | 172 | 0 0 |
| Young | 2 | 0 | 1 39 | 12 | 404 | 0 33 | 3 | 312 | 0 0 |
| | 264 | 2,853 | 0 14 | 409 | 5,012 | 3 14 | 147 | 22,301 | 2 15 |

NOTE :—This return has reference to C.Ps. under repealed Acts only.

Reasons of Voidance.

| No. | | No. |
|-----|---|-----|
| 2 | Limit of 80 chains exceeded | 1 |
| 4 | Separated from previous C.P., or from freehold | 3 |
| 21 | On account of non-survey within twelve months | 1 |
| 1 | The form of measurement applied for was objectionable... .. | 3 |
| 13 | The land applied for contained improvements | 2 |
| 16 | The land applied for was previously selected | 2 |
| 2 | The land applied for being within a reserve | |
| 2 | The land applied for was not available | |
| 10 | The original conditional purchase was void | 12 |
| 22 | The applicant was non-resident upon freehold | |
| 1 | The land applied for was within a mineral lease | 1 |
| 2 | The applicant was not the holder of the original C.P..... | 6 |
| 2 | The land applied for was within the population boundary | |
| 3 | Special decision | 1 |
| 13 | The whole area applied for was not available | 1 |
| | The applicant was under age..... | |
| | The land applied for was previously purchased | |
| | The application was contrary to regulations | |
| | On account of vagueness of description | |
| | Having been made under the 13th instead of 14th section | |
| | The land described not being that intended to be selected | |
| | The land applied for was within a gold-field not open to M.C.P. | |
| | The land applied for was occupied by miners under miners' rights | |
| | Surrendered under the 75th section of C.L.A. of 1884 ... | |
| | Improvements not effected on the land, but on adjoining freehold | |
| | The land was taken possession of as a mineral lease between date of voidance and revocation | |

Synopsis.

| | No. | Area. | Amount authorized for refund. |
|---|-----|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Conditional purchases declared void | 147 | a. r. p. 22,301 2 15 | £ s. d. 6,358 19 3 |
| Conditional purchases reduced in area | 409 | 5,012 3 14 | 1,073 13 9 |
| | | 27,314 1 29 | £7,432 13 0 |
| | No. | Augmentation Area. | Amount of deposit called for. |
| Conditional purchases increased in area | 264 | a. r. p. 2,853 0 14 | £ s. d. 651 5 0 |
| Conditional purchases voidance revoked | 65 | 5,948 1 0 | 1,497 1 3 |
| | No. | Area. | Deposit. |
| Reversals of forfeiture | 28 | a. r. p. 3,674 2 0 | £ s. d. 918 12 6 |

SCHEDULE XXXIII.

RETURN of Miscellaneous Amounts authorized for refund during the year ending 31st December, 1887.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|------|----|----|
| Subdivision fees | 8 | 14 | 4 |
| Investigation fees | 51 | 15 | 0 |
| Appraisalment fees | 81 | 10 | 0 |
| Deposit of 10 per cent. on supposed value of improvements paid under 12th section of Lands Acts Further Amendment Act of 1875 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Deposit of 5s. per acre paid for conversion of conditional purchase into Mineral C.P., refunded, as conversion was not carried out | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Balance money paid in excess | 51 | 5 | 0 |
| | £207 | 4 | 4 |

SCHEDULE XXXIV.

SUMMARY of Number and Area of Conditional Purchases applied for from the year 1862 to 1887 inclusive.

| Years. | Applied for. | | | Years. | Applied for. | | |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------|-------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------|
| | No. | Area. | | | No. | Area. | |
| 1862 to 1869 | 28,139 | a. | r. p. | 1879 | 7,540 | a. | r. p. |
| 1870 | 4,471 | 2,161,390 | 2 2 | 1880 | 8,583 | 924,136 | 1 0 |
| 1871 | 4,751 | 329,318 | 1 2 | 1881 | 14,220 | 1,147,001 | 2 39 |
| 1872 | 8,281 | 358,682 | 2 8 | 1882 | 14,606 | 2,329,202 | 0 15 |
| 1873 | 13,417 | 749,586 | 3 0 | 1883 | 10,674 | 2,392,217 | 2 35 |
| 1874 | 14,352 | 1,391,719 | 0 0 | 1884 | 10,657 | 1,617,712 | 0 7 |
| 1875 | 14,517 | 1,586,282 | 0 0 | 1885 | 5,377 | 1,453,937 | 0 33 |
| 1876 | 12,654 | 1,756,678 | 0 0 | 1886 | 6,080 | 1,165,351 | 1 20 |
| 1877 | 12,009 | 1,984,212 | 0 0 | 1887 | 4,769 | 963,196 | 2 27 |
| 1878 | 12,602 | 1,699,816 | 0 0 | | | 793,004 | 0 31 |
| | | 1,588,247 | 3 18 | Totals..... | 207,699 | 26,391,692 | 0 37 |

SCHEDULE XXXV.

RETURN for the year 1887, showing the Number and Area of Conditional Purchases which have been validated under the 138th clause, Crown Lands Act of 1884.

| District. | Number. | Area. | | District. | Number. | Area. | |
|---------------------|---------|-------|----|----------------------|---------|--------|----|
| | | a. | r. | | | a. | r. |
| Armidale | 4 | 377 | 0 | Hay | 2 | 1,280 | 0 |
| Burrowa..... | 2 | 189 | 2 | Inverell | 1 | 60 | 0 |
| Bingera | 1 | 40 | 0 | Kempsey | 6 | 500 | 0 |
| Bega | 3 | 120 | 0 | Lismore | 6 | 690 | 0 |
| Bourke | 1 | 40 | 0 | Lithgow | 4 | 160 | 0 |
| Bathurst | 1 | 111 | 3 | Milton | 1 | 40 | 0 |
| Campbelltown | 1 | 50 | 0 | Molong..... | 6 | 330 | 0 |
| Corowa | 2 | 502 | 1 | Moruya | 7 | 410 | 0 |
| Cobar | 1 | 80 | 0 | Mudgee | 1 | 40 | 0 |
| Cowra..... | 1 | 100 | 0 | Narrabri | 1 | 80 | 0 |
| Condobolin | 1 | 200 | 0 | Narrandera | 1 | 303 | 0 |
| Cooma | 3 | 120 | 0 | Orange..... | 2 | 129 | 2 |
| Coonabarabran | 1 | 40 | 0 | Port Macquarie | 3 | 120 | 0 |
| Coonamble..... | 2 | 185 | 0 | Tumut | 5 | 300 | 1 |
| Deniliquin | 1 | 320 | 0 | Tenterfield | 3 | 120 | 0 |
| Dubbo | 1 | 640 | 0 | Tamworth | 1 | 100 | 0 |
| Eden | 1 | 50 | 0 | Wagga Wagga | 6 | 1,708 | 2 |
| Forbes | 4 | 1,387 | 0 | Wellington | 1 | 60 | 0 |
| Goulburn | 3 | 120 | 0 | Wentworth | 3 | 441 | 0 |
| Gundagai | 2 | 80 | 0 | Wilcannia | 2 | 100 | 0 |
| Gunning..... | 1 | 273 | 1 | | | | |
| Hillston | 1 | 268 | 3 | Total | 100 | 12,266 | 3 |

SCHEDULE XXXVI.

RETURN for the year 1887 of Conditional Purchases validated under 50 Vic. No. 21.

| District | Mineral Conditional Purchases validated under section 3 on account of exceeding maximum area | | Mineral Conditional Purchases validated under sect on 3 on account of being within a gold-field, &c. | |
|-----------------|--|---------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | No of Conditional Purchases. | Area | No of Conditional Purchases. | Area. |
| Berrima | 22 | a r p. 3,936 2 0 | 8 | a. r. p. 1,372 2 0 |
| Cobar | 5 | 720 0 0 | 1 | 178 0 0 |
| Dubbo | 2 | 1,280 0 0 | ..... | ..... |
| Lithgow | 70 | 9,045 1 24 | ..... | ..... |
| Sydney | 3 | 1,280 0 0 | ..... | ..... |
| Bathurst ..... | ..... | ..... | 2 | 240 0 0 |
| Goulburn ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | 40 0 0 |
| Hillston ..... | ..... | ..... | 2 | 80 0 0 |
| Maitland ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | 320 0 0 |
| Newcastle ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | 624 2 0 |
| Wilcannia ..... | ..... | ..... | 16 | 800 0 0 |
| Mudgee ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | 40 0 0 |
| | 102 | 16,261 3 24 | 33 | 3,695 0 0 |

Total number 135. Total area a. r. p. 19,956 3 24

SCHEDULE XXXVII.

RETURN showing the Number and Area of Conditional Purchases, the lapsing of which has been reversed during the year 1887.

| District. | Number. | Area. | District | Number | Area |
|------------------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|--------|---------------------|
| Albury | 1 | a. r. p. 40 0 0 | Narrabri | 2 | a. r. p. 640 0 0 |
| Armidale | 3 | 221 3 24 | Nowra | 1 | 74 0 0 |
| Berrima | 1 | 80 0 0 | Orange | 1 | 80 0 0 |
| Bourke | 2 | 290 0 0 | Queanbeyan | 3 | 180 0 0 |
| Burrowa | 1 | 40 0 0 | Singleton | 1 | 80 0 0 |
| Carcoar | 2 | 80 0 0 | Strud | 1 | 40 0 0 |
| Condobolin | 1 | 50 0 0 | Taree | 1 | 40 0 0 |
| Coonamble | 2 | 330 0 0 | Tumut | 1 | 46 0 0 |
| Cowra | 2 | 580 0 0 | Urana | 3 | 925 0 0 |
| Forbes | 1 | 82 0 0 | Wagga Wagga | 4 | 724 2 0 |
| Glen Innes | 1 | 100 0 0 | Wilcannia | 1 | 440 0 0 |
| Grenfell | 2 | 100 0 0 | Wollombi | 1 | 50 0 0 |
| Gundagai | 1 | 48 0 0 | Ya-s | 1 | 40 0 0 |
| Gunning | 1 | 40 0 0 | Young | 1 | 40 0 0 |
| Kempsey | 1 | 40 0 0 | | | |
| Milton | 1 | 40 0 0 | Total | 47 | 5,911 1 24 |
| Molong | 2 | 150 0 0 | | | |

SCHEDULE XXXVIII.

SUMMARY of Number and Area of Conditional Purchases existing on the 31st December, 1887.

| | No. | Area | No. | Area |
|--|---------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| No. and area of conditional purchases selected up to 31st December, 1886, after deducting area cancelled, forfeited, and lapsed .. | 137,670 | a. r. p. 17,047,526 3 25 | .. | a. r. p. . |
| No. and area of conditional purchases cancelled, forfeited, and lapsed during 1887 .. | No. 702 | Area. a. r. p. 138,479 0 21 | 136,996 | 16,912,722 1 4 |
| Less reversals of forfeitures, lapsings, and voidances .. | 28 | 3,674 2 0 | | |
| No. and area of conditional purchases confirmed during 1887 .. | ..... | ..... | 4,478 | 723,150 3 32 |
| | | | 141,474 | 17,635,873 0 36 |

SCHEDULE XL—continued.

| Land Board District. | Land District. | Total number of applications, whether made in 1885 or 1886, outstanding 31st Dec., 1886. | Total number referred to District Surveyor in 1887, whether applied for in 1885 or 1886. | Total number confirmed in 1887, whether applied for in 1885 or 1886. | Total area allowed in 1887, whether applied for in 1885 or 1886. | Total number disallowed in 1887, whether applied for in 1885 or 1886. | Total number of applications, whether received in 1885 or 1886, outstanding 31st Dec., 1887. |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| Maitland | Cassilis | 53 | 7 | 33 | 12,203 3 0 | 6 | 14 |
| | Dungog | 17 | ..... | 11 | 2,987 2 0 | 1 | 5 |
| | Maitland | 3 | 1 | 1 | 92 0 0 | 2 | ..... |
| | Muswellbrook | 11 | 2 | 3 | 710 1 0 | ..... | 8 |
| | Newcastle | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| | Paterson | 16 | ..... | 9 | 1,151 1 0 | ..... | 7 |
| | Port Macquarie | 9 | ..... | 3 | 1,800 0 0 | 4 | 2 |
| | Raymond Terrace | 18 | 10 | 12 | 2,292 2 0 | 4 | 2 |
| | Scone | 55 | 2 | 45 | 16,560 1 0 | 5 | 5 |
| | Singleton | 41 | 10 | 25 | 7,910 1 0 | 11 | 5 |
| | Stroud | 19 | 3 | 14 | 1,978 3 0 | 1 | 4 |
| | Taree | 16 | ..... | 11 | 3,192 1 0 | 2 | 3 |
| | Wollombi | 2 | 1 | 1 | 218 0 0 | ..... | 1 |
| Moree | Bingera | 4 | 2 | 4 | 859 2 0 | ..... | ..... |
| | Moree | 24 | 19 | 18 | 16,629 2 0 | 1 | 5 |
| | Walgett ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Warialda | 5 | 4 | 3 | 1,682 0 0 | ..... | 2 |
| Orange | Bathurst | 48 | 1 | 44 | 9,376 2 0 | 2 | 2 |
| | Carcoar | 45 | ..... | 36 | 12,109 3 0 | 5 | 4 |
| | Cowra | 26 | ..... | 21 | 6,502 2 0 | 1 | 4 |
| | Molong | 36 | ..... | 32 | 11,032 3 0 | 1 | 3 |
| | Mudgee | 7 | ..... | 6 | 976 0 0 | 1 | ..... |
| | Orange | 15 | 1 | 13 | 3,030 2 0 | 2 | ..... |
| | Rylstone | 7 | ..... | 6 | 1,740 0 0 | 1 | ..... |
| | Wellington | 65 | 2 | 61 | 22,697 2 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Sydney | Berrima | 13 | ..... | 10 | 2,631 1 0 | 3 | ..... |
| | Campbelltown | 3 | ..... | 2 | 1,631 1 0 | 1 | ..... |
| | Gosford | 4 | ..... | 3 | 297 3 0 | 1 | ..... |
| | Kiama ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Lithgow | 34 | 1 | 30 | 6,267 2 0 | 4 | ..... |
| | Liverpool ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Metropolitan ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Milton | 4 | ..... | 4 | 424 2 0 | ..... | ..... |
| | Moruya | 8 | ..... | 8 | 594 0 0 | ..... | ..... |
| | Nowra | 4 | ..... | 3 | 239 3 0 | 1 | ..... |
| | Parramatta ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Penrith ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Picton | 7 | ..... | 7 | 1,486 2 0 | ..... | ..... |
| Windsor ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |  |
| Wollongong ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |  |
| Tamworth | Coonabarabran | 9 | 1 | 7 | 1,260 0 0 | ..... | 2 |
| | Gunnedah | 15 | 8 | 13 | 10,042 2 0 | 2 | ..... |
| | Murrurundi | 18 | 7 | 9 | 3,190 0 0 | 2 | 7 |
| | Narrabri | 15 | 1 | 9 | 7,715 3 0 | 1 | 5 |
| | Tamworth | 31 | 2 | 23 | 8,667 1 0 | 7 | 1 |
| Wagga Wagga | Albury | 33 | ..... | 25 | 10,114 0 0 | ..... | 8 |
| | Cootamundra | 37 | 5 | 21 | 7,633 3 0 | 10 | 6 |
| | Corowa | 2 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | 1 |
| | Gundagai | 9 | 1 | 4 | 1,796 1 0 | 3 | 2 |
| | Narrandera | 25 | 2 | 16 | 16,445 3 0 | 6 | 3 |
| | Tumut | 41 | ..... | 9 | 4,714 0 0 | 3 | 29 |
| | Urana | 11 | 1 | 6 | 2,137 1 0 | 4 | 1 |
| | Wagga Wagga | 72 | 3 | 42 | 33,402 0 0 | 13 | 17 |
| | | 2,028 | 154 | 1,561 | 735,954 2 35 | 235 | 232 |

SCHEDULE XLI.

RETURN showing action taken during the year 1887 on Applications made in 1885, under Section 52 of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, for the Conversion of Pre-emptive into Conditional Leases.

| Land Board District | Land District | No of Applicants made in 1885, gazetted in 1887 | Area granted in 1887 | Annual Rent | No of Applications made in 1885, refused in 1887 |
|---------------------|---------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------|--|
| Armidale | Armidale | 1 | acres. 300 | £ s. d. 2 10 0 | 1 |
| | Inverell | 6 | 2,825 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 24 14 3 | |
| | Tenterfield | 1 | 1,800 | 33 15 0 | |
| | Walcha | 1 | 65 | 0 10 10 | |
| Bourke | Brewarrina | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| | Cobar | 1 | 302 | 2 10 4 | ..... |
| | Wilcannia | 4 | 3,263 | 27 3 10 | ..... |
| Cooma | Bombala | 1 | 425 | 3 10 10 | ..... |
| | Cooma | 2 | 2,230 | 19 18 4 | ..... |
| | Eden | 1 | 600 | 5 0 0 | ..... |
| | Queanbeyan | 2 | 1,520 | 12 13 4 | ..... |
| Dubbo | Coonamble | 3 | 2,374 | 21 1 3 | ..... |
| | Dubbo | 6 | 9,328 | 77 14 8 | ..... |
| Forbes | Condobolin | 4 | 5,440 | 54 5 0 | 1 |
| | Forbes | 4 | 2,279 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 22 11 4 | 2 |
| | Grenfell | 5 | 5,983 | 49 17 2 | ..... |
| | Parkes | 3 | 2,110 | 17 11 8 | ..... |
| Goulburn | Bullowa | 3 | 1,590 | 13 5 0 | 1 |
| | Goulburn | 2 | 860 | 7 3 4 | 1 |
| | Yass | 3 | 3,420 | 28 10 0 | 1 |
| | Young | 2 | 611 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 8 4 1 | ..... |
| Grafton | Casino | 1 | 1,720 | 21 10 0 | ..... |
| | Grafton | 1 | 390 | 3 5 0 | 1 |
| Hay | Bahanal | 2 | 2,356 | 19 12 8 | 1 |
| | Deniliquin | 1 | 300 | 2 10 0 | 1 |
| | Hay | 1 | 1,310 | 10 18 4 | 2 |
| | Hillston | 1 | 1,920 | 16 0 0 | ..... |
| | Wentworth | 4 | 7,680 | 64 0 0 | 1 |
| Maitland | Stroud | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Moree | Moree | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| | Walgett | 2 | 3,316 | 27 12 8 | ..... |
| Orange | Bathurst | 1 | 225 | 3 15 0 | ..... |
| | Carcoar | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| | Molong | 2 | 2,002 | 16 13 8 | ..... |
| | Mudgee | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 |
| Tamworth | Murrumbidgee | 1 | 1,240 | 12 18 4 | 2 |
| | Narrabri | 3 | 2,604 | 21 14 0 | ..... |
| | Tamworth | 3 | 1,874 | 15 12 4 | ..... |
| Wagga Wagga | Albury | 2 | 460 | 3 16 8 | 4 |
| | Cootamundra | 3 | 2,778 | 23 3 0 | ..... |
| | Gundagai | 3 | 990 | 8 5 0 | 2 |
| | Narrandera | 2 | 2,426 | 22 4 4 | ..... |
| | Tumut | 1 | 200 | 1 13 4 | ..... |
| | Urana | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Wagga Wagga | 22 | 26,069 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 222 9 3 | 6 | |
| | | 111 | 107,187 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 950 3 10 | 37 |

SCHEDULE XLII.

RETURN showing the Number and Area of Conditional Leases applied for under Section 54 of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, outstanding 31st December, 1886, and action taken thereon during the Year 1887.

| Land Board District. | Land District | Total No of Applications made in 1885, outstanding 31st Dec, 1886. | Total No referred to District Surveyor in 1887, applied for in 1885 | Total No confirmed in 1887, applied for in 1885. | Total area allowed in 1887, applied for in 1885 | Total No. disallowed in 1887, applied for in 1885. | Total No. of Applications received in 1885, outstanding 31st Dec, 1887. |
|----------------------|---------------|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| Armidale | Armidale | 42 | 1 | 41 | a. r. p. 14,068 2 0 | 1 | ..... |
| | Glen Innes | 5 | ..... | 5 | 2,960 0 0 | ..... | ..... |
| | Inverell | 1 | ..... | 1 | 461 1 0 | ..... | ..... |
| | Tenterfield | 21 | ..... | 20 | 7,723 3 0 | 1 | ..... |
| | Walcha | 3 | ..... | 3 | 1,740 3 0 | ..... | ..... |
| Bourke | Bourke | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Brewarrina | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Cobar | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Wilcannia | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |

SCHEDULE XLII—continued.

| Land Board District. | Land District. | Total No. of Applications made in 1885, outstanding 31st Dec., 1886. | Total No. referred to District Surveyor in 1887, applied for in 1885. | Total No. confirmed in 1887, applied for in 1885. | Total area allowed in 1887, applied for in 1885. | | | Total No. disallowed in 1887, applied for in 1885. | Total No. of Applications received in 1885, outstanding 31st Dec., 1887. |
|----------------------|-----------------|--|---|---|--|-------|-------|--|--|
| | | | | | a. | r. | p. | | |
| Cooma | Bega | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Bombala | 10 | ..... | 6 | 1,201 | 3 0 | ..... | 4 | ..... |
| | Cooma | 20 | ..... | 19 | 7,056 | 3 0 | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| | Eden | 1 | ..... | 1 | 398 | 0 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Dubbo | Queanbeyan | 17 | ..... | 15 | 6,045 | 1 0 | ..... | 2 | ..... |
| | Coonamble | 15 | ..... | 12 | 15,028 | 1 0 | ..... | 3 | ..... |
| | Dubbo | 5 | ..... | 5 | 5,490 | 0 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Forbes | Condobolin | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Forbes | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Grenfell | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Parke | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Goulburn | Braidwood | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Burrowa | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Goulburn | 8 | ..... | 6 | 1,712 | 1 0 | ..... | 1 | 1 |
| | Gunning | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Yass | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Grafton | Young | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Casino | 20 | ..... | 12 | 5,320 | 0 0 | ..... | ..... | 8 |
| | Grafton | 7 | ..... | 5 | 410 | 3 0 | ..... | 1 | 1 |
| | Kempsey | 1 | ..... | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Lismore | 17 | ..... | 15 | 4,679 | 1 0 | ..... | 1 | 1 |
| Hay | Murwillumbah | 1 | ..... | 1 | 300 | 0 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Balranald | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Deniliquin | 9 | ..... | 8 | 6,583 | 2 0 | ..... | 1 | ..... |
| | Hay | 7 | ..... | 7 | 11,209 | 3 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Hillston | 2 | ..... | 2 | 1,145 | 3 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Maitland | Wentworth | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Cassilis | 17 | ..... | 10 | 3,358 | 2 0 | ..... | 5 | 2 |
| | Dungog | 2 | ..... | 2 | 220 | 0 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Maitland | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Muswellbrook | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Newcastle | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Paterson | 1 | ..... | 1 | 120 | 0 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Port Macquarie | 3 | ..... | 2 | 912 | 0 0 | ..... | 1 | ..... |
| | Raymond Terrace | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Scone | 23 | ..... | 19 | 5,728 | 0 0 | ..... | 4 | ..... |
| | Singleton | 3 | ..... | 3 | 1,030 | 0 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Moree | Stroud | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Taree | 3 | ..... | 3 | 880 | 0 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Wollombi | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Bingera | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Moree | 1 | ..... | 1 | 1,862 | 2 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Orange | Walgett | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Warialda | 1 | ..... | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| | Bathurst | 5 | ..... | 5 | 1,338 | 2 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Carcoar | 4 | ..... | 4 | 2,271 | 0 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Cowra | 12 | ..... | 12 | 2,438 | 3 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Molong | 5 | ..... | 4 | 2,188 | 3 0 | ..... | 1 | ..... |
| | Mudgee | 2 | ..... | 2 | 440 | 0 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Orange | 1 | ..... | 1 | 210 | 0 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Sydney | Rylstone | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Wellington | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Berrima | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Campbelltown | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Gosford | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Kiama | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Lithgow | 1 | ..... | 1 | 129 | 0 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Liverpool | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Metropolitan | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Milton | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Moruya | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Nowra | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Parramatta | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Penrith | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Picton | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Tamworth | Windsor | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Wollongong | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Coonabarabran | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Gunnedah | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | ..... |
| Wagga Wagga | Murrurundi | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Narrabri | 1 | ..... | 1 | 320 | 0 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Tamworth | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | Albury | 12 | ..... | 7 | 2,862 | 3 0 | ..... | 1 | 4 |
| | Cootamundra | 3 | ..... | 2 | 363 | 0 0 | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| | Corowa | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | ..... |
| | Gundagai | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| | Narrandera | 10 | ..... | 8 | 9,008 | 2 0 | ..... | 1 | 1 |
| | Tumut | 3 | ..... | 1 | 500 | 0 0 | ..... | ..... | 2 |
| | Urana | 5 | ..... | 2 | 724 | 3 0 | ..... | 1 | 2 |
| Wagga Wagga | 40 | ..... | 25 | 15,295 | 2 0 | ..... | 6 | 9 | |
| | | 373 | 3 | 300 | 145,797 | 0 0 | 37 | 36 | |

SCHEDULE XLIII.

RETURN showing Applications made during 1887 under section 3 of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, to convert Pre-emptive Leases into Annual Leases and action taken thereon in 1887.

| Land District. | No. of Applications made in 1887. | Area applied for in 1887. | No. of Leases Gazetted in 1887, whether applied for in 1885, 1886, or 1887. | Area Gazetted in 1887, whether applied for in 1885, 1886, or 1887. | Annual Rental. | No. of Applications refused in 1887, whether applied for in 1885, 1886, or 1887. | No. of Applications outstanding on the 31st December, 1887, whether applied for in 1885, 1886, or 1887. |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|----------------|--|---|
| | | Acres. | | Acres. | £ s. d. | | |
| Bathurst | | | 5 | 2,904 | 16 0 0 | | |
| Braidwood | | | 1 | 1,280 | 4 0 0 | | |
| Burrowa | 5 | 2,295 | 2 | 620 | 4 0 0 | 7 | |
| Carcoar | | | 3 | 549 | 6 0 0 | | |
| Goulburn | 1 | 640 | 4 | 976 | 8 0 0 | 2 | |
| Gunning | | | 3 | 1,060 | 8 0 0 | 1 | |
| Lithgow | | | | | | 1 | |
| Molong | | | 3 | 630 | 6 0 0 | | |
| Moruya | | | | | | 1 | |
| Mudgee | | | | | | 2 | |
| Nowra | | | | | | 1 | |
| Queanbeyan | | | 1 | 640 | 2 0 0 | | |
| Rylstone | | | 38 | 24,746 | 108 0 0 | | |
| Wellington | | | 6 | 2,905 | 14 0 0 | 2 | |
| Yass | | | | | | 1 | |
| Young | | | 2 | 889 | 6 0 0 | 3 | |
| | 6 | 2,935 | 68 | 37,199 | 182 0 0 | 21 | |

N.B.—In some cases it would appear that more cases were disposed of than were actually received. This is explained by the fact that often on one form of application several leases were mentioned, and each lease (having a separate account) was Gazetted, and dealt with separately.

SCHEDULE XLIV.

SCHEDULE showing Number and Area of Lots offered under section 85 by Auction, and Number and Area of Lots sold.

| Land District. | No. of lots offered. | Area. | Minimum rent per lot. | No. of lots sold. | Area of lots sold. | Highest annual rent obtained. |
|------------------|----------------------|--------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | Acres. | £ s. d. | | Acres. | £ s. d. |
| Burrowa | 23 | 13,020 | 3 5 0 | 23 | 13,020 | 17 0 0 |
| Carcoar | 14 | 7,863 | 3 5 0 | 14 | 7,863 | 9 9 0 |
| Casino | 12 | 7,025 | 5 16 8 | 12 | 7,025 | 23 6 8 |
| Condobolin | 4 | 1,458 | 2 0 0 | 4 | 1,458 | 50 0 0 |
| Goulburn | 1 | 1,280 | 5 6 8 | | | |
| Murrurundi | 1 | 950 | 7 18 4 | 1 | 950 | 7 18 4 |
| Taree | 14 | 7,846 | 3 18 2 | 3 | 1,920 | 5 6 8 |
| Wilcannia | 4 | 1,829 | 8 0 0 | 3 | 1,047 | 17 0 0 |
| Totals | 73 | 41,271 | | 60 | 33,283 | |

SCHEDULE XLV.

SCHEDULE showing Area and Rent of Annual Leases purchased at Auction under section 85 of the Crown Lands Act of 1884.

| Land District. | Number. | Area. | Rent. | Land District. | Number. | Area. | Rent. |
|------------------|---------|--------|----------|------------------|---------|--------|----------|
| | | Acres. | £ s. d. | | | Acres. | £ s. d. |
| Burrowa | 23 | 13,020 | 241 10 2 | Murrurundi | 1 | 950 | 7 18 4 |
| Carcoar | 14 | 7,863 | 76 8 6 | Taree | 3 | 1,920 | 16 0 0 |
| Casino | 12 | 7,025 | 232 7 11 | Wilcannia | 3 | 1,047 | 37 10 0 |
| Condobolin | 4 | 1,458 | 86 11 0 | Totals | 60 | 33,283 | 698 5 11 |

SCHEDULE XLVI.

SCHEDULE showing Area and Rent of Annual Leases selected after Auction under section 85 of Crown Lands Act of 1884.

| Land District. | Area. | Rent. |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Wilcannia | Acres. 782 | £ s. d. 20 0 0 |

SCHEDULE XLVII

RETURN showing Particulars in connection with Applications for Annual Leases, (Section 95), the number, area of lots offered by tender, and rentals obtained therefor

| Applications for Annual Leases | | | | Particulars of land offered and tenders received. | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------|---|--------------------------------|-----------------|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Land District. | Number of Applications | | | Area applied for Acres. | Number dealt with ^a | Number declined | Number outstanding on 31st December, 1887 | Number of lots offered by tender. | Area offered Acres. | Minimum upset rental £ s. d. | Number of lots tendered for | Area tendered for. Acres. | Highest annual rental obtained. £ s. d. | Number of tenders declined |
| | Outstanding from 1886 | Made during 1887. | Total. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Albury | 7 | | 7 | 8,065 | 6 | | 1 | 38 | 23,915½ | 2 0 0 | 3 | 995½ | 8 0 0 | |
| Armidale | 1 | 1 | 2 | 940 | | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Bathurst | 19 | 16 | 35 | 43,929 | 24 | 2 | 9 | 55 | 39,671 | 2 0 0 | 37 | 30,057 | 21 5 0 | 8 |
| Bega | | 2 | 2 | 472 | | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Berrima | 2 | | 2 | 2,920 | 1 | 1 | | 13 | 8,070 | 2 0 0 | 3 | 1,780 | 2 0 0 | |
| Bethungra | 1 | | 1 | 2,000 | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Bingera | 1 | | 1 | 33,920 | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Bombala | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4,480 | 2 | | 1 | 9 | 5,760 | 2 0 0 | 6 | 3,840 | 3 1 0 | |
| Bourke | | 1 | 1 | 30,000 | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Braidwood | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5,950 | 3 | | 1 | 52 | 40,245 | 2 0 0 | 3 | 2,170 | 4 0 0 | |
| Burrowa | 4 | 6 | 10 | 11,712 | 6 | | 4 | 99 | 59,575 | 2 0 0 | 46 | 28,600 | 6 0 0 | 13 |
| Camden | 1 | | 1 | 364 | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Carcoar | 7 | 5 | 12 | 16,888 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 5,004 | 2 0 0 | 8 | 5,004 | 12 12 6 | 2 |
| Cassilis | 6 | 1 | 7 | 10,610 | 6 | | 1 | 26 | 15,472½ | 2 0 0 | 15 | 8,101½ | 5 6 8 | |
| Condobolin | | 1 | 1 | 1,458 | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Cooma | 4 | 7 | 11 | 14,305¾ | 6 | | 5 | 133 | 87,100 | 2 0 0 | 5 | 3,200 | 10 0 0 | |
| Cowra | 3 | 3 | 6 | 10,323 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1,816 | 3 10 0 | 3 | 1,541 | 5 5 0 | |
| Deniliquin | | 4 | 4 | 4,581 | | 4 | | | | | | | | |
| Forbes | 1 | 1 | 2 | 640 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Glen Innes | | 1 | 1 | 77 | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Goulburn | 7 | 9 | 16 | 25,277 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 100 | 57,975 | 2 0 0 | 23 | 11,450 | 5 2 6 | |
| Grafton | 2 | 5 | 7 | 10,802 | 1 | | 6 | 28 | 18,428 | 3 0 0 | 1 | 640 | 5 5 0 | |
| Gundagai | 3 | 1 | 4 | 3,160 | | 1 | 3 | | | | | | | |
| Gunning | 2 | | 2 | 3,200 | 2 | | | 31 | 19,855 | 2 0 0 | 27 | 17,225 | 5 5 0 | 2 |
| Hay | | 1 | 1 | 76 | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Hay, North | | 4 | 4 | 4,700 | | 4 | | | | | | | | |
| Hillston | 1 | | 1 | 13,440 | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Hillston, North | | 2 | 2 | 953 | | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Inverell | 1 | | 1 | 3,600 | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Kempsey | | 2 | 2 | 1,310 | 2 | | | 14 | 7,609 | | 2 | 670 | 10 10 0 | |
| Lismore | 1 | | 1 | 1,198 | 1 | | | 2 | 1,198 | 2 0 0 | | | | |
| Lithgow | 3 | 2 | 5 | 6,480 | 3 | | 2 | 276 | 147,004 | 3 0 0 | 23 | 13,020 | 3 0 0 | |
| Maitland | 1 | | 1 | 320 | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Milton | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3,878 | | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Molong | 9 | 9 | 18 | 8,978 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 644 | 3 0 0 | 2 | 644 | 15 0 0 | 2 |
| Moama | 1 | | 1 | 40 | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Moruya | | 1 | 1 | 200 | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Mudgee | 9 | 6 | 15 | 7,493¾ | 8 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 3,403 | 2 0 0 | 6 | 2,680 | 6 0 0 | 2 |
| Murrurundi | | 1 | 1* | 950 | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Murwillumbah | 1 | | 1 | 1,280 | 1 | | | 2 | 1,280 | 2 0 0 | 2 | 1,280 | 2 10 0 | |
| Muswellbrook | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1,965 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 470 | 5 17 6 | 1 | 470 | 11 15 0 | |
| Nowra | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3,470 | 3 | | 1 | 48 | 24,340 | 2 0 0 | 2 | 870 | 5 10 0 | |
| Orange | 12 | 4 | 16 | 15,408 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 36 | 23,061½ | 2 0 0 | 8 | 3,821 | 16 0 0 | 1 |
| Port Macquarie | 1 | 7 | 8 | 15,056 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 69 | 44,204 | 2 0 0 | 4 | 3,323 | 5 9 0 | |
| Queanbeyan | 3 | 2 | 5 | 5,960 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 15 | 6,470 | 2 0 0 | 6 | 2,450 | 6 10 0 | 3 |
| Rylstone | 6 | 3 | 9 | 18,403 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 18 | 13,428 | 2 12 0 | 7 | 5,255 | 6 0 0 | |
| Scone | 4 | 5 | 9 | 3,681¼ | 6 | 1 | 2 | 16 | 10,365¾ | 2 1 8 | 3 | 2,279¾ | 28 5 0 | 2 |
| Singleton | 1 | 2 | 3 | 32,885 | 1 | | 2 | 33 | 22,405 | 2 0 0 | 5 | 5,518 | 8 0 0 | |
| Stroud | 4 | 3 | 7 | 16,884 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 38 | 25,830 | 2 0 0 | 6 | 3,824 | 12 0 0 | 4 |
| Tamworth | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1,520 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Taree | 7 | 14 | 21 | 12,796 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 30 | 18,300 | 2 0 0 | 8 | 4,690 | 20 5 0 | 5 |
| Tumut | 1 | | 1 | 500 | 1 | | | 1 | 600 | 30 0 0 | 1 | 600 | 40 0 0 | |
| Wagga Wagga | 1 | | 1 | 5,290 | 1 | | | 8 | 10,580 | 6 0 0 | 4 | 5,290 | | 4 |
| Wellington | 4 | 6 | 10 | 23,175 | 6 | | 4 | 19 | 15,290 | 5 15 0 | 8 | 6,450 | 8 0 0 | 1 |
| Wilcannia | 1* | 1 | 2 | 2,944 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Wollombi | | 1 | 1 | 2,400 | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Yass | 1 | | 1 | 30 | | 1 | | 2 | 1,420 | 4 0 0 | | | | |
| Young | 1 | | 1 | 230 | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 154 | 152 | 306 | 463,568½ | 146 | 49 | 111 | 1,233 | 760,789½ | | 278 | 177,739 | | 49 |

* For the purpose of this schedule applications are considered to be dealt with when the land applied for has been advertised as for tender

SCHEDULE XLVIII.

SCHEDULE showing Number, Area, and Rent of Annual Leases applied for by tender, and granted in 1887, under Section 85 of the Crown Lands Act of 1881.

| Land District. | No of Leases Granted by Tender. | Area | Rent | Land District. | No of Leases Granted by Tender. | Area. | Rent |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------|----------|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------|------------|
| | | | £ s. d. | | | | £ s. d. |
| Albury | 3 | 995½ | 12 7 6 | Mudgee | 6 | 2,680½ | 20 15 8 |
| Bathurst | 36 | 29,077 | 191 16 0 | Murwillumbah | 2 | 1,280 | 5 0 0 |
| Berrima | 3 | 1,780 | 6 0 0 | Muswellbrook | 1 | 470 | 11 15 0 |
| Bombala | 6 | 3,840 | 15 7 0 | Nowra | 2 | 870 | 8 15 0 |
| Braidwood | 3 | 2,170 | 8 0 0 | Orange | 7 | 3,787 | 54 5 6 |
| Burrowa | 43 | 26,870 | 117 14 4 | Port Macquarie... .. | 4 | 3,323 | 16 14 8 |
| Carcoar | 8 | 5,004½ | 47 11 0 | Queanbeyan | 6 | 2,450 | 20 0 0 |
| Cassilis | 15 | 8,101½ | 42 18 2 | Rylstone | 8 | 6,235 | 35 5 0 |
| Cooma | 5 | 3,200 | 21 0 0 | Scone | 3 | 2,279½ | 41 0 10 |
| Cowra | 3 | 1,541 | 13 15 0 | Singleton | 5 | 5,518 | 24 13 4 |
| Goulburn | 23 | 11,450 | 70 9 6 | Stroud | 6 | 3,824 | 41 0 6 |
| Grafton | 1 | 640 | 5 5 0 | Taree | 7 | 3,955 | 39 5 0 |
| Gunning | 26 | 16,625 | 83 10 6 | Tumut | 1 | 600 | 40 0 0 |
| Kempsey | 2 | 670 | 16 10 0 | Wellington | 8 | 6,450 | 36 0 0 |
| Lithgow | 23 | 13,020 | 69 0 0 | | | | |
| Molong | 2 | 644 | 18 1 0 | Total | 268 | 169,351½ | 1,139 15 6 |

SCHEDULE XLIX.

RETURN showing Number, Area, and Rental of Annual Leases, notified forfeited during the year 1887.

| District. | No of Leases | Area. | Rent. | District. | No of Leases | Area | Rent. |
|---------------------|--------------|--------|---------|----------------------|--------------|---------|-----------|
| | | acres. | £ s. d. | | | acres. | £ s. d. |
| Albury | 4 | 5,900 | 20 0 0 | Lithgow | 31 | 25,101 | 92 0 0 |
| Armidale | 2 | 1,190 | 6 0 0 | Milton | 1 | 640 | 2 0 0 |
| Bathurst | 64 | 36,335 | 170 0 0 | Molong | 4 | 4,740 | 16 0 0 |
| Bega | 2 | 472 | 4 0 0 | Moebe | 5 | 3,510 | 16 0 0 |
| Berrima | 4 | 1,996 | 10 0 0 | Mudgee | 24 | 11,982 | 54 0 0 |
| Bingera | 1 | 640 | 2 0 0 | Murrurundi | 16 | 9,817 | 36 0 0 |
| Bombala | 8 | 3,359 | 18 0 0 | Muswellbrook | 1 | 640 | 2 0 0 |
| Braidwood | 17 | 10,456 | 44 0 0 | Narrandera | 1 | 335 | 2 0 0 |
| Burrowa | 49 | 23,737 | 118 0 0 | Nowra | 2 | 1,420 | 6 0 0 |
| Carcoar | 20 | 11,292 | 54 0 0 | Orange | 15 | 9,470 | 40 0 0 |
| Cassilis | 21 | 13,061 | 50 0 0 | Paterson | 8 | 5,030 | 16 0 0 |
| Cooma | 8 | 8,215 | 30 0 0 | Pictou | 3 | 2,480 | 8 0 0 |
| Condobolin | 2 | 1,370 | 8 0 0 | Port Macquarie | 7 | 4,480 | 14 0 0 |
| Coonabarabran | 4 | 2,720 | 10 0 0 | Queanbeyan | 19 | 9,149 | 38 0 0 |
| Corowa | 1 | 393 | 2 0 0 | Rylstone | 13 | 8,050 | 28 0 0 |
| Cowra | 13 | 5,552 | 30 0 0 | Scone | 20 | 13,516 | 46 0 0 |
| Deniliquin | 6 | 4,960 | 20 0 0 | Singleton | 11 | 3,918 | 26 0 0 |
| Dubbo | 1 | 1,920 | 6 0 0 | Stroud | 23 | 17,455 | 70 0 0 |
| Eden | 2 | 1,963 | 10 0 0 | Tamworth | 4 | 2,797 | 14 0 0 |
| Foibles | 5 | 1,655 | 12 0 0 | Taree | 8 | 4,790 | 20 0 0 |
| Glen Innes | 1 | 240 | 2 0 0 | Urana | 2 | 672 | 4 0 0 |
| Goulburn | 55 | 32,281 | 150 0 0 | Walcha | 1 | 1,920 | 6 0 0 |
| Grafton | 36 | 24,782 | 92 0 0 | Wellington | 73 | 47,254 | 190 0 0 |
| Gunning | 39 | 24,033 | 98 0 0 | Yass | 21 | 13,525 | 50 0 0 |
| Hay | 1 | 2,829 | 10 0 0 | Young | 1 | 225 | 2 0 0 |
| Inverell | 3 | 1,930 | 10 0 0 | | | | |
| Kempsey | 1 | 1,000 | 4 0 0 | | | | |
| Lismore | 11 | 7,220 | 26 0 0 | | | | |
| | | | | | 695 | 434,917 | 1,814 0 0 |

SCHEDULE LII.

RETURN of Reserves from Lease notified during 1887.

| Purpose. | Access | | Camping. | | Cemetery. | | Public School Purposes | | Roads. | | Traffic. | | Suburban Settlement. | | Sale and Lease for protection of Crown Lands. | | Special Lease. | | Temporary Common. | | Travelling Stock. | | Towns and Villages. | | Water Supply. | | Preservation and growth of Timber. | | Sundries. | | Total. | | |
|-----------------|--------|-------|----------|-------|-----------|-------|------------------------|-------|--------|-------|----------|-------|----------------------|-------|---|-------|----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|---------------|-------|------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| | No. | Area. | No. | Area. | No. | Area. | No. | Area. | No. | Area. | No. | Area. | No. | Area. | No. | Area. | No. | Area. | No. | Area. | No. | Area. | No. | Area. | No. | Area. | No. | Area. | Purpose. | No. | Area. | No. | Area. |
| Armidale— | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | | | | ac. | | ac. |
| Armidale | | | 1 | 50 | | | 5 | 53 | | | | | | | 17 | 1465 | | 1 | 80 | | | 1 | 130 | | 1 | 17000 | | | | 26 | 18878 | | |
| Glen Innes | | | | | 1 | 11 | 1 | 10 | | | | | | | 4 | 536 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 6 | 557 | | |
| Inverell | | | | | | | 4 | 55 | 1 | 27 | | | | | 1 | 649 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 6 | 731 | | |
| Tenterfield | | | | | | | 1 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 200 | | | | | | 2 | 208 | | | |
| Walcha | 1 | 5 | | | | | 4 | 52 | | | | | | | 2 | 186 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 7 | 243 | | | |
| Bourke— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bourke | 1 | 710 | 20 | 10508 | | | | | 1 | 3266 | | | 1 | 372 | 28 | 9394 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 11400 | 1 | 1340 | | | 3 | 203 | | Trucking | 2 | 570 | 59 | 37764 | |
| Brewarrina | 2 | 230 | 4 | 2020 | | | | | 1 | 60 | | | | | 24 | 11665 | | | | | | | | 10 | 2254 | | | | 41 | 16229 | | | |
| Brewarrina East | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 7 | 1000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 7 | 1000 | | | |
| Cobar | | | 9 | 5317 | 1 | 22 | | | | | | | | | 8 | 360 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 18 | 5699 | | | |
| Cobar East | | | 6 | 3577 | | | | | | | | | | | 15 | 2960 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 21 | 6537 | | | |
| Wilcannia | | | 5 | 2287 | 2 | 74 | | | | | | 2 | 7840 | 4 | 520 | | | | | | | 1 | 1405 | 3 | 452 | | Town and Suburban | 2 | 960 | 19 | 13538 | | |
| Cooma— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cooma | | | | | | | 4 | 38 | | | | | | | 4 | 466 | | | | | | | | 1 | 299 | | | | | 9 | 803 | | |
| Bombala | | | | | | | 2 | 10 | | | | | | | 4 | 269 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 6 | 279 | | |
| Eden | | | | | | | 1 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 8 | | |
| Queanbeyan | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 1560 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 1560 | | |
| Dubbo— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coonamble | 1 | 12 | | | | | 1 | 8 | 2 | 282 | | | | | 145 | 30933 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 140 | 31235 | | |
| Dubbo | | | | | 1 | 10 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 393 | | | | | 55 | 9935 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 58 | 10348 | | |
| Forbes— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Condobolin | | | | | | | 1 | 8 | | | | | | | 14 | 6053 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 15 | 6061 | | |
| Forbes | | | | | | | | | 2 | 205 | | | | | 20 | 6947 | | | | | 3 | 2261 | | | | | | | | 25 | 9413 | | |
| Grenfell | | | | | | | 1 | 10 | | | | | | | 7 | 1327 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 8 | 1337 | | |
| Parkes | | | | | | | | | 1 | 52 | | | | | 17 | 5579 | | | | | | | | 1 | 585 | | | | 19 | 6216 | | | |
| Goulburn— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Burrowa | | | | | | | 2 | 18 | | | | | | | 4 | 1825 | | | | | 1 | 390 | | | | | | | | 7 | 2233 | | |
| Braidwood | | | | | | | 1 | 24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 370 | | 1 | 40 | | | | | 3 | 434 | | |
| Goulburn | | | | | | | 1 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | 1465 | | | | | | | | 5 | 1473 | | |
| Gunning | | | | | | | 1 | 14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 360 | | | | | | | | 3 | 454 | | |
| Yass | | | | | | | 1 | 7 | | | | | | | 1 | 40 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 47 | | |
| Young | | | | | | | 2 | 4 | | | | | | | 3 | 578 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 5 | 582 | | |
| Grafton— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Casino | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 8 | 824 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 168 | | | | 10 | 1522 | |
| Grafton | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 140 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | 1435 | | |
| Kempsey | | | | | | | | | 1 | 10 | 1 | 550 | | | 2 | 260 | 1 | 5 | | | | | | | | | | Town and Suburban | 1 | 148 | 6 | 973 | |
| Lismore | | | 1 | 20 | | | | | 2 | 14 | | | | | 5 | 520 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 9 | 689 | | |
| Murwillumbah | | | | | | | | | 1 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 8 | | |

SCHEDULE LIII.

RETURN of Reserves from Lease cancelled during 1887.

| Purpose. | Access. | Camping. | From Lease. | Popula- tion. | Protection of Crown Lands. | Public School Purposes. | Public Watering Place. | Public Purposes. | Roads. | Special Lease. | Suburban Settle- ment. | Temporary Common. | Travelling Stock. | Traffic. | Village Purposes. | Water Reserve. | Water Supply. | Sundries. | Total | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------|----------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-------|-----|--------|
| Land Board and Land District. | No. Area. | No. Area. | No. Area. | No. Area. | No. Area. | No. Area. | No. Area. | No. Area. | No. Area. | No. Area. | No. Area. | No. Area. | No. Area. | No. Area. | No. Area. | No. Area. | No. Area. | No. Area. | No. Area. | | | |
| | ac. | ac. | ac. | ac. | ac. | ac. | ac. | ac. | ac. | ac. | ac. | ac. | ac. | ac. | ac. | ac. | ac. | ac. | ac. | | | |
| Armidale— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Armidale | 2 | 770 | | 1 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 160 | 3 | 930 | | |
| Glen Innes | | | 1 | 640 | | | | | | | | 1 | 550 | | | | 1 | 10 | 3 | 570 | | |
| Walcha | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 640 | | |
| Bourke— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bourke | 1 | 640 | | 1 | 40 | | | | 4 | 800 | | | 1 | 63 | | | 2 | 740 | 9 | 2,283 | | |
| Brewarrina | | | 1 | 3 | | | | | | | | | 3 | 2,280 | | | | | 4 | 2,283 | | |
| Brewarrina, East | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cobar | 3 | 1,205 | | | | | | | 1 | 200 | 1 | 22 | | | | | 1 | 640 | 6 | 2,067 | | |
| Cobar, East | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wilcannia | | | | 1 | 440 | | | | | | 2 | 2,270 | 2 | 1,554 | | | | | 5 | 4,264 | | |
| Cooma— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bega | | | 1 | 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 12 | |
| Dubbo— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coonamble | | | | | | | | | 1 | 75 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 78 | 2 | 153 |
| Dubbo | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 640 | 1 | 640 |
| Forbes— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Condobolin | | | | | | 1 | 216 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Forbes | 1 | 33 | 2 | 1,046 | | | | | 1 | 640 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 80 | 2 | 296 |
| Parkes | 1 | 150 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1,280 | | | | 2 | 1,034 | 6 | 2,753 |
| Goulburn— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Burrows | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 435 | | | | | 1 | 640 | 2 | 1,075 |
| Braidwood | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 350 | | | | | | 1 | 350 | |
| Goulburn | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2,000 | | | 1 | 420 | | | | | 2 | 2,420 | | |
| Gunning | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 320 | | | | | | 1 | 320 | |
| Young | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 640 | | | | | | 1 | 640 | |
| Grafton— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grafton | | | | | | | | | 1 | 48,000 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 48,000 |

SCHEDULE LIII—continued.

| Purpose. | Access. | | Camping | | From Lease | | Popula- tion. | | Protection of Crown Lands. | | Public School Purposes. | | Public Watering Place | | Public Purposes | | Roads | | Special Lease | | Suburban Settle- ment | | Temporary Common | | Travelling Stock | | Traffic | | Village Purposes | | Water Reserve | | Water Supply | | Sundries | | Total | |
|----------------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|------------|-------|------------------|------|----------------------------------|------|-------------------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|-------|------|------------------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------------------|------|------------------|------|-----------------|--------|----------|-------|--------|-----|
| | No. | Area | No. | Area | No. | Area | No. | Area | No. | Area | No. | Area | No. | Area | No. | Area | No. | Area | No. | Area | No. | Area | No. | Area | No. | Area | No. | Area | No. | Area | No. | Area | No. | Area | No. | Area | | |
| Hay— | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. | | ac. |
| Balranald | 2 | 640 | 1 | 440 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 200 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | 1,280 | | |
| Deniliquin | 1 | 1,560 | 1 | 300 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 640 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 640 | | | | | | | 4 | 3,140 | | | |
| Hillston | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1,950 | | | |
| Wentworth | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 300 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 300 | | | |
| Maitland— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cassilis | 1 | 39 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 39 | | |
| Muswellbrook | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 470 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 470 | | |
| Scone | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 720 | | | |
| Taree | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | |
| Wollombi | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1,114 | | | | | | | | 1 | 1,114 | | | |
| Moree— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bingara | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 640 | | | | | | 1 | 640 | | | |
| Moree | | | | 2 | 1,280 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 780 | | | | | 4 | 2,060 | | | | |
| Walgett, North. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1,500 | | | | | | 1 | 1,500 | | | | |
| Warialda | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 24 | | | | | | | 2 | 26 | | | | |
| Orange— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cowra | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 672 | | | | | | 1 | 672 | | | |
| Molong | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 8 | | | | | | 1 | 8 | | | | |
| Mudgee | | | | 2 | 195 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 195 | | | | |
| Tamworth— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coonabarabran | 1 | 1,530 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 320 | 3 | 875 | | | 5 | 2,725 | | | | |
| Murrurundi | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 27 | | | | | 1 | 27 | | | | |
| Narrabri | | | 1 | 277 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 277 | | | |
| Tamworth | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | 1,270 | | | | | 4 | 1,270 | | | | |
| Wagga Wagga— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Albury | | | 2 | 357 | 3 | 147 | | | | | | | 1 | 110 | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 580 | | 1 | 93 | | 2 | 564 | | 14 | 1,855 | | | | |
| Corowa | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 892 | | | | | | | 2 | 892 | | | | | |
| Urana | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 130 | | | | | |
| Wagga Wagga | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 863 | | | | 3 | 863 | | | | | |
| Grand Total | 7 | 3,952 | 13 | 5,035 | 10 | 2,277 | 3 | 490 | 1 | 216 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 470 | 5 | 51,390 | 1 | 75 | 9 | 1,206 | 4 | 2,592 | 4 | 3,384 | 16 | 7,118 | 1 | 640 | 2 | 101 | 1 | 320 | 32 | 14,013 | | 111 | 93,281 | |

SCHEDULE LIV.

LAND granted for Religious and Public Purposes during year 1887.

| Public Purposes. | No. of Grants. | Areas Granted. | | | Religious Purposes. | No. of Grants. | Areas Granted. | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----|-----|--|----------------|----------------|----|-----|
| | | a. | r. | p. | | | a. | r. | p. |
| Public Recreation..... | 39 | 1,533 | 1 | 29½ | Roman Catholic | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Racecourses | 6 | 1,144 | 0 | 0 | Union Church | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| General Cemeteries | 20 | 859 | 2 | 3 | Church of England | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Racecourses and Public Recreation | 2 | 693 | 3 | 0 | Wesleyan | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Public Parks | 10 | 565 | 0 | 13 | | | | | |
| Public School Sites | 95 | 189 | 2 | 19 | | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| Public Recreation and Water Supply | 1 | 92 | 3 | 0 | | | | | |
| Hospital Sites | 8 | 70 | 2 | 0 | | | | | |
| For the use of Agricultural, &c., Societies | 5 | 48 | 0 | 1 | | | | | |
| Crickent Grounds | 4 | 37 | 3 | 5 | | | | | |
| Railway Purposes..... | 1 | 27 | 2 | 0 | | | | | |
| Cattle Sale-yards | 1 | 26 | 1 | 10 | | | | | |
| Water Supply | 3 | 20 | 0 | 35 | | | | | |
| Night-soil Depôt | 1 | 20 | 0 | 0 | | | | | |
| Schools of Arts Sites | 8 | 9 | 0 | 0 | | | | | |
| Public Recreation and Preservation and Growth of Timber | 1 | 6 | 2 | 0 | | | | | |
| Crickent and Public Recreation | 1 | 5 | 3 | 35 | | | | | |
| Abattoirs | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | | | | | |
| Quarry | 1 | 4 | 1 | 14 | | | | | |
| Public Recreation and Botanical Gardens | 1 | 4 | 0 | 7 | | | | | |
| Public Recreation and Plantation..... | 3 | 2 | 1 | 22 | | | | | |
| Wharfage and other Public Purposes | 10 | 2 | 0 | 31½ | | | | | |
| Sites for Town Halls | 3 | 1 | 0 | 34 | | | | | |
| Road Extension Wharf and Recreation ... | 1 | 1 | 0 | 31½ | No. of Grants for Religious Purposes | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| Site for Court-house | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | No. of Grants for Public Purposes | 228 | 5,371 | 1 | 21½ |
| Sewerage | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9½ | | | | | |
| | 228 | 5,371 | 1 | 21½ | Total No. of Grants and Area Granted | 235 | 5,377 | 0 | 23½ |

SCHEDULE LV.

RETURN showing the number of Leasehold and Resumed Areas gazetted in each Division of the Colony from 1st January to 31st December, 1887.

| Eastern. | | | Central. | | | Western. | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Number of Leasehold Areas gazetted. | Number of Resumed Areas gazetted. | Date of Gazette Notice. | Number of Leasehold Areas gazetted. | Number of Resumed Areas gazetted. | Date of Gazette Notice. | Number of Leasehold Areas gazetted. | Number of Resumed Areas gazetted. | Date of Gazette Notice. |
| 1 | 1 | 15 Feb., 1887. | 1 | 1 | 1 July, 1887. | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 6 Dec., 1887. | 1 | 1 | 5 July, 1887. | | Nil. | |

SCHEDULE LVI.

RETURN showing the number and name of Leasehold Area proclaimed under the 75th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, and date of proclamation.

| No. | Name. | Date of Proclamation. |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 567 | Gundi | 9 May, 1887. |

SCHEDULE LVII.

RETURN showing the number of Transfers completed from 1st January, 1887 to 31st December, 1887, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884.

| Division. | Leasehold Area. | Occupation License. |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Eastern | 81 | 72 |
| Central | 99 | 96 |
| Western | 46 | 35 |
| | 226 | 203 |

SCHEDULE LVIII.

RETURN showing Applications for subdivision of Pastoral Leases received during the year ending December, 1887.

| No. | Name of Holding. | Division. | Action taken. |
|-----|----------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 123 | Tom Groggin | Eastern..... | Refused. |
| 306 | Ramornie | do | do |
| 354 | Ironbark Creek | do | do |
| 482 | Bonshaw | do | Under action. |
| 559 | Brundah | Central..... | Refused. |
| 637 | Ghoolendaadi | do | do |

SCHEDULE LIX.

RETURN showing the Amount of Refund of Rent and License Fee authorized during the year 1887.

| Pastoral Leases. | | | | Occupation Licenses. | | | |
|------------------|---|--|------------------------------|----------------------|---|--|------------------------------|
| Division. | Number of Pastoral Leases dealt with during 1887. | Area upon which refund was authorized. | Amount of refund authorized. | Division. | Number of Occupation Licenses dealt with during 1887. | Area upon which refund was authorized. | Amount of refund authorized. |
| | | acres. | £ s. d. | | | acres. | £ s. d. |
| Eastern | 3 | 22,970 | 209 12 10 | Eastern | 4 | 10,861 | 113 2 1 |
| Central | 6 | 6,428 | 325 5 5 | Central | 18 | 93,914½ | 1,151 14 3 |
| Western ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Western | 11 | 312,368 | 1,792 9 2 |
| | 9 | 29,398 | 534 18 3 | | 33 | 417,143½ | 3,057 5 6 |

SCHEDULE LX.

RETURN showing the number of Applications for Refunds of Rent, by way of compensation on account of lands withdrawn from Pastoral Leases current under the Repealed Acts, dealt with during the year 1887.

| Old Pastoral District. | Number of Runs included in applications dealt with during 1887. | Area upon which refund was authorized. | Amount of refund authorized. | Average rate per section. |
|------------------------|---|--|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | acres. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| Bligh | 29 | 164,689 | 1,383 9 9 | 2 15 6·99 |
| Clarence | 1 | 4,332 | 9 7 10 | 1 13 8·21 |
| Gwydir | 10 | 52,417 | 148 10 8 | 1 16 11·58 |
| Lachlan | 18 | 144,283 | 708 11 3 | 2 4 1·79 |
| Liverpool Plains | 16 | 67,235 | 344 10 10 | 3 0 8·97 |
| Monaro | 1 | 3,580 | 24 7 2 | 2 16 0 |
| Murrumbidgee | 7 | 70,282 | 614 18 6 | 2 11 2·25 |
| New England | 3 | 25,997 | 59 16 11 | 1 19 10·47 |
| Warrego | 1 | 20,297 | 110 10 8 | 2 4 9·89 |
| Wellington..... | 5 | 27,248 | 127 3 9 | 2 6 6·11 |
| | 91 | 580,360 | 3,531 7 4 | 2 9 4·22 |

SCHEDULE LXL.

RETURN of Applications to Surrender Land, within Resumed Areas by way of Exchange for other Lands.

| No of Resumed Area | Division | Land District | County | Lands proposed to be Surrendered | | Declared Value of Improvements as per Application | Remarks |
|--------------------|----------|--------------------------|---------------|---|-----------|---|-----------------------------|
| | | | | No of Portion (if measured) | Area | | |
| 396 | Eastern | Tamworth | Inglis... | 36 | 40 0 0 | £ s. d | Application withd awn. |
| 396 | " | " | " | 62 | 40 0 0 | ..... |  |
| 262 | " | Young | Monteagle .. | 82, 83, 154, 228.. | 200 0 0 | 7 10 0 | Refused. |
| 308 | " | Grafton and Glen Innes | Drake | 10 | 42 0 0 | ... | |
| 292 | " | Casino | Richmond . | 6, 13, 22, 3 ^o , 41, 43, 48, 51, 99, 101, 108, 110, 121, 122, 124, 150, 151, 11, 55, 57, 60, 62, 70, 75, 76, 78, 95, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 32, 3 ^o , 35, 26, 37, 30, 10, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 31, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 51, 52, 53, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 40, 41, 42, 44, 53, 54, 7, 8, 9. | 6,830 0 0 | Not stated .. | Not dealt with during 1887. |
| 239 | " | Gundagai | Harden | Not stated .. | 40 0 0 | 20 0 0 | |
| 239 | " | " | " | " | 60 0 0 | 30 0 0 | Refused. |
| 106 | " | Inverell | Hardinge | 22, 23 | 80 0 0 | 100 0 0 | |
| 349 | " | Walcha and Armidale | Vernon ... | 17 | 40 0 0 | .. | Refused. |
| 349 | " | " | " | 129 | 99 0 0 | ..... |  |
| 349 | " | " | " | 93 | 40 0 0 | ..... |  |
| 349 | " | " | " | 96 | 52 2 0 | ... | |
| 445 | " | Murrurundi | Leichhardt | 8 | 200 0 0 | .. | Refused. |
| 9 | " | Young and Cowra | Monteagle.. | 37, 234 | 27 1 0 | .. | |
| 9 | " | " | " | 58, 206 | 32 1 0 | .. | |
| 9 | " | " | Forbes | 3, 4 | 4 0 0 | .. | |
| 9 | " | " | Monteagle .. | 33, 241 | 56 0 0 | .. | |
| 100 | " | Walcha | Vernon | 35 | 58 0 0 | 30 0 0 | Refused. |
| 100 | " | " | " | 39 | 84 0 0 | 42 0 0 | |
| 100 | " | " | " | 36 | 67 0 0 | 100 0 0 | |
| 100 | " | " | " | 106 | 231 0 0 | 250 0 0 | |
| 100 | " | " | " | 57 | 112 0 0 | 5 12 0 | |
| 100 | " | " | " | 41 | 42 0 0 | 2 0 0 | |
| 100 | " | " | " | 38 | 93 0 0 | 4 13 0 | |
| 3 | " | Armidale | Hardinge .. | 28 | 40 0 0 | 175 0 0 | Not dealt with during 1887. |
| 3 | " | " | " | 22 | 43 0 0 | ..... |  |
| 3 | " | " | " | 21 | 50 0 0 | .. | |
| 3 | " | " | " | 25 | 368 0 0 | 422 0 0 | |
| 3 | " | " | " | 31 | 100 0 0 | 135 0 0 | |
| 3 | " | " | " | 30 | 200 0 0 | 20 0 0 | |
| 3 | " | " | " | 32 | 160 0 0 | .. | |
| 3 | " | " | " | 23 | 60 0 0 | 157 0 0 | |
| 3 | " | " | " | 24 | 60 0 0 | 40 0 0 | |
| 3 | " | " | " | 9 | 200 0 0 | 30 0 0 | |
| 3 | " | " | " | 138 | 200 0 0 | 172 0 0 | |
| 3 | " | " | " | 5 | 40 0 0 | 65 0 0 | |
| 3 | " | " | " | 136 | 80 0 0 | .. | |
| 271 | " | Tamworth and Murrurundi. | Buckland | 147, 148, 149, 150, 164, 165, 166, 167, 210, 219, 220 | 895 1 0 | 79 10 6 | Refused. |
| 198 | " | Glen Innes | Gough | 182 | 80 0 0 | .... |  |
| 198 | " | " | " | 35 | 40 0 0 | .. | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 38 | 40 0 0 | .. | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 36 | 40 0 0 | .. | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 238 | 15 0 0 | .. | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 40 | 40 0 0 | .. | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 31 | 40 0 0 | .. | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 32 | 40 0 0 | .. | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 37 | 40 0 0 | .. | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 11 | 80 0 0 | .. | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 27 | 84 2 0 | .. | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 29 | 47 0 0 | .. | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 30 | 41 3 0 | .. | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 24 | 40 0 0 | .. | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 33 | 40 0 0 | .. | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 39 | 50 0 0 | .. | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 45 | 51 0 0 | .. | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 23 | 48 0 0 | .. | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 43 | 52 0 0 | .. | |

SCHEDULE LXI—continued.

| No of Re-surveyed Area | Division. | Land District. | County. | Lands proposed to be Surrendered. | | Declared Value of Improvements as per Application. | Remarks. |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--|----------------|--|-----------------------------|
| | | | | No of Portion (if measured). | Area. | | |
| 198 | Eastern | Glen Innes | Gough | 40 | a r. p. 40 0 0 | Refused. | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 34 | 40 0 0 | | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 83 | 40 0 0 | | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 22 | 40 0 0 | | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 44 | 43 0 0 | | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 42 | 40 0 0 | | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 183 | 40 0 0 | | |
| 437 | " | Cootamundra | Bland | 70 | 40 0 0 | | |
| 198 | " | Glen Innes | Gough | 12 | 80 0 0 | | Not dealt with during 1887. |
| 198 | " | " | " | 9 | 80 0 0 | | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 10 | 80 0 0 | | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 69 | 50 0 0 | | |
| 198 | " | " | " | 133 | 40 0 0 | | |
| 441 | " | Gunnedah, Murrurundi, and Tamworth. | Parry | 24, 25 | 320 0 0 | | |
| 441 | " | " | " | 123 | 68 0 0 | | |
| 441 | " | " | " | 140, 141, 142, 143 | 223 0 0 | | |
| 441 | " | " | " | 103, 104, 105, 112, 113, 144, 146, 147 | 567 1 32 | | |
| 441 | " | " | " | 83, 84 | 134 0 0 | | |
| 441 | " | " | Buckland | 200 | 98 0 0 | | |
| 441 | " | " | Buckland and Parry. | 7, 10, 72, 162, 163, 164, 5, 51, 52, 53, 148, 189, 2 | 640 0 0 | | |
| 441 | " | " | " | 59, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168 | 1,018 3 38 | Refused. | |
| 441 | " | " | " | 6, 7 | 200 0 0 | | |
| 441 | " | " | " | 27, 57, 58 | 240 0 0 | | |
| 441 | " | " | " | 149 | 71 1 0 | | |
| 441 | " | " | " | 130, 131 | 320 0 0 | | |
| 441 | " | " | Parry | 151 | 50 3 0 | | |
| 441 | " | " | Buckland | 158 | 40 0 0 | | |
| 441 | " | " | " | 85 | 40 0 0 | | |
| 441 | " | " | " | 147 | 31 0 11 | | |
| 441 | " | " | Parry | 14, 116 | 80 0 0 | | |
| 441 | " | " | " | 15, 29, 120, 150 | 190 0 0 | | |
| 441 | " | " | " | 21 | 80 0 0 | | |
| 441 | " | " | " | 30 | 40 0 0 | | |
| 441 | " | " | " | 132 | 145 0 0 | | |
| 441 | " | " | " | 16 | 100 0 0 | | |
| 441 | " | " | Buckland | 132 | 320 0 0 | | |
| 441 | " | " | Parry | 1 | 100 0 0 | | |
| 441 | " | " | Buckland | 173 | 120 0 0 | | |
| 441 | " | " | Parry | 56 | 40 0 0 | | |
| 371 | " | Bocrowa and Young | Monteagle | 60 | 100 0 0 | Not dealt with during 1887. | |
| 371 | " | " | " | 51 | 320 0 0 | | |
| 437 | " | Cootamundra | Bland | 2 | 640 0 0 | | |
| 437 | " | " | " | 7 | 60 0 0 | Refused. | |
| 437 | " | " | " | 4 | 40 0 0 | | |
| 544 | Central | Narrabri | Nandewar | 10, 11, 12, 20, 44, 134, 135 | 353 1 0 | Not dealt with during 1887. | |
| 120 | " | Hay | Waradgery | 63 | 320 0 0 | | |
| 120 | " | " | " | 19 | 50 0 0 | | |
| 120 | " | " | " | 20 | 50 0 0 | | |
| 120 | " | " | " | 59 | 500 0 0 | | |
| 120 | " | " | " | 60 | 120 0 0 | | |
| 348 | " | Bingera | Murchison | 62, 63, 64 | 451 0 0 | | |
| 494 | " | Denilquin | Townsend | 44 | 63 1 0 | | |
| 494 | " | " | " | 10 | 160 0 0 | | |
| 348 | " | Bingera | Murchison | 75 | 60 0 0 | | |
| 348 | " | " | " | 71, 73, 77 | 551 0 0 | | |
| 295 | " | " | " | 77 | 60 0 0 | | |
| 264 | " | Narrandera | Cooper | 3 | 160 0 0 | | |
| 264 | " | " | " | 27 | 60 0 0 | | |
| 502 | " | Wagga Wagga | Boulke | 6 | 90 0 0 | | |
| 502 | " | " | " | 7 | 400 0 0 | | |
| 329 | " | Narrandera and Wagga Wagga. | Mitcheil | 52, 53, 55 | 960 0 0 | | |
| 329 | " | " | " | 2, 7, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 27 | 1,073 0 0 | | |
| 329 | " | " | " | 5 | 320 0 0 | | |
| 329 | " | " | " | 2, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 99, 100, 102 | 1,251 1 0 | | |
| 691 | " | Warialda and Inverell | Arawatta | 1 | 40 0 0 | Refused. | |
| 388 | " | Narrandera and Urana | Uiana | 11 | 320 0 0 | | |
| 388 | " | " | " | 12 | 320 0 0 | | |
| 388 | " | " | " | 144 | 277 1 0 | | |
| 381 | " | " | " | 145 | 276 3 0 | | |
| 388 | " | " | " | 146 | 149 3 0 | | |
| 388 | " | " | " | 147 | 294 0 0 | | |
| 388 | " | " | " | 153 | 150 1 0 | | |
| 693 | " | Gunnedah and Coonabarabran. | Pottinger | 37 | 100 0 0 | | |

SCHEDULE LXI—continued.

| No of Re-surveyed Area. | Division. | Land District. | County. | Lands proposed to be Surrendered. | | Declared Value of Improvements as per Application. | Remarks. | |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---|------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|
| | | | | No of Portion (if measured). | Area. | | | |
| 693 | Central | Gunnedah and Coonabarabran. | Pottinger | 38 | a. r. p. 100 0 0 | £ s. d. | Accepted. | |
| 693 | " | " | " | 87 | 50 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 693 | " | " | " | 86 | 50 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 693 | " | " | " | 25 | 100 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 693 | " | " | " | 24 | 100 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 693 | " | " | " | 41 | 100 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 693 | " | " | " | 40 | 100 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 693 | " | " | " | 22 | 40 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 693 | " | " | " | 20 | 40 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 693 | " | " | " | 18 | 40 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 693 | " | " | " | 16 | 40 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 693 | " | " | " | 33 | 40 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 693 | " | " | " | 29 | 100 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 693 | " | " | " | 39 | 100 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 693 | " | " | " | 94 | 40 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 693 | " | " | " | 31 | 100 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 693 | " | " | " | 32 | 100 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 478 | " | Parkes | Kennedy | 1 | 80 0 0 | 135 0 0 | Refused. Not dealt with during 1887. | |
| 478 | " | " | " | 2 | 50 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 478 | " | " | " | 1 | 50 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 213 | " | Dubbo | Lincoln | 3 | 50 0 0 | | Refused. | |
| 213 | " | " | " | 61 | 80 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 467 | " | Narrabri and Gunnedah | Pottinger and Nandewar. | 1, 30, 12, 14, 16, 18, 31, 120, 1, 20, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 45, 118, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 4, 5, 6, 7, 6 | 3,258 0 0 | 540 0 0 | Not dealt with during 1887. | |
| 467 | " | " | Nandewar | 14, 15, 62, 74, 75, 76, I.P. 82, 44, 15, 16, 73, 87 | 2,693 3 0 | 1,250 0 0 | Refused. | |
| 467 | " | " | " | 3, 21, 22, 30, 31 | 346 0 0 | | Not dealt with during 1887. | |
| 53 | " | Coonabarabran | Gowen | 5, 12, 13 | 480 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 168 | " | Grenfell | Monteagle | 1/2, M 72 | 40 0 0 | 30 0 0 | | |
| 74 | " | Forbes | Forbes | 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 | 236 0 0 | 12 0 0 | | |
| 7 | " | Moree | Couralhe | 17 | 135 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 7 | " | " | " | 13 | 171 0 0 | | Refused. | |
| 7 | " | " | " | 15 | 137 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 7 | " | " | " | 16 | 153 0 0 | | Not dealt with during 1887. | |
| 7 | " | " | " | 14 | 195 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 65 | " | Forbes | Forbes | 26 | 140 0 0 | 140 0 0 | | |
| 452 | " | Corowa and Urana | Hume | 57, 58, part of 36 | 409 2 21 | 208 1 5 | | |
| 142 | " | Narrandera | Cooper | 19 | 640 0 0 | 700 0 0 | | |
| 9 | " | Warialda | Burnett | 78 | 101 3 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 9 | " | " | " | 44 | 100 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 9 | " | " | " | 43 | 80 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 9 | " | " | " | 84 | 40 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 9 | " | " | " | 70 | 84 2 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 9 | " | " | " | 69 | 87 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 9 | " | " | " | 99 | 160 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 0 | " | " | " | 73 | 80 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 9 | " | " | " | 72 | 80 0 0 | | Refused. | |
| 9 | " | " | " | 71 | 80 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 9 | " | " | " | 42 | 100 0 0 | | Not dealt with during 1887. | |
| 9 | " | " | " | 38 | 50 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 9 | " | " | " | 68 | 40 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 9 | " | " | " | 116 | 50 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 9 | " | " | " | 46 | 151 1 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 9 | " | " | " | 41 | 50 0 0 | ..... |  |  |
| 13 | " | Hay | Sturt | 1 | 400 0 0 | 400 0 0 | | |
| 485 | " | Narrandera | Cooper | 4 | 200 0 0 | 200 0 0 | | |
| 485 | " | " | " | 1 | 250 0 0 | 250 0 0 | | |
| 466 | " | Wagga Wagga | Clarendon | 352 | 40 0 0 | 16 4 6 | | Not dealt with during 1887. |
| 575 | " | " | Bourke | 7 | 320 0 0 | 448 6 8 | | |
| 575 | " | " | " | 8 | 160 0 0 | 155 0 0 | | |
| 575 | " | " | " | 4 | 320 0 0 | 135 0 0 | | |
| 575 | " | " | " | 3 | 320 0 0 | 100 0 0 | | |
| 575 | " | " | " | 14 | 320 0 0 | 140 0 0 | | |
| 575 | " | " | " | 9 | 640 0 0 | 856 2 0 | | |
| 575 | " | " | " | 10 | 320 0 0 | 215 13 4 | | |
| 575 | " | " | " | 11 | 320 0 0 | 120 0 0 | | |
| 575 | " | " | " | 15 | 320 0 0 | 140 0 0 | | |
| 575 | " | " | " | 5 | 320 0 0 | 100 0 0 | | |
| 9 | " | Warialda | Burnett | 93 | 161 3 0 | 10 0 0 | Refused. | |
| 9 | " | " | " | 77 | 106 0 0 | 14 0 0 | | |
| 9 | " | " | " | 85 | 96 0 0 | 5 0 0 | | |
| 9 | " | " | " | 30 | 200 0 0 | 187 10 0 | | |
| 9 | " | " | " | 91 | 133 3 0 | 8 0 0 | | |
| 9 | " | " | " | 104 | 112 3 0 | 8 9 0 | | |
| 9 | " | " | " | 83 | 100 0 0 | 10 0 0 | | |
| 9 | " | " | " | 96 | 238 3 0 | 17 10 0 | | |
| 9 | " | " | " | 95 | 194 3 0 | 16 0 0 | | |
| 9 | " | " | " | 103 | 161 0 0 | 12 0 0 | | |
| 9 | " | " | " | 101 | 109 3 0 | 8 0 0 | | |
| 9 | " | " | " | 45 | 160 0 0 | 12 0 0 | | |
| 9 | " | " | " | 90 | 351 1 0 | 25 0 0 | | |

SCHEDULE LXI—continued.

| No. of Re-surveyed Area. | Division. | Land District. | County. | Lands proposed to be Surrendered. | | Declared Value of Improvements as per Application. | | | Remarks. | |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------------|---|-----------|--|----|----|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | | No. of Portion (if measured). | Area. | £ | s. | d. | | |
| 9 | Central | Warialda | Burnett | 111 | 50 0 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | } Refused. | |
| 593 | " | Forbes and Grenfell ... | Forbes | 1, 2 | 80 0 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 567 | " | Warialda and Moree ... | Stapylton | 2 | 242 0 0 | | | | | |
| 567 | " | " | " | 3 | 320 0 0 | | | | | |
| 567 | " | " | " | 4 | 180 0 0 | | | | | |
| 604 | " | Urana | Urana | 90, 91, 92, 94 | 641 0 0 | 20 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 575 | " | Wagga Wagga | Bourke | 29, 104, 105, 114 | 1,160 3 0 | 1,288 | 15 | 0 | | |
| 622 | " | Wagga Wagga and Narrandera | " | 14 | 160 0 0 | 200 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 622 | " | " | " | 31 | 115 3 0 | 150 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 620 | " | Narrandera & Urana ... | Urana | 8, 10, 27, 31, 106, 107, 108, 109, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 162, 163, 164, and Yanko South Reserve. | 7,464 3 0 | 1,672 | 2 | 0 | | } Not dealt with during 1887. |
| 567 | " | Warialda and Moree ... | Stapylton | 1 | 49 0 0 | 150 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 567 | " | " | " | 1 | 49 3 39 | 250 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 634 | " | Narrandera | Cooper | 1, 2, 10, 16, 17, 18, 19, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20. | 5,881 0 0 | 5,600 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 122 | Western | Bourke | Gunderbooka... | 3 | 540 0 0 | 540 | 19 | 4 | } Not dealt with during 1887. | |
| 242 | " | Walgett, North | Finch | 14 | 40 0 0 | 50 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 242 | " | " | " | 10 | 40 0 0 | 60 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 122 | " | Bourke | Gunderbooka... | 7 | 340 0 0 | 357 | 10 | 0 | | |
| 122 | " | " | " | 16 | 320 0 0 | 322 | 6 | 8 | | |
| 122 | " | " | " | 2 | 640 0 0 | 1,019 | 5 | 0 | | |
| 122 | " | " | " | 14 | 556 0 0 | 963 | 10 | 4 | | |
| 122 | " | " | " | 1 | 640 0 0 | 1,272 | 15 | 8 | | |
| 122 | " | " | " | 1 | 40 0 0 | | | | | |
| 255 | " | Brewarrina | Narran | 3 | 640 0 0 | 800 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 255 | " | " | " | 2 | 486 0 0 | 486 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 255 | " | " | " | 1 | 400 0 0 | 400 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 247 | " | Bourke and Brewarrina | Gunderbooka... | 1 | 640 0 0 | 1,000 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 247 | " | " | " | 1 | 450 0 0 | 500 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 247 | " | " | " | 1 | 640 0 0 | 1,000 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 222 | " | Cobar & Hillston, North | Mouramba ... | 84, 297 | 640 0 0 | 2,000 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 222 | " | " | " | 84, 298 | 320 0 0 | 400 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 44 | " | Brewarrina | Narran | 1 | 400 0 0 | 400 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 44 | " | " | Clyde | 2 | 50 0 0 | | | | | |
| 44 | " | " | Narran | 5 | 316 0 0 | 330 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 17 | " | " | " | 45 | 60 0 0 | 55 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 17 | " | " | " | 10 | 52 0 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 17 | " | " | " | 52 | 212 0 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 17 | " | " | " | 6 | 80 0 0 | | | | | |
| 17 | " | " | " | 20 | 477 3 0 | 400 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 174 | " | Wentworth | Windeyer | 5 | 40 0 0 | 40 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 174 | " | " | " | 2. I.P., No. 298 | 200 0 0 | 202 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 174 | " | " | " | 3. I.P., No. 333 | 40 0 0 | 51 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 174 | " | " | " | 6. I.P., No. 300 | 80 0 0 | 107 | 17 | 0 | | |
| 174 | " | " | " | 7 | 120 0 0 | 120 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 174 | " | " | " | 10 | 70 0 0 | 72 | 10 | 0 | | |
| 174 | " | " | " | 5 | 40 0 0 | 41 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 174 | " | " | " | 8. I.P., No. 334 | 40 0 0 | 41 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 174 | " | " | " | 9 | 320 0 0 | 322 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 174 | " | " | " | 2. I.P., No. 336 | 100 0 0 | 104 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 174 | " | " | " | I.P., No. 190 | 40 0 0 | 40 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 174 | " | " | Tara | 2 | 40 3 0 | 52 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 174 | " | " | Windeyer | 4 | 40 0 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 174 | " | " | Tara | 4 | 40 0 0 | 43 | 13 | 2 | | |
| 174 | " | " | " | 1 | 99 3 0 | 471 | 16 | 4 | | |
| 174 | " | " | Windeyer | 3 | 40 0 0 | 200 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 174 | " | " | " | 5 | 50 0 0 | 230 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 174 | " | " | Tara | 2 | 40 0 0 | 60 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 174 | " | " | Windeyer | 1. I.P., No. 335 | 50 0 0 | 65 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 99 | " | Hillston, North | Franklin | 7, 8 | 593 0 0 | 30 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 263 | " | Balranald | Taila | 16 | 160 0 0 | | | | | |
| 263 | " | " | " | 17 | 163 3 0 | | | | | |
| 263 | " | " | " | 15 | 160 0 0 | | | | | |
| 263 | " | " | " | 14 | 100 0 0 | 1 | 15 | 0 | | |
| 263 | " | " | " | 6 | 242 0 0 | 10 | 10 | 0 | | |
| 273 | " | " | " | 4 | 203 0 0 | 3 | 10 | 0 | | |
| 263 | " | " | " | 5 | 334 3 0 | 45 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 263 | " | " | " | 4 | 107 0 0 | 2 | 12 | 6 | | |
| 263 | " | " | " | 10 | 200 0 0 | 3 | 10 | 0 | | |
| 263 | " | " | " | 9 | 215 0 0 | 8 | 15 | 0 | | |
| 224 | " | Hillston, North | Franklin | 2 | 295 0 0 | | | | | |
| 224 | " | " | " | 1 | 320 0 0 | | | | | |
| 224 | " | " | " | 2, 3 | 100 0 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 245 | " | " | Mossgiel | 3 | 325 0 0 | 76 | 13 | 0 | | |
| 245 | " | " | " | 21, 17 | 320 0 0 | 390 | 18 | 0 | | |

NOTE.—These applications were received prior to 1887. Some have been dealt with during the year, and the rest were under action. There were no applications during the year 1887.

SCHEDULE LXII.

RETURN of Applications to Surrender Lands within Resumed Areas in consideration of Refund of all Moneys paid in respect thereof.

(Section 75, subsection 3).

| No. of Re-sumed Area | Division. | Land District. | County. | Lands proposed to be Surrendered. | | Declared Value of Improvements as per Application. | | | Remarks |
|----------------------|-----------|----------------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|--|----|----|----------|
| | | | | No of Portion (if measured) | Area | £ | s. | d. | |
| 39 | Western | Balranald | Kilfera | 11 | a. r. p. | £ | s. | d. | Refused. |
| 39 | " | " | " | 10 | 40 0 0 | 512 | 0 | 0 | |
| 39 | " | " | " | 11 | 40 0 0 | 500 | 0 | 0 | |
| 39 | " | " | " | 4 | 150 0 0 | 312 | 0 | 0 | |
| 39 | " | " | Manara | 11 | 640 0 0 | 630 | 0 | 0 | |
| 39 | " | " | " | 11 | 640 0 0 | 740 | 0 | 0 | |
| 39 | " | " | " | 12 | 640 0 0 | 838 | 0 | 0 | |
| 39 | " | " | Kilfera | 3 | 50 0 0 | 460 | 0 | 0 | |
| 174 | " | Wentworth | Windeyer | 5 | 40 0 0 | 40 | 0 | 0 | |
| 174 | " | " | " | 2. I.P., No. 298 | 200 0 0 | 202 | 0 | 0 | |
| 174 | " | " | " | 3. I.P., No. 333 | 40 0 0 | 51 | 0 | 0 | |
| 174 | " | " | " | 6. I.P., No. 300 | 80 0 0 | 107 | 17 | 0 | |
| 174 | " | " | " | 7 | 120 0 0 | 120 | 0 | 0 | |
| 174 | " | " | " | 10 | 70 0 0 | 72 | 10 | 0 | |
| 174 | " | " | " | 5 | 40 0 0 | 41 | 0 | 0 | |
| 174 | " | " | " | 8. I.P., No. 334 | 40 0 0 | 41 | 0 | 0 | |
| 174 | " | " | " | 9 | 320 0 0 | 322 | 0 | 0 | |
| 174 | " | " | " | 2. I.P., No. 336 | 40 0 0 | 104 | 0 | 0 | |
| 174 | " | " | " | Not given. I.P., No. 190. | 40 0 0 | 40 | 0 | 0 | |
| 174 | " | " | Tara | 2 | 40 3 0 | 52 | 0 | 0 | |
| 174 | " | " | Windeyer | 4 | 40 0 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | |
| 174 | " | " | Tara | 4 | 40 0 0 | 43 | 13 | 2 | |
| 174 | " | " | " | 1 | 99 3 0 | 471 | 16 | 4 | |
| 174 | " | " | Windeyer | 3 | 40 0 0 | 209 | 0 | 0 | |
| 174 | " | " | " | 5 | 50 0 0 | 230 | 0 | 0 | |
| 174 | " | " | Tara | 2 | 40 0 0 | 60 | 0 | 0 | |
| 174 | " | " | Windeyer | 1. I.P., No. 335 | 50 0 0 | 65 | 0 | 0 | |
| 236 | " | Brewarrina | Clyde | 2 | 60 0 0 | 950 | 0 | 0 | |

NOTE.—These applications were received prior to 1887, some have been dealt with during the year, and the rest are under action. There were no applications during 1887.

SCHEDULE LXIII.

SCHEDULE showing the number of Appraisements of Leasehold Areas in the Eastern, Central, and Western Divisions, the rents of which were determined during the year 1887.

| Division. | Number. | Area | Rent. | | |
|---------------|---------|------------|---------|----|----|
| | | acres. | £ | s. | d. |
| Eastern | 492 | 6,882,021 | 54,978 | 8 | 5 |
| Central | 725 | 18,760,703 | 190,656 | 12 | 7 |
| Western | 235 | 28,962,717 | 144,498 | 4 | 9 |

SCHEDULE LXIV.

SCHEDULE showing the number of Appraisements of Resumed Areas in the Eastern, Central, and Western Divisions, the license fees of which were determined during the year 1887.

| Division. | Number. | Area. | License Fee. | | |
|---------------|---------|------------|--------------|----|----|
| | | acres. | £ | s. | d. |
| Eastern | 446 | 5,984,812 | 32,035 | 8 | 4 |
| Central | 701 | 17,182,325 | 103,730 | 4 | 0 |
| Western | 191 | 25,835,640 | 88,205 | 6 | 6 |

SCHEDULE LXV.

RETURN showing the Number and Area of Applications for Homestead Leases made in 1887, and action thereon.

| Land Board District | Land District. | No of Applications received and area embraced in such Applications. | | Deposits lodged with Applications for Homestead Leases | No. granted. | No. refused. | No. outstanding |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---|----------------|--|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| | | No. | Area. | | | | |
| Bourke | Bourke | 23 | acres. 218,880 | £ 912 0 0 | 19 | 2 | 2 |
| | Brewarrina | 27 | 265,560 | 1,106 10 0 | 13 | 3 | 11 |
| | Cobar | 3 | 26,240 | 100 6 8 | 2 | 1 | ..... |
| Hay | Balranald | 14 | 127,050 | 529 10 0 | 2 | ..... | 12 |
| | Hay, North | 6 | 58,008 | 241 14 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| | Hillston, North | 30 | 277,534 | 1,156 7 10 | 11 | 14 | 5 |
| | Wentworth | 3 | 30,720 | 128 0 0 | ..... | ..... | 3 |
| Moree | Walgett, North | 5 | 46,720 | 194 13 4 | 1 | ..... | 4 |
| | Wilcannia | 17 | 147,514 | 614 15 4 | 3 | 1 | 13 |
| | | 128 | 1,198,286 | 4,992 17 2 | 52 | 22 | 54 |

SCHEDULE LXVI.

RETURN showing the Number, Area, and Rent determined of Homestead Leases in existence at the end of 1887, in the several Land Districts.

| Land Board District. | Land District. | No. of Leases. | Area embraced in such Leases. | Rent determined. |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Bourke | Bourke | 65 | acres. 641,108 | £ s. d. 4,330 2 1 |
| | Brewarrina | 73 | 703,422 | 5,269 18 1 |
| | Cobar | 3 | 23,240 | 109 6 8 |
| Hay | Balranald | 26 | 251,093 | 1,847 15 5 |
| | Hay, North | 49 | 479,343 | 4,220 5 8 |
| | Hillston, North | 38 | 359,369 | 2,311 3 4 |
| | Wentworth | 7 | 71,535 | 383 1 10 |
| Moree | Walgett, North | 27 | 267,607 | 1,685 10 11 |
| Wilcannia | Wilcannia | 14 | 130,652 | 713 0 4 |
| | | 302 | 2,930,374 | 20,870 4 4 |

SCHEDULE LXVII.

RETURN showing the number of Applications for Homestead Leases refused and permitted to be withdrawn during the year 1887, in the several Land Districts, with those outstanding at the close of 1887.

| Land Board District. | Land District. | No. of Applications refused and permitted to be withdrawn. | No. of Applications outstanding at end of 1887. |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| Bourke | Bourke | 4 | 8 |
| | Brewarrina | 8 | 17 |
| | Cobar | 2 | 2 |
| Hay | Balranald | 1 | 19 |
| | Hay, North | 9 | 5 |
| | Hillston, North | 19 | 19 |
| | Wentworth | 3 | 5 |
| Moree | Walgett, North | 4 | 4 |
| Wilcannia | Wilcannia | 1 | 17 |
| | | 51 | 96 |

SCHEDULE LXVIII.

RETURN showing the Number and Area of Applications for Homestead Leases granted during 1887, applied for during that and previous years.

| Land Board District. | Land District. | No. of applications received and area embraced in such application. | Annual Rent. |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------|
| Bourke | Bourke | 19 | acres. 185,600 |
| | Brewarrina | 28 | 267,661 |
| | Cobar | 1 | 10,240 |
| Hay | Balranald | 23 | 221,808 |
| | Hay, North | 25 | 240,590 |
| | Hillston, North | 28 | 266,475 |
| | Wentworth | 6 | 52,504 |
| Moree | Walgett, North | 11 | 106,321 |
| Wilcannia | Wilcannia | 8 | 68,853 |
| | | *149 | 1,420,052 |
| | | | 10,597 2 6 |

*This number includes 52 applications made in 1887 and granted during the same year.

SCHEDULE LXIX.

RETURN showing the number of Applications received and dealt with during the year 1887 for refund of value of improvements situated within Homestead Leases

| No. received in 1887. | No. dealt with during 1887. | No. outstanding at end of 1887. |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 238 | 246 | 45 |

SCHEDULE LXX.

RETURN of Applications for Scrub Leases on Leasehold Areas under section 88 of the Crown Lands Act of 1884.

| Land Board District. | Land District. | No. of Applications. | | Total to be dealt with during 1887. | Area of those outstanding from 1886. | Area of those made during 1887. | Total Area. | Applications disallowed & withdrawn. | | Total disallowed and withdrawn. | Number not finally dealt with. |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | Out-standing from 1886. | Made during 1887. | | | | | Of those outstanding from 1886. | Of those made during 1887. | | |
| | | | | | acres. | acres. | acres. | | | | |
| Armidale | Armidale..... | ... | 1 | 1 | ..... | 2,193 | 2,193 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Bourke | Bourke..... | ... | 1 | 1 | ..... | 10,240 | 10,240 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| | Cobar | 3 | 12 | 15 | 29,480 | 122,580 | 152,060 | 3 | ..... | 3 | 12 |
| Dubbo | Coonamble | 1 | ... | 1 | 640 | ..... | 640 | 1 | ..... | 1 | ..... |
| Forbes..... | Condobolin..... | 23 | ... | 23 | 231,815 | ..... | 231,815 | 4 | ..... | 4 | 19 |
| | Forbes | 5 | ... | 5 | 40,641 | ..... | 40,641 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 |
| | Parkes | 5 | 2 | 7 | 41,240 | 15,340 | 56,580 | ..... | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| Goulburn | Young | 1 | ... | 1 | 8,000 | ..... | 8,000 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Hay | Deniliquin | 1 | 1 | 2 | 10,240 | 640 | 10,880 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2 |
| | Hay | 3 | ... | 3 | 13,280 | ..... | 13,280 | 1 | ..... | 1 | 2 |
| | Hillston | 8 | 6 | 14 | 71,260 | 61,440 | 132,700 | 4 | ..... | 4 | 10 |
| | Hillston, North..... | 2 | 2 | 4 | 74,240 | 20,480 | 94,720 | 1 | ..... | 1 | 3 |
| Moree | Bingara | 1 | ... | 1 | 8,000 | ..... | 8,000 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| | Moree | 12 | 1 | 13 | 97,528 | 2,500 | 100,028 | 1 | ..... | 1 | 12 |
| | Walgett | 3 | ... | 3 | 30,720 | ..... | 30,720 | 3 | ..... | 3 | ..... |
| | Warialda..... | ... | 1 | 1 | ..... | 4,480 | 4,480 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Wagga Wagga. | Cootamundra..... | ... | 1 | 1 | ..... | 10,240 | 10,240 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| | Narrandera..... | 24 | 5 | 29 | 183,669 | 20,038 | 203,707 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 29 |
| | Urana | ... | 2 | 2 | ..... | 4,780 | 4,780 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2 |
| | Wagga Wagga | 8 | ... | 8 | 111,320 | ..... | 111,320 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 8 |
| | Corowa | 1 | ... | 1 | 2,740 | ..... | 2,740 | 1 | ..... | 1 | ..... |
| | Tumut..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3,840 | 13,240 | 17,080 | 1 | 2 | 3 | ..... |
| | Urana & Wagga Wagga | 3 | ... | 3 | 9,191 | ..... | 9,191 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3 |
| | Totals..... | 105 | 37 | 142 | 967,844 | 288,191 | 1,256,035 | 20 | 4 | 24 | 118 |

SCHEDULE LXXI.

RETURN of Applications for Scrub Leases on Resumed Areas, under 87th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884.

| Land Board District. | Land District. | No. of Applications. | | Total to be dealt with during 1887. | Area of those outstanding from 1886. | Area of those made during 1887. | Total Area. | Applications disallowed and withdrawn. | | Total disallowed and withdrawn during the year. | Number not finally dealt with. |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|--|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| | | Out-standing from 1886. | Made during 1887. | | | | | Of those outstanding from 1886. | Of those made during 1887. | | |
| | | | | | acres. | acres. | acres. | | | | |
| Armidale | Glen Innes | 1 | ..... | 1 | 640 | ..... | 640 | 1 | ..... | 1 | ..... |
| | Inverell | 3 | ..... | 3 | 26,000 | ..... | 26,000 | 2 | ..... | 2 | 1 |
| | Tenterfield | 2 | ..... | 2 | 2,300 | ..... | 2,300 | 2 | ..... | 2 | ..... |
| Bourke | Cobar | 1 | ..... | 1 | 10,240 | ..... | 10,240 | 1 | ..... | 1 | ..... |
| Dubbo | Coonamble | 4 | ..... | 4 | 18,880 | ..... | 18,880 | 3 | ..... | 3 | 1 |
| | Dubbo | 5 | 2 | 7 | 34,600 | 20,240 | 54,840 | 5 | ..... | 5 | 2 |
| Forbes..... | Condobolin..... | 18 | 1 | 19 | 161,230 | 7,500 | 168,730 | 8 | ..... | 8 | 11 |
| | Forbes | 2 | ... | 2 | 5,370 | ..... | 5,370 | 1 | ..... | 1 | 1 |
| | Parkes | 2 | ..... | 2 | 18,440 | ..... | 18,440 | 2 | ..... | 2 | ..... |
| Goulburn | Young | 1 | ..... | 1 | 2,300 | ..... | 2,300 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Hay | Deniliquin | 4 | ..... | 4 | 4,480 | ..... | 4,480 | 1 | ..... | 1 | 3 |
| | Hay | 5 | 1 | 6 | 41,526 | 10,240 | 51,766 | 3 | ..... | 3 | 3 |
| | Hillston | 1 | ..... | 1 | 10,000 | ..... | 10,000 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Maitland | Cassilis | 2 | ..... | 2 | 17,240 | ..... | 17,240 | 2 | ..... | 2 | ..... |
| | Taree | 1 | ..... | 1 | 3,000 | ..... | 3,000 | 1 | ..... | 1 | ..... |
| | Port Macquarie..... | 1 | ..... | 1 | 640 | ..... | 640 | 1 | ..... | 1 | ..... |
| Moree | Moree | 5 | 4 | 9 | 26,940 | 8,830 | 35,770 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| Sydney | Nowra | 1 | ..... | 1 | 2,520 | ..... | 2,520 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Tamworth | Gunnedah | 1 | ..... | 1 | 1,280 | ..... | 1,280 | 1 | ..... | 1 | ..... |
| | Murrurundi | 1 | ..... | 1 | 640 | ..... | 640 | 1 | ..... | 1 | ..... |
| | Narrabri | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1,840 | 800 | 2,640 | 1 | ..... | 1 | 2 |
| Wagga Wagga ... | Albury | 1 | ..... | 1 | 10,240 | ..... | 10,240 | 1 | ..... | 1 | ..... |
| | Cootamundra..... | 4 | ..... | 4 | 16,995 | ..... | 16,995 | 1 | ..... | 1 | 3 |
| | Narrandera..... | 15 | ..... | 15 | 116,016 | ..... | 116,016 | 4 | ..... | 4 | 11 |
| | Urana | 2 | ..... | 2 | 6,920 | ..... | 6,920 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2 |
| | Wagga Wagga | 8 | ..... | 8 | 55,160 | ..... | 55,160 | 1 | ..... | 1 | 7 |
| | Totals | 93 | 9 | 102 | 595,437 | 47,610 | 643,047 | 47 | 2 | 49 | 53 |

SCHEDULE LXXII.

RETURN of Applications for Special Leases under Crown Lands Act of 1884, and action taken thereon during the year 1887.

| Land Board District. | Land District. | Number of Applications. | | | Applications granted. | | Declined. | | Pending. | | Purposes for which such Leases were required. |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|---|
| | | Outstanding in 1886. | Lodged in 1887. | Total. | Number. | Area. | Number. | Area. | Number. | Area. | |
| Armidale | Armidale ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | a. r. p. 5 0 0 | £ s. d. 10 0 0 | 1 | a. r. p. 1 0 0 | | Brickmaking, 1 granted; hotel, 1 declined. Store. Sawmill. Store, 1 granted; mill and forage store, 1 declined. Inns, 2 granted, 4 declined; ferry, 1 granted; business premises, 1 granted, 1 declined; vegetable garden, 1 granted; mail station, 1 granted, 1 declined; protection of water supply, 2 declined, 2 pending; slaughtering, 2 declined. Vegetable garden. Quarry. Quarries, 3 granted, 1 pending; accommodation house, 1 granted; tramways, 7 declined; erection of machinery, 1 declined, 1 pending; slaughtering, 2 declined; brickmaking, 1 declined, 1 pending; vegetable garden, 1 declined; ferry, 1 declined. |
| | Glen Innes .. | 1 | .. | 1 |  | .. .. . | 1 | 1 0 0 | | | |
| | Inverell | .. | 1 | 1 |  | .. .. . | .. .. . | 1 | 20 0 0 | | |
| | Tenterfield .. | .. | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 0 0 | 10 0 0 | 1 | 1 0 0 | | |
| Bourke | Bourke | 2 | 16 | 18 | 6 | 47 1 36 | 72 0 0 | 10 | 1,532 2 0 | 2 | 640 0 0 |
| | Brewarrina .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | 3 0 0 | 10 0 0 | .. .. . | .. .. . |  |  |
| | Cobar..... | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 40 0 0 | 10 0 0 | .. .. . | .. .. . |  |  |
| | Wilcannia | 8 | 12 | 20 | 4 | 14 0 0 | 40 0 0 | 13 | 4,728 1 0 | 3 | 29 1 18 |
| Cooma | Bega | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 20 0 0 | 10 0 0 | | | | |
| | Bombala | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 20 0 0 | 10 0 0 | | | | |
| | Cooma | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 0 0 | 20 0 0 | | | | |
| Dubbo | Queanbeyan .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. .. . | .. .. . | 1 | 90 0 0 | | |
| | Coonamble | 1 | 2 | 3 |  | .. .. . | .. .. . | 3 | 19 0 0 | | |
| | Dubbo | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 5, 2 0 | 20 0 0 | 2 | 8 0 0 | 2 | 15 0 0 |
| Forbes | Condoblin | .. | 1 | 1 |  | .. .. . | .. .. . | 1 | 2 0 0 | | |
| | Forbes ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 276 0 0 | 25 0 0 | 1 | 20 0 0 | | |
| Goulburn | Packes | .. | 1 | 1 |  | .. .. . | .. .. . | 1 | 320 0 0 | | |
| | Burrowa | 2 | .. | 2 |  | .. .. . | .. .. . | 2 | 83 0 0 | | |
| | Braidwood | .. | 1 | 1 |  | .. .. . | .. .. . | 1 | 89 0 0 | | |
| | Goulburn .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | 7 0 0 | 10 0 0 | | | | |
| Grafton | Young | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 3 0 | 20 0 0 | 1 | 0 1 13 | | |
| | Casino | .. | 3 | 3 | 2 | 20 0 12½ | 20 0 0 | .. | .. | 1 | .. |
| | Grafton | .. | 5 | 5 | 2 | 1 0 0 | 15 0 0 | .. | 17 0 0 | 1 | 0 0 3¼ |
| | Kempsey | .. | 7 | 7 | 3 | 21 1 0 | 33 0 0 | 3 | 76 2 0 | 1 | 2 0 0 |
| Lismore | 1 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 10 1 31 | 45 0 0 | 2 | 200 0 0 | 2 | 2 1 2 | |
| Hay | Murwillumbah .. | .. | 1 | 1 |  | .. .. . | .. .. . | 1 | 10 0 0 | | |
| | Balranald | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 320 0 0 | 10 0 0 | 2 | 620 0 0 | | |
| | Denihquin .. | 2 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 248 0 0 | 79 10 0 | 1 | 320 0 0 | 1 | 10 0 0 |
| | Hay | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 5 0 0 | 20 0 0 | 2 | 53 0 0 | | |
| Maitland | Hillston | .. | 1 | 1 |  | .. .. . | .. .. . | 1 | 320 0 0 | | |
| | Maitland | .. | 1 | 1 |  | .. .. . | .. .. . | 1 | 8 0 0 | | |
| | Muswellbrook .. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 2 0 | 27 0 0 | 1 | 1 0 0 | | |
| | Newcastle ... | 1 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 0 0 11 | 5 0 0 | 4 | 14 1 20 | 3 | 2 0 10 |
| Port Macquarie | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. .. . | .. .. . | 1 | 0 0 36 | .. | .. .. . |  |

SCHEDULE LXXII—continued.

| Land Board District | Land District | Number of Applications | | | Applications granted | | | Declined | | Pending | | Purposes for which such Leases were required |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------|------------|----------|--------------|----------|------------|---------|---|
| | | Outstanding in 1886 | Lodged in 1887 | Total Number | Area | Rent. | Number | Area. | Number | Area | | |
| Maitland | Raymond Terrace | 1 | 1 | 1 | a. r. p. | £ s d. | a. r. p. | 1 | a. i. p. | 1 | 40 0 0 | Brickmaking. Landing place, 1 granted; vegetable garden, 1 pending Sawmill, 2 granted; wharves, 2 granted, 3 declined. |
| | Stroud ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 10 0 0 | 10 0 0 | . | 1 | 10 0 0 | 1 | 10 0 0 | |
| | Taree ... | | 7 | 7 | 15 3 0 | 67 10 0 | 3 | 3 0 0 | | | | Tramway. |
| Moree .. | Bingera ... | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | 52 0 0 | | | | Store, 1 pending; wool scouring, 1 declined |
| | Moree . | | 2 | 2 | | | 1 | 40 0 0 | 1 | 2 0 0 | | |
| Orange | Carcoar . | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 320 0 0 | | | | Slaughtering Butcher's shop Brickmaking. Quarry Sawmill. |
| | Cowra | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 6 0 0 | | | | |
| | Molong | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 5 0 0 | | | | |
| Sydney | Rylstone .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 5 0 0 | | | | Hotels, 2 granted; erection of machinery, 2 granted, store, 1 declined; brickmaking, 1 declined, slaughtering, 1 declined; tramway, 1 pending |
| | Berrima . | 1 | 1 | 1 | 83 0 0 | 10 0 0 | | | | | | |
| | Campbelltown | 6 | 2 | 8 | 209 3 25 | 67 15 0 | 3 | 20 1 0 | 1 | 113 0 0 | | Stores, 1 granted, 2 declined; quarry, 1 granted; wharf, 1 granted; hotels, 1 granted, 1 declined; jetty, 1 pending |
| | Gosford | 3 | 5 | 8 | 3 0 6 | 45 0 0 | 3 | 321 0 0 | 1 | 0 0 28½ | | Jetty. |
| | Kiama ... | | 1 | 1 | 0 0 21½ | 15 0 0 | | | | | | Quarries, 1 granted, 2 declined; tramway, 1 granted; mineral spring, 1 granted; stables and accommodation paddock, 1 declined; store, 1 pending; procuring clay, 1 pending. |
| | Lithgow . | 5 | 3 | 8 | 7 1 0 | 65 0 0 | 3 | 20 0 0 | 2 | 322 0 0 | | |
| | Liverpool . | 1 | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 0 0 29½ | | Ship Jetties and wharves, 22 granted, 10 declined, 17 pending; baths, boatsheds, &c, 6 granted, 4 declined, 3 pending; stores, 2 declined, pisciculture, 1 declined; docks, 2 pending. |
| | Metropolitan .. | 33 | 34 | 67 | 6 1 21½ | 908 0 0 | 17 | 22 3 1½ | 22 | 9 1 10½ | | |
| | Milton ... | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 0 2 | 20 0 0 | 1 | 0 0 2 | | | | Receiving stores, 1 granted, 1 declined; tramway, 1 granted. |
| | Moruya ... | 3 | 5 | 8 | 3 0 11 | 40 0 0 | 3 | 13 0 0 | 2 | 0 0 16 | | Tramways, 1 granted, 1 pending; sawmills, 1 granted, 1 declined; wharves, 1 granted, 1 declined; access to water, 1 declined; jetty, 1 pending. |
| | Nowra ... | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 170 0 0 | | | | Fishery. Jetties, 2 granted; boatshed, 1 granted; stores, 1 granted, 1 declined, quarry, 1 declined; bathing places, 1 declined, 1 pending. |
| | Paramatta | 3 | 5 | 8 | 0 2 2½ | 75 0 0 | 3 | 18 0 0 | 1 | 0 0 38½ | | |
| Tamworth | Windsor . . | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 30 0 0 | | | | Fishery Accommodation house, 1 granted; wool-scouring, 1 declined; butchery, 1 pending; sawmill, 1 pending. |
| | Narrabri | 2 | 2 | 4 | 50 0 0 | 10 0 0 | 1 | 20 0 0 | 2 | 5 2 0 | | |
| | Tamworth .. | 2 | 1 | 3 | 30 0 0 | 20 0 0 | 1 | 2 0 0 | | | | Quarry, 2 granted; store, 1 declined. |
| Wagga Wagga | Albury | | 4 | 4 | 200 0 0 | 23 0 0 | 3 | 484 0 0 | | | | Slaughtering, 1 granted; dam, 2 declined; inn, 1 declined. |
| | Cootamundra. | | 3 | 3 | 100 0 0 | 14 0 0 | 1 | 300 0 0 | 1 | 7 0 0 | | Slaughtering, 1 granted, 1 declined, garden, 1 pending |
| | Corowa | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 0 23 | 20 0 0 | | | | | | Ferry, 1 granted; wool-scouring, 1 granted |
| | Gundagai | 2 | | 2 | | | | | | 2 | 105 0 0 | Quarry, 1; dam, 1. |
| | Narrandera | | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | 9 0 26 | | | Wool-washing. |
| | Urana | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 0 0 | 10 0 0 | 1 | 12 0 0 | | | | Smithy, 1 granted; brickmaking, 1 declined. |
| | Wagga Wagga | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 12 0 0 | | | | Brickmaking. |
| Total | ... | 98 | 177 | 275 | 1,801 1 3½ | 1,937 15 0 | 113 | 10,420 1 18½ | 55 | 1,335 0 36 | | |

SCHEDULE LXXIII.

RETURN of Applications for Special Leases made under the Repealed Acts, and dealt with during the year 1887.

| Land Board District. | Land District. | No. of Applications. | Applications Granted. | | | Declined, Withdrawn, or Lapsed. | | Pending. | | Remarks. |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|----------|---|----------|
| | | | No. | Area. | Rental. | No. | Area. | No. | Area. | |
| Bourke | Wilcannia | 1 | a. r. p. | £ s. d. | a. r. p. | 1 | a. r. p. | 1 | Wharf, 1 pending. | |
| Cooma | Queanbeyan | 2 | | | | 1 | 2 0 0 | 1 | Inns, 1 declined, 1 pending. | |
| Hay | Deniliquin | 1 | | | | 1 | 5 0 0 | | Store, 1 declined. | |
| Maitland | Taree | 1 | | | | | | 1 | Wharf, 1 pending. | |
| Orange | Wellington | 1 | | | | 1 | 4 0 0 | | Quarry, 1 lapsed. | |
| Sydney | Metropolitan | 7 | | | | 1 | | 6 | Piles for docks (dealt with under Act of 1884), 1 pending; jetties, 2 pending; wharves, 2 pending; smithy, 1 pending. | |
| Wagga Wagga | Cootamundra | 1 | | | | | | 1 | Hotel, 1 pending. | |
| | Narrandera | 3 | | | | 2 | 20 0 0 | 1 | Ferries, 2 withdrawn; fishery, 1 pending. | |
| | Urana | 1 | | | | | | 1 | Inn, 1 pending. | |
| | Total | 18 | | | | 6 | 31 0 0 | 12 | 119 3 11 | |

SCHEDULE LXXIV.

SCHEDULE of Special Leases current on 31st December, 1887.

| Land Districts. | No. of Leases. | Area. | Annual Rent. | Land Districts. | No. of Leases. | Area. | Annual Rent. |
|------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| | | a. r. p. | £ s. d. | | | a. r. p. | £ s. d. |
| Albury | 5 | 236 0 0 | 51 0 0 | Kempsey | 12 | 76 0 12 | 112 0 0 |
| Armidale | 2 | 15 0 0 | 20 0 0 | Kiama | 5 | 0 1 27 | 42 0 0 |
| Balranald | 2 | 405 0 0 | 20 0 0 | Lismore | 8 | 15 2 14 | 70 0 0 |
| Balranald, South | 1 | 2 0 0 | 10 0 0 | Lithgow | 11 | 53 2 37 | 141 0 0 |
| Bega | 3 | 20 3 36 | 25 0 0 | Liverpool | 1 | 0 0 7 | 10 0 0 |
| Bingera | 1 | 10 0 0 | 10 0 0 | Metropolitan | 141 | 14 2 35 ³ / ₄ | 2,269 6 0 |
| Berrima | 1 | 83 0 0 | 10 0 0 | Milton | 9 | 83 3 12 ³ / ₄ | 110 10 0 |
| Bombala | 1 | 20 0 0 | 10 0 0 | Molong | 1 | 136 0 0 | 12 5 0 |
| Bourke | 15 | 721 1 36 | 196 0 0 | Moruya | 12 | 227 0 39 ³ / ₄ | 97 0 0 |
| Brewarrina | 2 | 3 1 4 | 20 0 0 | Murwillumbah | 2 | 11 0 32 | 20 0 0 |
| Campbelltown | 5 | 251 1 25 | 87 15 0 | Muswellbrook | 2 | 1 2 0 | 27 0 0 |
| Casino | 5 | 21 2 39 ³ / ₄ | 35 0 0 | Narrabri | 3 | 53 0 0 | 20 0 0 |
| Cobar | 3 | 120 0 0 | 31 10 0 | Narrandera | 4 | 23 1 9 | 40 0 0 |
| Cooma | 3 | 17 0 0 | 26 0 0 | Newcastle | 7 | 11 0 31 | 80 0 0 |
| Coonabarabran | 1 | 50 0 0 | 12 0 0 | Nowra | 2 | 10 0 6 | 20 0 0 |
| Coonamble | 1 | 2 0 0 | 5 0 0 | Orange | 1 | 1 0 0 | 10 0 0 |
| Cootamundra | 1 | 100 0 0 | 14 0 0 | Parramatta | 21 | 3 1 19 | 132 3 0 |
| Corowa | 5 | 8 3 36 | 45 0 0 | Port Macquarie | 1 | | 10 0 0 |
| Cowra | 3 | 42 1 5 | 40 0 0 | Stroud | 4 | 50 0 0 | 37 0 0 |
| Deniliquin | 14 | 626 1 0 | 201 0 0 | Tamworth | 2 | 30 0 0 | 20 0 0 |
| Dubbo | 3 | 10 2 0 | 30 0 0 | Taree | 12 | 46 2 0 | 132 10 0 |
| Eden | 5 | 1 3 4 ¹ / ₂ | 34 0 0 | Tenterfield | 2 | 7 2 28 | 25 0 0 |
| Forbes | 2 | 316 0 0 | 36 10 0 | Tumut | 2 | 2 3 38 | 10 0 0 |
| Glen Innes | 1 | 4 0 0 | 10 0 0 | Urana | 6 | 21 0 12 ³ / ₄ | 50 0 0 |
| Gosford | 12 | 12 0 37 | 102 0 0 | Wagga Wagga | 1 | 2 0 0 | 5 0 0 |
| Goulburn | 2 | 12 0 30 | 20 0 0 | Walgett, North | 3 | 13 0 0 | 25 0 0 |
| Grafton | 9 | 16 2 36 | 51 0 0 | Wellington | 1 | 0 2 0 | 6 0 0 |
| Grenfell | 1 | 2 0 0 | 5 0 0 | Wentworth | 1 | 0 1 24 | 10 0 0 |
| Gundagai | 1 | 35 0 0 | 11 5 0 | Wilcannia | 9 | 274 0 0 | 99 0 0 |
| Gunnedah | 2 | 3 2 12 | 15 0 0 | Windsor | 1 | 0 1 0 | 2 0 0 |
| Hay | 7 | 14 0 0 | 60 0 0 | Wollongong | 2 | 0 1 28 | 160 0 0 |
| Hay, North | 2 | 10 0 0 | 15 0 0 | Young | 4 | 204 0 13 | 45 0 0 |
| Hillston, North | 3 | 17 0 0 | 40 0 0 | Total | 417 | 4,586 2 6 ¹ / ₄ | 5,148 14 0 |

SCHEDULE LXXV.

SUMMARY of Special Leases current on 31st December, 1887.

| Purposes of Lease. | No. of Leases. | Area. | Annual Rent. | Purposes of Lease. | No. of Leases. | Area. | Annual Rent. |
|---|----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| | | a. r. p. | £ s. d. | | | a. r. p. | £ s. d. |
| Accommodation houses | 3 | 62 0 0 | 30 0 0 | Procuring Gravel | 2 | 28 1 0 | 15 0 0 |
| Approaches to Bridges | 2 | 7 0 0 | 10 0 0 | Protection of Water Supply | 1 | 85 0 0 | 10 0 0 |
| Bathing-places, Boatsheds, Landing-places, &c. | 32 | 7 1 26 ³ / ₄ | 334 2 0 | Quarrying | 22 | 173 1 25 | 225 0 0 |
| Brickmaking | 17 | 52 3 36 | 162 0 0 | Railway Stations & Depôts | 2 | 48 0 0 | 60 0 0 |
| Business Premises | 18 | 106 1 30 | 132 0 0 | Sawmills | 40 | 1,196 0 0 | 455 5 0 |
| Erection of Machinery | 2 | 207 3 0 | 47 15 0 | Ship-building | 7 | 23 1 12 ³ / ₄ | 89 0 0 |
| Ferries | 11 | 21 1 23 | 114 0 0 | Slaughtering | 5 | 335 0 0 | 65 0 0 |
| Fisheries | 2 | 0 2 0 | 6 10 0 | Smithies, Smelting-works, &c. | 6 | 53 0 0 | 51 5 0 |
| Inns | 33 | 391 0 22 ³ / ₄ | 317 10 0 | Tanneries | 2 | 5 1 0 | 12 0 0 |
| Jetties, Wharves, &c. | 182 | 75 1 4 ¹ / ₂ | 2,521 17 0 | Tramways | 4 | 6 3 0 | 65 10 0 |
| Mail Stations and Stables | 9 | 1,410 2 0 | 153 0 0 | Vegetable Gardens | 4 | 12 0 0 | 42 0 0 |
| Metal Works | 2 | 0 0 39 | 15 0 0 | Wool Scouring and Drying | 5 | 269 3 0 | 70 0 0 |
| Piles for Floating Docks | 2 | 0 2 27 | 100 0 0 | Working Mineral Springs | 2 | 7 2 0 | 45 0 0 |
| | | | | Total | 417 | 4,586 2 6 ¹ / ₄ | 5,148 14 0 |

SCHEDULE LXXVI.

RETURN showing number and area of Special Leases forfeited for non-payment of Rent during 1887

| Land Districts. | No. of Leases. | Area. | Annual Rent. | Land Districts. | No. of Leases. | Area. | Annual Rent. |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------|--------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|
| | | a. r. p. | £ s. d. | | | a. r. p. | £ s. d. |
| Albury | 1 | 0 2 0 | 5 0 0 | Matland | 1 | 3 0 0 | 10 0 0 |
| Bourke | 1 | 5 0 0 | 5 0 0 | Metropolitan | 8 | 0 1 9 | 44 3 0 |
| Brewarrina | 1 | 1 2 0 | 10 0 0 | Parramatta | 2 | 0 2 1½ | 15 0 0 |
| Campbelltown | 3 | 52 2 0 | 50 0 0 | Port Macquarie | 1 | .. .. . | 15 0 0 |
| Carcoar | 1 | 20 0 0 | 10 0 0 | Queanbeyan | 3 | 325 2 0 | 30 0 0 |
| Cootamundra | 1 | 5 0 0 | 10 0 0 | Rylstone | 2 | 50 0 0 | 32 0 0 |
| Corowa | 1 | 50 0 0 | 12 0 0 | Tamworth | 1 | 0 2 0 | 5 0 0 |
| Gosford | 1 | 1 0 0 | 5 0 0 | Taree | 1 | 0 0 4 | 5 0 0 |
| Gundagai | 1 | 2 0 0 | 10 0 0 | Tenterfield | 3 | 8 0 0 | 35 0 0 |
| Hay | 1 | 2 0 0 | 10 0 0 | Urana | 1 | 2 0 0 | 5 0 0 |
| Hillston, North | 1 | 10 0 0 | 10 0 0 | Wagga Wagga | 1 | 2 0 0 | 10 0 0 |
| Lismore | 1 | 10 0 0 | 10 0 0 | Wentworth | 1 | 5 0 0 | 1 10 0 |
| Lithgow | 4 | 16 0 0 | 35 0 0 | Wilcannia | 1 | 4 0 0 | 10 0 0 |
| | | | | Total | 4½ | 576 1 14½ | 399 13 0 |

SCHEDULE LXXVII.

RETURN showing number and area of Special Leases which expired on 31st December, 1886.

| Land Districts. | No. of Leases. | Area. | Annual Rent. | Land Districts. | No. of Leases. | Area. | Annual Rent. |
|--------------------|----------------|----------|--------------|----------------------|----------------|----------|--------------|
| | | a. r. p. | £ s. d. | | | a. r. p. | £ s. d. |
| Albury | 1 | 200 0 0 | 20 0 0 | Kempsey | 1 | 3 0 0 | 10 0 0 |
| Bathurst | 1 | 11 0 0 | 88 0 0 | Lismore | 2 | 0 0 38 | 2 0 0 |
| Bourke | 4 | 173 0 0 | 17 0 0 | Metropolitan | 12 | .. .. . | 21 0 0 |
| Campbelltown | 1 | 8 0 0 | 20 0 0 | Moruya | 1 | 8 0 0 | 10 0 0 |
| Casino | 2 | 0 0 16 | 6 0 0 | Newcastle | 2 | 5 0 7 | 13 0 0 |
| Cootamundra | 2 | 165 0 0 | 29 10 0 | Parramatta | 3 | 7 0 0 | 12 0 0 |
| Corowa | 1 | 3 1 0 | 10 0 0 | Port Macquarie | 1 | 5 0 0 | 1 0 0 |
| Deniliquin | 1 | 200 0 0 | 19 10 0 | Stroud | 1 | 10 0 0 | 10 0 0 |
| Grafton | 1 | .. .. . | 1 0 0 | Taree | 4 | 27 0 28 | 35 0 0 |
| Grenfell | 1 | 2 0 0 | 5 0 0 | Urana | 1 | 2 0 0 | 5 0 0 |
| | | | | Total | 43 | 769 3 9 | 335 0 0 |

SCHEDULE LXXVIII.

RETURN showing the number of Volunteer Land Order Applications received during 1887.

| Land District. | Counties. | Number of Applications received. | Area applied for. | Number of Applications refused. | Area refused. |
|------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Bombala | Wellesly | 5 | 250 | .. | .. |
| Burrowa | Harden | 1 | 50 | 3 | 150 |
| Corowa | Hume | 4 | 200 | .. | .. |
| Cowra | Bathurst | 2 | 100 | .. | .. |
| Casino | Drake | .. | .. | 1 | 50 |
| Coonamble | Leichhardt | .. | .. | 3 | 150 |
| Glen Innes | Gough | 3 | 150 | 2 | 100 |
| Gundagai | Clarendon | .. | .. | 1 | 50 |
| Goulburn | Argyle | .. | .. | 1 | 50 |
| Inverell | Burnett | 1 | 50 | 1 | 50 |
| Narrandera | Boyd | .. | .. | 1 | 50 |
| Parramatta | Cumberland | 1 | 50 | 1 | 50 |
| Sydney | Cumberland | 1 | 50 | .. | .. |
| | | 18 | 900 | 14 | 700 |

SCHEDULE LXXIX.

RETURN showing the number of Volunteer Land Order Applications refused in 1887, satisfied in 1887, and remaining undisposed of or unsatisfied on the 31st December, 1887.

| Number of Applications refused. | Area refused. | Number of Applications satisfied in 1887, including those made in previous years | Area. | Number of Applications unsatisfied or undisposed of on 31st Dec, 1887, made in that and previous years. | Area. | Remarks |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--|--------------|---|------------|---|
| 14 | acres. 700 | 45 | acres. 2,250 | 14 | acres. 750 | Five applications made during 1887 have been satisfied by issue of a grant in 1887. |

SCHEDULE LXXXII—continued.

| Land Board District. | Land District. | No of Applications received in 1887. | Area of Applications received in 1887. | Amount of Fees paid on Applications received in 1887. | No applied for in 1887 allowed in same year. | Area of 1887 Applications allowed in same year. | No of 1887 Applications disallowed. | No of Applications of previous years allowed in 1887. | Area of previous years Applications allowed in 1887. | No. of previous years Applications disallowed in 1887. |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| | | | Acres. | £ | | Acres. | | | Acres. | |
| Hay | Balranald | 2 | 3,840 | 4 | 2 | 3,840 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Balranald South | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Demihqum | 10 | 8,521 | 26 | 3 | 4,780 | 2 | 5 | 6,529 | 4 |
| | Hay | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1,839 | ... |
| | Hay North | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Maitland | Hillston | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Hillston North | 21 | 263,521 | 297 | 10 | 171,210 | 1 | 30 | 455,352 | 3 |
| | Wentworth | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Cassilis | 1 | 1,760 | 2 | 1 | 1,760 | ... | 4 | 4,022 | 1 |
| | Dungog | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| | Maitland | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Muswellbrook | 1 | 1,016 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Newcastle | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Paterson | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 600 | ... |
| | Port Macquarie | 2 | 1,400 | 5 | 2 | 1,400 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Raymond Terrace | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Moree | Scone | 2 | 1,928 | 5 | 1 | 110 | ... | 1 | 8,000 | 1 |
| | Singleton | 1 | 690 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| | Stroud | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 64 | ... |
| | Taree | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| | Wollombi | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| | Bingera | 8 | 16,980 | 22 | 8 | 16,980 | ... | 2 | 3,420 | 1 |
| | Moree | 4 | 30,267 | 40 | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 71,564 | 2 |
| | Walgett | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Walgett North | 5 | 19,195 | 24 | 4 | 18,840 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Warialda | 3 | 31,715 | 35 | 3 | 31,715 | ... | 1 | 1,600 | ... |
| Orange | Bathurst | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Carcoar | 1 | 755 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 3 |
| | Cowra | 1 | 124 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 4,144 | ... |
| | Molong | 3 | 452 | 6 | 3 | 452 | ... | 4 | 3,536 | ... |
| | Mudgee | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1,106 | ... |
| | Orange | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Rylstone | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Wellington | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Sydney | Berrima | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Camden | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Campbelltown | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Gosford | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Kiama | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Lithgow | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Liverpool | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Metropolitan | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Milton | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Moruya | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Nowra | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Parramatta | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Penrith | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Tamworth | Windsor | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Wollongong | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Coonabarabran | 2 | 6,543 | 10 | 1 | 887 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Gunnedah | 2 | 1,930 | 4 | 2 | 1,930 | ... | 2 | 2,390 | ... |
| | Murrurundi | 1 | 3,089 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Wagga Wagga | Narrabri | 1 | 1,920 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Tamworth | 3 | 5,300 | 8 | 3 | 5,300 | ... | 10 | 8,464 | 4 |
| | Cootamundra | 3 | 4,420 | 9 | ... | ... | ... | 14 | 25,957 | 3 |
| | Gundagai | 3 | 2,025 | 6 | 2 | 1,701 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Wilcannia | Narrandera | 6 | 31,360 | 43 | 3 | 15,540 | ... | 10 | 28,540 | 3 |
| | Urana | 9 | 12,983 | 37 | 1 | 6,500 | 1 | 4 | 2,481 | 7 |
| | Wagga Wagga | 11 | 17,838 | 31 | 8 | 11,083 | ... | 5 | 7,339 | 7 |
| Wilcannia | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | | 212 | 819,099 | 1,252 | 122 | 542,786 | 14 | 229 | 883,769 | 41 |

SCHEDULE LXXXIII.

RETURN showing number of trespasses on Crown Lands reported during 1887, and action taken thereon under the provisions of Crown Lands Act of 1884.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of cases not disposed of at end of 1886 | 156 |
| Number of cases of trespass reported by Crown Lands Bailiffs during 1887 | 158 |
| | 314 |
| Number of prosecutions in which convictions were obtained | 30 |
| Number of cases dismissed | 7 |
| Trespasses abated after notice without legal proceedings by Department | 69 |
| Cases in which action was suspended by the Department pending investigation of applications to be placed in legal occupation | 39 |
| Number of cases of reported trespass in which, after investigation, it was found that no proceedings were necessary | 56 |
| Number of cases of trespass on acknowledgment of which no further proceedings were taken | 7 |
| Cases not disposed of at the end of year | 106 |
| | 314 |

SCHEDULE LXXXIV.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Manuscript Letters, Formal Documents, and Parcels despatched from Head Office during the years 1886 and 1887.

| Year. | Manuscript Letters. | Formal Documents, including Printed Letters, Schedules, Ex. Co. Minutes, Gazette Notices, Books of Reference to Benches of Magistrates, and Plans of Roads to same. | | Parcels | Total. |
|----------------|---------------------|---|------------|---------|------------------------|
| | | Printed Letters, Ex. Co., &c. | Schedules. | | |
| 1886 | 17,510 | 61,990 | 661 | 9,730 | 89,891 |
| 1887 | 19,285 | 68,123 | 619 | 10,674 | 98,701 |
| Decrease ..... | ..... | ..... | 42 | ..... | ..... |
| Increase | 1,775 | 6,133 | ..... | 944 | Net increase. 8,810 |

Number of telegrams sent during 1886 2,334
Number of telegrams sent during 1887 2,286

Increase..... 252

Number of circulars sent during 1886 147
Number of circulars sent during 1887 144

Decrease 3

SCHEDULE LXXXV.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Letters Registered during the years 1886 and 1887 at Head Office.

| Branch. | Documents Registered. | | Increase. | Decrease. |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1886. | 1887. | | |
| Ministerial | 11,655 | 12,019 | 364 | ..... |
| Miscellaneous..... | 24,477 | 16,385 | ..... | 8,092 |
| Alienation | 4,415 | 6,212 | 1,797 | ..... |
| Leases | 9,467 | 9,833 | 366 | ..... |
| Conditional Sales | 50,140 | 56,833 | 6,693 | ..... |
| Occupation..... | 9,917 | 14,800 | 4,883 | ..... |
| Forest Conservancy ..... | ..... | 11,572 | 11,572 | ..... |
| Total..... | 110,071 | 127,154 | 25,175 | 8,092 |

SCHEDULE LXXXVI.

SCHEDULE showing Number of Letters and Documents received at and despatched from the Head Offices of the Local Land Boards during the year ending 31st December, 1887.

| Land Board District. | Received. No. of Letters and Circulars. | Despatched. | | | Total No. Despatched. |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | Manuscript Letters. | Formal Documents (partly printed and partly manuscript). | Parcels. (including Maps, &c.) | |
| Albury | 2,110 | 314 | 1,627 | 82 | 2,023 |
| Armidale | 6,697 | 1,006 | 2,272 | 301 | 3,579 |
| Bourke | 4,397 | 891 | 1,911 | 168 | 2,970 |
| Cooma | 9,719 | 687 | 6,891 | 215 | 7,793 |
| Dubbo | 6,759 | 1,104 | 2,804 | 174 | 4,082 |
| Forbes | 5,642 | 1,387 | 6,212 | 352 | 7,951 |
| Goulburn | 5,951 | 872 | 5,315 | 149 | 6,336 |
| Grafton* | 7,615 | 721 | 2,580 | 82 | 3,383 |
| Hay | 7,050 | 1,212 | 2,465 | 265 | 3,942 |
| Maitland | 8,093 | 769 | 5,603 | 516 | 6,888 |
| Moree..... | 5,923 | 530 | 1,500 | 150 | 2,180 |
| Orange | 6,556 | 990 | 5,821 | 60 | 6,871 |
| Sydney | 5,533 | 750 | 2,419 | ..... | 3,169 |
| Tamworth | 7,368 | 1,457 | 5,265 | 388 | 7,110 |
| Wagga Wagga | 11,366 | 1,555 | 4,176 | 443 | 6,174 |
| Wilcannia (Included in Bourke) ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | 100,779 | 14,245 | 56,861 | 3,345 | 74,451 |

* Estimated only for 1st quarter, remainder of year as per record.

SCHEDULE LXXXVII.

PARTICULARS of Timber Revenue, year ended 31st December, 1887.

| | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
|--|-------|----|----|---|----|--------------|
| State Forests and Reserves under Classes A, B, and C:— | | | | | | |
| State Forest block licenses | 789 | 5 | 10 | | | |
| Sub-licenses | 13 | 10 | 0 | | | |
| Permit licenses, Class C | 330 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Permits without royalty—Timber-cutter's, Class A and B | 1,064 | 10 | 0 | | | |
| Miscellaneous | 14 | 10 | 0 | | | |
| | | | | | | 2,211 15 10 |
| Royalty— | | | | | | |
| At per 100 superficial feet, cut under block license | 1,886 | 4 | 10 | | | |
| Do do cut under Regulations of 18th August, 1885 | 2,546 | 17 | 2 | | | |
| At per tree, under Regulation 44 of 18th August, 1885 | 245 | 3 | 0 | | | |
| | | | | | | 4,678 5 0 |
| Crown Lands— | | | | | | |
| Wood-cutter's licenses | 3,435 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Cedar licenses | 1,101 | 10 | 0 | | | |
| Proceeds of sale of seized timber | 283 | 9 | 5 | | | |
| | | | | | | 4,819 19 5 |
| | | | | | | £11,710 0 3* |

*NOTE.—Licenses to quarry stone, &c., issued in addition to the above, during the year, £462 5s, and rent for leases under the Prickly-pear Act of 1886, £77 13s. 6d.

SCHEDULE LXXXVIII.

REVENUE from State Forests and Reserves under Classes A, B, or C for 1887.

| County | Reserve. | Quantity | License Fee. | Royalty. | Total. | Description of Timber. |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| ROYALTY AT PER 100 SUPERFICIAL FEET. | | | | | | |
| | | Super. ft. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | |
| Auckland | Myrtle Creek | | 3 5 0 | ..... | 3 5 0 | |
| Bland | Weddin | 534,294 | 21 0 0 | 49 7 11 | 70 7 11 | Pine, ironbark. |
| Bourke | Coolamon | | 1 10 0 | .. | 1 10 0 | |
| " | No. 2,652 | 620,772 | 30 0 0 | 310 8 0 | 340 8 0 | Pine. |
| " | No. 24 | 7,000 | .. | 3 10 0 | 3 10 0 | " |
| " | Matong | 173,186 | 30 0 0 | 71 12 4 | 101 12 4 | " |
| Baradine | Robertson | 10,783 | 1 0 0 | 2 13 11 | 3 13 11 | " |
| Baradine and White | No. 1,273 | 7,479 | 3 0 0 | 7 9 7 | 10 9 7 | " |
| Cadell | Backwater Creek | 218,724 | 4 10 0 | 136 14 1 | 141 4 1 | Red gum. |
| " | Moama | 703,512 | 20 10 0 | 439 13 10 | 460 3 10 | " |
| " | Moura | 2,600,953 | 64 17 3 | 1,423 14 7 | 1,488 11 10 | " |
| Camden | Cordeaux | 121,196 | 40 0 0 | 55 6 1 | 95 6 1 | Blackbutt, turpentine. |
| Cumberland | No. 110 | 16,150 | 7 0 0 | 4 0 9 | 11 0 9 | " |
| Denison | Mulwala | 291,491 | 130 0 0 | 145 14 8 | 275 14 8 | Red gum. |
| " | Wahgunyah | | 80 0 0 | ..... | 80 0 0 | None removed. |
| " | Warmatta | | 59 0 0 | ..... | 59 0 0 | " |
| Fitzroy | Dorrigo | 126,494 | 86 0 0 | 79 12 9 | 165 12 9 | Cedar. |
| " | Orara | | 14 0 0 | .. | 14 0 0 | " |
| Macquarie | Cowarra | 137,537 | 13 0 0 | 17 3 7 | 30 3 7 | Blackbutt, tallow-wood. |
| " | No. 233 | .. | 5 10 0 | ..... | 5 10 0 | |
| " | Ocean | 70,760 | .. | 8 16 10 | 8 16 10 | Blackbutt. |
| Mitchell | Gullenbah | 76,450 | 7 10 0 | 38 4 6 | 45 14 6 | Pine. |
| Pottinger | No. 1,665 | 61,039 | 7 0 0 | 16 5 3 | 23 5 3 | " |
| " | No. 743 | 7,490 | 2 0 0 | 1 16 9 | 3 16 9 | " |
| " | No. 1,270 | 1,450 | 1 10 0 | 1 9 0 | 2 19 0 | " |
| St. Vincent | Tomago | .. | 50 0 0 | ..... | 50 0 0 | |
| Townsend | Gulpa Island | 383,448 | 34 13 7 | 236 10 2 | 271 3 9 | Red gum. |
| " | Millewa | 433,062 | 71 10 0 | 241 2 7 | 312 12 7 | " |
| Urana | No. 1,833 | 98,727 | 4 10 0 | 49 7 4 | 53 17 4 | Pine. |
| " | Osborne | 7,516 | ..... | 3 15 0 | 3 15 0 | " |
| Wakool | Koondrook No. 1 | 577,120 | 9 10 0 | 354 8 8 | 363 18 8 | Red gum. |
| " | Barham | 1,459,188 | 328 0 0 | 730 11 4 | 1,058 11 4 | " |
| " | Sundry Village Reserves | | 2 10 0 | ..... | 2 10 0 | " |
| " | " | 12½ tons | .. | 3 12 6 | 3 12 6 | Wattle-bark. |
| | | 8,745,821 | 1,132 15 10 | 4,433 2 0 | 5,565 17 10 | |

SCHEDULE LXXXVIII—continued.

| County. | Reserve. | Quantity. | License Fee. | Royalty. | Total | Description of Timber. |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| ROYALTY AT PER TREE. | | | | | | |
| | | No. of trees. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | |
| Cadell | Moama | 18 | .. .. . | 4 16 0 | 4 16 0 | Red gum. |
| Clarence | Coldstream | 75 | .. .. . | 18 15 0 | 18 15 0 | |
| " | No. 406a | 60 | .. .. . | 24 0 0 | 24 0 0 | Ironbark. |
| Cumberland | No. 92 | 131 | .. .. . | 22 18 6 | 22 18 6 | Blackbutt, bangally. |
| " | No. 93 | 137 | .. .. . | 23 19 6 | 23 19 6 | " |
| Cooper | Darlington | 100 | .. .. . | 15 0 0 | 15 0 0 | Red gum. |
| Gloucester | Myall and Forster | 250 | .. .. . | 18 15 0 | 18 15 0 | |
| Pottinger | Doona | 92 | .. .. . | 4 12 0 | 4 12 0 | Pine, box, ironbark. |
| " | No. 1,665 ..... | ..... | .. .. . | 1 12 6 | 1 12 6 | |
| St. Vincent | Turpentine Range | 4 | .. .. . | 1 0 0 | 1 0 0 | Ironbark. |
| Townsend | Gulpa Island | 26 | .. .. . | 19 0 0 | 19 0 0 | Red gum. |
| " | Millewa | 56 | .. .. . | 34 0 0 | 34 0 0 | " |
| Wakool | Edwards River | 22 | .. .. . | 11 0 0 | 11 0 0 | " |
| " | Wakool | 7 | .. .. . | 1 15 0 | 1 15 0 | |
| | Sundry Village Reserves | 229 | .. .. . | 43 19 6 | 43 19 6 | Blackbutt, redwood, spotted gum. |
| | | 1,207 | .. .. . | 245 3 0 | 245 3 0 | |

WITHOUT ROYALTY.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|
| Permits—Classes A & B ..... | ..... | 1,064 10 0 | ..... | 1,064 10 0 |
| Miscellaneous ..... | ..... | 14 10 0 | ..... | 14 10 0 |
|  | ..... | 1,079 0 0 | ..... | 1,079 0 0 |

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Totals—License Fees | £2,211 15 10 |
| Royalty | 4,678 5 0 |
| | £6,890 0 10 |

SCHEDULE LXXXIX.

PROSECUTIONS Undertaken by Forest Rangers.

| Offence. | Number of Prosecutions. | Number of Convictions. | Amount of Penalty. |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Illegally cutting an removing timber | 162 | 130 | £ s. d. 113 3 8 |
| Quarrying or removing other materials | 9 | 8 | 7 0 0 |
| Trespass on Crown Lands | 9 | 4 | ..... |
| | *180 | 142 | 120 3 8 |

* Exclusive of prosecutions by other Crown Lands Bailiffs.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of cases in which timber and other material have been seized | 141 |
| Number of cases in which claims have been preferred to seized material | 28 |
| Number of cases in which claims have been confirmed | 27 |

SCHEDULE XC.
RETURN Showing Total Number and Class of Timber Reserves.

| | Number of Reserves. | Area in acres. |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Reserves, Class A, Regulations 10 to 12 | 616 | 3,501,226 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| " " B, " 13 to 15 | 7 | 48,740 |
| " " C, " 16 to 21 | 258 | 2,015,138 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| State Forests " 22 to 25 | 13 | 91,726 |
| | 894 | 5,656,831 $\frac{1}{8}$ |

Of this area 364,285 acres have been recommended for cancellation.

SCHEDULE XCI.
RETURN showing area and number of Reserves under supervision of the Forest Rangers.

| Locality | Forest Ranger. | No of Reserves. | Area in Acres. |
|---|---|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Richmond and Tweed River | T. W. Wilson, Lismore | 52 | 241,150 |
| Upper Richmond | T. H. Green, Casino | 27 | 237,494 |
| Clarence | F. P. Huxham, Grafton, and Assistant Ranger F. M. C. Forster, Grafton | 23 | 167,234 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Northern New England and East part of Gwydir | E. J. Deverell, Glen Innes, and Assistant Ranger W. Byron, Inverell | 35 | 252,859 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Nambuccera and Bellinger River | W. Mecham, Boat Harbour | 9 | 174,817 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Kempsey | W. MacDonald, Kempsey | 7 | 85,764 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Gunnedah and Tamworth | H. W. Powell, Gunnedah | 23 | 207,065 |
| Armidale and Walcha | R. L. Siddins, Armidale | 57 | 274,355 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Port Macquarie | G. R. Brown, Port Macquarie | 14 | 71,969 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Myall and Gloucester Rivers | A. Rudder, Booral | 3 | 24,679 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Hunter River | E. Cobercroft, Singleton | 16 | 98,757 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Mudgee and Cassilis | P. Cullen, Mudgee | 17 | 51,205 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Dubbo | Assistant Ranger, W. Coulter, Dubbo | 19 | 231,380 |
| Condobolin | T. Kidston, Condobolin | 26 | 150,549 |
| Upper Lachlan | R. Stevenson, Cowra; Assistant Rangers, R. Cork, Forbes, and J. G. Postlethwaite, Grenfell | 82 | 303,933 |
| Penrith and Hartley | J. Noake, Penrith (J. Wilson, caretaker) | 13 | 120,189 |
| Lower Namoi and West part of Gwydir | T. H. B. M'Gee, Narrabri, and Assistant Ranger G. King, Coonamble | 63 | 927,336 |
| Brisbane Water and Wollombi | J. Martin, Gosford, and Assistant Ranger Brunker, Cooranbong | 13 | 83,837 |
| Mittagong and Camden | H. O. Rotton, Bowral | 24 | 42,069 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Shoalhaven, Monaro, and South Coast | J. S. Allan, Ulladulla, and Assistant Ranger T. Musgrave, Candelo | 112 | 425,435 |
| Queanbeyan and Goulburn | T. M. Evans, Queanbeyan | 18 | 90,635 |
| Gundagai, Wagga Wagga, Albury, and Tumberumba | J. S. Taylor, Wagga Wagga, and Assistant J. Ward, Adelong | 60 | 582,917 |
| Narrandera and Urana | J. G. Condell, Narrandera; assisted by Ranger Shadforth, Urana | 77 | 250,151 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Murray, Edward, and Wakool Rivers | J. A. Manton, Moama; assisted by Rangers O. Wilshire, Denliquin; S. Payten, Tocumwall; J. Guilfoyle, Moama; and Assistant W. Cousins, Koondrook | 79 | 458,364 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Silverton | J. Saunders (Acting Forest Ranger), Broken Hill | 11 | 32,075 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Cumberland | J. M'Keown, Petersham, Cumberland Ranger | 1 | 32,000 |
| ..... | Not under special supervision | 13 | 29,254 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| | | 894 | 5,656,831 $\frac{1}{8}$ |

SCHEDULE XCII.
RETURN of Timber Reserves notified during the year 1887.

| County. | No. | Area in Acres | Names of principal kinds of Timber. | Report and general remarks. |
|--------------------------------|------|---------------|--|---|
| Ashburnham | 3513 | 9,670 | Ironbark, stringy-bark, box, and pine | |
| Do | 4335 | 414 | ..... | Also a T.S. and Camping Reserve. |
| Brisbane | 3275 | 1,750 | Ironbark and gum | |
| Benarba | 3422 | 1,552 | Pine | |
| Blaxland | 3556 | 1,200 | do | Densely timbered; good quality. |
| Bathurst | 3814 | 744 | Stringybark | |
| Do | 4376 | 40 | ..... |  |
| Bland | 3973 | 6,040 | Pine, ironbark, and box | Identical with that portion of F.R. No. 1825, revoked 27th July, 1887. Includes part of F.R. 303A, revoked. |
| Bourke | 3924 | 1,420 | Box and gum | |
| Baradine | 4522 | 61,800 | Pine | |
| Buller, Drake, and Clive | 4406 | 14,300 | Ironbark, messmate, woollybutt, gum, oak, &c. | Heavily timbered in places. |
| Clyde and Leichhardt | 3421 | 12,150 | Pine | In lieu of Nos 1651 and 1632. |
| Cooper | 4157 | 605 | do | Superior quality. |
| Do | 4158 | 840 | do | |
| Do | 4159 | 1,920 | do | |
| Do | 4160 | 3,600 | do | |
| Do | 4161 | 3,840 | do | |
| Clive and Gough | 4745 | 4,400 | Woollybutt, messmate, blue gum, gray gum, sassafras, white wood, and oak | |
| Dampier | 2975 | 1,600 | Redwood or peppermint, woollybutt, messmate, mountain-ash, and box | In lieu of No. 1002. |
| Denison | 4504 | 48 | ..... |  |

SCHEDULE XCII—continued.

| County | No | Area in Acres | Names of principal kinds of Timber | Report and general remarks. |
|------------------------|------|---------------|--|---|
| Durham | 2199 | 80 | . | Within the boundaries of F.R., No 202. |
| Do | 3132 | 1,280 | ..... | The Clarence Town Common. |
| Do | 3496 | 7,000 | Gray and red gum, stringybark, and prickly-leaved tea-tree | |
| Dudley | 3753 | 16,000 | Blackbutt, mahogany, cedar, &c. ... | Adjoins Styx River F R. |
| Forbes and Monteagle | 3176 | 900 | Ironbark, white and yellow box, white gum, stringybark, and black pine | Good quality. |
| Fitzroy | 3298 | 640 | ... | In lieu of No. 28; within the Dorrigo Forest Reserve. |
| Farnell and Mootwingee | 3918 | 960 | Gum | |
| Gordon | 3060 | 125 | Ironbark | Adjoins F.R., No. 3. |
| Gough | 3446 | 23,000 | Stringy-bark, messmate, woollybutt, blackbutt, blue gum, and wattle | Well timbered. |
| Gipps ... | 3211 | 2,800 | | |
| Kennedy | 4188 | 1,040 | Pine, ironbark, and box | |
| Lincoln | 3997 | 6,000 | Ironbark | |
| Murchison | 3061 | 24,500 | Stringy-bark and blue gum | In lieu of No. 1265. |
| Macquarie | 4208 | 4 | White cedar and plum | } Required for recreation purposes for the village of Wingham. |
| Do | 4225 | 6½ | do do | |
| Do | 4226 | 7¼ | do do | |
| Nandewar | 3974 | 17,300 | Pine and ironbark | In lieu of No. 2153. |
| Nicholson | 3732 | 335 | Pine | |
| Northumberland | 3797 | 65 | | |
| Pottanger | 3947 | 2,877 | Pine | |
| Raleigh | 4780 | 2,500 | ... | Includes that portion of the Nambuccera Forest Reserve, cancelled 4/9/86. |
| Richmond | 4441 | 168 | | |
| Rous | 4262 | 1,413 | | |
| Do | 4353 | 74,240 | Tallow-wood, bloodwood, pine, cedar, and scrub timbers | In lieu of No. 251. |
| Do | 4354 | 240 | ... | Adjoins F.R. 1152. |
| Sandon | 3443 | 213½ | Stringy-bark | |
| Do | 4768 | 17,000 | ... | |
| St. Vincent | 3959 | 660 | Spotted gum, blackbutt, woollybutt, turpentine, and stringy-bark | |
| Townsend | 3034 | 189 | Box, pine, and willow | } Required for shade and shelter. |
| Do | 3035 | 360 | do do | |
| Waljeers | 3018 | 120 | ... | |
| Do | 3019 | 320 | ... | |
| Do | 3020 | 80 | ... | |
| White | 4533 | 21,130 | Pine | |
| | | 351,486½ | | |

SCHEDULE XCIII.

RETURN showing Timber Reserves cancelled during the year ending 31st December, 1887.

| County | Number | Area in Acres. | Remarks. |
|------------|--------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Bland | 1832 | 360 | |
| Bligh | 130 | 368¼ | |
| Dampier | 1002 | 2,500 | No. 2975 notified in lieu. |
| Dudley | 2311 | 6½ | Dedicated for timber and recreation. |
| Durham | 3132 | 1,280 | |
| Fitzroy | 28 | 640 | |
| Goulburn | 3016 | 105 | |
| Leichhardt | 1651 | 1,280 | |
| do | 1652 | 1,280 | |
| Nandewar | 1265 | 15,360 | No. 3061 notified in lieu. |
| do | 2153 | 17,300 | |
| Rous | 1197 | 200 | |
| do | 257 | 640 | |
| do | 1034 | 14,220 | |
| do | 1178 | 43 | |
| do | 251 | 56,320 | No. 4353 notified in lieu. |
| do | 1181 | 300 | |
| Wellington | 168 | 640 | |
| Wakool | 2046 | 3,200 | |
| Wellesley | 343 | 640 | |
| | | 116,683¼ | Total area in acres. |

SCHEDULE XCIII.

RETURN showing portions of Timber Reserves cancelled during the year ending 31st December, 1887.

| County. | Number. | Area in Acres | County. | Number | Area in Ac. es. |
|----------------------|---------|---------------|-------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Bland | 3,056 | 1 | Rous | 1,198 | 48½ |
| Brisbane | 1,266 | 9 | Richmond | 45A | 130 |
| Clarence | 1,039 | 160 | Raleigh | 110 | 5 |
| do | 214A | 585 | do | 110 | 3½ |
| do | 244A | 59 | do | 121 | 43 |
| Courallie | 949 | 260 | St. Vincent | 103 | 1,020 |
| Dudley | 110 | 19 | Townsend | 3,265 | 78 |
| Fitzroy | 377 | 28,600 | Urara | 2,598 | 218 |
| do | 135 | 10 | Wakool | 3,253 | 1,747 |
| do | 1,014A | 114 | do | 1,790 | 114½ |
| Gloucester | 171 | 195 | do | 1,787 | 22 |
| do | 171 | 23½ | do | 2,125 | 12 |
| Gresham | 1,549 | 100 | do | 3,103 | 66 |
| Nicholson | 2,865 | 335 | do | 3,260 | 870 |
| Northumberland | 207A | 10 | do | 3,259 | 500 |
| Pottinger | 17 | 2,340 | Yancowinna | 4 | 4½ |
| Rous | 1,029 | 129½ | | | |
| do | 1,164 | 129½ | | | |
| do | 1,199 | 129½ | | | |
| | | | | | 38,096½ |

SCHEDULE XCIV.

RETURN SHOWING CLASSIFICATION OF TIMBER RESERVES.

CLASS A—(Timber Regulations 10 to 12)—Includes all Timber Reserves not placed in Classes B or C, or not proclaimed State Forests. (See Regulations Nos. 7 and 8, of 28th August, 1885).

CLASS B—(Timber Regulations 13 to 15).

| County. | Parish | Number. | Name. | Area in Acres | Date of Notice. |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Auckland | Cobra and Yuramine | 337 | Myrtle Creek .. | 2,595 | 16th April, 1836 |
| Bourke | Beaconsfield and Trickett | 2,784 | Do | 8,440 | 24th December, 1835. |
| Do | Northcote and Ingalba | 2,785 | Do | 16,000 | 1st October, 1885. |
| Clarence | Elland and Lanitza | 406A | Clarence | 3,921 | 6th September, 1886. |
| Durham | Goorangoola | 79 | Ravensworth .. | 1,184 | 29th March, 1887. |
| Pottinger | Bomera | 2,124 | Do | 9,600 | 8th November, 1887. |
| Westmoreland | Vulcan, Mozart, and Balfour .. | 90 | Do | 7,000 | 28th October, 1887. |
| | | | | 49,740 | |

CLASS C—(Timber Regulations 16 to 21).

| County. | Parish. | No. of Reserve | Area in Acres | County. | Parish. | No. of Reserve | Area in Acres |
|------------------------------------|--|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--|----------------|---------------|
| Ashburnham | Waugan | 2030 | 190 | Boyd | Argoon | 1754 | 1692½ |
| Auckland and Wellesley | Mila, Lawson, Gulgin, & Bondi | 385 | 1440 | Do | Mygotha | 1755 | 640 |
| Auckland | Werriberri | 591 | 1000 | Do | Do | 1756 | 1052½ |
| Do | Mumbulla, Bega, and Brogo | 996 | 350 | Do | D6 | 1757 | 538 |
| Do | Mumbulla | 1003 | 2920½ | Do | Eunanbrennan | 1884 | 937 |
| Baradine and White | Belmore, Coghill, Cook, Cap, Mollee Gowie, Bohena, Quinn, Boral, Merrimborough, Anson, Dampier, and Newable. | 1273 | 139500 | Do | Cararbury | 1905 | 2210 |
| Bathurst | Tintern | 184 | 2923 | Do | Waddi | 1997 | 1207½ |
| Benarba | Banarway | 814 | 2500 | Do | do | 2258 | 1200 |
| Beresford | Murrumbucka | 266 | 960 | Buccleuch | Adjunbilly and Wyangle | 3177 | 18900 |
| Do | Bulgundramine | 287 | 2500 | Castell | Moama and Bama | 3252 | 6500 |
| Do | Gladstone | 438A | 20½ | *Do | Bama, Gulpa, and Moira | 3253 | 24230 |
| Bland and Harden | Congon and Jundalee | 1274 | 3260 | Do | Toorangabby, Tomara, Burrumburry, Tantonan, & Thule. | 3254 | 51200 |
| Bland & Monteagle | Euroka, Marowie, Bimbi, and Weddin. | 1855 | 31560 | Do | Perricoota | 3255 | 810 |
| Bligh | Warung and Gunna | 142 | 1970 | Do | Wollongong | 33A | 580 |
| Do | Warung | 143 | 2150 | Do | Burrawang | 43A | 59 |
| Bligh, Pottinger, and Napier | Brennan, &c. | 646 | 6720 | Do | Wonona, Dendrobium, and Cordeaux (that part exempted by notice of 21st October, 1881). | 57 | 24500 |
| Bourke | Kindra | 23 | 1500 | Do | Jamberoo and Kiama | 78 | 202 |
| Do | Cottee and Coolaman | 24 | 7000 | Do | Jamberoo | 112 | 200 |
| Do | Hooke, Ganmain, and Kockibertoo (that part notified 22nd August, 1877) | 1251 | 9246 | Do | Wallaya | 119 | 4840 |
| Do | Robertson | 1439 | 25555 | Do | Bumberra | 121A | 120 |
| Do | Ashbridge, Dulah, and Devlin | 2652 | 61700 | Do | Broughton and Wallaya | 122 | 410 |
| Brisbane | Watt and Campbell | 95A | 3602½ | Do | Broughton | 155 | 15 |
| Boyd | Uri | 180 | 1400 | Do | do | 156 | 52 |
| Do | Cararbury | 182 | 1230 | Do | do | 157 | 60 |
| Do | Coleambally | 1731 | 1566 | Do | Broughton and Wallaya | 163 | 2963 |
| | | | | Do | Cambewarra | 173 | 100 |
| | | | | Do | Bumberra and Cambewarra | 174 | 350 |
| | | | | Do | Jamberoo and Kangaloor | 175 | 1600 |
| | | | | Do | Cambewarra | 209 | 1000 |
| | | | | Do | do | 231 | 370 |

* Part proclaimed a State Forest.

SCHEDULE XCIV—continued,

CLASS C—continued.

| County. | Parish | No of Reserve | Area in Acres | County | Parish | No. of Reserve | Area in Acres |
|--------------------------|---|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|---|----------------|---------------|
| Cook | Irvine | 33 | 160 | Gipps | Towjal | 1436 | 345 |
| Do | do | 201 | 61 | Goulburn | Cookardina and Jerra Jerra (that part notified 13th February, 1877). | 1743 | 4160 |
| Do | do | 202 | 28 | | | | |
| Clark | Big Hill, George, Clarke, Geogla, Styx, Serpentine, and Cunnawarra. | 1662 | 45000 | Goulburn and Mitchell. | Jerra Jerra, Palletop, and Maclean. | 3017 | 9370 |
| Do | Snowy and Serpentine | 1663 | 17000 | Gough | Yarraford (that part notified 15th September, 1884). | 746 | 130 |
| Clarence | 21 Islands in Clarence River | 38 | 1181 | Gordon | Belmor, Strathorn, Green bank, and Hyandra. | 1096 | 38100 |
| Do | Banyabba, Richmond, and Lawrence | 242 | 11350 | Gordon and Narrorwmine. | Caloma and Belmore | 1117 | 2880 |
| Do | Tyndale, Cunoulum, and Cold stream. | 243 | 16000 | Gowen | Eranganorin, Breeclong, Biralburg, Mundar, Dilly, and Yalcogrin. | 1690 | 35000 |
| Do | Glen Ugie | 244A | 8320 | Gregory | Gandyngadel (that part notified 6th August, 1883). | 1355 | 1920 |
| Do | Great Marlow | 260 | 71 | (See Ewenmar and Gregory). | | | |
| Do | Southgate | 353 | 4430 | Gresham | Urana and Springbrook | 1542 | 6400 |
| Do | Woodford | 394 | 20 | Do | Urana, Springbrook, & Barool | 1608 | 24960 |
| Do | Elland and Lamitza | 406A | 3921 | Harden | Bowring and Woolgailo | 1561 | 8000 |
| Do | Chapman | 2123 | 13380½ | Harden and Monteagle. | | 2393 | 6237 |
| Cumberland | Bulgo and Heathcote | 110 | 5742 | (See Bland and Harden). | | | |
| Do | do | 2066 | 32000 | (See Clarendon and Harden). | | | |
| Courallie | Weebullabulla, Menandool, and Bundawitludie. | 948 | 800 | Hardinge | Ashton | 939 | 600 |
| Do | Carore | 1059 | 2700 | Hawes | Dewitt, Coff, and Woko | 666 | 22314 |
| Cooper | Grong Grong | 310 | 2240 | Hume | Morebringer | 1607 | 320 |
| Do | Binga, Binya, and Stanbridge. | 2740A | 30000 | Do | Collendina | 1788 | 270 |
| Do | Coolaragang and Cuba | 2984 | 1020 | Do | Collendina and Corowa | 1854 | 720 |
| Do | Cuba and Hulong | 2985 | 5038 | Lincoln | Murrungundie, Bald Hill, and Yarrerdcerry. | 629 | 10560 |
| Do | Dallas | 2986 | 300 | Do | Dubbo | 1671 | 20 |
| Do | Dallas, Gogeldrie, and Yarranger. | 2987 | 6560 | Do | do | 1672 | 20 |
| Do | Yarranger | 2988 | 3820 | Do | Lincoln, Breeclong, Breeclong South, and Balladoian. | 1689 | 37630 |
| Do | Coolaragang | 2992 | 880 | Leichhardt | Moorambilla and Moolambong | 923 | 3300 |
| Do | Dallas | 2993 | 2200 | Do | Toooloon and Nelgowrie | 1720 | 880 |
| Do | Barralong | 3037 | 3200 | Mitchell | Cuddell, Gillenbah, Wood, and Corobumilla. | 1890 | 13278 |
| Clarendon and Harden. | Buna, Multama, Mitta Mitta and Ullandra. | 2284 | 1920 | Do | Mundow and Berry Jerry | 3232 | 11200 |
| Dampier | Bodalla (that part notified 27th July, 1875). | 249 | 380 | Mitchell and Urana | Waugh, Clyde, Wood, and Birrigo. | 3053 | 8320 |
| Do | Wagonga | 307 | 3595½ | (See Goulburn and Mitchell) | | | |
| Drake | Fairfield and Timbarra | 248 | 31360 | Macquarie | Burrawan (that part notified 9th February, 1880). | 33 | 4860 |
| Do | Mookimer and Rodham | 537 | 38400 | Do | Macquarie | 233 | 340 |
| Drake & Richmond | Pickapene, Alice, Coongbar, Wyon, and Busby. | 379 | 10365 | Do | Queenslake and Burrowan. (Included within the Co-warra Forest Reserve No. 33) | 235 | 3840 |
| Denison | Cottadidda | 107 | 270 | Do | Wingen | 4208 | 4 |
| Do | Warmatta | 1592 | 640 | Do | Do | 4225 | 6½ |
| Do | Boomanoomana | 1639 | 400 | Do | Do | 4226 | 7½ |
| Do | Turrama | 2386 | 370 | Menundie | | 1 | 1900 |
| Do | Mulwala and Turramia | 3208 | 1340 | (See Bland and Monteagle). | | | |
| Do | Boomanoomana | 3209 | 960 | (See Gordon and Narrorwmine). | | | |
| Do | do | 3210 | 2100 | (See Bligh, Pottinger, and Napie). | | | |
| Do | do | 3211 | 108 | Northumberland | Corrabarre and Congewai | 46 | 16000 |
| Do | Cottadidda | 3212 | 300 | Do | Congewai, Stowe, Olney, Dora, and Mandolong. | 70 | 23446 |
| Do | do | 3213 | 280 | Do | Mulbring and Teralba | 69A | 6400 |
| Do | do | 3214 | 150 | Do | Ourinbah | 129 | 6560 |
| Do | Baronga | 3215 | 2500 | Do | Eglinton and Narara | 123 | 1280 |
| Do | Cottadidda | 3240 | 103 | Pottinger | Doona (that part notified 25th January, 1876). | 743 | 5120 |
| Do | Tocumwal | 3241 | 400 | Do | Curlewis | 1027 | 2000 |
| Do | Woperana | 3242 | 360 | Do | Denison and Denison West (that part notified 18th February, 1881). | 1271 | 22710 |
| Darham | Goorangoola | 79 | 1184 | Do | Nez, Cliff, and Breeza (includes part of water Reserve No 523). | 1665 | 19070 |
| Do | Dyrring and Broughton | 195 | 1250 | (See Bligh, Napier, and Pottinger). | | | |
| Do | Mount Royal and Liebeg | 196 | 10000 | Phillip | Price and Botobolar | 30 | 5115 |
| Dudley | Cunnawarra, Comara, Lignum, Nulla Nulla, Peedee, and Moulas. | 158 | 80000 | Raleigh | Unkya | 70 | 3200 |
| Ewenmar | Galargambone | 1555 | 500 | (See Fitzroy and Raleigh) | | | |
| Do | Warrie | 1556 | 1480 | Richmond | West Coraki and Ellangowan | 625 | 3900 |
| Ewenmar and Gregory. | Galargambone and Tailby (that part notified 6th August, 1833). | 1138 | 1010 | Do | Ellangowan and Darke | 974 | 3485 |
| Farnell | | 1 | 1100 | Rous | (See Drake and Richmond). | | |
| Farnell and Moortwinjie. | Byerkerro and Colola | 3918 | 960 | Do | 22 Islands in Tweed River and 6 in Richmond River. | 38 | 2360 |
| Fitzroy | Ermington | 259 | 3200 | Do | North Lismore and Dunnoon | 249 | 22660 |
| Do | Moonpar, Cope, Wirrie, Jardine, and Herbarn. | 354 | 48000 | Do | Nullam | 250 | 22400 |
| Do | Tyringham and Dorrigo | 355 | 5560 | Do | North Casmo (that part notified 15th September, 1881). | 255 | 2560 |
| Do | Bellinger, Coff, Macleay, and Moonee. | 642 | 6715½ | | | | |
| Fitzroy and Ruloigh. | Allan-Water, Vautin, Allan, Raleigh, Lec, & Bostobrick. | 377 | 23880 | | | | |
| Forbes | Morongla | 1143 | 5440 | | | | |
| Gloucester | Stockton | 171 | 600 | | | | |
| Gipps | Cadow | 1175 | 1250 | | | | |
| Do | Weelah and Yannel | 1287 | 3840 | | | | |
| Do | Ina | 1303 | 657½ | | | | |

SCHEDULE XCIV—continued.

CLASS C—continued

| County | Parish | No of Reserve | Area in Acres | County | Parish. | No of Reserve | Area in Acres |
|----------------------|--|---------------|---------------|--------------|---|---------------|---------------|
| Rous | Terrama | 256 | 396 | Wakool | Nooiong, Gonn, Moorangatta, Belmore, and Cobwell (that part notified 12th October, 1875). | 1445A | 21577½ |
| Do | Newrubar | 258 | 1280 | | | | |
| Do | In Tweed River (Stott's Island) | 335 | 350 | | | | |
| Do | | 4353 | 74240 | | | | |
| St Vincent | Currambene and Nowra) that part outside municipal boundaries of Shoalhaven). | 33 | 4480 | Do | Winter | 1454 | 1600 |
| Do | Yerriyong, Gerrawangala, Boolgah, and Dangera | 44 | 7580 | Do | Moorangatta, Toolmah, and Merran. | 1786 | 5440 |
| Do | Farnham and Cudmirrah | 45 | 14300 | Do | Wetuppa and Cunninyeuk | 1787 | 11952 |
| Do | Conjola | 115 | 51 | Do | Yarren, Kyalte, Moolpa Liewa, &c (that part notified 18th February, 1876). | 1790 | 10681 |
| Selwyn and Wynyard. | Hillas, Bago, Selwyn, King Buddong, Courabyra, and Yellowin (that part notified 17th November, 1884). | 1961 | 45500 | Do | Mallee | 1834 | 10 |
| | | | | Do | Thelaka (that part notified 21st March, 1879). | 2032 | 696 |
| Sturt | Bringagee, Wowong, and Benerambah. | 2989 | 4200 | Do | Nunnagoyt | 2066 | 536 |
| Do | Benerambah | 2990 | 600 | Do | Wetuppa | 3103 | 4944 |
| Tari | Moorna | 383 | 305 | *Do | Gonn, Nunnagoyt, Barham, Whymoul, Danberry, Can- gan, and Tiltit. | 3258 | 54853 |
| Tandora | | 1 | 720 | Do | Gnue | 3259 | 1820 |
| Do | | 2 | 368 | Do | Mellool | 3260 | 2760 |
| Townsend | Palmer | 16 | 84½ | Do | do | 3261 | 2240 |
| Do | Wureep | 3034 | 189 | | (See Townsend and Wakool) | | |
| Do | Mundiwa | 1404 | 1524½ | Wallace | Wulwey | 233 | 960 |
| Do | Ronald | 1458 | 3400 | Do | The Peak (that part notified 16th May, 1877) | 335 | 400 |
| Do | Benangalite, Morago, and Kerranakoon. | 1792 | 4549½ | Warradgery | Ulonga | 1823 | ½ |
| Do | Palmer | 1851 | 1280 | Do | Mungadel, Hay, South Hay, and East Warradgery | 2 | 13000 |
| Do | Dunkeld | 1879 | 1080 | Wellesley | Burumbucco | 282A | 4000 |
| Do | Mountaassie | 1880 | 3840 | Do | Cathcart | 322 | 120 |
| Do | Edgar | 1901 | 1941½ | Do | Ironmungy | 356 | 200 |
| Do | Campbell | 1902 | 1239½ | Do | Ironmungy and Burnaby (that part notified 8th February, 1878). | 366 | 658 |
| Do | Boyeo and Nallam | 3263 | 13500 | Do | Gecar | 411 | 420 |
| Do | Derulaman | 3264 | 4200 | Do | Bungarby and Peters | 428 | 4500 |
| Do | Towool, Bullatella, Caronalla, Bungooka, Tawarra, Nara- toolo, and Wonnue. | 3265 | 62102 | Do | Maringo and Meirangaah | 874 | 2350 |
| Townsend and Wakool. | Balpool, Yadabal, Wera, Co lmo, and Tumudgeriy. | 3262 | 38406 | | (See Auckland and Wellesley). | | |
| Do | Nallam, Nemur, Wetuppa, Worobyen, Towweieuk Neaoongaroo, Wandaiad get, Boyd, Nyan, Jimaringle, Barrabu, Balpool, Yadabal, Gynong, and Chowar (that part notified 18th February 1876) | 2125 | 36348 | Westmoreland | Konangaroo and Genolan | 22 | 15360 |
| Urana | Yamma | 1456 | 1920 | Do | Bindo | 83 | 1520 |
| Do | Broome | 1648 | 320 | Do | Vulcan, Mozart, and Balfour | 90 | 7000 |
| Do | Butherwa | 1695 | 4800 | | (See Baradine and White). | | |
| Do | Yanko South | 1778 | 282½ | Wynyard | Murraguldrie and Kilgowla | 1705 | 14000 |
| Do | Do | 1779 | 551½ | Do | Gregado, Woomahrigong | 1871 | 1280 |
| Do | Do | 1780 | 1256 | Do | Gregado | 1872 | 640 |
| Do | Morundah (that part notified 26th November, 1879) | 1799 | 10080 | Do | Livingstone (that part notified 25th January, 1878). | 1873 | 1280 |
| Do | Clyde and Morundah | 1833 | 11630 | Do | Woomahrigong (that part noti- fied 25th January, 1878). | 1874 | 1920 |
| Do | Yanko | 1835 | 1075 | Do | Bulalgee and Casabost (that part notified 31st March, 1884). | 1918 | 22400 |
| Do | Widgewa and Urana | 2049 | 465½ | Yancowinna | Umberumberka, Bray Boman- galdry, Naradin, and Nad- buck | 4 | 960 |
| Do | Widgewa | 2103 | 40 | Do | | 5 | 10240 |
| Do | Palmer | 2216 | 1500 | Do | | 6 | 10240 |
| Do | do | 2217A | 1760 | Do | Albert and Victoria | 7 | 2560 |
| Do | Osborne (that part notified 20th April, 1881). | 2317 | 10216 | Do | Lewis, Mt Gipps, Stephen, Pictou, Cathcart, Moorhail, Bolarra, Tara, Stratford, Maharatta, Coombaralla, and Charlemont. | 8 | 1444 |
| Do | Clyde and Boree Creek | 2613 | 7950 | Do | Mt. Gipps, &c | 9 | 1568 |
| Do | Gunambil (that part notified 21st May, 1883). | 3052A | 336½ | | | | |
| Do | Palmer | 3105 | 3340 | | Total Area | | 2015138½ |

(See Mitchell and Urana).

SCHEDULE XCV.

RETURN showing Reserves proclaimed State Forests.

| County | Parish | Number of Reserve | Name | Area in Acres | Date of Proclamation |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Bourke | Elliot, Kochibertoo, and Matong | 1421 | Matong | 13,280 | 26th May, 1885. |
| Cadell | Moirra, Gulpa, and Bama | 3253 | Moirra | 12,510 | 17th February, 1886. |
| Denison | Wahgunyah | 1591 | Wahgunyah | 4,120 | 21st July, 1885. |
| Do | Warmatta | 3144 | Warmatta | 740 | 21st " " |
| Do | Mulwala, and Turramina | 3216 | Mulwala | 4,396 | 22nd April, 1886 |
| Do | Mulwala | 3216 | Mulwala Exten sion. | 100 | 22nd September, 1886. |
| Hume | Gordon | 1714 | Coreen | 2,080 | 13th August, 1886. |
| Lincoln | Lincoln | 1688 | Breelong | 9,160 | 13th February, 1886 |
| Macquarie | Redbank | 234 | Redbank | 610 | 19th June, 1885 |
| Northumberland | Olney and Stowe | 70 | Olney | 9,700 | 5th November, 1887. |
| Richmond | Cairncross | 45A | Tatham | 630 | 4th March, 1886. |
| St Vincent | Tomago, Mogendoura, and Mullendaree | 99 | Tomago | 6,000 | 13th February, 1887. |
| Townsend | Bungooka | 3265 | Mullewa | 6,400 | 7th January, 1887. |
| Wakool | Barham, Tittil, and Cangan | 3258 | Barham | 22,000 | 8th October, 1886 |
| | | | | 91,726 | |

SCHEDULE XCVI.

RETURN showing Lands exempted from the operation of Wood-cutters' or Cedar Licenses

In addition to the lands specified in the 2nd Timber Regulations of 18th August, 1885, the following lands have been notified in the Government Gazette as being exempted from the operation of wood cutters' or cedar licenses.

| County | Parish | Area in Acres | Date of Gazette Notice | Particulars of Land |
|---------------------------|---|---------------|------------------------|---|
| Clarence | Elland, Clarenza, and Southampton | | 24 Sept, 1886. | All Crown Lands within the population boundary of South Gaiton |
| Cumberland | Southerland* | | 24 Dec, 1877 | All Crown Reserves in the Parish. |
| " | Bulgo, Heathcote, and Southend | | 4 Mar, 1885 | Crown Lands |
| " | Londonderry | | 29 Oct, 1877 | All Crown Lands in the Parish |
| " | Hunter's Hill and Field of Maas | 6,235 | 4 Nov, 1879 | Field of Maas Common. |
| " | Hunter's Hill* | 170 | 22 Dec, 1879 .. | Lunatic Asylum Reserves. |
| " | Bulgo and Heathcote | 100 | 20 April, 1885 | Railway Reserve No 93. |
| " | Heathcote | 156 | 28 May, 1886 | Railway Reserve No 92 |
| " | Botany | | 23 Nov, 1886 | Crown Lands lying south of the Church and School Lands and the Bunnerong Estate |
| Dampier .. . . . | .. . . . | 300 | 5 Mar, 1886 .. | Reserve No. 440 |
| Gloucester | Wang Wauk, Kyle, Gooloongook, Curreeki, Teleraree, Bachelor, Wallengat, Forster, Topi, and Booloombay† | 217 600 | 29 Sept., 1877 | Myall and Wallis Lakes Gold-field Reserve No. 29. |
| " | Neerong, Willabah, Myall and Euthert | | 24 Sept, 1886 | |
| Leichhardt | Euroka and Youendah | 4,700 | 8 Dec, 1884 . | On the bank of the Baiwon River |
| Macquarie | Torrens | | 2 June, 1885 . | Within the population boundary of Port Macquarie. |
| Northumberland | Awaba, Teralba, and Stockrington | 3,080 | 22 Feb, 1887. | Reserves 838, 105 and 106 |
| Denison and Hume .. . . . | .. . . . |  | 9 Dec, 1886 | All pine on lands for which permission to ringbark has been granted in the Land District of Corowa. |
| Pottanger | Doubleda | 30 | 2 Oct, 1885 | Reserve No 7. |
| Rous .. . . . | .. . . . | 175 | 18 Dec., 1887 | Reserve No. 545 |
| Uiana .. . . . | .. . . . | 640 | 28 June, 1887. | Reserve No. 4, "Colombo Dam" |
| Wynyard | Wagga Wagga | 1,000 | 19 Aug, 1884 .. | Travelling Stock Reserve No 3,027 |
| Yancowinna | Alma and Soudan | | 28 Oct, 1887 | Within 2 chains of the Gum Creeks, on Homestead Lease No 86 5 |
| " .. . . . | .. . . . |  | 8 Nov, 1887. | Within 2 chains of the Gum Creeks, on Homestead Lease No 86 4 |
| Young .. . . . | .. . . . | 1,600 | 20 June, 1879 | Part of Wilcanmia Population Reserve (Census of 1871). |
| " .. . . . | .. . . . |  | 14 Oct, 1878 | Lord Howe Island |

* Timber cutting prohibited

† Timber cut under timber cutters' licenses, Class A, Regs 10 to 12

SCHEDULE XCVII.

APPROXIMATE STATEMENT of Area of Land Alienated and Unalienated in the Colony on 31st December, 1887.

| | Acres. |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Area alienated in all forms prior to 1861 | 7,338,539 |
| 2. Area alienated by Auction and After Auction Selection from 1861 to 31st December, 1887 | 12,825,886 |
| 3. Area alienated by Improvement Purchase during same period | 2,692,783 |
| 4. Area alienated by Conditional Purchase during same period, for which deeds have issued | 1,415,404 |
| 5. Area alienated by all other forms during same period, including lands dedicated | 1,206,638 |
| | <hr/> |
| Area alienated up to 31st December, 1887 | 25,479,250 |
| 6. Estimated area of unalienated land in the Colony on 31st December, 1887 | 170,402,900 |
| | <hr/> |
| Estimated area of Colony | 195,882,150 |
| * Area under incomplete conditional purchase up to 31st December, 1887, exclusive of forfeitures, lapsings, cancellations, and voidances | 16,220,469 |

* Represents the figures in Schedule XXXVIII minus the 4th item in the above Schedule XCVII.

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

Sir,

Surveyor-General's Office, Sydney, 16 July, 1888.

I have the honor to submit the Annual Report of this office for the year 1887.

The Surveyors employed during the year were classified as follows:—Fifteen district surveyors, Survey Staff. ten first-class surveyors, thirty-six second-class surveyors, twenty-two licensed surveyors, temporarily on salary, 146 licensed surveyors paid by fees.

During the year the following alterations took place in the permanent salaried staff, viz.:—The Retirements. Surveyor-General, Mr. P. F. Adams; The Deputy Surveyor-General, Mr. R. D. Fitzgerald; Messrs. W. A. B. Greaves, and F. B. W. Woolrych, district surveyors; and Messrs. J. M. Kelly, O. Fariola de Rozzoli, and W. Sim, second-class surveyors, retired from the service under the provisions of the Civil Service Act.

Messrs. P. F. Smyth, W. M. Thompson, and T. H. H. Goodwin, surveyors, resigned their positions, Resignations and Removals. and Mr. J. Anderson, second-class surveyor, was relieved from duty on 29th November.

Mr. W. H. Nash, surveyor on the first-class, for many years employed in the environs of Sydney, died 28th June.

There were no new appointments to the salaried staff of surveyors.

The employment, on temporary salary, of Messrs. C. W. Horneman, E. C. S. Chapman, C. F. Surveyors temporarily employed on salary discontinued. Garvan, J. Pool, E. H. Johnson, G. MacCallum, and G. M. Stafford, licensed surveyors, was discontinued during the year. There were no new appointments under this class of employment.

Licensed surveyor G. W. Dewdney, who had been employed temporarily on salary, died 15th June.

Licenses under the Real Property Act were issued to 277 surveyors, under the hand of Mr. License to survey under Lands Titles Act. Special Board. Surveyor-General Adams, lately retired.

A Board, consisting of the Acting Surveyor-General, the district surveyor at Bourke, and the field astronomer was appointed by the Minister, to consider and report on Mr. Chard's proposal to compute certain tables to facilitate determination of the true north by solar observations. A meeting was convened on 2nd September, at which Mr. Chard was present to explain and illustrate his proposal, and after due conference the Board did not advise the adoption of Mr. Chard's tables as desirable to supersede the more exact method by stellar observations; moreover, in view of the prospects of survey it was doubtful whether such a saving in expenditure would result as would warrant the outlay in respect of compilation and publication of tables. The proposal was declined.

Two meetings of the Board of Examiners of candidates for license to survey were held.

At the examination held in July thirty-eight candidates presented themselves, of whom eleven Board of examiners for licensed surveyors. proved to be qualified, and were accordingly recommended, and were duly appointed:—

Messrs. W. Dyer

F. H. Geisow

E. C. Jones

J. P. Sharkey

H. M. Chrisp

E. B. Thornbury

Messrs. C. A. Owen

R. V. O'Shea

J. Cumming

J. I. Haycroft

J. M. Dixon

Three candidates, part of whose examination had been deferred from previous meetings, were examined *viva voce*, and two of them, viz., Messrs. W. H. Howard and R. H. Broadhurst, were recommended, and were duly appointed.

Consideration was also given to the desirableness of enlarging the scope of examination, and also to the necessity for increasing the term of candidates' field service. Upon due representation of the circumstances, the Minister approved of an enlargement of the list of qualifications which should apply to examinations subsequent to the then next ensuing Board meeting in December.

At the examination held in December, thirty-six candidates presented themselves, of whom two retired. Eighteen proved efficient and were recommended, and were duly appointed, viz.:—

Messrs. M. Herbert

C. Paul

A. Vine

A. Middleton

J. N. Oberg

A. W. Bucknell

N. Chalmers

A. E. A. Hall

J. A. Harrison

Messrs. L. V. d'Apicé

H. F. Hall

D. C. White

J. G. Fitzgerald

J. Wellford

F. F. King

P. E. Bailey

H. F. T. Bode

J. M. Pillars

At both meetings of the Board communications from the Board of Examiners in South Australia were considered. These had reference to a proposition on part of the Board in South Australia to make a license issued in that Colony a sufficient qualification for a license in New South Wales and *vice versa*. But in view of the different systems of survey, the higher standard of efficiency required under this Department, and the desirableness of having a more precise knowledge of a surveyor's competency than would be afforded by mere inspection of a license, it was decided to advise that the proposal be not acceded to—and it was declined accordingly.

TRIGONOMETRICAL SURVEY BRANCH.

During the month of January the triangulation of the counties Camden and Cumberland, so far as stations had been fixed, was completed.

The determination, astronomically, of the latitude and longitude of certain selected places in the Colony was then proceeded with, and during the year seven stations were thus fixed, as set forth in the tabular statement appended.

The importance of ascertaining the actual area of the Colony has been kept in view, six out of the seven observing stations being along the coast—which is the remaining boundary not geodesically fixed. With the data now provided, probably but a small amount of survey will be required for a map to enable final computation of area—a matter which heretofore could not be disposed of, because each successive projection necessarily differed from the preceding one.

The results attained are satisfactory, and are valuable not only for the purpose before-mentioned but also for comparison with positions determined geodesically by triangulation.

These observing stations have been marked in a permanent manner, and are connected by traverse with adjacent surveys—so as to be available for compilation purposes whenever required.

This work is important, not alone to New South Wales, but also in its relation to the Continent,—and to the extent proposed, will probably be completed during the ensuing twelve months; and as an illustration of the immediate utility thereof, I may state that the geographical positions of the stations along the coast have, under approval of the Minister, been communicated to the Surveyor-General of Victoria; in response to his invitation for additional information to be incorporated in a new edition of the map of Continental Australia, which is published by the Lands Department, Melbourne.

A triangulated survey of Norfolk Island has been carried out at the instance of the Imperial Government, the field-work, computations, and final lithography of the map having been done under this Department.

Latitudes and Longitudes, New South Wales, 1887 :—

| Place. | Latitude. | | | Longitude. | | | Remarks. |
|----------------------|-----------|----|-------|------------|----|-------|--|
| | ° | ' | " | h. | m. | s. | |
| Toongarabah | 28 | 10 | 57.83 | 10 | 14 | 8.93 | On north bank of Tweed River, about 2 miles from the mouth, and near to Colony boundary. |
| Ballina | 28 | 51 | 57.20 | 10 | 14 | 22.06 | On north bank of Richmond River; about half-a-mile from the mouth. |
| Fernmount | 30 | 28 | 30.83 | 10 | 11 | 47.41 | On south bank of Bellinger River, about 7 miles from mouth. |
| Port Macquarie | 31 | 27 | 58.00 | 10 | 11 | 41.40 | About 1 mile westerly of Tacking Point Lighthouse. |
| Harrington | 31 | 52 | 25.81 | 10 | 10 | 46.45 | On north head of the Manning River. |
| Tathra | 36 | 43 | 51.26 | 9 | 59 | 51.50 | About 2 miles south-westerly of mouth of Bega River. |
| Tenterfield | 29 | 3 | 6.54 | 10 | 7 | 57.87 | Near south-west corner of portion 250, Tenterfield parish. |

GENERAL SURVEY.

County Cumberland.

The number of special surveys received during the year has been small, the majority of the surveys which have been dealt with having been made to meet other requirements. Twenty-one plans, specially relating to general survey of the county of Cumberland, have been prepared for construction of the general map of that county.

City and suburban survey.

A map, illustrating progress of city and suburban survey is annexed. Eighty-four plans in connection with the detailed survey of the city of Sydney and suburbs for water supply and sewerage purposes have been received and dealt with. These have been examined, and ninety sheets of this survey have been traced for lithographing, and sent to the printer. Of these, fifty-five sheets have been published, making a total up to the end of the year of 143 sheets published. The surveys of the city and suburbs received cover an area of 258 acres of the city, and 733 acres of the suburbs, so that there are now 1,942 acres of the city surveyed in detail, and 2,298 acres of the suburbs.

Plans of special purchases and reserves compared with trigonometrical survey.

A large number of plans of reclamations, water frontage reservations, reserves, alienation, and other surveys, have been received and compared with the trigonometrical survey during the year.

Parish maps, county Cumberland.

The construction of maps of a few of the parishes of the county of Cumberland has been carried to as forward a state as possible; but the backward state of surveys for connection has delayed publication, although several sheets are in print.

City of Sydney map.

A map of the city of Sydney has been prepared, which, it is thought, will prove useful to the general public as well as to the Department, embodying, as it does, a very large amount of information, the whole of which has been brought down to date of publication.

Work done for other Departments.

From April to September officers of the Admiralty were engaged in this office in preparation of a map of Port Jackson, to scale of 6 inches to the nautical mile. For this purpose a large plot of the principal trigonometrical stations was constructed. The maps of the general survey, which are to a larger scale, were placed at their disposal, and assistance was afforded in reducing them by means of the very complete instruments belonging to the Department.

Chart of Port Jackson.

New Guinea Expedition. Map of.

A map of that part of New Guinea explored by Mr. Theodore Bevan, F.R.G.S., in the Victory Expedition, was prepared. The material at command for this work consisted of notes and diaries kept by unprofessional men, so that considerable judgment was required to produce a useful map; and it must be gratifying to both Mr. Bevan and the officers constructing the map to find its accuracy so fully verified by subsequent surveys, made under the authority of the Queensland Government by a licensed surveyor of that Colony, who accompanied Mr. Bevan on the second expedition, from which he has just returned.

Norfolk Island. Map of.

The survey of Norfolk Island, made at the request of the Imperial Government, under Ministerial sanction, by a licensed surveyor of this Colony, defining the grants on the island, and a subdivision of the vacant land, has been examined. A lithograph of this map has been printed, of which copies have been supplied to the Commissioner.

Applications under the Real Property Act.

Applications for certificate of title under the Real Property Act, in respect of alienated areas adjoining Crown land, which have been referred to this Department by the Registrar-General, have been dealt with; and also cases, similarly referred, where error on the part of the Crown has been alleged.

Trigonometrical Survey. Station Register.

Reports on the erection of trigonometrical stations at and near Queanbeyan, and on the Hunter River, have been received, and their descriptions have been added to the Station Register.

CITY OF SYDNEY AND SUBURBS—DETAIL SURVEY FOR SEWERAGE, &c.

Alteration in method of survey.

During the last nine months of the year several material changes have been introduced into the method of operation, not only as regards actual survey, but also in respect of management. Of course any

any alteration in the conduct of so extensive a survey involved close supervision, and the effect is perceptible only during the latter half of the year. It fully realises the saving in cost which was expected, without deterioration in respect of accuracy.

In order to indicate concisely the effect of the alteration above indicated, a tabular statement is appended showing the amount done, and the average cost of alignment and city and environs surveys in 1887 as compared with 1886; and of the latter the accompanying lithograph shows in different tints the areas surveyed during those years. It may be borne in mind that, as the statement is for the whole year 1887, the comparison is not so favourable as if the latter half of the year only had been taken.

Alignment surveys for the purpose of determining kerb and building lines of streets in the suburban municipalities have progressed; three very extensive surveys, viz.,—Ryde, Burwood, and Marrickville, which had been in hand for some time, have been completed. Altogether during the year ninety-seven plans have been received, showing 230 miles 33 chains of building lines in 411 streets. These alignments have nearly all been marked in a permanent manner by posts or stone cubes, viz., 5,277. The building line which has been adopted as a convenient standard to indicate relative cost, as it is the final result of investigations, field-work, plan-drawing, &c., has cost on an average 5s. 2d. per chain for country alignment, and about 14s. 6d. per chain for town alignments. Since the Minister's decision that, for the future, Municipal Councils applying for alignment of streets under the Act, 2 Victoria No. 2, should contribute half the cost of survey, there has been a manifest decrease in the number of applications made. Partly from this cause, and also because most of the important thoroughfares in the suburban boroughs have been aligned, comparatively few surveys of this character will be required for the future. It is probable that henceforth, under the more complete supervision now established, the cost of this class of survey will be still further reduced.

Regulations ensuring greater uniformity of practice both in the field-work and in the plan-drawing of alignments have been drawn up and issued during the year.

The surveys of roads under the Act, 4th William IV. No. 11, have been but few, comprising chiefly deviations; the only new road of importance being that leading from Sylvania, George's River, to Burraneer Bay, Port Hacking. The average cost has been moderate, viz., 4s. 8d. per chain of road, when the short lengths of the different surveys is taken into consideration.

The detail surveys of the city and environs for purposes of the Sewerage Act have been proceeding satisfactorily, especially for the latter half of the year. The same number of surveyors were employed upon the detail work in 1887 as in 1886. The total area in the city and suburbs surveyed during the year was about 1,098 acres, shown on ninety-one plans, giving the full detail of 8,309 separate holdings, at an average cost throughout of 16s. 5d. per holding. Altogether the position of 47 miles of streets and 5 miles 60 chains of rights-of-way were accurately determined. The plans of surveys of several blocks were drawn at the General Survey Branch.

The detail survey of the city of Sydney is now complete; the area, 275 acres, left unfinished at the end of 1886, having been transmitted in twenty-six separate plans, giving the full details of 3,339 tenements, the average cost of which was 14s. 5d. per tenement.

In the suburbs the area surveyed has been about 823 acres, shown in sixty-five plans, which are divided amongst the various suburbs as follows:—Thirty-five plans of Balmain, nine of Newtown, eight of Woollahra, eight of Glebe, and five at Eveleigh; 4,970 separate tenements have been fixed at an average cost of 17s. each.

Now that the city detail survey is completed, and also the more crowded parts of the suburbs partly done, the cost per tenement may be expected slightly to increase, as the dwellings may be more scattered; however, in surveys now in progress, the triangulation and former alignment surveys are utilized as a basis for the detail work, thus rendering unnecessary, for the future, skeleton surveys of blocks of the suburbs.

The skeleton surveys of Northern and Southern Balmain, the Glebe, and Leichhardt have been completed, and transmitted in 1887.

Of harbour frontage in the city 3 miles and 10 chains with thirty-five wharves; of Balmain, 1 mile 73 chains with forty-nine wharves; of Double Bay, 18 chains have been carefully laid down.

Survey required to complete the parish of St. George has been effected, and the plans transmitted, and the field-work of the remainder of the frontage of Middle Harbour, which was the only part of Port Jackson unfinished, has also been done, but the plans have not yet been sent in.

Various miscellaneous duties have been performed by some of the surveyors, such as placing old landmarks on detail sheets of city of Sydney, fixing positions of sewer pedestals, reporting on roads applied for, &c. There have been several inspections of subdivision surveys by surveyors under the Real Property Act.

The heliographic and ferro-prussiate printing processes were carried on at Newtown office until the latter end of November, when the work was transferred to more commodious rooms at the head office, where the work is facilitated by more convenient appliances.

Statement of comparative quantity and cost of surveys for years 1886 and 1887:—

| <i>Alignment.</i> | 1886. | 1887. |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Plans transmitted | 56 | 97 |
| Streets surveyed | 194 | 411 |
| Building lines determined | 107 m. 41 ch. | 230 m. 33 ch. |
| Alignment posts or cubes erected | 2,340 | 5,277 |
| Average cost per chain of building line (Town) | 19s. 3d. | 14s. 6d. |
| Average cost per chain of building line (Country) | 7s. 3d. | 5s. 2d. |
| <i>City and Environs Detail Survey.</i> | | |
| Plans transmitted | 49 | 91 |
| Total area surveyed | 649 acres. | 1,095 acres. |
| Streets fixed | 28 miles. | 47 miles. |
| Rights-of-way fixed | 5 m. 34 c. | 5 m. 60 c. |
| Tenements fixed | 5,094 | 8,309 |
| Average cost per tenement throughout | £1 2 0 | 16s. 5d. |
| Average cost per tenement in the city | 1 0 10 | 14s. 5d. |
| Average cost per tenement in the suburbs | 1 3 8 | 17s. |

CORRESPONDENCE

CORRESPONDENCE AND RECORD BRANCH.

The duties performed by this Branch were, prior to the reorganization of the Department, allotted to nine officers, but under the new arrangements for conduct of business are carried out by five officers at salaries ranging from £80 to £250 per annum.

The following statement shows the amount of work performed during the year:—

| | |
|--|--------|
| Papers received and recorded... | 19,502 |
| Instructions recorded and sent to surveyors... | 5,617 |
| Letters written and despatched | 1,476 |
| Tracings recorded and despatched | 1,240 |
| Memoranda despatched | 9,400 |
| Circulars issued | 35 |
| Papers submitted to Under Secretary | 1,172 |
| Papers received by post | 13,240 |
| Plans and tracings received by post | 19,240 |

DRAFTING BRANCHES.

Introductory.

In submitting a report of the work performed by the Drafting Branches of this office during the year 1887, it is necessary that some reference should be made to the special circumstances which attended the reorganization of this division of the Department.

During the first quarter of the year the Charting Branches continued working under the old system, and owing to the searching inquiry then being prosecuted, and the time occupied in transferring all incomplete charting work to the District Offices, comparatively little progress was made in this period.

Re-arrangement of branches.

In April Mr. C. J. Saunders assumed the position of Chief Draftsman, and commenced the work of reconstruction on the lines laid down by the Board of Inquiry. Before business could be fairly commenced it was necessary that outlying branches should be brought into the main building; and the interruption involved may be understood when it is pointed out that several branches with bulky furniture and records were removed from one floor to another; some were transferred from the old building, others from Wolfen's Buildings, to the upper floors of this building, while a large quantity of unnecessary furniture was dispensed with. All the county and parish maps in office use were then collected from the different branches and placed in the present map room, while all original plans were gathered from the geographical divisions and handed over to the general Plan Record Branch; thus the various branches were brought within convenient reach of the maps and plans which are in daily request, and a large amount of sending to and fro averted. The manifest advantages of having all the branches in one building, both as regards efficiency and discipline, are obvious.

Stock-taking of plans.

The plan records were next found to be much deranged owing to the transfer of so many draftsmen to the country and the retirement of others, and it was necessary to have a complete stock-taking of original plans (numbering upwards of 220,000), which was carried out simultaneously in central and local offices without delaying current business.

Heliographic printing.

Later in the year a portion of the dome floor was adapted, at a small expense, for the heliographic printing process, previously carried out at the Newtown office.

Work done.

Notwithstanding these and other interruptions, the amount of work performed by the staff, as shown by the appended schedules, compares favourably with that done in the year 1886, a result which, with a reduced staff, must be regarded as satisfactory, and which is due to attention and energy of the officers in charge of branches and the industry of the present staff; and it is held confidently that at the close of the present year, which may be free from the disturbing influences of 1887, there will be found a marked increase on the general business transacted.

Requisitions from district offices and surveyors for plans, tracings, and general information, have received prompt attention.

General business.

Much remains to be done before the condition of the office can be regarded as perfect, and several reforms in connection with interchange of information between the central and country offices must necessarily await the result of investigation by the present Board of Inquiry into the working of the Board District Offices.

Detail of the work performed in the several branches as follows:—

Miscellaneous Charting Branch.

Miscellaneous charting division.

This Branch as reorganized is worked by a staff of 19 draftsmen, 2 clerks, and 3 contract draftsmen. The general duties are:—

- To chart all surveys for alienation and occupation upon the maps in office use, excepting pastoral and homestead leases and topographical features.
- To chart reserves, gold-fields, public appropriations and resumptions, municipalities, timber licenses, special leases, leases under Prickly-pear Act, land districts, and other like particulars upon the office maps.
- To supply local offices with necessary information regarding surveys and the various appropriations under the repealed Acts.
- To note the forfeiture of conditional purchases on original plans and office maps.
- To adjust and correct any inconsistencies in plans, discovered by the description writers or diagram draftsmen.
- To prepare Schedules of lands proposed for auction sales for all the Colony, excepting the Metropolitan Land Board District.
- To supply district offices with particulars of forfeited conditional purchases, refused improvement purchases, reductions in areas of portions, and numerous other matters resulting from Ministerial decisions.

In addition to the ordinary work of the Branch, a large amount of emergency work has been performed, viz., in dealing with incomplete cases taken over from the late geographical divisions, surveyors' accounts, and district office queries; in supplying additional descriptions in reserve cases, and adjusting other cases where action in the local offices has not been in accordance with recent Ministerial decisions; in preparing *précis* of intricate cases under the repealed Acts which have been reopened; and in supplying general information to the inquiry office, the administrative branches, and other departments.

RETURN

RETURN of Auction Sales business for year 1887.

| Scheduled. | | | Gazetted. | | | Reoffered, included in area gazetted. | | | Number of cases sent to Auction. | Total number of Papers received. |
|-------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Allotments. | Portions. | Area. | Allotments. | Portions. | Area. | Allotments. | Portions. | Area. | | |
| 5,708 | 6,112 | acres. 445,416 | 5,302 | 5,574 | acres. 394,669 | 418 | 1,083 | acres. 89,409 | 864 | 3,288 |

Of the area scheduled, 90,183 acres were prepared by the late geographical divisions, and 355,233 acres under the new system (May to October). The difference between the area gazetted and that scheduled is represented by the quantity "held over by Minister's direction" and that struck out by District Surveyors owing to the land having been selected or leased, or from other reasons.

There were also many lists of portions recommended for auction by District Surveyors, and covering large areas which were "held over" prior to scheduling by Ministerial direction.

RETURN of work done in Miscellaneous Charting Branch from 14th April to 31st December, 1887.

| Administrative— Improvement Purchases. | Administrative— Conditional Purchases. | Administrative— Reserves. | Administrative— Towns and Villages. | Administrative— Miscellaneous. | Chart Surveys and Investigations. | Charting Measurements. | Charting Resumptions. | Charting Towns. | Charting Reserves. | General Noting. | District Office Queries. | Surveyors' Accounts. | Unregistered Memoranda. | Deeds Branch Inquiries. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|----|----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Received. | Dealt with. | Received. | Dealt with. | Received. | Dealt with. | Received. | Dealt with. | Received. | Dealt with. | Received. | Dealt with. | Received. | Dealt with. | Received. | Dealt with. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 642 | 612 | 833 | 798 | 613 | 606 | 69 | 61 | 1055 | 963 | 61 | 58 | 697 | 538 | 121 | 114 | 89 | 85 | 1716 | 1469 | 855 | 710 | 438 | 429 | 426 | 236 | 323 | 323 | 657 | 657 |

Total number of cases dealt with in the Branch, exclusive of auction cases, 7,659.

Total number of cases dealt with, including auction cases, 10,947.

The work taken over on the 14th April consisted in round numbers of 1,600 miscellaneous papers and district office queries, &c., 670 papers relating to auction sales, upwards of 4,000 uncharted and uncatalogued certified tracings, and a number of surveyors' accounts not passed. Work taken over.

On the 31st December there remained in the Branch 666 miscellaneous papers, 374 auction cases, and surveyors' accounts numbering 190, while nearly all the arrears of charting of certified copies of plans had been disposed of, 5,868 tracings and plans having been charted by contract at a cost of £327 11s. 8d. Work remaining at end of year.

The matter of noting the maps of this office with the arrears of confirmations, conditional purchases, and conditional leases, is now receiving attention, and when that is completed, and the forfeited conditional purchase lists are noted to date, the maps and records may be regarded as being in a fairly satisfactory condition. Notation of maps.

COMPILING BRANCH.

This Branch has a staff of forty-two draftsmen and one clerk.

During the first half of the year it was under the supervision of one officer, but that gentleman retiring from the office in June under the provisions of the Civil Service Act, it was found that the Branch might with advantage be divided, one division taking the town, country, and miscellaneous compilations, the other being exclusively devoted to the compilation of parish maps, and preparing new editions. Compiling Division.

The general duties of the Branch are:—

1. Compilation of all office maps, Colony, county, parish, environs, and town.
2. The preparation of maps for use in this office.
3. The charting of all feature and topographical surveys.
4. The preparation of maps for exhibition purposes and of any special maps required in connection with the administration of the Land Act or to accompany publications by other Departments. Duties.

The old practice of placing original compilations in office use, under which, through wear and tear, they soon became unfit as bases for new editions, has been abandoned; and a series of standard maps is being introduced, by aid of which new editions of parish and town maps can be produced at comparatively short notice, and little expense beyond the mere cost of photo-lithography. New arrangements.

The charting of reserves upon new maps by draftsmen attached to the Compiling Branch, instead of by separate Branch as heretofore, is convenient, and permits of the maps being supervised in all their stages by one officer.

In respect of parish maps, the work for 1887 has been for the most part restricted to complying with requisitions from district offices, and preparing new editions of maps for which a demand has been found to exist. Only two unsatisfied requisitions remained on hand at the end of 1887. The matter of publication of new editions of maps in a systematic manner is one of paramount importance. Parish maps.

In round numbers there are about 5,000 parish maps in the Colony, about 2,000 of which are within leasehold areas; the latter are, of course, not so liable to alteration as those within resumed areas, and will not, therefore, require republication so frequently. Many of the existing editions of parishes are as old as 1879; many others are out of print.

There are at present 670 standard parish maps, and as all new compilations now become standard maps, it will in time be possible to guarantee the republication of these maps at reasonable intervals, and in an economical manner.

In

In providing parish maps of the Eastern Division for use in this office, the heliographic process is now utilised, and a map which would cost about £3 or £4 to trace, can be copied by this process and mounted for office use for about a fourth of that cost.

Town maps.

The compilation of town maps in this office consists principally in preparing new editions of existing towns. Plans of towns newly laid out or of extensive subdivision of town lands are usually drawn by surveyors in a style suitable for reproduction by photo-lithography. The maps prepared in this office are compiled upon tracing linen (as in the case of parishes), being generally drawn to double the scale intended for publication, by which means the drawing is performed more rapidly, and better results are obtained in the photo-lithograph. Specimens of maps produced by this system compare favourably in appearance with those executed by good lithographers. The number of town maps published is largely in excess of previous years, and steps are now being taken to revise the present editions of town maps with a view to republication of any towns of importance which have been allowed to go out of print. Generally speaking these maps should not require to be republished so frequently as parish maps.

County maps.

The compilation of county maps, which of late years has been set aside, has been revived; and as soon as the more urgent work is disposed of this necessary class of compilation should be pushed forward. The demand for these maps is daily more apparent, as they are invaluable for general reference purposes to deal with all such matters as stock routes, roads, land districts, municipalities, or to obtain a comprehensive idea as to the progress of settlement or measurement in any particular district, which cannot possibly be gathered from the limited scope of country exhibited on a parish map drawn to a large scale. These county maps can be produced at comparatively small expense from the photographic reductions of parish maps; the reference (particulars of portions) which was formerly a large item in cost is now unnecessary, and is omitted from the map.

Colony map.

The compilation of the new Colony map on a scale of 8 miles to an inch is progressing favourably, and two draftsmen are now employed upon it.

City of Sydney and surroundings.

The compilation of the map of Sydney and its environs, extending as far as Parramatta and Liverpool, is in progress in six sheets; three of these sheets being now completed.

Exhibition maps.

The maps exhibited at the Indian and Colonial Exhibition were renovated and charted with recent information, and with some other specimens of drawing were forwarded to the Adelaide Exhibition, where they received favourable notice.

A comprehensive exhibit, comprising a fac-simile of an old and interesting map of Sydney bearing the signature of His Excellency Governor Phillip, dated 1792, a map of the National Park, and suitable specimens of our general publications, is in course of preparation for the ensuing Melbourne Exhibition.

Miscellaneous maps.

Maps of the Colony have been prepared to illustrate the areas infested with rabbits, and the localities in which homestead leases have been taken up. Other maps have also been prepared from time to time for general requirements, but have not been published.

Comparative statement of work done:—

| | 1886. | 1887. |
|---|-------|-------|
| Parish maps compiled | 189 | 318 |
| Parish maps prepared for second edition.. | 134 | 42 |
| Parish maps in course of compilation, 31st December ... | 87 | 167 |
| Forty-chain parish maps, prepared for office use ... | 164 | 83 |
| County maps compiled | 0 | 2 |
| Town maps compiled | 6 | 21 |
| Town maps prepared for office use | 26 | 64 |

The names of the maps compiled are not given under this branch, as some maps, the compilation of which was completed late in the year, were not printed and published in that year. Particulars of all maps published during the year will be found under the Lithographic Branch Report.

Lithographic Branch.

Lithographic Branch staff.

During the first quarter of the year, the work of this branch was performed by a staff of twelve lithographic draftsmen and one clerk. The present staff consists of the draftsman in charge, three lithographic draftsmen, and one clerk. Any lithographic drawing which cannot be carried out by the staff is either done by piece-work or is tendered for by contract lithographers outside the Department. There is also attached to this branch a staff of lithographic printers—consisting of one working overseer, ten printers, and two stone-polishers.

Return of work done.

The returns of work from the Lithographic Branch really show the maps compiled and published by the Department, for after compilation the maps are either sent to this branch for lithography, or they are forwarded to the Government Printing Office, where they are photographed, and transfers prepared for the Lithographic Branch ready for application to stone or zinc, and printing. The latter routine is resorted to for all ordinary publications; and the aim of the Compiling Branch has been to make the maps as complete as possible before sending on for photography, in order to avoid extensive alterations or additions by the lithographic draftsmen, whose principal work on these maps is merely to remedy slight defects and supply trifling omissions. The general business transacted by this branch shows considerable increase upon that performed in 1886, and it is gratifying to notice that this result has been achieved at a reduction of about £2,000 upon the expenditure for the year 1886.

Classification of maps.

For convenience of official record and execution of the work lithographs are classified thus:—

1. Counties.
2. Towns, comprising cities, towns, villages, and environs.
3. Parishes.
4. Auction sale plans.
5. Miscellaneous.
6. Other departments.
7. Official forms.

1.—*Counties.*

County maps.

County lithographs show measured areas, roads, reserves, features, and all other information which is capable of delineation, on the scales of 1 and 2 miles to an inch. The standard price is 5s. per copy.

Counties

Counties completed, 22, comprising 4,500 printed copies.

| | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| Baradine. | Darling. | Inglis. | Oxley. |
| Benarba. | Gipps. | Jamison. | Parry. |
| Beresford. | Gloucester. | Landsborough. | Pottinger. |
| Bourke. | Gough. | Napier. | Robinson. |
| Burnett. | Gowen. | Nicholson. | Stapylton. |
| Buckland. | Gregory. | | |

2.—Towns.

Town lithographs show the general design, measured lands, and names of purchasers within town and suburban limits. They are usually photo-lithographed from compilations constructed at head quarters, or from the surveyors original plans, to a scale of 4 or 8 chains to an inch, and sold at 1s. per copy. Town maps.

Towns completed, 79, comprising 19,355 printed copies.

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Ballina and | Bunyan. | Deepwater. | Murringo. |
| Ballina West. | Bullah Delah. | Fitzroy. | Purnamoota. |
| Bective. | Byerock. | Glencoe. | Queanbeyan. |
| Bega. | Capertee. | Goobang. | Somers. |
| Bexhill. | Carwell. | Gosford. | Stockton. |
| Brewarrina. | Canonba. | Gungah. | Stuart. |
| Berowra village. | Carrawa. | Heathcote. | Taltingan. |
| " environs. | Cargo. | Inverell. | Tathra. |
| Bellingen. | Chindera. | Jerry's Plains. | Terrabile. |
| Bibbenluke. | Clive. | Lawson. | Tibooburra. |
| Binalong. | Coldstream. | Mandamah. | Tintenbar. |
| Blayney. | Coolabah. | Merinda. | Ulupna. |
| Bookham. | Coolac. | Molong. | Wangat. |
| Boorook. | Cooloon. | Morangarell. | Wardell. |
| Bokhara. | Cooperbrook. | Moruya. | Willyama. |
| Brassi. | Cudal. | Muttama. | Wilton. |
| Breelong. | Cuddell. | Mullally. | Wittingham. |
| Broke. | Cudgegong. | Mulwala. | Wyndham. |
| Bunnan. | Currawan. | Mungundi. | Yantabulla. |
| Burns. | Denison. | Murray. | Yarrunga. |

3.—Parishes.

Parish maps are compiled on a scale of 20 chains to an inch for official use, and reduced by photo-lithography to 40 chains to an inch for publication. They are sold at 1s. per copy. Parish maps.

Parishes completed, 317, comprising 31,850 printed copies.

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1 parish in county | Arrawatta | 26 parishes in county | Finch |
| 1 " " | Ashburnham | 5 " " | Fitzroy |
| 1 " " | Argyle | 1 parish " | Forbes |
| 15 parishes " | Auckland | 15 parishes " | Georgiana |
| 1 parish " | Bligh | 17 " " | Gipps |
| 4 parishes " | Baradine | 1 parish " | Gowen |
| 3 " " | Bourke | 2 parishes " | Gloucester |
| 2 " " | Brisbane | 1 parish " | Gordon |
| 2 " " | Buller | 2 parishes " | Gough |
| 1 parish " | Burnett | 3 " " | Gresham |
| 2 parishes " | Cadell | 2 " " | Gregory |
| 10 " " | Caira | 5 " " | King |
| 13 " " | Camden | 2 " " | Harden |
| 1 parish " | Canbelego | 3 " " | Hawes |
| 5 parishes " | Clarence | 1 parish " | Lincoln |
| 1 parish " | Clarendon | 6 parishes " | Macquarie |
| 14 parishes " | Clyde | 22 " " | Northumberland |
| 4 " " | Cook | 1 parish " | Pottinger |
| 13 " " | Cowley | 5 parishes " | Raleigh |
| 1 parish " | Cumberland | 7 " " | Rous |
| 13 parishes " | Cunningham | 5 " " | Roxburgh |
| 10 " " | Dampier | 21 " " | Sandon |
| 1 parish " | Darling | 3 " " | St. Vincent |
| 3 parishes " | Denison | 1 parish " | Townsend |
| 1 parish " | Dowling | 1 " " | Urana |
| 3 parishes " | Drake | 20 parishes " | Vernon |
| 1 parish " | Dudley | 3 " " | Wakool |
| 3 parishes " | Durham | 1 parish " | Waljeers |
| 3 " " | Ewenmar | 2 parishes " | Westmoreland. |

4.—Auction Sale Plans.

Lithographs of all lands measured for auction are printed for use at the sales. Auction sale maps.

Auction sale plans completed, 83, comprising 4,835 printed copies.

5.—Miscellaneous.

In this class are included the various published maps of the Colony; the sheets of the detailed survey of the city and suburbs; trigonometrical survey of Port Jackson and city of Sydney; maps for Parliamentary reports; occupation licenses; Cumberland parishes on large scale; exhibition maps, showing Miscellaneous maps and tracings.

showing pastoral, mineral, and agricultural information; Land Board Districts; index maps to detailed survey; National Park; George's River chart; Sydney suburban subdivisions for auction sale; star maps for use of surveyors; diagrams for surveyor's pocket-book; plan and letter forms for use of surveyors; and other maps of a general character not specified under the preceding headings.

Miscellaneous lithographs completed, 96, comprising 30,940 printed copies.

6.—Other Departments.

Work for other Departments.

Maps, plans, and diagrams have been printed for other Departments, viz., for the Colonial Secretary, Treasury, Public Instruction, Public Works, and Mines Departments, and comprise statistical maps showing local and national expenditure, agricultural, pastoral, and mineral information, wharf drawings, maps of water-frontage reservations, orchid illustrations, tide-gauge diagrams, roads and bridges working drawings, and plans illustrating reports of the Royal Commission on Conservation of Water.

Lithographs for other Departments completed, 33, comprising 45,640 printed copies.

7.—Official Forms.

Official forms comprise circulars, forms, and memoranda necessary for use at Head Quarters and in Local Land Offices, including orders, decisions, and regulations for the guidance of licensed surveyors.

Official forms lithographs completed, 281, comprising 124,150 printed copies.

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY FOR 1886 AND 1887.

| Map, Plan, or Document. | 1886. | | 1887. | |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Number of separate Maps. | Number of copies printed. | Number of separate Maps. | Number of copies printed. |
| Counties | 33 | 7,950 | 22 | 4,500 |
| Towns—Comprising cities, towns, villages and environs ... | 25 | 6,200 | 79 | 19,355 |
| Parishes | 286 | 30,375 | 317 | 31,850 |
| Auction sale plans | 39 | 2,580 | 83 | 4,835 |
| Miscellaneous | 114 | 150,800 | 96 | 30,940 |
| Other Departments | 36 | 85,775 | 33 | 45,640 |
| Official forms | 183 | 99,300 | 281 | 124,150 |
| Totals | 716 | 382,980 | 911 | 261,270 |

It may be observed from the above that 195 publications were issued in 1887 in excess of those for 1886. The total number of copies printed is, however, much smaller, and is due to the fact that less numbers have been printed of certain maps, as in the case of detail survey plans, in which the issue was reduced early in 1887 to 200.

ROADS BRANCH.

Roads Branch.

Beyond transferring the control of this Branch from the Mines Department to this Department, there has been no alteration in its constitution and duties.

Several matters of detail have, however, been adjusted, to suit the altered circumstances of the offices; the notifications as reserves of roads through Crown lands—a duty which was previously performed by the Reserve Branch—is now carried out by the Roads Branch, to which it properly belongs, and all proclaimed roads are now delineated upon the general office maps by this Branch; previously they were only charted upon the reference maps of the Roads Branch.

Instructions in detail as to alignment of streets have been compiled and printed as an appendix to Surveyors' Regulations.

A considerable saving in the cost of alignment survey to the Government has been attained by requiring the municipality desiring an alignment to pay half the cost of the survey.

Work do. do.

Particulars of the work performed are as follows:—

The papers received during the year number 5,692—an increase of 174 over last year, and 521 over the number received during 1885; and on many of these separate and distinct action has been several times taken. The number of miles of road surveyed was 893, delineated upon 249 plans; and 568 streets were surveyed for alignment, delineated on eighty-five plans; 329 applications for roads, deviations in roads, and for alignment of streets were received; 456 reports from surveyors, irrespective of 334 reports accompanying plans of surveys, and 188 objections and claims for compensation were also sent in.

There are many thousands of miles of road in the Colony, any one of which roads may form the subject of further inquiry, complaint, or application for resurvey or deviation, and in each case previous papers and reports have to be reconsidered, and the facts of the case together with a recommendation have to be submitted to the Minister for his consideration.

The papers having reference to road matters are registered, and kept in the branch, as are also all road plans.

OCCUPATION DRAFTING BRANCH.

Occupation Drafting Branch.

Prior to reorganization, this branch was in charge of a chief draftsman, having a staff of twenty-two draftsmen and one clerk. The present staff consists of fourteen draftsmen and one clerk.

Duties.

The duties of the branch consist in supplying all information as to the boundaries of leasehold and resumed areas, preparing diagrams of forfeited runs and vacant Crown lands with a view to the land being offered for occupation license, charting all homestead leases upon the office, county, and parish maps; investigating disputed holding boundaries, and recalculating areas upon which rent is chargeable in cases when the areas are disputed by the lessees, and dealing with applications for survey of pastoral holding boundaries

boundaries under the 143rd section of the Crown Lands Act, respecting which latter class of work detailed directions were drawn up and printed for the information and guidance of surveyors, as an appendix to surveyor's instructions.

In addition to the foregoing, an amount of emergency work has been performed by the branch in dealing with claims for refund of rents under repealed Acts, dividing several runs, and preparing tracings for appraisal, and charting up the Minister's reference maps with rents of pastoral holdings and homestead leases.

Sixty miles of pastoral holding boundaries were surveyed at a total cost of £186, of which the sum of £60 was recovered from the lessees.

A further sum of £358 was recovered from pastoral lessees, being for the surveys of pastoral holding boundaries common to homestead leases, and the survey of 43 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles of pastoral holding boundaries was effected by the Department at an expense of £129, the whole of the cost being by agreement defrayed by the lessees.

PARTICULARS of work performed in the Occupation Drafting Branch.

| Cases under 143rd clause. | County maps charted with pastoral holdings. | Parish maps charted with pastoral holdings. | Pastoral holdings charted on Land Board District maps. | Homestead leases charted on Land Board District maps. | Homestead leases charted on office maps. | Surveys of pastoral holdings or dividing lines charted. | Plans prepared for occupation licenses. | Tracings made. | Runs divided. | Conflicting holdings adjusted. | Initial areas revised. | Questions as to leasehold or resumed area replied to. | Claims for compensation under repealed Acts dealt with. | Road plans charted. | County maps showing pastoral holdings compiled. |
|---------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|----------------|---------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---|---|---------------------|---|
| 47 | 24 | 205 | 1,000 | 53 | 370 | 29 | 150 | 318 | 5 | 13 | 88 | 2,778 | 95 | 41 | 7 |

MISCELLANEOUS CONTRACT BRANCH.

The state of the work at the close of the year 1887 shows that this Branch cannot now be charged with that mismanagement and delay which caused the unfavourable comments of the recent Board of Inquiry. Miscellaneous Contract Work

The staff, previously to the reconstruction of the office, embraced twelve officers; it now includes five draftsmen and one clerk. The draftsmen have been chiefly employed in examining tracings and lithographs completed by contract draftsmen, also the work in connection with a large number of tracings and lithographs has been done by the draftsmen in the Branch. Staff. Work done.

Many of the tracings and lithographs enumerated in the accompanying Schedule represent work of considerable magnitude, the list embracing county maps, parish maps, town maps, and the plans of extensive railway, feature, alignment, and road surveys. Schedule.

In addition to applications for tracings and completed lithographs, the applications enumerated in the Schedule comprise papers in connection with annual and pre-emptive leases under repealed Acts. All matters requiring reference to the old lease maps and books have been dealt with in this Branch.

It may be added that since the reorganization of this Branch the tracings and lithographs applied for have been furnished expeditiously, especial attention having been given to the requirements of surveyors in the field. At the close of the year there were no requisitions undealt with except those recently received, that is, during the latter part of December.

Business transacted.

| | Tracings. | Charted-up Lithographs. | Totals. |
|--|-----------|-------------------------|---------|
| Tracings and charted-up lithographs supplied to District Surveyors, including District Survey Office tracings and lithographs charted up to date | 1,214 | 81 | 1,295 |
| Tracings and charted-up lithographs supplied to surveyors in the field | 614 | 39 | 653 |
| Tracings supplied to Municipalities | 53 | ..... | 53 |
| Tracings prepared for exhibition at Police Offices | 92 | ..... | 92 |
| Tracings prepared for auction sale purposes | 1,252 | ..... | 1,252 |
| Tracings prepared for use of Conditional Purchase Inspectors | 255 | ..... | 255 |
| Tracings and charted-up lithographs prepared for the Departments, for the public, and for sundry purposes | 381 | 346 | 727 |
| Totals | 3,861 | 466 | 4,327 |
| Total number of applications | ... | ... | 1,362 |

PLAN RECORD BRANCH.

In re-arrangement of business this Branch was reduced from nine to six officers. It has the custody of all original plans (excepting road, feature, and run maps), surveyors' field notes, sketch books, cancelled county, parish, and town maps, *Gazettes* from the year 1832 to 1885, old survey documents, and a large number of auction sale lithographs. Plan Record Branch.

The work consists in issuing, receiving, and recording plans, &c., to officers in the Head Office and Mines Department, and despatching plans to District Survey Offices. Duties.

During the year all original plans (with the above-mentioned exceptions) were taken over from the late Geographical Divisions and other Branches. A complete stock-taking of all original plans in the central and local offices was held, and a new set of Plan Record Books was opened to suit the altered circumstances of the office. Stock-taking.

In

In spite of temporary assistance from other Branches, business fell slightly into arrears while this was being done; but those arrears were soon overtaken, and the work is now well in hand. Applications from District Offices for plans are kept specially in view, being rarely detained in hand more than two days; in explanation of this slight delay, it may be pointed out that reference to the office maps and catalogue books, or to Branches of this office, is frequently necessary before the required plans can be obtained.

One of the officials of this Branch assists the Chief Draftsman in keeping his records and copying his minutes and reports.

Statement of business transacted.

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Number of plans in Branch at the end of 1887 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 204,000 |
| Issued and returned to and from officers in the Head Office and Metropolitan District Surveyor's Office... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 117,000 |
| Despatched to the District Survey Offices | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17,700 |
| Returned from the District Survey Offices | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8,700 |
| Sent to the plan-mounter | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14,400 |
| Issued to the Inquiry Branch | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 900 |
| Applications received from the District Survey Offices for plans | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,200 |
| Number of memoranda returning plans | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 600 |
| Memoranda sent to District Offices for plans | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 637 |
| Plans of measurements under repealed Acts in District Offices on 31st December, 1887 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24,800 |
| Field-books in Branch | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,475 |
| Auction sale lithographs | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,000 |

MAPS SALES BRANCH.

The work of this Branch is conducted by a staff of three clerks, whose duties comprise the custody of all published maps; the issue of those maps to District Offices, surveyors, and to other Departments; and the sale of copies to the public. Particulars of lithographs received and issued, and a comparison between the numbers for 1886 and 1887, are as follows:—

Particulars of Lithographs received and issued, and a comparison between the numbers for 1886 and 1887.

LITHOGRAPHS received from the Lithographic Branch.

| | Number. | | Copies. | | Value. | |
|--|---------|-------|---------|--------|-------------|------------|
| | 1886. | 1887. | 1886. | 1887. | 1886. | 1887. |
| | | | | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| County maps | 33 | 22 | 7,950 | 4,500 | 2,380 0 0 | 1,350 0 0 |
| Cities, towns, villages, and environs maps | 26 | 79 | 6,200 | 19,355 | 465 0 0 | 1,209 13 0 |
| Parish maps | 286 | 317 | 30,375 | 31,850 | 1,518 15 0 | 1,592 10 0 |
| Auction sale maps | 30 | 83 | 2,580 | 4,835 | 129 0 0 | 241 15 0 |
| Miscellaneous maps | 113 | 96 | 150,800 | 30,940 | 11,310 0 0 | 4,641 10 0 |
| Total | 488 | 597 | 197,905 | 91,480 | 15,802 15 0 | 9,035 8 0 |

COPIES issued, inclusive of those sent to Land Agents for sale, Local Offices, Railway, Roads, and other Departments.

| | Copies. | | Value. | |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|------------|-----------|
| | 1886. | 1887. | 1886. | 1887. |
| | | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| Counties | 832 | 1,697 | 294 12 0 | 509 2 0 |
| Towns | 1,939 | 4,448 | 145 8 6 | 333 12 0 |
| Parishes | 27,075 | 10,567 | 1,353 15 0 | 528 7 0 |
| Auction | 1,353 | 2,252 | 67 13 0 | 112 12 0 |
| Detail surveys | 1,578 | 1,397 | 186 14 0 | 209 11 0 |
| Geographical divisions | 205 | 85 | 25 12 6 | 10 12 6 |
| Large Colony | 114 | 143 | 57 0 0 | 102 5 0 |
| Small Colony | 78 | 92 | 3 18 0 | 6 4 0 |
| Postal | 29 | 60 | 2 12 6 | 7 10 0 |
| Star books | 37 | 19 | 4 12 6 | 2 7 6 |
| Calculation books | ..... | 66 | ..... | 6 1 0 |
| Index maps | 72 | 447 | 5 8 0 | 33 17 6 |
| Land Board district maps | 146 | 99 | 19 12 0 | 9 18 0 |
| Miscellaneous | 921 | 568 | 42 2 0 | 80 4 0 |
| Total | 34,379 | 21,940 | 2,209 0 0 | 1,952 3 6 |

PLAN-MOUNTING BRANCH.

Prior to reorganization this Branch consisted of one plan-mounter and two assistants; the plan-mounter retired from the service early in the year, and the two assistants have not only kept the business of the Branch well up to date, but have performed a larger amount of work than was done in 1886. It may also be stated that, while in 1886 it was found necessary to seek outside assistance in mounting parish lithographs at a cost of upwards of £88, the sum expended in that manner during 1887 was less than £2.

COMPARATIVE statement of work performed in Plan-mounting Branch for the years 1886 and 1887.

| Duties performed. | 1886. | 1887. |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Original plans mounted | 9,568 | 14,583 |
| Lithographs, references, &c., mounted | 908 | 527 |
| Lithographs of parishes mounted | 1,343 | 1,477 |
| Tracings of original plans, &c., mounted | 3,051 | 570 |
| Four-sheet Colony maps mounted | 65 | 50 |
| Auction sale lithographs mounted | 129 | 84 |
| Antiquarian drawing-paper mounted | 36 | 28 |
| Double elephant drawing-paper mounted | 12 | Nil |
| Parish tracings (dilapidated) mounted | 131 | 191 |
| Old plans (dilapidated) mounted | 18 | 25 |
| Maps book form mounted | 14 | 4 |
| Tacking parish maps on roller | 259 | 276 |
| Villages mounted for office use in portfolios | 32 | 87 |
| Counties mounted for office use in portfolios | 14 | 21 |
| Parcels, post, maps, plans, &c. | 2,000 | 2,532 |
| Bookbinding | 27 | 16 |
| Supplying and affixing polished rollers to maps | 108 | 54 |
| Lists, &c., on cardboard | 14 | 51 |
| Miscellaneous work | 1,061 | 1,230 |
| Cartridge paper for parish lithographs mounted | 524 | 746 |
| Total | 19,314 | 22,552 |

Lithographs sold in 1886—5,085 copies; cost £288 2s. 5d.

Lithographs sold in 1887—3,717 copies; cost £281 14s.

Letters replied to in 1886—727.

Letters replied to in 1887—598.

It affords me pleasure to place on record my satisfaction as to the efficient manner in which the Chief Draftsman has conducted the duties entrusted to him, which, especially in carrying out the reorganization of the office business demanded forethought, patience, and more than ordinary application, all of which qualities have been freely bestowed. Also it is very gratifying to me to acknowledge the willing co-operation I have received from all officers placed in responsible positions under me in this establishment.

E. TWYNAM,

Acting Surveyor-General,

16 July, 1888.

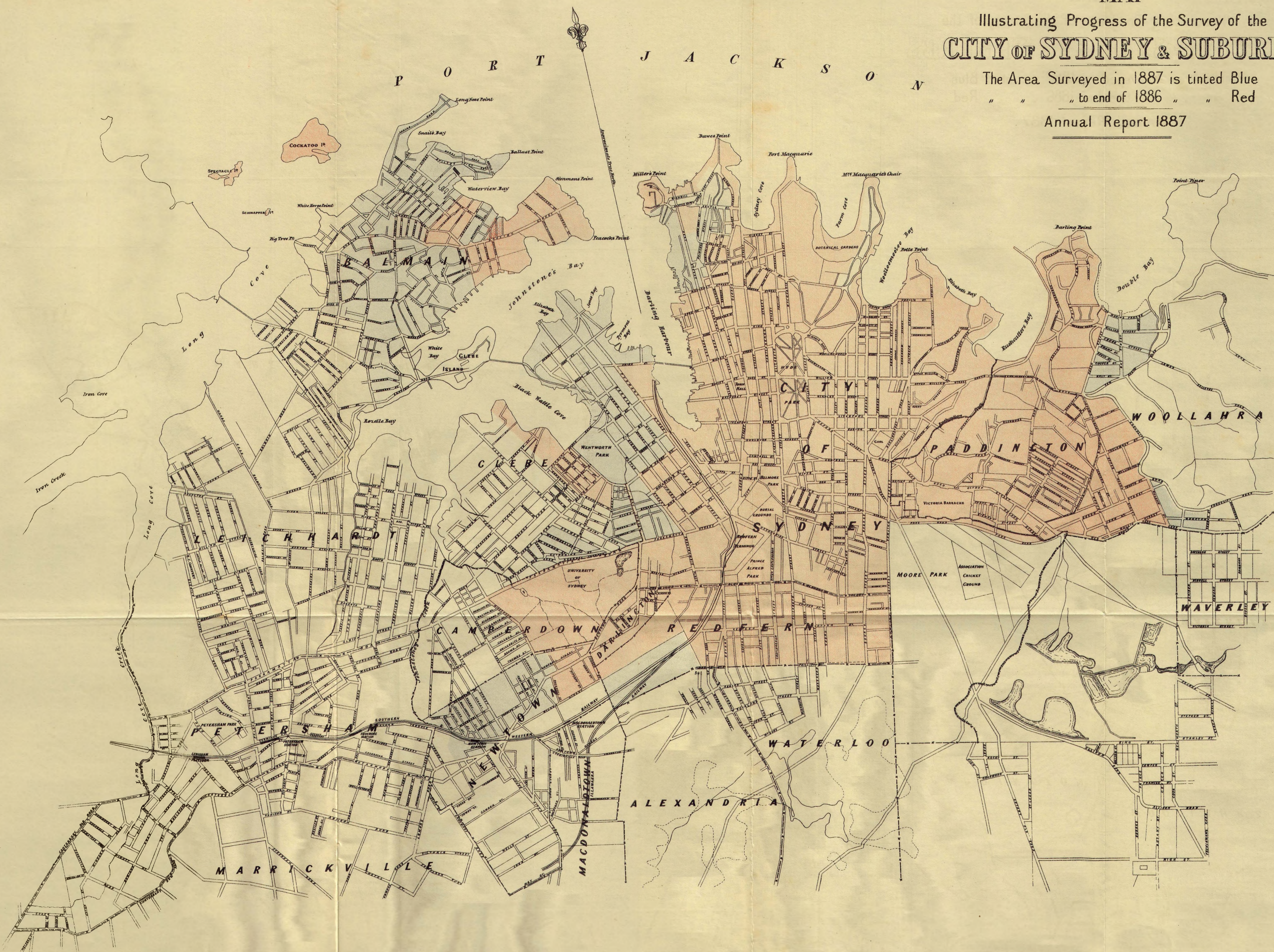
[Two maps.]

MAP Illustrating Progress of the Survey of the CITY OF SYDNEY & SUBURBS

The Area Surveyed in 1887 is tinted Blue
" " " to end of 1886 " " Red

Annual Report 1887

P O R T J A C K S O N





MAP
OF
NEW SOUTH WALES
SHOWING ALL DIVISIONS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE
CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884

Scale 32 Miles to 1 Inch

NOTE
Land District Boundaries, which are identical with those of local Land Boards shown in Green thus **5**
Land Board Districts, with Head Office of Local Land Boards shown in blue thus **BOURKE**
Territorial Divisions are shown in black thus **BLAND**
County Names and Boundaries shown in red **BLAND**
Existing Railways and those in course of construction shown thus

Annual Report-1887

LIST OF LAND DISTRICTS AND HEAD OFFICES OF LOCAL LAND BOARDS Within each Division of the Colony

| Head Office of Land Board | Land Districts | Head Office of Land Board | Land Districts | |
|---------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| 1 Bourke | 80 Wilcannia 11 Bourke 13 Brewarrina 14 Renwick 15 Renwick East 16 Beja 17 Bourke 18 Bourke 19 Castlereagh 20 Bourke 21 Bourke 22 Bourke 23 Bourke 24 Bourke 25 Bourke 26 Bourke 27 Bourke 28 Bourke 29 Bourke 30 Bourke | 11 Orange 12 Sydney 13 Tamworth 14 Sydney 15 Sydney 16 Sydney 17 Sydney 18 Sydney 19 Sydney 20 Sydney 21 Sydney 22 Sydney 23 Sydney 24 Sydney 25 Sydney 26 Sydney 27 Sydney 28 Sydney 29 Sydney 30 Sydney | 31 Bourke 32 Bourke 33 Bourke 34 Bourke 35 Bourke 36 Bourke 37 Bourke 38 Bourke 39 Bourke 40 Bourke 41 Bourke 42 Bourke 43 Bourke 44 Bourke 45 Bourke 46 Bourke 47 Bourke 48 Bourke 49 Bourke 50 Bourke | 51 Bourke 52 Bourke 53 Bourke 54 Bourke 55 Bourke 56 Bourke 57 Bourke 58 Bourke 59 Bourke 60 Bourke 61 Bourke 62 Bourke 63 Bourke 64 Bourke 65 Bourke 66 Bourke 67 Bourke 68 Bourke 69 Bourke 70 Bourke |

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(AREA OF LAND SOLD AND AMOUNT RECEIVED FOR SAME, FROM 1 JANUARY, 1884, TO 30 SEPTEMBER, 1888.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 6 November, 1888.

STATEMENT showing (approximately) the Area of Lands sold, together with the amount received for same, from 1st January, 1884, to 30th September, 1888.

| Particulars of Sales. | 1884. | | 1885. | | 1886. | | 1887. | | 1888, to 30th September. | |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| | Area. | Amount received. | Area. | Amount received. | Area. | Amount received. | Area. | Amount received. | Area. | Amount received. |
| | acres. | £ s. d. | acres. | £ s. d. | acres. | £ s. d. | acres. | £ s. d. | acres. | £ s. d. |
| Auction | 41,546 | 74,442 12 3 | 2,648 | 70,859 0 0 | 60,353 | 103,704 18 5 | 107,374 | 139,602 12 11 | 53,517 | 107,118 9 9 |
| Improvement purchases, &c. | 252,633 | 307,439 2 2 | 292,369 | 371,144 13 7 | 227,685 | 298,686 6 5 | 125,533 | 172,129 6 4 | 45,000 | 62,688 8 4 |
| Conditional purchases ... | 1,453,937 | 381,550 4 0 | 1,114,871 | 121,436 13 11 | 954,560 | 112,892 9 9 | 793,004 | 92,202 15 6 | 761,415 | 76,141 11 7 |
| Totals | 1,748,116 | 763,431 18 5 | 1,409,888 | 563,440 7 6 | 1,242,598 | 515,283 14 7 | 1,025,911 | 403,934 14 9 | 859,932 | 245,948 9 8 |

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 25th October, 1888.

STEPHEN FREEMAN,
Under Secretary.

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(RETURN SHOWING FORFEITED CONDITIONAL PURCHASES AND CONDITIONAL LEASES IN THE EASTERN AND CENTRAL DIVISIONS, SINCE JANUARY, 1884.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 20 November, 1888.

[*Laid upon the Table of the House in accordance with promise made by the Honorable The Minister for Lands in answer to Question No. 2 in Votes and Proceedings No. 10 of the 13th November, 1888.*]

RETURN showing number of forfeited conditional purchases and conditional leases within the leasehold areas of the Eastern and Central Divisions since 1st January, 1884, and the total area of the same.

Division of runs was not gazetted until 11th July, 1885. From 31st December, 1884, to 11th July, 1885, about 909 conditional purchases representing an area of about 132,424 acres 3 roods 26 perches, were forfeited in the Eastern and Central Divisions of the Colony. Since the division of the runs (11th July, 1885), about 1,921 conditional purchases forming an area of about 346,172 acres have been forfeited; in addition to which 85 conditional leases in area 99,052½ acres have been forfeited making a total area of 445,224½ acres, declared forfeited in the leasehold areas of the same divisions.

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

INSTALMENTS DUE BY CONDITIONAL PURCHASERS.

(PETITION FROM RESIDENTS OF TEMORA, PRAYING THE MINISTER FOR LANDS TO DEFER THE.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 19 December, 1888.

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

The Petition of the undersigned conditional purchasers in and around the District of Temora, and of the residents of the Town of Temora,—

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:—

That in the immediate district in which your Petitioners reside most of the conditional purchases have been recently taken up, which has entailed an outlay of money and labour from which no benefit can at present be derived; and it is impossible for the selectors to obtain advances of goods or money upon the security of their holdings, owing to the fact that no satisfactory security can be given, and to the liability to forfeiture to which selectors are subject for non-payment of the instalments and for non-fulfilment of the other conditions of the law, the payment and performance of which will be prevented owing to the present unfavourable seasons.

That your Petitioners have sustained serious losses, in many instances almost amounting to ruin, and they are now suffering great hardships.

That the crops which your Petitioners relied on for their support are worthless, and numbers of the stock belonging to your Petitioners and the selectors in the district have perished for want of food and water.

That it is necessary in the present depressed state, and with a view to insure the settlement of this new district and to develop its resources, to introduce and pass such legislation as your Honorable House may think fit to empower the Minister for Lands to allow free selectors located in this dry part of the Colony to defer payment of the instalments now about to fall due on their conditional purchases until all the other instalments shall have been paid, charging interest at the rate of four pounds per centum per annum, or of allowing such other concessions as will afford material relief.

Your Petitioners desire to point out that unless some such concessions as those sought are made to relieve the conditional purchasers from their distress and difficulties, brought about by circumstances over which they have no control, they will be compelled to dispose of their holdings, which will enable the large landholders to increase their holdings and estates, whereby the intention of the Lands Act will be frustrated, and the prospects of the town and district destroyed.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that this Honorable House will introduce and pass such legislation as they may think fit to empower the Minister for Lands to defer payment of the instalments now about to fall due on their conditional purchases until all the other instalments shall have been paid, charging interest at the rate of four pounds per centum per annum, or to empower him to make such other concessions as will give your Petitioners material relief.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 313 signatures.]

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CONDITIONAL PURCHASE MADE BY MARY MALONEY AT BURROWA.

(CORRESPONDENCE, &c., RELATING TO.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 12 December, 1888.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 27th June, 1888, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

- “(1.) Copies of all papers and documents relating to the conditional purchase of 300 acres of land made by Mary Maloney, at Burrowa, on the 31st day of October, 1872, and any additional conditional purchase made in virtue of the same.
- “(2.) Also, copies of all correspondence and documents relating to an application made by her in January, 1887, to amend her applications.”

(Mr. Vaughn.)

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| 3. | Executive Council Minute. 29 March, 1874 | 3 |
| 4. | Gazette Notice. 21 July, 1874..... | 3 |
| 5. | Transfer from James Maloney to Mary Maloney, with minutes. 6 October, 1875 | 4 |
| 6. | Declaration by Mary Maloney, with minute. 17 February, 1876 | 4 |
| 7. | The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade to the Under Secretary for Lands, with minute. 20 March, 1876 ... | 4 |
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| 10. | Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer to the Minister for Lands, with minutes. 10 February, 1880..... | 5 |
| 11. | The Chief Commissioner to Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer. 19 March, 1880 | 6 |
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301—A.

[830 copies—Approximate Cost of Printing (labour and material), £40 18s. 1d.]

| NO. | PAGE. |
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| 44. The same to Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer. 19 April, 1887..... | 17 |
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| 45½. Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien to the Minister for Lands, with minutes. 31 May, 1887 | 18 |
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| 49. Isaac Stevenson to the Minister for Lands, with minutes. 21 June, 1887..... | 19 |
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| 51. The same, with minutes, 29 June, 1887..... | 20 |
| 52. The same, with minutes. 14 July, 1887 | 20 |
| 53. The Chairman, Land Board, Goulburn, to Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien. 15 August, 1887 | 20 |
| 54. Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien to the Minister for Lands, with minutes. 9 September, 1887 | 20 |
| 55. Decision of Land Board, Goulburn, with enclosures and minutes. 22 September, 1887..... | 20 |
| 56. Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien to the Under Secretary for Lands. 10 October, 1887 | 22 |
| 57. The same to the same, with minutes; telegram. 15 October, 1887 | 22 |
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| 60. The Under Secretary for Lands to Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien; telegram. 17 October, 1887 | 23 |
| 61. Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien to the Under Secretary for Lands, with minute. 21 October, 1887..... | 23 |
| 62. Office Memorandum of Appeal. 8 December, 1887 | 24 |
| 63. Report of Proceedings before Court of Appeal. 14 December, 1887 | 24 |
| 64. Decision of Minister on case of appeal from Local Land Board. 15 December, 1887 | 24 |
| 65. The Under Secretary for Lands to Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer. 21 December, 1887 | 24 |
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| 72. The Chairman, Land Board, Goulburn, to the Manager of the Bank of New South Wales, Burrowa. 23 January, 1888 | 26 |
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| 77. Michl. O'Dwyer to the Honorable the Minister for Lands, with minutes. 26 March, 1888 | 27 |
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| 79. The Under Secretary for Lands to the Chairman, Land Board, Goulburn; telegram. 18 April, 1888 | 27 |
| 80. The Chairman, Land Board, Goulburn, to the Under Secretary for Lands. 18 April, 1888 | 27 |
| 81. Office memorandum, with minutes. 24 April, 1888 | 27 |
| 82. Office memorandum. 1 May, 1888 | 28 |
| 83. Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien to the Under Secretary for Lands, with minutes and enclosure. 12 May, 1888..... | 28 |
| 84. The Under Secretary for Lands to Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien. 1 June, 1888..... | 29 |
| 85. Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien to the Under Secretary for Lands, with minutes. 13 June, 1888..... | 29 |
| 86. The same to the same. 17 June, 1888..... | 29 |
| 87. The Under Secretary for Lands to the Crown Land Agent, Burrowa. 19 June, 1888 | 30 |
| 88. The same to Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien. 19 June, 1888..... | 30 |
| 89. Michl. O'Dwyer to the Chairman of the Land Board, Burrowa. 21 June, 1888 | 30 |
| 90. The Under Secretary for Lands to the Chairman, Land Board, Goulburn. 27 June, 1888 | 30 |

No 1.

Application by James Maloney.

Land Agent's No. 169 of 1872. [Alienation Act, section 13.]
 Application by James Maloney for the conditional purchase, without competition, of 300 acres, unimproved Crown lands, under section 13 of the Lands Alienation Act of 1861.

Received by me, with a deposit of £75, this 31st day of October, 1872, at 12 o'clock,—

WILLIAM J. E. WOTTON,
 Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Burrowa.

Sir,

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the 13th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown lands hereunder described, containing

300 acres, and I herewith tender the sum of £75, being a deposit at the rate of five shillings (5s.) per acre on the area for which I apply, and on which it is my intention to reside.

I have, &c.,

JAMES MALONEY,

Address and nearest Post Town, Burrowa.

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands, Burrowa.

Description.

County of Monteagle, parish of Congera, 300 acres: Bounded on the north by the south boundary of Patrick Maloney's 320 acres at Stoney Creek; and on the west by the road from Burrowa.

Mr. Tozer to measure, if unobjectionable. Noted, 3/1/73.—J.S.A., B.C., 3 January, 1873. 21 January, 1873, No. 13. Plan transmitted to the Surveyor-General with my letter, dated 2 August, 1873, No. 73-23.—C. GARDINER, Licensed Surveyor, 2/8/73.

No. 2.

Mr. Licensed-Surveyor Gardiner, Junior, to The Surveyor-General.

Sir,

Boorowa, 2 August, 1873.

I have the honor to transmit herewith the plan of a portion of land containing 300 acres, numbered 26, in the parish of Congera, in the county of Monteagle, conditionally purchased by James Maloney, under the 13th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act, and measured by me on the 19th July last, in compliance with instructions to Mr. Tozer, under your B.C., dated 3 January, 1873, No. 7,313, by him transferred to me at the District Surveyor's request.

At the time of survey applicant had effected improvements consisting of fencing, clearing, and hut, of the estimated value of £50, and was resident on the land above-described.

The portion of land which is shown on plan tinted green, having frontage to Stoney Creek, and also road from Boorowa to Kengie, I would deem necessary to reserve for convenience of travelling stock, &c.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES GARDINER,

Licensed Surveyor.

Conditional purchase application 72-7,063 and plan herewith. Deputy Surveyor-General.—This survey does not seem to have been performed with sufficient care, being 20 links out one way when closed by latitude and departure. It is submitted therefore whether it may be received.—T.H.L., 17 March, 1874.

Survey received under Surveyor-General's memo. on 74-1,161 Minl., as the west boundary is founded by a road now dealt with in Charting Branch.—T.H.L., 30 May, 1874. Mr. Ellis for notification of reserve.—T.H.L., 29 May, 1874. Charted, 29 May, 1874.

Submitted for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands that the defined portion of land situate between the Boorowa and Kengie road and Stoney Creek, parish of Congera, county of Monteagle, be reserved from sale for water and camping purposes.—ROBT. D. FITZGERALD (for Surveyor-General), B.C., 24 June, 1874. Under Secretary for Lands.

Executive authority 74-4,651, Mis. Gazetted:—21 July, 1874. Minute Executive Council.—27/6/74. District Surveyor Twynams, Mr. Surveyor Crouch, and Licensed-Surveyor Combes informed. The papers to be returned to the Charting Branch after informing the Land Agent.—G. LEWIS, 7 August, 1874.

A tracing is enclosed showing the position of reserve 654, county of Monteagle, parish of Congera, notified 21 July, 1874, for the information of the Land Agent at Burrowa.—J. W. ELLIS (for Surveyor-General), B.C., 8 August, 1874. Under Secretary for Lands. Land Agent Burrowa, with tracing. Appendix A

No. 3.

Minute for the Governor and Executive Council.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 29 June, 1874.

It is recommended to His Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council, that the portion of Crown land described in the annexed Schedule be reserved from sale under the 4th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.

JAMES S. FARNELL.

The Executive Council advise that the portion of land herein referred to be reserved from sale in terms of the 4th clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.—ALEX. C. BUDGE, Clerk of the Council. Min. 74/31, 29/6/74. Approved.—H.R., 30/6/74. Confirmed, 6/7/74. Gazetted. See papers.

Registration number, 73-15,553 Aln.; 230 acres; situation, county of Monteagle, parish of Congera, Stoney Creek; purpose of reservation, reservation of water supply and for camping purposes.

No. 4.

Gazette Notice.

RESERVES FROM SALE FOR WATER SUPPLY AND CAMPING PURPOSES.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 21 July, 1874.

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, directs it to be notified, that in pursuance of the provisions of the 4th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the land specified in the Schedule appended hereto shall be reserved from sale for the preservation of water supply and camping purposes.

JAMES S. FARNELL.

LACHLAN

LACHLAN DISTRICT.

No. 654, county of Monteagle, parish of Congera, between Stoney Creek and the Boorowa Keniju Road, 230 acres. The Crown lands within the following boundaries: Commencing on Stoney Creek, at the south-west corner of P. Maloney's 320 acres, parish of Yundoo; and bounded on the north by part of the south boundary of that portion bearing east 5 chains 95 links to the aforesaid road; on the east by that road southerly, being the west boundary of J. Maloney's 300 acres conditional purchase, portion 26, parish of Congera, to its intersection with the westerly prolongation of the south boundary of portion 26 aforesaid; on the south by a line west to Stoney Creek; and on the west by that creek downwards, to the point of commencement.
[Aln. 73-15,553; Ms. 74-4,651.]

No. 5.

Transfer from J. Maloney to Mary Maloney.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]

Notification of alienation of conditional purchase, under 13th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, where there is no additional conditional purchase in virtue thereof.—Notification of alienation of conditional purchase by James Maloney, in the district of Burrowa.

I HEREBY notify to you, as the agent for the sale of Crown lands for the district of Burrowa, that I have (after a residence thereon of at least twelve months) this day alienated to Mary Maloney, spinster (twenty years of age, 22 July, 1875), of near Burrowa, the 300 acres of land, situated in the county of Monteagle, parish of Congera, which I selected at Burrowa, as a conditional purchase, under the 13th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, on the 31st October, 1872, having no additional conditional purchase in virtue thereof.

JAMES MALONEY,
Burrowa.

Dated at Burrowa, this 6th October, 1875.
To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Burrowa.

I have duly registered the above notification of alienation in the records of this office.

WILLIAM J. E. WOTTON,
Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands.

Crown Lands Sales Office, Burrowa, 6th October, 1875.

No. 6.

Declaration by Mary Maloney.

C.P. No. 72-7,063.

[Alienation Act.]

Declaration of conditional purchaser under the 18th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.

I, MARY MALONEY, of near Burrowa, do solemnly and sincerely declare, that I am the lawful owner, by conditional purchase, under the 13th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, of the land hereunder described, and that improvements, consisting of house, clearing, cultivation, fencing, &c., and to the value of £300, have been made on such land; and I declare further, that the said land has been the *bonâ fide* residence, continuously, of James Maloney and myself from the period of selection and first occupation to the present date (and that no alienation of the land has been made by any of the above-named holders until after the residence thereon of such holder for a period of one whole year, each alienation having been notified to the Land Agent of the District within one month of its having been made). And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the ninth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act for the more effectual abolition of oaths and affirmations taken and made in various departments of the Government of New South Wales, and to substitute declarations in lieu thereof, and for the suppression of voluntary and extra-judicial oaths and affidavits."

MARY MALONEY, Spinster,
20 years, 22/7/78.

Transferred
from James
Maloney to Mary
Maloney, 6/10/75.

Taken and declared, at Burrowa, this 17th day }
of February, 1876, before me,— }

WILLM. J. E. WOTTON, a Commissioner for Affidavits.

Description.

County of Monteagle, parish of Congera, 300 acres, being conditional purchase No. 169 of 1872, in the district of Burrowa, made on the 31st October, 1872.

Interest £1 18s. 3d., credited 20 March, 1876. Balance and deed fee, £226, credited 20 March, 1876, *vide* 76-8,638. Examined and found correct, 7 November, 1880. Transferred to Mary Maloney (now Mary O'Dwyer), *vide* 75-2,800 C. Mr. Wiseman for deed.—W.A., 20/1/81. Deed prepared, 14/3/81.

No. 7.

The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Conditional Purchases.

Sir,

The Treasury, New South Wales, 20 March, 1876.

I have the honor to inform you that the balance of purchase money due on the selection mentioned in the margin was credited to revenue on this day.

Name, Mary
Maloney; dis-
trict, Burrowa;
area, 300 acres;
selected 31st Oct,
1872. £226 bal-
ance; £1, deed
fee; total, £227.

I

5

I may add that the amount has been carried to the Consolidated Revenue Fund, subject to the declaration herewith being countersigned by the Minister for Lands, on the conditions of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861 having been complied with.

I have, &c.,
G. EAGAR.

Mr. Milford,—As the declaration in this case has been made by the proposed alienee, be good enough to note the transfer and return these papers to me.—H.A.G.C., 23/11/76. Transfer noted.—S.F.F.M. 27/11/76. Mr. Curry.

No. 8.

Report by Mr. Inspector T. A. Davies.

Selection of James Maloney, made at Burrowa, on 31st October, 1872, C.P. 72-7,063, section 13.

Sir,

Cunningham, 30 September, 1878.

I have the honor to report that I visited and inspected the above-described conditional purchase on the 23rd September, 1878, and that I found the selector then non-resident upon his selection.

Plan—Appendix B.

The land, which consists of good grazing land, and comprises 300 acres, is now occupied and used by the selector for grazing purposes; and the selector, who follows the avocation of a grazier, had, at the time of my visit, made the improvements hereunder particularly described, the value of which I estimate at the sums respectively stated, viz :—

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|----|---|
| House | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £30 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 acres cleared and fenced, at £3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 42 | 0 | 0 |
| 59 chains dog-leg fencing, at £20 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 | 15 | 0 |
| 66 chains two-rail fencing, at £50 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 41 | 5 | 0 |
| 47 chains dog-leg, at £20 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 | 15 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | £139 | 15 | 0 |

From the appearance of the land and the circumstances stated in the following remarks, I am of opinion that the selector has been continuously resident upon the selection for the full period of three years. There is every appearance about the hut of continuous occupation, it being occupied at the present time, but not by the selector. There are no additional. I was informed that the balance in the case was paid up in February, 1875.

I have, &c.,

T. A. DAVIES,

Inspector of Conditional Purchases.

The Chief Commissioner, Department of Lands, Sydney.

Balance case, section 13; area 300 acres; improvements, £139 15s.; residence duly complete. There are no additional with surplus to cover deficiency. Submitted.—W.B. For Commissioner.—A.O.M. Included in Gazette of 19th August last. M. Maloney informed, 21/1/80. B.C., Commissioner Clarke.

No. 9.

Extract from Gazette.

Department of Lands, Conditional Sales Division, Sydney, 19 August, 1879.

It is hereby notified, for the information of all parties interested, that information having been received to the effect that the conditions as to residence or improvements have not been or are being fulfilled in respect to the undermentioned conditional purchases, the claims of the holders of such purchases have been severally referred to Commissioners for inquiry, pursuant to the Lands Acts Amendment Act, 1875.

Due notice will be given by the Commissioners of the times and places appointed by them for holding such enquiries.

* * * * *

| No. of Papers. | C.P. No. | Name of Selector. | Date of Selection. | Area. | District. | County. | Parish. | Commissioner to whom referred. |
|----------------|----------|---|--------------------|---------------------|------------|-------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| 78-39740 | 72-7063 | Maloney, James (transferred to Mary Maloney, spinster). | 31 Oct., 1872 | a. r. p. 300 0 0 | Burrowa .. | Monteagle.. | Congera .. | Geo. O'Malley Clarke, Esq. |

No. 10.

Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer to The Secretary for Lands.

Form of application for deed of grant.

Sir,

Burrowa, 10 February, 1880.

I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to cause to be forwarded to Michael O'Dwyer, of Frogmoor, on my behalf, the deed of grant of 300 acres of land conditionally purchased by James Maloney, at Burrowa, on the 31st day of October, 1872, the said land being transferred by James Maloney to me. I have fulfilled the conditions, made the necessary declaration, and paid off balance of purchase money (£226), on the 18th day of February, 1876, to the Land Agent, Boorowa. My name at the time of transfer of the land was Mary Maloney, spinster. I have made a previous application for the deed of this land, but received no reply.

I have, &c.,

MARY O'DWYER.

Witness—EGNON BELL, J.P.

Applicant should be informed that her case is under reference to Commissioner Clarke, and until his report has been received and approved by the Minister her deeds cannot issue.—A.B.C., 20/2/80. W.M.C. Writer informed, 19 March, 1880.

No. 11.

The Chief Commissioner to Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer.

Department of Lands, Conditional Sales Division,
Sydney, 19 March, 1880.

Madam,

C.P. 72-7,068 ;
31 Oct., 1872 ;
300 acres ; James
Maloney, now
Mary Maloney.

With reference to your letter of the 10th February last, requesting that the deed of grant for your conditional purchase, noted in the margin, may be sent to Michael O'Dwyer, of Frogmoor, I am to inform you that the selection in question is under reference to Mr. Commissioner Clarke for inquiry, and that until his report has been received and approved of by the Minister for Lands, the desired deed cannot be issued.

I have, &c.,

WM. BLACKMAN

(For the Chief Commissioner).

No. 12.

Mr. Commissioner Clarke to The Chief Commissioner of Conditional Purchases.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875, held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the *Gazette* of the 19th August, 1879, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The claimant having been duly served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry, was represented thereat.

The following facts bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase, were elicited in evidence, viz.

The fulfilment of the conditions was final. I have, therefore, to report that I find such conditions to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be upheld.

I have, &c.,

GEO. O'MALLEY CLARKE,

Commissioner.

[Enclosures.]

New South Wales, to wit.

Before George O'Malley Clarke, Commissioner, Court-house, Burrowa, 31 May, 1880.

INQUIRY under the provisions of the Lands Acts Amendment Act, 1875, into the matter of the fulfilment of the conditions of residence and improvements upon the conditional purchase of 300 acres, situated in the county of Monteagle, parish of Congera, made by James Maloney (now Mary Maloney), at Burrowa, on the 31st October, 1872.

James Maloney, sworn, states:—I know the conditional purchase of 300 acres under inquiry, upon which I resided for about three years; I had no other home; the improvements are a house, £30; clearing, £120; fencing, £97 10s.; fencing, £20; yards, £15; paddock, £8; chock and log fence, £40; hut, £10; total, £340 10s.; none of these improvements have been effected since the inspection.

JAMES MALONEY.

Taken and sworn on this 31st May, 1880,—GEO. O'MALLEY CLARKE.

Inspector T. A. Davies, sworn, states:—On the 23rd September, 1878, I inspected the conditional purchase under notice, and found thereon, house, £30; 14 acres cleared and fenced, £42; 59 chains dog-leg fence, £14 15s.; 66 chains fence, £41 5s.; 47 chains fence, £11 15s.; total, £139 15s. The improvements had fallen very much to decay, and may have been of more value when first effected.

T. A. DAVIES, Inspector, Conditional Purchases.

Taken and sworn on this 30th May, 1880,—GEO. O'MALLEY CLARKE.

For approval.—W.B. Accepted.—J.H., 21/9/80. Mrs. M. O'Dwyer informed declaration accepted, 12 October, 1880. Balance case; Mr. Capper, then to Mr. Ardell. Noted, 26/10.—Mr. Ardell.

Mary Maloney, to whom this conditional purchase was transferred, and who has paid the balance of purchase money, has since married, her name now being O'Dwyer. Before the case is sent on for deed, reference should perhaps be made to the parties as to which name the deed should be prepared in, and if in the latter, a Crown Solicitor's certificate should be furnished.—W.A., 30/11/80.

Should be made out in the name in which she held the conditional and paid the balance,—the first name.—W.B. (for Chief Commissioner), 28/12/80.

No. 13.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer.

Madam,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 12 October, 1880.

The Colonial Treasurer having forwarded to this Department the declaration made by you at Burrowa, on the 17th February, 1880, with reference to the conditional purchase described at foot hereof, and having reported that interest on the balance of purchase money has been received at the Treasury, I am now directed by the Minister for Lands to notify to you that he is satisfied, after due inquiry, that the conditions as to residence and improvement prescribed by the 18th clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861 have been completed in respect of the said conditional purchase.

The deed of grant may be obtained at any time hereafter by payment of the balance of the purchase money, with the interest, if any, then due; but should such payment be deferred, interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum must be paid between the 1st January and 31st March in each year, until the balance, inclusive of interest as prescribed by law, shall have been duly paid, otherwise the selection will be forfeited.

I have, &c.,

A. O. MORIARTY

(For the Under Secretary).

Conditional purchase No. 72-7,063, section 13; district, Burrowa; date, 31 October, 1872; county Monteagle, parish Congera; No. of portion, 169; area, 300 acres; original applicant, James Maloney; present holder, Mary O'Dwyer, formerly Mary Maloney.

No. 14.

7.

No. 14.

Office Memorandum.

Record No. C.S. 80-29,091—Deed prepared, 14/3/81—C.P. No. 72-7,063.

MR. BENNETT,—For notation of the sale of 300 acres, portion 26, county of Monteagle, parish of Congera, to Mary Maloney, a spinster, of Burrowa, under the 13th clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861. J.W., 24/1/81.

Noted.—L. G. J. BENNETT, 16/2/81. Mr. Underwood,—For preparation of description of the above land. Mr. Swinney,—For description, 22/2/81. Mr. Underwood,—Description prepared and returned.—24/2/81. Description, examined and found correct, is enclosed.—W.J.N., 4/3/81. Mr. Webster,—For Diagram. Mr. Wiseman,—Diagram herewith charted, examined, and found correct.—W.W., 9/3/81. Mr. Coggins,—Engross the enclosed deed in accordance with endorsement on description form.—F.M'K., 14/3/81. Mr. M'Kern,—Engrossed and returned.—J.C., 21/3/81.

[Enclosure.]

Country lot M. 904-1,780, Mary Maloney, conditional purchase 72-7,063.

Description.

300 acres, county of Monteagle, parish of Congera, portion 26. Commencing at a point distant 5 chains 95 links east from the south-western corner of Patrick Maloney's 320 acres, on the right bank of Stoney Creek, parish of Yundoo; and bounded thence on the north by part of the southern boundary of that land bearing east 66 chains 21 links; on the east by a line bearing south 44 chains 94 links; on the south by a line bearing west 59 chains 45 links; and on the south-west and west by lines bearing north 29° 20' west 18 chains 83 links north 2° 22' west 13 chains; and thence north 10° 12' east 15 chains 79 links, to the point of commencement.

31st October, 1872—Mary Maloney, a spinster, of Burrowa—13th section—£300.

Examined.—W.J.N., 4/3/81.

Engrossment examined and found correct.—W.G.N., G.P., 25/3/81. Deed initialled and submitted to Secretary for Lands for signature, 20/3/81. To Colonial Secretary for Great Seal and signature of Governor, 1/4/81. To Registrar-General for delivery.—F.M'K., 20/5/81.

No. 15.

Application for Conditional Purchase by Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer.

C.P. No. 157 of 1885.

Crown Lands Act of 1884 (part III, sections 26, 42, and 47).

Eastern Division, Land District of Burrowa—Mary O'Dwyer—Area, 131 acres.

To the Land Agent at Burrowa,—

Burrowa, 23 December, 1885.

I hereby apply for 131 acres of Crown lands as additional conditional purchase; and I tender the sum of £13 2s., being a deposit of 2s. per acre thereon. A description of the land applied for is hereunder, and the prescribed declaration is attached.

Description of the land applied for.

Eastern division, county of Monteagle, parish of Congera, 131 acres: Commencing at a peg in an L trench at south-west corner of my conditional purchase of 300 acres, portion No. 21; and bounded thence by lines running east to the north-east corner of mineral lease, portion 10; thence south along the east boundary of mineral lease, portions Nos. 10 and 9; thence west along the southern boundary of portion 9; and by a continuation of that line to the Cowra Road; thence north along that road to the point of commencement.

I affixed the peg referred to above on the 23rd day of December, 1885.

MARY O'DWYER,
23rd December, 1885.

Present and all previous holding of the same series. Conditional Purchases:—L.A. No. 169; date of application, 1872; area, 300 acres. L.A. No. 157; date of application, 1885; area, 131 acres. County Monteagle, parish Congera, portion 142 of 131 acres.

This is the application marked A referred to in the annexed declaration of Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer, made before me, at Burrowa, this 23rd December, 1885.

J. R. MACDONALD, J.P., &c.

This application (together with the deposit of £13 2s.) was lodged with me by Mary O'Dwyer, this 24th day of December, 1885, at 18 minutes past 10 of the clock forenoon.

J. R. MACDONALD,
Land Agent at Burrowa.

No. 16.

Declaration by Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer.

C.P. No. 157 of 1885.

Crown Lands Act of 1884 (part III, sections 24, 26, 42, and 47).

I, MARY O'DWYER (formerly Mary Maloney), of Burrowa, storekeeper, do hereby solemnly declare and affirm that I am the applicant for the conditional purchase, as described in the application hereto annexed and marked A, and that the several answers to the questions in the schedule hereto are true and correct. And I make this solemn declaration as to the several matters aforesaid, according to the law in this behalf made, and subject to the punishment by law provided for any wilfully false statement in any such declaration.

Made before me, at Burrowa, this 23rd }
day of December, 1885,— }

MARY O'DWYER.

J. R. MACDONALD, Crown Land Agent.

C.P.

C.P. No. 175 of 1885.

Crown Lands Act of 1884 (part III, sections 24, 26, and 47).
Schedule.

1. What is your name? Mary O'Dwyer.
2. What is your age? 30.
3. State year and date of birth. 22nd July, 1855.
4. Are you married, single, a widower, or widow? Married.
7. Do you intend using the land now applied for solely for your own use and benefit? Yes.
8. Have you entered into any agreement or arrangement by which any person other than yourself can acquire any interest in the land you apply for? No.
9. Is there any understanding between you and any person in reference to the land applied for that will tend to defeat or evade the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1884? No.
10. Are you under any obligation that will prevent you from fulfilling the law in regard to the land you apply for? No.
15. If you hold conditional purchases, are they mortgaged or encumbered in any way; and, if so, to whom? No.
16. Do you understand the conditions of residence and fencing required by the Crown Lands Act of 1884? Yes.

Signature of attesting witness—

J. R. MACDONALD, Crown Land Agent.

MARY O'DWYER,
Burrowa.

No. 17.

Application for a Conditional Lease by Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer.

No. 99 of 1885.

Crown Lands Act of 1884 (part III, sections 48 and 54).

Received by me, this 24th day of December, 1885, at 10:18 o'clock, with the sum of £3 5s. 6d.

J. R. MACDONALD,
Land Agent at Burrowa.

Burrowa, 23 December, 1885.

Series of conditional purchases held by applicant: C.P. No. 157; date, 1885; area, 300 acres and 130 acres. Conditional lease new or previously applied for: C.L. No. 99; date, 1885; area, 393 acres. Portions Nos. 144 and 66, of 217 and 176 acres, parish of Congera.

IN accordance with the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, I, Mary O'Dwyer, formerly Mary Maloney, hereby apply for a conditional lease of the Crown land hereunder described, adjoining and in virtue of my conditional purchase No. 157, of 1885, of 131 acres, and I hereby tender the sum of £3 5s. 6d. as the first year's rent at the minimum rate, and I also agree to pay any further sum that may be demanded upon the determination of the rental of such conditional lease.

MARY O'DWYER.

Description.

Eastern division, county of Monteagle, parish of Congera, 393 acres: Commencing at the south-east corner of my conditional purchase of 131 acres; thence running south to Thos. Slattery's conditional purchase; then west to the Cowra Road; thence north to the south-west corner of my conditional purchase; and then east, to the point of commencement.

No. 18.

Application for a Conditional Purchase by Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer.

Crown Lands Act of 1884 (part III, sections 24, 26, and 47).

C.P. No. 161 of 1885.

Eastern Division, Land District of Burrowa; name of applicant—Mary O'Dwyer; area 114 acres.

Burrowa, 31 December, 1885.

To the Land Agent at Burrowa.

I HEREBY apply for 114 acres of Crown lands as an additional conditional purchase, and I tender the sum of £11 8s., being a deposit of 2s. per acre thereon. A description of the land applied for is hereunder, and the prescribed declaration is attached. The land applied for not improved.

Description of land applied for.

Eastern division, county of Monteagle, parish of Congera, 114 acres: Commencing at south-east corner of my conditional purchase of 300 acres; and bounded thence by lines from thence running north 25 chains along the eastern boundary of said 300 acres; thence running east to the north-east corner of portion 60; thence south along the eastern boundary of portions 60 and 61; thence further south to the northern boundary of portion No. 51 (forfeited selection); thence west to the north-west corner of same; thence north to portion 61; and from thence west to point of commencement.

MARY O'DWYER,
31 December, 1885.

Present and all previous holding of the same series.

Conditional purchases: L.A. No. 169; date of application, 1872; area, 300 acres; L.A. No. 157; date of application, 1885; area, 131 acres; L.A. No. 161; date of application, 1885; area, 114 acres—total, 545 acres.

Conditional leases: L.A. No. 99; date of application, 1885; area, 393 acres; L.A. No. 101; date of application, 1885; area, 842 acres—total, 735 acres.

This is the application marked A referred to in the annexed declaration of Mary O'Dwyer, made before me, at Burrowa, this 31st December, 1885.

J. R. MACDONALD,
Crown Land Agent.

This application, together with the deposit of £11 8s., was lodged with me by Mary O'Dwyer, this 31st day of December, 1885, at 15 minutes past 10 of the clock forenoon.

J. R. MACDONALD,
Land Agent at Burrowa.

No. 19.

No. 19.

Declaration by Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer.

C.P. No. 161 of 1885.

Crown Lands Act of 1884 (part III, sections 24, 26, 42 and 47).

I, MARY O'DWYER, formerly Mary Maloney, of Burrowa, storekeeper, do hereby solemnly declare and affirm that I am the applicant for the conditional purchase as described in the application hereto annexed and marked A, and that the several answers to the questions in the schedule hereto are true and correct. And I make this solemn declaration as to the several matters aforesaid, according to the law in this behalf made, and subject to the punishment by law provided for any wilfully false statement in any such declaration.

Made before me at Burrowa, this 31st }
day of December, 1885,— }

MARY O'DWYER.

J. R. MACDONALD, Crown Land Agent.

C.P. No. 161 of 1885.

Crown Lands Act of 1884 (part III, sections 24, 26, and 47).

SCHEDULE.

1. What is your name? Mary O'Dwyer.
2. What is your age? Thirty.
3. State year and date of birth. 1855.
4. Are you married, single, a widow, or widower? Married.
6. Have you been in the employment of any person during the last two years? If so, state of whom. No.
7. Do you intend using the land now applied for solely for your own use and benefit? Yes.
8. Have you entered into any agreement or arrangement, by which any person other than yourself can acquire any interest in the land you apply for? No.
9. Is there any understanding between you and any person in reference to the land applied for that will tend to defeat or evade the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1884? No.
10. Are you under any obligation that will prevent you from fulfilling the law in regard to the land you apply for? No.
15. If you hold conditional purchases, are they mortgaged or encumbered in any way, and if so, to whom? No.
16. Do you understand the conditions of residence and fencing required by the Crown Lands Act of 1884? Yes.

Signature of attesting witness,—

J. R. MACDONALD, Crown Land Agent.

MARY O'DWYER,

Burrowa.

No. 20.

Application for a Conditional Lease by Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer.

No. 101 of 1885.

Crown Lands Act of 1884 (part III, sections 48 and 54).

Received by me, this 31st day of December, 1885, at 10:50 o'clock, with the sum of £2 12s,—

J. R. MACDONALD,

Land Agent at Burrowa.

Burrowa, 31 December, 1885.

Series of conditional purchases held by applicant:—C.P. No. 169; date, 1872; area, 300 acres. C.P. No. 157; date, 1885; area, 131 acres. C.P. No. 161; date, 1885; area, 114 acres.

Conditional leases now or previously applied for:—C.L. No. 99; date, 1885; area, 393 acres. C.L. No. 101; area, 342 acres.

County Montegale, parish Congera, portion 51 of 200 acres.

IN accordance with the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, I, Mary O'Dwyer, formerly M. Maloney, hereby apply for a conditional lease of the Crown land hereunder described, adjoining and in virtue of my conditional purchase No. 161, of 1885, of 114 acres, and I hereby tender the sum of £2 17s. as the first year's rent at the minimum rate, and I also agree to pay any further sum that may be demanded upon the determination of the rental of such conditional lease.

MARY O'DWYER

(Formerly MARY MALONEY).

To the Land Agent at Burrowa.

Description.

Eastern division, county of Montegale, parish of Congera, 342 acres: Commencing at the south-east corner of my conditional purchase 114 acres; thence by a line running east, corner of portion 51; thence south by eastern boundary of same; thence west by its southern boundary; thence north to the south-west corner of portion 65; thence east to the point of commencement.

No. 21.

Application by Thomas Maloney.

No. 23 of 1886.

Crown Lands Act of 1884 (part III, sections 48 and 51).

Received by me, this 25th day of March, 1886, at 11.55 o'clock, with the sum of £5 12s. 6d.

J. R. MACDONALD,

Land Agent at Burrowa.

Burrowa, 25 March, 1886.

Series of conditional purchases held by applicant: C.P. No. 44; date, 1879; area, 305 acres; date, 25 March, 1886; area, 300 acres; total area, 605 acres.

Conditional lease now or previously applied for:—Date, 25 March, 1886; area, 675 acres.

In accordance with the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, I, Thomas Maloney, farmer, hereby apply for a conditional lease of the Crown land hereunder described, adjoining and in virtue of my additional conditional purchase, No. 40, of 1886, of 300 acres, and I hereby tender the sum of £5 12s. 6d. as the first year's rent at the minimum rate, and I also agree to pay any further sum that may be demanded upon the determination of the rental of such conditional lease.

THOMAS MALONEY

(Per Bank of New South Wales).

Description.

Eastern division, county of Monteagle, parish of Congera, 675 acres: Commencing at the north-east corner of my additional conditional purchase of 300 acres, selected 25 March, 1886; thence by line north to a point; thence by a line west to a point; thence by a line south to a point; thence by a line east to the south-west corner of my aforesaid additional conditional purchase of 300 acres, to embrace the area, and to be measured in accordance with the regulations.

This application is accepted under protest, as the land is already held under conditional purchase by Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer.—J. R. MACDONALD, Crown Land Agent, 25/3/86.

No. 22.

Memorandum from Licensed Surveyor J. E. Lester to The District Surveyor.

Re surveys of conditional purchases 85-157 and 161, and conditional lease 85-99, Burrowa.

Acting on the principle of boundaries over areas, I measured the above, some time ago, in the form shown by my tracing enclosed, but did not send the plan in, as I found, after leaving the locality, that the total areas exceeded 1,280 acres. I purpose amending the survey of conditional purchase 85-157, and conditional lease 85-99, as indicated by red and blue broken lines on tracing enclosed. The road from Burrowa to Cowra is of a frontage character. Conditional purchase 85-161 is measured as described, and shown tinted red on my tracing enclosed, being, with measured portions 60 and 61, about 128 acres, or 14 acres in excess of that paid for. In this case, the unmeasured area applied for being less than 40 acres, the conditional purchase will have to be measured with excessive area. The additional area measured will not exceed a total of 1,280 acres, conditional lease 85-101 being a measured portion of 300 acres, or 42 acres less than applied for.

JAS. E. LESTER,

31st March, 1886.

Licensed Surveyor.

Conditional purchase 85-157, of the 24th December, 131 acres, to be measured, adjoining M. Maloney's 300 acres.

Conditional lease 85-99, 393 acres (being thrice the conditional purchase area) to be measured, including portion 66, *i.e.*, 217 acres to be measured, between portion 66 and the road.

Conditional purchase 85-161. This conditional purchase includes portions 60 and 61, and western part of portion 65, which is to be severed by prolongation southward of east boundary of portion 61. The remainder of portion 65 should be cancelled, and the corner marks destroyed. The area between portions 60, 61 and portion 26, being less than 40 acres cannot be included under this application, but inasmuch as the maximum area has not yet been acquired under this series of conditional purchases, the vacant area mentioned with other land, may be secured by another additional conditional purchase.

E.T.,

9th April, 1886.

District Surveyor.

Mr. Licensed-Surveyor Lester.

No. 23.

Application by Chas. C. Robinson.

C.P. No. 69 of 1886.

Crown Lands Act of 1884 (part III, sections 26, 42, and 47).

Eastern Division, Land District of Burrowa. For the Bank of New South Wales, Chas. C. Robinson, Manager, Burrowa.

To the Land Agent at Burrowa,—

Burrowa, 22 April, 1886.

I hereby apply for 300 acres of Crown lands as an additional conditional purchase, and I tender the sum of £30, being a deposit of 2s. per acre thereon. A description of the land applied for and the described declaration is attached. The land applied for is not improved.

Disallowed, 15th October, 1886.

Description of the land applied for.

Eastern division, county of Monteagle, parish of Congera, 300 acres: Commencing at the north-west corner of my portion No. 50 of 305 acres, on Burrowa River; and bounded thence by lines west about 54 chains; thence by a line east about 54 chains to the south-west corner of my aforesaid portion of 305 acres; thence by a line north to point of commencement, to embrace the required area, being a measured portion No. 51.

For the Bank of New South Wales,

CHAS. C. ROBINSON,

Manager, Burrowa.

This

Present and all previous holding of the same series.—Conditional purchases:—Land Agent's Nos. 44 and 69; dates of application, 1879 and 1886; areas, 305 and 300 acres.

This is the application marked A referred to in the annexed declaration of Charles Cecil Robinson, Manager, Bank of New South Wales, made before me at Burrowa, this 20th April, 1886.

J. R. MACDONALD,
Crown Land Agent.

This application, together with the deposit of £30, was lodged with me by Thomas Maloney, this 22nd day of April, 1886, at fifty minutes past 11 of the clock forenoon.

J. R. MACDONALD,
Land Agent at Burrowa.

No. 24.

Declaration by Chas. C. Robinson.

C.P. No. 69 of 1886.

Crown Lands Act of 1884 (part III, sections 24, 26, 42, and 47).

I, CHARLES C. ROBINSON, Manager of Bank of New South Wales, Burrowa Branch, do hereby solemnly declare and affirm that I am the applicant for the conditional purchase, as described in the application hereto annexed and marked A, and that the several answers to the questions in the schedule hereto are true and correct. And I make this solemn declaration as to the several matters aforesaid, according to the law in this behalf made, and subject to the punishment by law provided for any wilfully false statement in any such declaration.

Made before me at Burrowa,
this 22nd day of April, 1886,—

CHAS. C. ROBINSON.

J. R. MACDONALD, Crown Land Agent.

C.P. No. 69 of 1886.

Crown Lands Act of 1884 (part III, sections 24, 26, and 47).

Schedule.

1. What is your name? Charles Cecil Robinson.
2. What is your age? 40.
3. State year and date of birth. 24th February, 1846.
4. Are you married, single, a widower, or widow? Married.
8. Have you entered into any agreement or arrangement by which any person other than yourself can acquire any interest in the land you apply for? No.
9. Is there any understanding between you and any person in reference to the land applied for that will tend to defeat or evade the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1884? No.
10. Are you under any obligation that will prevent you from fulfilling the law in regard to the land you apply for? No.
15. If you hold conditional purchases, are they mortgaged or encumbered in any way, and if so, to whom? No.
16. Do you understand the conditions of residence and fencing required by the Crown Lands Act of 1884? Yes.

For the Bank of New South Wales,

CHAS. C. ROBINSON,
Manager, Burrowa.

Signature of attesting witness,—

J. R. MACDONALD, Crown Land Agent.

[Enclosure.]

I HEREBY authorize Mr. Thomas Maloney as our agent to lodge an application for an additional conditional purchase of 300 acres, together with a conditional lease of 300 acres, and applied for in virtue of the following selection appearing in our name, viz:—305 acres, selected 20th February, 1879, by Thomas Maloney, in parish of Congera, county of Montegale, under 13th section.

For the Bank of New South Wales,

CHAS. C. ROBINSON,
Manager, Burrowa.

No. 25.

Application by Chas. C. Robinson.

No. 38 of 1886.

Crown Lands Act of 1884 (part III, sections 48 and 54).

Received by me, this 22nd day of April, 1886, at 11.50 o'clock, with the sum of £5 12s. 6d.—

J. R. MACDONALD,
Land Agent at Burrowa.

Burrowa, 22 April, 1886.

Series of conditional purchases held by applicant:—C.P. Nos. 44 and 69; date, 1879 and 1886; area, 305 and 300 acres.

In accordance with the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, I, Charles C. Robinson, Manager of the Bank of New South Wales, Burrowa, hereby apply for a conditional lease of the Crown land hereunder described, adjoining and in virtue of my conditional purchase No. 69 of 1886, of 300 acres, and I hereby tender the sum of £5 12s. 6d. as the first year's rent at the minimum rate, and I also agree to pay any further sum that may be demanded upon the determination of the rental of such conditional lease.

For the Bank of New South Wales,

CHAS. C. ROBINSON,
Manager, Burrowa Branch.

Disallowed, 15th October, 1886.

To the Land Agent at Burrowa.

Description.

Description.

Eastern division, county of Monteagle, parish of Congera, 675 acres: Commencing at the north-east corner of my additional conditional purchase of 300 acres, selected 25th March, 1886; thence by lines north to a point; thence by a line west to a point; thence by a line south to a point; thence by a line east to the south-west corner of my aforesaid additional conditional purchase of 300 acres, to embrace the area and to be measured in accordance with the regulations.

Disallowed, 15th October, 1880.

No. 26.

Mr. Licensed-Surveyor Lester to The District Surveyor.

Sir,

Burrowa, 23 June, 1886.

* Appendix C.

I have the honor to transmit herewith the plan* of an area of 217 acres, numbered 144, in the parish of Congera, in the county of Monteagle, which I have measured for conditional lease No. 85-90 of the Burrowa Land District, applied for by Mary O'Dwyer, in connection with conditional purchase No. 85-157, being portion numbered 142 in this parish.

This survey has been effected in accordance with instructions No. 86-32, dated 23 January, from the District Surveyor at Goulbura. Improvements, *nil*; undulating forest, medium soil; grazing capabilities, fair; agricultural, *nil*; moderately timbered with box gum and stringy bark; water supply, *nil*; no undergrowth; fair annual value, 2½d. per acre.

I have, &c.,
JAS. E. LESTER.

This application covers portion 65 of 176 acres, and Crown land now measured as portion 144 of 217 acres. I am not aware of any objection to the conditional lease desired, which is recommended for confirmation accordingly. The surveyor reports the aspect of the country to be undulating forest land, affording fair conditions for grazing, and he estimates the fair annual value of this leasehold at 2½d. per acre. Tracing of plan is herewith.—E. TWYXAM, District Surveyor, 30 August, 1886. The Chairman.

Court at Burrowa, 14 October, 1886. Applicant notified, 23/9/86. Confirmed, Court, 14 October, 1886, for portions 65 and 144, parish Congera, of 393 acres. Certificate issued, 18/6/87.

No. 27.

Mr. Licensed-Surveyor Lester to The District Surveyor.

Sir,

Burrowa, 23 June, 1886.

* Appendix D.

I have the honor to transmit herewith the plan* of one portion of land containing 131 acres, numbered 142, in the parish of Congera, in the county of Monteagle, conditionally purchased by Mary O'Dwyer, under the 42nd section of the Crown Lands Act of 1834, measured by me on 31st May, 1886, in accordance with Instruction No. 85-33, dated 23 January, 1886. Improvements, *nil*; good undulating forest.

I have, &c.,
JAS. E. LESTER,
Licensed Surveyor.

The area measured as portion 142 of 131 acres, is covered by this application, and I am not aware of any objection to the conditional purchase desired, which is recommended for confirmation accordingly.

* Appendix E.

*Tracing of the plan is herewith. There is an associated conditional lease, 86-2,363.—E. TWYXAM, District Surveyor, 30 August, 1886. The Chairman.

Court at Burrowa, 14 October, 1883. Applicant notified, 28/9/86. Confirmed, Court, 14 October, 1886, for portion 142 of 131 acres, parish of Congera. Certificate issued, 18/6/87.

No. 28.

Mr. Licensed-Surveyor Lester to The District Surveyor.

Sir,

Burrowa, 23 June, 1886.

* Appendix F.

I have the honor to transmit herewith the plan* of one portion of land, containing 50½ acres, numbered 143, in the parish of Congera, in the county of Monteagle, conditionally purchased by Mary O'Dwyer, under the 42nd section of the Crown Lands Act of 1834, measured by me on 12th February, 1886, in accordance with instructions No. 86-31, dated 28th January, 1886. Improvements, *nil*. Fair grazing land. The marks on the eastern portion of No. 65 have been obliterated.

I have, &c.,
JAS. E. LESTER,
Licensed Surveyor.

This application covers portions 60 and 61 of 40 acres each, and part, viz., 50½ acres of portion 65, which is now measured as portion 143, altogether containing 130½ acres, which is 16½ acres in excess of the quantity applied for, and there should be payment of additional deposit accordingly. Inasmuch as portion 65 was to a large extent within frontage limit of the Boorowa River, and therefore not conformable to the present law, I have caused the residue to be cancelled, and I think the cost of subdivision should not be charged to the applicant. There is an associated conditional lease, which is the subject of separate report. *Tracing of the plan of portion 143 is herewith.—E. TWYXAM, District Surveyor, 30/8/86. The Chairman.

* Appendix G.

Court at Burrowa, 14/10/86. Applicant notified, 1/10/86. Confirmed, Court, 14/10/86, for portions 60, 61, and 143, parish Congera, of 130½ acres, subject to payment of extra deposit on 16½ acres. Paid, 29/6/87, £1 12s. 6d. Certificates issued, 18/8/87.—W.T.

No. 29.

No. 29.

The District Surveyor, Goulburn, to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Burrowa.

Burrowa; conditional purchase, 86-69, for 300 acres, dated 22 April; conditional lease, 66-38, for 675 acres, dated 22 April; parish of Congera, county of Monteagle; by Charles Robinson, for Bank of New South Wales; conditional purchase.

THIS application is for portion 51 of 300 acres, formerly held under conditional purchase 74-13,720, which was declared forfeited 8th November, 1882, and the portion was offered at auction 6th September, 1882, and not bid for. It has been applied for by Mary O'Dwyer, as conditional lease 85-101, of 31st December, 1885, which would appear to be unobjectionable (see my report of this date). Under these circumstances probably conditional purchase 86-69 should be disallowed.

Conditional lease 86-38 covers land already applied for by Mary O'Dwyer, viz., conditional purchase 85-157, 85-161, and conditional lease 85-99, as shown by red and blue hatching on annexed sketch;* and if these claims be confirmed, then conditional lease 86-38 should be disallowed. * Appendices III and H2.

3rd September, 1886.

E. TWYNAM,

District Surveyor.

Court, Frogmoor, 15/10/86. Applicant notified, 4/10/86. Conditional purchase, 86-69, and conditional lease, 86-38, disallowed, for reason herein set forth—*vide* minute. Applicant refund orders, £5 12s. 6d. and £30; Crown Land Agent and Treasury informed in both cases, 26/10/86. Treasury and Crown Land Agent informed from 43 and 44 L.L.B. The District Surveyor, 26/10/86.

No. 30.

Mr. Licensed-Surveyor Lester to The District Surveyor, Goulburn.

Report of Mr. Licensed-Surveyor Jas. E. Lester, as to the annual value of the land (measured as 300 acres) represented by portion 51, parish Congera; conditional lease No. 85-101; the land district of Burrowa, county of Monteagle.

86-173. Burrowa, 21 September, 1886.

I have the honor to furnish the following information respecting the land represented by the conditional lease above-described, the annual value of which under conditional lease, after a careful examination of the question, I consider to be 2½d. per acre:—

Character of soil: Medium soil; hilly country.

Grazing capabilities: Fair; carrying capacity two acres to sheep.

Agricultural capabilities: Not adapted for cultivation.

Nature and growth of timber: Box gum and stringy bark of no commercial value, except for fencing purposes.

Whether dense or thickly timbered: Open forest without undergrowth.

Whether scrub or brush land: No scrub or brush land.

In addition to the above, I may state that there are no special circumstances to enhance the value of the land.

I have, &c.,

JAS. E. LESTER,

Licensed Surveyor.

No. 31.

Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer to The Chairman, Land Board, Goulburn.

Sir,

Burrowa, 25 September, 1886.

I have the honor to state for your information respecting two additional conditional purchases and two conditional leases thereto, which I took up on the 24th and 31st of December last, and they have not as yet been before the land board for inquiry, and being desirous to know my legal right to the same with a view to improvements, &c., &c., I should feel thankful if you would be good enough to cause them to be inquired into.

The lands referred to are situated in the county Monteagle, parish of Congera, in the eastern division; the first being 131 acres with conditional lease thereto, the second area 114 acres with conditional lease, also selected on the dates above-mentioned.

The selections were surveyed immediately after the selections were made.

I have, &c.,

MARY O'DWYER,

Burrowa.

No. 32.

The District Surveyor, Goulburn, to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Burrowa.

Burrowa; conditional lease, 85-101 for 342 acres, dated 31st December, parish of Congera, county of Monteagle, by Mary O'Dwyer, formerly Mary Maloney.

THIS application is for portion 51 of 300 acres, and is the conditional lease associated with conditional purchase 85-161.

This portion* was formerly held under conditional purchase 74-13,720, which was declared forfeited 8th November, 1881, and offered at auction 6th September, 1882, and not bid for. It is now vacant Crown land. * Appendix I.

I am not aware of any objection to entertaining this application, and I would recommend confirmation accordingly.

The surveyor's report on the conditions of the land is herewith; he estimates the stock-carrying capacity at two acres to a sheep, and he values this leasehold at 2½d. per acre, which relatively to the minimum rate appears to be a low rental.

E. TWYNAM,

District Surveyor.

Court, Burrowa, 14/10/86. Applicant notified, 2/10/86. (Vide Minute C.) Confirmed, Court, 14 October, 1886, for portion 51 of 300 acres, parish Congera. Certificates issued, 18/6/87.

[Enclosure.]

[Enclosures.]

Michael O'Dwyer, being duly sworn, saith: I am the husband of Mary O'Dwyer, who is the applicant for a conditional purchase, now before the Court. This conditional purchase was taken up out of her separate moneys, and in virtue of a conditional purchase made by her before she married me. The conditional lease is applied for in virtue of the additional conditional purchase, to-day confirmed, and is taken up by her, with my consent, in her separate estate and with her own money.

Sworn by Michael O'Dwyer, at Burrowa, this }
14th October, 1886, before us,—

MICHAEL O'DWYER.

A. O. MORIARTY, Chairman.
W. M. J. E. WORTON, Members.

No. 33.

Notice of Appeal by Thos. Maloney.

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

Crown Lands Act of 1884 (part II, section 17).

Burrowa, 27 October, 1886.

WHEREAS, on the 15th day of October, 1886, a certain matter, wherein Thomas Maloney being the applicant for an additional conditional purchase of 300 acres, and a conditional lease (in virtue of same) for 675 acres, parish of Congera, county Monteagle, came before the local Land Board at Frogmoor, in the Colony of New South Wales, for adjudication or decision. I, being a party to such proceedings, and the said Board, after having inquired into the premises, decided that the application be refused, as the land applied for was previously selected by Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer, and confirmed to her the day previous at Burrowa. And whereas I am dissatisfied with such decision, and intend to appeal therefrom to the Minister. These are, therefore, to give you notice of my intention to appeal as aforesaid, and I herewith tender the sum of £10 as security for the costs of such appeal. And the grounds of such appeal are annexed.

To the Chairman of the Local Land Board at Goulburn.

THOMAS MALONEY.

Received the sum of £10 referred to above.
Goulburn, 28th October, 1886.

JNO. G. BLAXLAND
(For the Chairman).

Register letter No. 15. Received, 28/10/86.—J.G.B.

Grounds of Appeal.

That the land applied for had been wrongly confirmed to Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer, she being a married woman and living with her husband; and she never having obtained a Judge's order through the Court, or having in any other way obtained a legal right to hold separate estate apart from her husband; and also, by reason of the 124th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, prohibiting married women from holding leases under the Act; and the said land should have been refused to Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer and confirmed to me.

No. 34.

Notice of Appeal by Thos. Maloney.

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

Crown Lands Act of 1884 (part II, section 17).

Burrowa, 27 October, 1886.

WHEREAS, on the 14th day of October, 1886, a certain matter, wherein Mary O'Dwyer being the applicant for an additional conditional purchase of 131 acres, with a conditional lease of 217 acres, also a further additional conditional purchase of 130½ acres, with a further conditional lease of 300 acres, parish of Congera, county Monteagle, came before the local Land Board at Burrowa, in the Colony of New South Wales, for adjudication or decision. I, being a party to such proceedings, and being heard before the Court against the appellant, and the said Board, after having inquired into the premises, decided that the aforesaid applications for additional conditional purchases of 131 and 130½ acres respectively, and 217 and 300 acres respectively of conditional leases, be confirmed. And whereas I am dissatisfied with such decision, and intend to appeal therefrom to the Minister. These are, therefore, to give you notice of my intention to appeal as aforesaid, and I herewith tender the sum of £10 as security for the costs of such appeal. And the grounds of such appeal are annexed.

To the Chairman of the local Land Board at Goulburn.

THOMAS MALONEY.

Received the sum of £10 referred to above.
Goulburn, 28th October, 1886.

JNO. G. BLAXLAND.

Grounds of Appeal.

1. That the within named additional conditional purchaser, Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer, is a married woman living with her husband, and never having obtained a Judge's order through the Court, whereby she could hold a separate estate. Neither has the original conditional purchase come to her through, or by virtue of, any will or deed (in virtue of which she has taken up these additional conditional purchases and conditional leases), whereby it might have been willed or deeded for her own special use; and further, she is still living with her husband, and using her husband's means for support.

2. That the within named Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer is not competent, or in a position (being a married woman and living with her husband), to hold the within named conditional leases, or any lease or license whatsoever under the Land Act of 1884, as per section 124 of the principal Act, which provides as follows:—"No minor shall be capable of accepting or holding any lease or license under this Act, except in so far as a minor not less than 16 years of age is permitted to hold a conditional lease, by virtue of a conditional purchase, or by way of inheritance. Nor shall any married woman be capable of holding any such lease or license, except as separate estate, by virtue of any law in force protecting the property of married women." I, therefore, for the foregoing reasons, submit that Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer is under a legal disability to hold or make additional conditional purchases or conditional leases under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, and ask that the decision of the Land Board may be reversed.

No. 35.

Minute by Burrowa Land Board.

Crown Lands Act of 1884 (part II, section 14, subsection 4).
Decision of Local Land Board.

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

Minute A.

WHEREAS, on the 15th day of October, 1886, the matter of the application of Chas. Robinson for the Bank of New South Wales for the conditional purchase of 300 acres, No. 86-69, and for a conditional lease of 675 acres, No. 86-88, came before us.

It appearing from the report of the District Surveyor that the land applied for as a conditional purchase was embraced by the prior application for a conditional lease of Mary O'Dwyer, No. 85-101, which has been confirmed, and that the land applied for by the present applicant as a conditional lease was embraced by the prior application of Mary O'Dwyer for conditional purchase Nos. 85-157 and 85-161, and conditional lease No. 85-99, which also have been confirmed, we disallowed the application by Charles Robinson for the Bank of New South Wales first above-mentioned.

Given under our hands in the Colony of New South Wales, this 1st day of December, 1886,—

A. O. MORIARTY,
Chairman.
WILLM. J. E. WOTTON,
A. B. PATERSON,
Members.

No. 35½.

Minute by Burrowa Land Board.

Crown Lands Act of 1884 (part II, section 14, subsection 4).
Decision of Local Land Board.

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

Minute C.

WHEREAS, on the 14th day of October, 1886, the matter of the application of Mary O'Dwyer for the conditional purchase of 131 acres, No. 85-157, and for a conditional lease of 393 acres, No. 85-99, also for the conditional purchase of 114 acres, No. 85-161, and for a conditional lease of 342 acres, No. 85-101, came before us.

The applicant appeared by her husband, Michael O'Dwyer, who stated, under examination, that the conditional purchases were applied for as additional purchases in virtue of an original conditional purchase held by her prior to her marriage, and that the applications were made by her with his consent and paid for with the money of her separate estate.

Mr. Middleton, Land Agent, appeared as agent for Thomas Maloney, to oppose the foregoing applications, and was heard in explanation of his appearance; but as no caveat had been lodged, we declined to recognize Thomas Maloney as a party to the proceedings.

We were of opinion, having regard to the exceptions set forth in 2nd section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, particularly the subdivision, saving existing rights, that the applicant, as the holder of a conditional purchase under the repealed Acts, which she had thereunder the right of extending up to 640 acres, she was within her right in making the present applications to purchase, and that such right was not withdrawn by the words of the succeeding section 39.

The conditional purchase respectively of the lands measured as portion 142 and of portions 60 and 61, in addition to the land measured as portion 143, in the parish of Congera, county of Montego, was accordingly confirmed, subject to the payment by the applicant of the deposit on 16¼ acres additional, embraced by the latter measurement.

It was not so clear to us that the law admitted of the applicants holding a conditional lease. The effect strictly interpreted of section 124 of the Act appeared to be against it, inasmuch as though the lease attached to a conditional purchase held by her in her separate estate and paid for with the money thereof, and applied for with the husband's concurrence.

The case might not be held to fall within the meaning, in a limited sense, of the words as to the law in force protecting the property of married women; but, as the land applied for was available, and apart from the technical objection, the applicant entitled to the leases applied for in virtue of the conditional purchases, and, as no caveat had been lodged, we were of opinion that it was not our duty to withhold our confirmation on technical grounds which were open to argument.

We accordingly decided to confirm the applications, leaving any legal questions involved to be tested by any parties concerned as the law may provide.

The applications of Mary O'Dwyer were accordingly confirmed for conditional leases of portion 66, and the land measured as portion 144 in right of her conditional purchase No. 85-157, and of portion 51 in right of her purchase No. 85-161. The rent was in both cases fixed at 2½d. per acre.

Given under our hands this 1st day of December, 1886, at Burrowa,—

A. O. MORIARTY,
Chairman.
WILLM. J. E. WOTTON,
A. B. PATERSON,
Members.

No. 36.

Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Sydney, 3 February, 1887.

I respectfully request your permission for the purpose of amending my application for an additional conditional purchase and conditional lease, as I have taken up this land already in ignorance of the law, which appears to be against my claim.

I am a married woman, and have taken the additional lands referred to up by virtue of a conditional purchase which I held before my marriage, and which still stands in the books in my maiden name.

I

I now wish my application altered, and the name of my husband inserted therein jointly with my own. *Re* case Whitty *v.* Elizabeth Jane Atkins, page 69, digest of cases tried at Court of Appeal, 1886.

I may here state that a caveat has been lodged against my claim, solely on the grounds of being a married woman. This cause is instituted by a banking institution who has claim on adjoining lands. Trusting the Minister for Lands will be good enough to grant me my legal and equitable right in this case, as I can ill afford going to law with a banking institution.

I have, &c.,

MARY O'DWYER

(Formerly Maloney).

Address:—24, Shepherd-street, Sydney, care of M. O'Dwyer.

For papers.—E.B., 18/2/87. Perhaps the writer should be asked to give the district, also date and area of selection.—C.C., 24/2/87. Yes.—E.B., 23/2/87.

No. 36½.

Office Memorandum.

APPEAL by Thomas Maloney against the decision of the Goulburn Land Board, refusing his application for additional conditional purchase 86-69, Burrowa, for 300 acres, and conditional lease 86-38 of 675 acres, on the ground that Mary O'Dwyer's prior applications for the same land had been previously confirmed. Maloney has appealed against the decisions in Mary O'Dwyer's case (*vide* 86-38, 247 Dep.), on the decision, in which this case will depend.

F.H.W., 14/2/87.

Parties informed of date of Court, 23/2/87. Postponed, 15/3/87.

No. 37.

Office Memorandum.

APPEAL by Thomas Maloney against the decision of the Goulburn Land Board, allowing Mary O'Dwyer's application for conditional purchase 85-157 of 131 acres, with conditional lease 85-99 of 393 acres, and conditional purchase 85-161 of 114 acres, with conditional lease 85-101 of 342 acres. No caveat was lodged by Maloney. Mr. Donaldson's case heard on 2nd December, 1885. Mr. Secretary Abbott decided on appeal that no caveat being lodged, it was the duty of Board to confirm the application. Mr. Maurice Wolfe's case heard on appeal, on 28th January, 1884. Mr. Secretary Spring decided that as the appellant did not lodge a caveat he had no standing in the Appeal Court. Under these decisions this appeal should be dismissed.

F.H.W., 14/2/87.

Parties informed of date of Court, 25/2/87. Parties informed of decision of Court, 28/3/87.

No. 38.

Decision of Minister on Case of Appeal.

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

Crown Lands Act of 1884 (part II, section 18).

WHEREAS, on the 14th day of October, 1886, a certain matter, wherein the application of Mary O'Dwyer for additional conditional purchases and conditional leases came on for investigation and adjudication before the Local Land Board at Burrowa, Colony of New South Wales, and the said Board decided to confirm the said application; and Thomas Maloney, one of the parties thereto, appealed from such decision to the Minister; and the said matter having this 15th day of March, 1887, come before me, Thomas Garrett, on appeal, I, being the Minister charged with the administration of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, having heard the said appeal in open Court, do hereby decide as follows:—I dismiss the appeal, and award the sum of £2 2s. costs on this behalf to Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer; balance to be refunded.

Given under my hand at the Department of Lands, Sydney, this 15th day of March, 1887,—

THOS. GARRETT,

Minister.

No. 39.

Report of Proceedings before Court of Appeal.

C.S. 87-5,886—Thomas Maloney.

15 March, 1887.

APPEAL against the confirmation by the Goulburn Board of Mary O'Dwyer's application for additional conditional purchases and conditional leases in virtue thereof.

Mr. O'Brien appeared for the appellant; Mr. Slattery appeared for the respondent.

Mr. O'Brien said the appeal was lodged under the 12th clause, which prevented the respondent from taking up a conditional lease as she had not a separate estate. He also complained of the manner in which the Local Land Board had dealt with the application by the appellant for the same land. The Board held a Court at Burrowa one day and dealt with the respondent's applications. The appellant was present, and although he had applied for the same land the Board declined to hear him, but dealt with his application on the following day at a place 16 miles away, and then refused it on the ground that the land applied for had already been granted to the respondent.

This action on the part of the Board he described as unfair, and of a character and nature which tended to bring the administration of the law into disrepute. However, on the grounds of appeal: The respondent was a married woman, a fact which would not be disputed in any way, and he contended that in granting her applications the Board made a mistake. His client had therefore been wrongfully deprived of what he was entitled to, and in addition, the fact of the Board hearing the respondent's application at Burrowa and the appellant's at Frogmoor, 16 miles away, on the following day, thus depriving him of his right to show his objections to her applications showed that the matter had been improperly dealt with, and on those grounds he asked that the appeal might be sustained, with costs against the respondent.

Mr. Slattery said: The applications, the subject of the appeal were intended to be part and parcel of Mrs. O'Dwyer's separate estate.

The

The basis of the applications was a conditional purchase before she was married, and the fact that she had a separate estate was proved by the fact that, if she died intestate, her husband would only hold a life interest in the land, and also that the conditional purchase stood in her own name. The husband had no disposing power. The most he could do at any time would be to sell the tenancy by courtesy. He could not mortgage it or sell it. It was, in every sense of the word, a separate estate, and the appellant's case therefore fell to the ground.

Mr. Secretary Garrett dismissed the appeal, as the appellant had no *locus standi*, not having been a party to the case before the Board nor a caveator. He, however, referred the case back to the Board for evidence as to Mrs. O'Dwyer's right to hold the land as a separate estate, because it was clear that if she had not legally a separate estate the decision of the Board must be set aside.

On the application of Mr. Slattery, £2 2s. costs were allowed to respondent, to be deducted from the deposit on appeal, balance of which was to be refunded.

B. J. ATTERBURY.

No. 40.

Report of Proceedings before Court of Appeal.

C.S. 86-38,245 Dep.—Thomas Maloney.

APPEAL against the refusal by the Goulburn Board of his additional conditional purchase application 86-69, and conditional lease application 86-38, on the ground that the land was not available.

Mr. O'Brien appeared for the appellant.

The Minister decided to postpone the hearing of this appeal until he had an opportunity of finally dealing with the applications for the same land made by Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer, and which applications he had referred back to the Local Land Board for evidence as to the possession by her of a separate estate. 15th March, 1887.

B. J. ATTERBURY.

No. 41.

Order for Payment of Costs.

New South Wales, }
to wit. } Crown Lands Act of 1884 (part II, section 18).

WHEREAS, on the 14th day of October, 1886, a certain matter, wherein the application of Mary O'Dwyer for additional conditional purchase and conditional leases; and the said matter came on for investigation and adjudication before the Local Land Board at Burrowa, Colony of New South Wales, and the said Board decided to confirm the said application; and Thomas Maloney, one of the parties thereto being dissatisfied with such decision appealed to the Minister therefrom; and I, Thomas Garrett, the Minister charged with the administration of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, having heard and determined the matter of such appeal, do hereby order that the said Thomas Maloney do pay forthwith to Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer the sum of £2 2s. for costs in that behalf.

THOS. GARRETT,
Minister.

I CERTIFY that this is a true copy of the decision of the Minister for Lands.

Department of Lands, 28 March, 1887.

F. H. WILSON,
Registrar.

No. 42.

The Chairman of Land Board, Goulburn, to Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer.

Madam, Land Board Office, Goulburn, 7 April, 1887.

I have to inquire how you desire the amount of £2 2s. paid, being costs allowed you by the Minister in the appeal against the decision of the Board by Thomas Maloney, in order to obtain a full receipt therefor.

I have, &c.,

J. G. BLAXLAND
(For the Chairman).

Referring to the within subject, I would be thankful for either a cheque or a post office order for the amount. Address—24, Shepherd-street, Sydney.—MARY O'DWYER. In accordance with the above, the amount of £2 2s., less cost of post office order, 7d., £2 1s. 5d. sent to Mrs. O'Dwyer to above address. —J.G.B., 19/4/87. Receipt received and placed in book.—J.G.B.

No. 43.

The Chairman of Land Board, Goulburn, to Mr. T. Maloney.

Sir, Land Board Office, Goulburn, 7 April, 1887.

In the matter of your appeal against decision of the Land Board in Mary O'Dwyer's conditional purchase case, as per margin, and conditional lease dismissed by the Minister, I have the honor to inquire how I shall refund the money to obtain a full receipt for the £7 18s.

I have, &c.,

J. B. BLAXLAND
(For the Chairman).

C.P. 85-157 of
131 acres.
C.L. 85-99 of
393 acres.
C.P. 85-161 of
114 acres.
C.L. 85-101 of
342 acres.

No. 44.

The Chairman of Land Board, Goulburn, to Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer.

Madam, Land Board Office, Goulburn, 19 April, 1887.

In accordance with your request by letter of 14th instant, I have the honor to forward a post office order for £2 1s. 5d., being the £2 2s. allowed you for costs in Thomas Maloney's appeal case by the Minister on the 15th March last, less the cost of the order, being 7d., and I beg that you will sign and return the enclosed receipt therefor.

I have, &c.,

J. G. BLAXLAND
(For the Chairman).

No. 45.

Mr. C. Robinson to The Chairman, Land Board, Goulburn.

Dear Sir, Bank of New South Wales, Burrowa, 30 May, 1887.
Referring to your letter of 7th ultimo (87-1,195, L.B.), addressed to Mr. Thomas Maloney, if you will forward us the amount of the refund, £7 18s., now due, we will place same to Mr. Maloney's credit here, and obtain his signature to the receipt you require, and afterwards furnish you with the document.

Yours, &c.,

CHAS. C. ROBINSON,

Manager.

Cheque, £7 18s., accordingly, to Manager of Bank, and asking for receipt, 1/6/87. Certificates issued accordingly.—J.G.B.

No. 45 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Goulburn, 31st May, 1887.

We have the honor to bring under your notice the delay that has occurred, and is still occurring, in regard to two cases which came before the Land Boards at Burrowa and at Frogmoor, on the 14th and 15th days of October last, and afterwards, on appeal from the decision of the Board, came before you on the 15th March last. The cases were those of Mary O'Dwyer and Thomas Maloney respectively, the latter having been the appellant.

The appeals were mainly on the grounds of Mary O'Dwyer being a married woman residing with her husband, and that she was not possessed of separate estate.

In support of these appeals, and for Thomas Maloney, our Mr. Harold O'Brien appeared, and Mr. T. M. Slattery for Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer. After having heard arguments on both sides, you, Sir, decided to remit the cases back to the Local Land Board at Burrowa for re-hearing, and more particularly to inquire whether Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer were a married woman residing with her husband, and whether she had separate estate, and at the request of our Mr. Harold O'Brien that the two cases be heard at the one Court. You, sir, likewise added to Mr. O'Brien that he had no right to appear, inasmuch as Maloney had not lodged a caveat, and awarded two guineas costs against him. With reference to these facts we think the Under Secretary can bear us out, as he was present at this sitting of the Appeal Court.

There being a sitting of the Burrowa Land Court upon Friday last, the 27th instant, it was fully expected that these cases would come on then for the re-hearing, and, thinking so, our client attended and asked the Chairman (Mr. Moriarty), whether they would be taken at that Court, but Mr. Moriarty said they would not, and added that the local Board had heard nothing whatever about the matter.

We would, sir, point out to you that this delay is injuring our client in his means, and is also harassing him, and will be likely so to do until the matter is decided.

We would therefore ask, sir, that you will be good enough to order that the cases be at once forwarded back to the Board for the re-hearing, so that the rights of the parties may be determined, as it is now two and a half months since you so ordered at the Appeal Court.

We have, &c.,

O'BRIEN & O'BRIEN,

Papers (C.S. 87-9,788, Dep.) are noted to Local Land Board, Goulburn, 31/3/87, per Ministerial Branch.—J.P.M., 1/6/87.

According to this letter the Chairman stated on the 27th ultimo that the Board knew nothing about these cases, which were returned to the Chairman on the 31st March last, in order to carry out the decision of the Minister sitting in the Appeal Court.—F.H.W., 2/6/87.

Ask the Chairman (telegraph) whether the papers were received by him or his officers, in or about the early part of April.—S.F., 2/6/87. Telegram, 3/6/87. Noted.

No. 46.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Lands to The Chairman of Land Board, Goulburn.

Sydney, 3 June, 1887.

PLEASE state whether papers 87-9,788 Dep., appeal case Thos. Maloney v. Mary O'Dwyer, were received by you or your officers on or about early part of April.

STEPHEN FREEMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 47.

Telegram from The Chairman, Land Board, Goulburn, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Goulburn, 3 June, 1887.

YES; I have the papers, received 2nd of April.

JNO. G. BLAXLAND

(For Chairman, Land Board).

Attach papers on which the message calling for this was sent.—S.F., 3/6/87. Papers herewith.—H.L.T., 3/6/87. Inform Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien that the case was remitted to the Board on 31st March, and the papers were duly received at the Chairman's office on 2nd April.—S.F., 3/6/87. Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien.—H.L.T., 5/6/87.

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No. 48.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien.

Gentlemen,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 3 June, 1887.

In reply to your letter of the 31st ultimo, respecting the appeal case of Thomas Maloney *v.* Mary O'Dwyer, I have the honor to inform you that the case was remitted to the Local Land Board on the 31st March, and the papers were duly received at the Chairman's office on the 2nd April last.

I have, &c.,

STEPHEN FREEMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 49.

Mr. I. Stevenson to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Burrowa, 21 June, 1887.

In reference to appeal, Thos. Maloney *v.* Mary O'Dwyer, tried before your Honor on 15th March last, in which Mr. H. O'Brien, solicitor, of Goulburn, appeared for Maloney, and Mr. T. M. Slattery for O'Dwyer, I would do myself the honor of stating that the matter complained of was that the Goulburn Land Board, sitting at Burrowa, granted to Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer additional conditional purchases and conditional leases, she being at the time a married woman, and having no separate estate, or in any way in a position to make such conditional purchases or hold conditional leases; and that the Board at Burrowa, refused to hear the claims of Thomas Maloney, he also having selected the same land. The Board told Maloney if he had anything against their decision that he might appeal to your Honor the Minister, which Maloney did; instead thereof, he should have lodged a caveat. However, on the hearing of the case you dismissed the case on technical grounds, but at the same time stated you would refer it back to the Board for reinvestigation, and promised that this case should be heard at same time as Thomas Maloney *v.* The Local Land Board. Maloney has now been waiting for three months, expecting every day to be notified of the hearing of his cases, having Mr. O'Brien, solicitor, retained for the hearing of both cases when before the Local Land Board. You may judge of our surprise when, upon inquiry at the office of the Chairman of the Local Land Board, Goulburn, to ascertain when the cases would come on for hearing, we were told that your Honor had dismissed the appeal, and that the certificates were about to be issued. The whole case of Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer is directly in violation of the 124th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884.

I would therefore ask, as a matter of justice to Maloney, that you give instructions to stay the issuing of the certificates by the Land Board until your decision to have the case reheard be carried out.

I may state that Maloney's solicitor will not leave a stone unturned to have the case brought before the Assembly if the certificates be issued.

I would not like to see one black mark against Mr. Moriarty.

I have, &c.,

ISAAC STEVENSON.

This should be looked into at once. Let me know how it stands.—T.G., 22/6/87.

Maloney's appeal against the confirmation of Mary O'Dwyer's application for an additional conditional purchase and conditional lease was dismissed by the Minister on the 15th March last. The case was, however, referred back by Mr. Secretary Garrett for the purpose of obtaining evidence as to whether Mrs. O'Dwyer is legally possessed of a separate estate, as clearly if she is not the decision of the Board must be set aside. Papers sent to Board on 31st March last. Maloney's appeal against the refusal of his conditional purchase application was postponed by the Minister until he had an opportunity of finally dealing with Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer's application.—F.H.W., 23/6/87.

Register and inform the writer, taking steps first to ascertain whether there is any ground for the statement that certificate is about to issue to Mrs. O'Dwyer, as stated on other side.—T.G., 23/6/87. It is submitted that in the first instance the enclosed communication be remitted to the Chairman for report, in view of the Minister's minute of the 23rd instant.—W.H.C., 24/6/87. Yes.—F.H.W., 29/6/87. Urgent.

No. 50.

Office Memorandum.

THE enclosed paper, 87-5,886, is forwarded to the Chairman, Local Land Board, Goulburn, who will please be good enough to have it placed with 87-9,788 (T. Maloney's appeal), sent to you on the 31st March, 1887.

F.H.W.

(For the Under Secretary),

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Goulburn.

B.C., 24/6/87.

The enclosed paper, 87-5,886, is not a registered document, and appears to be a copy of the shorthand writer's notes of the proceedings in the Appeal Court. The report of the decision is different from the original decision signed by the Minister (and now re-enclosed), and in which the appeal was dismissed with costs, without any mention of a reference to the Board for evidence as to Mrs. O'Dwyer's right to hold the land in her separate estate. Certificates of confirmation were issued accordingly. This question of separate estate had been dealt with in the Board minute, C.S. 38,240, enclosed, and the evidence of Michael O'Dwyer appended thereto.—A.O.M., B.C., 25th June, 1887. The Under Secretary for Lands.

No. 51.

No. 51.

Office Memorandum.

THE enclosed communication from Mr. Isaac Stevenson, regarding the decision of the Local Land Board, Goulburn, in Thomas Maloney's application for a conditional purchase at Burrowa, is forwarded to the Chairman of the Board for report in view of the Minister's minute of 23rd instant.

F.H.W.

(For the Under Secretary).

B.C., 29/6/87.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Goulburn.

Papers were L.B. 87-2,371 to Lands under B.C. 25/6/87.—J.G.B.

The papers herein were returned on the 25th instant, on receipt of some additional papers (being short-hand writer's notes of proceedings at the Appeal Court), which were received that morning with directions to attach them to the previous papers.—A.O.M., B.C., 1st July, 1887. The Under Secretary for Lands.

No. 52.

Office Memorandum.

THE enclosed papers referring to the conditional purchase and conditional lease noted in the margin, are returned to the Chairman of the Local Land Board, Goulburn, whose attention is directed to the Minister's minute of 9th instant, with a view of reopening the case for inquiry as to whether Mrs. O'Dwyer is legally possessed of a separate estate.

F.H.W.

(For the Under Secretary).

B.C., 14/7/87.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Goulburn.

Court Burrowa, 25 August, 1887. Mary O'Dwyer notified, 15/8/87. O'Brien & O'Brien informed by way of courtesy and without prejudice, 15/8/87. Postponed to next sitting by request of Mr. McDonald, Land Agent for Mary O'Dwyer.—A.O.M., 3/9/87. Court Burrowa, 22/9/87. Applicant notified, 7/9/87.

No. 53.

The Chairman, Land Board, Goulburn, to Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien.

Gentlemen,

Land Board Office, Goulburn, 15 August, 1887.

I have the honor to inform you that the matter of Mary O'Dwyer's conditional purchases and conditional leases confirmed by the Local Land Board at Burrowa, on the 14th October, 1886, against which an appeal was lodged by Thomas Maloney, has been returned by the Minister for further inquiry, and will come before the Board at Burrowa, on the 25th instant.

This communication is by way of courtesy, and without prejudice.

I have, &c.,

J. G. BLAXLAND

(For the Chairman).

No. 54.

Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Goulburn, 9th September, 1887.

We have the honor to call your attention to the fact that the papers in connection with the case of Thomas Maloney, which came before you in the month of March last, on appeal from the Frogmoor Land Board, have not been sent back to us as you directed to the Burrowa Land Board, in order that it should be re-heard at the same time as the case of Mary O'Dwyer, the two cases being over the same land or portions thereof.

On the 25th ultimo the case of Mary O'Dwyer again came before the Burrowa Board, but, upon her application, was postponed until the next Court, which will be held at Burrowa, upon the 22nd instant.

We request, therefore, that the papers in Thomas Maloney's case may be at once forwarded to the Board with instructions to comply with the directions given by you at the Appeal Court in March last, that the two cases be taken at the same time and inquired into together.

Trusting you will cause this to be done without delay.

We have, &c.,

O'BRIEN & O'BRIEN.

Papers 86-38,245 D. Stand noted at records to Mr. Atterbury, 4/12/86.—W.T.N., 16/9/87. Mr. Atterbury, are they available.—W.H.C., 16/9/87. Herewith. This case being one in which an appeal has been made, the papers are forwarded to the Registrar.—W.H.C., 29/9/87.

No. 55.

Decision of Local Land Board.

Crown Lands Act of 1881 (part II, section 14, subsection 4).

New South Wales,)
to wit.)

WHEREAS, on the 22nd day of September, 1887, it became a matter for investigation before us, the conditional purchases of 131 acres, No. 85-157, and 114 acres, No. 85-161, and the conditional leases of 393 acres, No. 85-99, and 342 acres, No. 85-101, of Mary O'Dwyer.

Reverting

Reverting to the proceedings on the 14th October, 1886, the documents herein were now re-submitted with additional minutes and documents, including proceedings in Appeal Court and the decision thereon by the Minister, in which an appeal by Thos. Maloney against the action of the Board was dismissed with costs; and we now proceeded, by direction of the Minister, to inquire whether Mrs. O'Dwyer is legally possessed of a separate estate.

The matter had been set down for hearing on the 25th ultimo, but postponed to the present sittings by request of the claimant.

Mary O'Dwyer now appeared by the solicitor, Mr. Brennan.

Mr. Harold O'Brien, solicitor for the appellant (Thomas Maloney), also appeared, and was heard in support of his right to be recognized as a party to the inquiry, and to call evidence. After hearing the respective solicitors, we declined to recognize Thomas Maloney as a party to the present proceedings, his appeal having already been finally dealt with.

We, however, intimated that we would be prepared to examine any witnesses who might be in a position to give evidence in the matter, and to permit Mr. O'Brien to put, through them, any questions to the claimant's witnesses that might be pertinent to the inquiry.

The evidence of the claimant, Mary O'Dwyer, was now taken.

Other witnesses, including the Manager of Branch Banks, had been subpoenaed, but it was stated by Mr. O'Brien, at whose instance they had been subpoenaed, that their evidence would not contradict that of Mary O'Dwyer, which was admitted to contain a true statement of the facts of the matter.

The facts we found to be substantially in accord with those embodied in our minute of 1st December, 1886. Mary O'Dwyer was, at the time of her marriage, the holder of a conditional purchase under the repealed Acts, and entitled to enlarge it to 640 acres, by making an additional or additional purchases, provided such purchases were made with her husband's consent. [See opinion *inter alia* of Attorney-General (late Chief Justice) Martin, dated 8th October, 1886, of which copy is hereto appended.] The present applications having been made under the Act now in force, were, under the 2nd and 3rd sections thereof within her right, in so far as they were in accordance with its general provisions, and the only provisions that we found bearing upon the case appeared to be in section 23, which provides that any person (if under no legal disability except that of age) may become a conditional purchaser.

It has already been seen that, apart from any question of a separate estate, the applicant, if acting with her husband's concurrence, was under no disability in making a conditional purchase, and her husband's interest therein being prescribed and limited by law, as in the case of other real property, would not affect the question.

It was established in evidence that whether or not they would constitute, technically, a separate estate. Mary O'Dwyer was possessed of moneys and real estate given her by her father and devised to her by his will; that she had also moneys in the Savings Bank and in the Commercial Bank in her own name, not derived from her husband; and that the money paid to the Land Agent for the lands the subject of inquiry, were part of such moneys, and that her husband had merely contributed his consent.

In so far therefore as the conditional purchases are involved, we found nothing to affect the grounds on which they were confirmed, as set forth in the minute already referred to.

As already stated by us in the same minute, the matter of the conditional leases applied for, and confirmed by us was not so clear; but the question was not so much as to the facts, which were substantially the same, as with respect to the conditional purchases (except that there having been no right of lease under the repealed Acts, the matter arises wholly under the present law), whether the law authorized the granting of the leases or the holding of them by the applicant in the circumstances.

By the 124th section of the Act it was enacted that a married woman should be capable of holding any lease or license except in separate estate by virtue of any law in force protecting the property of married women. We had assumed that these words were meant by the legislature in a general sense, and not to be limited to contingencies, particularly provided for in the Married Women's Property Act, and as the leases were attached to and inseparable from the conditional purchases, the applicant's right to which seemed to us to be clear, as also the right to the conditional leases, subject to whatever legal difficulty might be involved, we had confirmed the applications as stated in our minute, leaving any legal questions involved to be tested by any parties concerned, as the law might provide.

We have seen no reason to doubt that the course taken by us in these matters was the proper one. It is obvious that if the law did not warrant the granting of the conditional purchases or leases in question it was open to any person affected by them to dispute the right of the holder by taking the proper steps through the Appeal Court or any other proper tribunal competent to decide the question.

If, on the other hand, the purchases or leases are held in conformity with the law, they should not and cannot be set aside, nor should the holder be harassed by proceedings which may prejudice, but cannot have the effect of depriving her of her right.

Appendix.

Attorney-General's Office,—No. 18,189, 8th October, 1886.—Attorney-General Martin as follows:—"I think that a married woman who, when a *femme sole*, conditionally purchased land, may, after her marriage, make an additional conditional purchase, provided she does so with her husband's written consent."

Given under our hands, at the office of the Local Land Board, at Burrowa, in the Colony of New South Wales, this 22nd day of September, 1887.

A. O. MORIARTY, Chairman.
WILL. J. E. WOTTON, Member.

[Enclosure.]

THIS deponent, *Mary O'Dwyer*, wife of Michael O'Dwyer, of Sydney, being duly sworn, saith as follows:—I am the holder of an original conditional purchase, taken in 1872 by James Maloney, and transferred to me as Mary Maloney, on the 6th October, 1875; that original conditional purchase has been converted with a freehold, and the deed issued in my name; my husband was not then married to me, and he had no interest on that land; the additional conditional purchases and leases applied for by me were made in virtue of that original conditional purchase; my father died in 1880, after my marriage; my father, since my marriage and before he died, gave me some money; I had after my marriage moneys to my own credit in the Government Savings Bank, and also in the Commercial Bank; I also received money from my mother; my father left a will before he died; he gave Mr. William Corcoran, who is executor to his will, money to give me for myself; my father left me by his will one-third share of £1,000; he also left me land; he had given me, previous to his death and after

after my marriage, the block of land, on which "Carter's Hotel" is built, and round to the corner of the street; he also gave me by his will the land, half a block, adjoining Mr. Potts' store; I received my third share of the £1,000 about six months after my father's death, as near as I can guess; my husband had property when I was married—not as much as I had; I paid my husband's debts during my father's lifetime out of my own money; in December, 1885, when I took up the land now in question, I was keeping a store with my husband in Burrowa; I kept myself and children during that time out of moneys given me by my mother and other friends, as the store did not pay; I paid the Land Agent by cash, my own; I did not get it from my husband; he could have given me the money by a cheque if he had wished, but did not; my husband wanted me to transfer the original conditional purchase to him, and transfer papers were prepared by Mr. Robinson of the bank, but I declined to do so; I have moneys now to my credit in a bank—in the Savings Bank in Sydney, and in the Commercial Bank, where I have an account; I have always, before and since my marriage, had moneys of my own, given me by my father and mother, besides that left me by my father's will; my father gave me some money shortly before his death, and everything that I paid the Crown Lands Agent has been in hard cash and not by cheque; my husband has no interest, either in the original or any of the additional purchases, so far as giving me any of the money paid for the land.

By the Board: Mr. Robinson, of the bank, simply asked me to transfer the land to my husband, which I declined to do; at that time my husband had mortgaged his property to the bank; I do not know whether they wanted further security; I do not know whether he was indebted; I was married on the 13th February, 1877; my husband afterwards erected an inn and store in Burrowa; my father found the money; the most part of it was finished before his death; four additional rooms were put up afterwards by my husband; my father built part of the store, and it was finished afterwards by my husband; I had no settlement on my marriage; the money given me I kept; we kept no separate accounts with tradesmen; we kept an hotel in Burrowa for two years, terminating in 1883; the license was in my husband's name, and I resided there with him; my money was employed in the business; it was so employed by my husband and myself; my father refused to give my husband money; I did not ever obtain a Judge's order, protecting my property from my husband or his creditors; after leaving the hotel my husband and I kept a store at Burrowa; we were keeping it when the selection was taken up; my father died in the year 1880; some of my money was employed in the store—not all of it; I cannot say how much; I had no money except that given me by my father and mother and by my husband—I beg pardon, my sister also gave me money, both before and after I kept the store; my sister's name was Margaret, now Mrs. Cummins; she was married about three years ago; the money paid to me under my father's will was paid to my husband for me; I was away from Burrowa at the time, and my husband forwarded to me at Sydney part of that money.

By Mr. Brennan (re-examined): In 1884 I had money to my credit in the Savings Bank, and then I took up these conditional purchases; I had money to my own credit while I was at the store; I kept my money at home; I did not know that I could keep a separate account at the bank on which my husband could not operate.

MARY O'DWYER.

Sworn before us at Burrowa, this 21st September, 1887,—

A. O. MORIARTY, Chairman.
WILLM. J. E. WOTTON, } Members.
A. B. PATERSON. }

Re-examined at the suggestion of Mr. O'Brien: The original and additional conditional purchases have not been, nor have any of them been, mortgaged to the Commercial Bank, Burrowa.

MARY O'DWYER.

I have no doubt whatever that Mrs. O'Dwyer is under a legal disability to select. She was married in 1877; the Married Women's Act was not passed till 1879. The additional conditional purchases must, therefore, be disallowed. Return papers to Board to make refund to Mrs. O'Dwyer, who should be informed.—T.G., 8/12/87.

Entered.—G.W., 13/12/87. Mrs. O'Dwyer informed, 21/12/87.

No. 56.

Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Case of Mary O'Dwyer, Burrowa, and appeal of Thomas Maloney.

Sir,

Goulburn, 10 October, 1887.

We have the honor to request that you will be good enough to inform us when Mrs. O'Dwyer's case on the appeal of Thomas Maloney and also the appeal of the letter in his own case will again be taken by the Minister.

The further inquiry which the Minister ordered to be made in March last, when he sent back Mrs. O'Dwyer's case, to inquire "whether she was a married woman, and also whether she had separate estate," was taken by the Local Land Board at Burrowa, on the 22nd ultimo, and after hearing the evidence of Mrs. O'Dwyer the Board stated they saw no reason to alter their previous decision, viz., confirming Mrs. O'Dwyer's applications for conditional purchases and leases, and refusing Maloney's application in a subsequent case for the same ground, because they had already given it to Mrs. O'Dwyer. This latter did part did not take place on the 22nd, but previously. It now seems that the Chairman is under the impression that the case is not to come again before the Minister, but we venture to think in this Mr. Moriarty is in error, as you, sir, in March last, on the day the appeal was heard, informed our Mr. Harold O'Brien (who appeared for Maloney), that the matter would again come before the Appeal Court; and also the very order made by Mr. Garrett would show this, as it was to this effect "to inquire (not to give a decision) whether Mrs. O'Dwyer was a married woman, and as to separate estate," and we presume it is the Minister to give a decision thereon, not the Board.

In the meantime we would request that the Goulburn Department be not allowed to issue certificates to Mrs. O'Dwyer, as if not restrained we presume they will be at once sent to her.

Requesting the favour of an immediate answer hereto.

We have, &c.,

O'BRIEN & O'BRIEN.

No. 57.

Telegram from Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Goulburn, 15 October, 1887.

PLEASE apply letter *re* Mary O'Dwyer at once, and oblige.

O'BRIEN & O'BRIEN.

Ask the subject and date of the letter in question.—S.F., 15/10/87.

Wire, 17/10/87.

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No. 58.

Telegram from Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Goulburn, 17 October, 1887.

LETTER, 10th instant. Maloney appeals against Mary O'Dwyer, Burrowa Board. Appeal last March. Collect.

O'BRIEN & O'BRIEN.

Previous telegram herewith.—H.S.T., 17/10/87.

No. 59.

Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Goulburn, 17 October, 1887.

We wrote you some days ago *re* the case of Mary O'Dwyer, and *in re* the appeal of Thomas Maloney, and having received no answer whatever up to the 15th instant, we wired you on the subject on that day, and have had no reply thereto.

We do not wish to appear to be troublesome to you, sir, in the matter, but we wish to protect our client (Thomas Maloney) as far as we possibly can, and if the Minister again goes into the matter without the knowledge of our client, and at the same time giving him no opportunity to be present, it will do our client irreparable injury.

Be good enough therefore, sir, to let us know immediately when Mr. Secretary Garrett will go into the matter, and oblige.

Yours &c.,

O'BRIEN & O'BRIEN.

P.S.—Since writing the above we have received a wire from Mr. Freeman, "Please state date and subject of letter *re* Mary O'Dwyer." Well the letter was dated 9th instant (not 10th, as we by mistake wired to-day), and the subject of it was, "When would Mary O'Dwyer's case again come before the Minister; it having been in the month of March last referred back to the Local Board for inquiry as to whether the applicant was a married woman, and as to whether she had separate estate?" This further inquiry was held at Burrowa, on 22nd ultimo, when the applicant gave evidence, and after doing so, intimated that they saw no ground for altering their previous decision, viz., confirming Mrs. O'Dwyer's applications. This is entirely illegal, as on the face of Mrs. O'Dwyer's own deposition, she shows she had no separate estate, nor was there a judicial separation or settlement, and she was married prior to the Married Women's Property Act. And also we take it the Board were not directed to give a decision on this second hearing at all, but merely to inquire and send on the result of the same to the Minister. In fact, you told our Mr. J. O'Brien on the day the Minister heard the one appeal and postponed the other, viz., 15th March last, that the case would come back from Burrowa to the Appeal Court, and we wish to know when it will be taken, so that the matter may be watched on behalf of our client. We also asked you in the missing letter to direct the Goulburn office not to issue certificates to Mrs. O'Dwyer, pending the matter coming before Mr. Garrett, as otherwise we believed they would be so issued to her. For the Chairman (Mr. Moriarty) seemed surprised when our Mr. H. O'Brien told him the matter was again to come before the Minister for final adjudication, stating that you had said so to him in March last. If it is decided to give Mrs. O'Dwyer the land after looking into her own evidence in support of her claim, then we say there is no safeguard to any *bona fide* applicant, and that any, or almost any, married woman can also take up land and evade what is, and must be, the clear and unmistakeable intention of the Act. On this point, see *Whitty v. Aitkin*, page 69, vol. I, part II, Digest of Appeal Cases; and in *Ann Maria Frazer's* case, vol. I, part III, page 229, applicant actually produced deed of settlement, but Mrs. O'Dwyer says she had none, nor a Judge's order, and that her money was embarked in her husband's business as an hotel-keeper, and afterwards in his store business, which did not pay; and that at the time of taking up the land in dispute she had the money with which she applied for it in the house (that is her husband's house), as she did not know she could keep a separate account in a bank. If this evidence of her does not destroy her own case, we do not know what will. We shall be glad to have an early answer, and remain, yours &c.—O'BRIEN & O'BRIEN.

The Registrar.—W.H.C., 19/10/87. Has Mrs. O'Dwyer's case been returned by the Board.—F.H.W., 14/11/87. Papers 87-23,574 Dep., are still with Local Land Board under date 12/7/87.—J.P.M., 14/11/87. The Chief Clerk.

No. 60.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Lands to Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien.

Goulburn, 17 October, 1887.

PLEASE state date and subject of letter *re* Mary O'Dwyer.

STEPHEN FREEMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 61.

Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Goulburn, 21 October, 1887.

We have the honor to request a reply to our letters of 9th and 17th instant, *re* the case of Mary O'Dwyer, on the appeal of Thomas Maloney.

When is the matter to again come before the Minister?

We have, &c.,

O'BRIEN & O'BRIEN,

Attorney for Maloney.

Parties informed of date of Appeal Court, 6/12/87. The case of Mary O'Dwyer was referred back by the Minister in the Appeal Court on 15th March last for the purpose of obtaining evidence as to whether she is legally possessed of a separate estate, and has not yet been returned.—F.H.W., 15/11/87.

No. 62.

No. 62.

Office Memorandum.

Appeal by T. Maloney against the disallowance of his additional conditional purchase application 84-49, and conditional lease application 86-38, Burrowa.

Mrs. O'DWYER applied for this land, and her application was confirmed, and Maloney then appealed against such confirmation. His appeal was dismissed on 15th March, 1887, and the Board instructed to report further as to Mrs. O'Dwyer's right to select. That report is now under submission.

Maloney also applied for the same land, and his application was disallowed owing to the Board having confirmed Mrs. O'Dwyer's prior application for the same land, against which decision Maloney now appeals.

The case depends on the Minister's decision in Mrs. O'Dwyer's case.

F.H.W., 8/12/87.

The Minister's decision on Mrs. O'Dwyer's case is as follows, *vide* C.S. 87-51,481 Dep.:—"I have no doubt whatever that Mrs. O'Dwyer is under a legal disability to select. She was married in 1877; the Married Women's Property Act was not passed till 1879. The conditional purchase must therefore be disallowed. Return papers to Board to make refund to Mrs. O'Dwyer, who should be informed."—T.G., 8/12/87.

Appellant (care of O'Brien and O'Brien, Goulburn, and Mrs. O'Dwyer) informed of date of Court, 6/12/87. Parties informed of decision of Court, 19/12/87.

No. 63.

Report of Proceedings before Court of Appeal.

Thomas Maloney.

APPEAL against the refusal by the Goulburn Land Board of his additional conditional purchase application 86-69, and conditional lease application 86-38, Burrowa, on the ground that the land was not available.

It appeared that a Mrs. O'Dwyer applied for this land, and her application was confirmed. Maloney then appealed against such confirmation, and the Board were requested to report further as to Mrs. O'Dwyer's right to select. A report was accordingly made, and on that report the following minute:—"I have no doubt whatever that Mrs. O'Dwyer is under a legal disability to select. She was married in 1877; the Married Women's Property Act was not passed till 1879. The conditional purchase must therefore be disallowed."

Mr. M'Namarra appeared for the appellant.

The Minister, in view of the above minute, sustained the appeal, the deposit to be refunded.

B.J.A., 14/12/87.

No. 64.

Decision of Minister.

New South Wales, } Crown Lands Act of 1884 (part II, section 18).
to wit. }

WHEREAS, on the 15th day of October, 1886, a certain matter, wherein Thomas Maloney's application for a conditional purchase 86-69 and conditional lease 86-38, Burrowa, came on for investigation and adjudication before the Local Land Board at Frogmoor, Colony of New South Wales, and the said Board decided to disallow both applications; and Thomas Maloney, one of the parties thereto, appealed from such decision to the Minister; and the said matter having, this 15th day of December, 1887, come before me, Thomas Garrett, on appeal, I, being the Minister charged with the administration of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, having heard the said appeal in open Court, do hereby decide as follows:—"I sustain the appeal, and order the deposit lodged therewith to be refunded."

Given under my hand at the Department of Lands, Sydney, this 15th day of December, 1887.

THOMAS GARRETT,

Minister.

Cheque £10 to Bank of New South Wales, Burrowa, 23/1/88.

No. 65.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer,

Madam,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 21 December, 1887.

With reference to your conditional purchases and leases noted in the margin, which were the subject of inquiry by the Local Land Board at Burrowa, on the 22nd September last, I have the honor to inform you that the Minister for Lands has no doubt whatever that you are under a legal disability to select, as you were married in 1877, and the Married Women's Act was not passed till 1879.

I am to add that the selections must therefore be disallowed, and the papers in the case have been returned to the Chairman of the Land Board, in order that the necessary refund vouchers may issue to you.

I have, &c.,

F. H. WILSON

(For the Under Secretary).

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No. 66.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Chairman, Land Board, Goulburn.

Department of Lands, 29 December, 1887.

Memo.—The enclosed case is forwarded to the Chairman of the Local Land Board for action in accordance with the decision given thereon by the Minister in the Court of Appeal.

C.P. 86-69;
C.L. 86-33;
Burrowa.
T. Maloney.

F. H. WILSON
(For the Under Secretary).

T. Maloney, having paid the deposit, has been asked how he will have the amount refunded.—
J.G.B., 10/1/88. Await his reply. Now herewith, 23/1/88. Cheque, £10, with letter to Manager,
Bank New South Wales, Burrowa, 23/1/88.

No. 67.

Office Memorandum.

The enclosed papers are returned to the Chairman of the Local Land Board at Goulburn in order that the necessary refund may be made to Mrs. O'Dwyer, as therein directed.

C.S. 87-51, 481 D;
C.Ps. 85-157 and
101, Burrowa.

F.H.W.
(For the Under Secretary).

The Chairman of the Local Land Board, Goulburn, B.C., 3/1/88. Court, Burrowa, 17/2/88.
Applicant notified, 2/3/88.

No. 68.

The Chairman, Land Board, Goulburn, to Mr. T. Maloney.

Sir,

Land Board Office, Goulburn, 10 January, 1888.

I have the honor to inform you that the £10 deposit paid with your appeal against the decision of the Burrowa Land Board, at Frogmore, on the 15th October, 1886, is available for refund in accordance with the Minister's direction, and to request that you will let me know how or to whom the money shall be paid.

Re C.P. 86-69;
C.L. 86-38,
Bank of N.S.W.
Burrowa.

I have, &c.,
J. G. BLAXLAND
(For the Chairman).

No. 69.

Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer to The Chairman, Land Board, Goulburn.

Sir,

121, Cowper-street, Glebe, Sydney, 14 January, 1888.

I have the honor to herewith enclose you minute of the Minister for Lands, disallowing my conditional purchases and leases, through the reasons stated therein, and I feel that a great injustice has been done me through the said decision.

I therefore respectfully request that you will be good enough to let me know if there is any appeal from the Minister's decision, and, if so, to what Court.

I made an application some time ago for leave to have the land in question taken up again in my husband's name, in conjunction with my own, but did not receive any reply from the Department respecting it.

I have, &c.,
MARY O'DWYER.

Case will be before Board, Burrowa, on the 17th proximo. Informed, 18/1/88.

No. 70.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Goulburn, to Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer.

Madam,

Land Board Office, Goulburn, 19 January, 1888.

In reference to your letter of the 14th instant, respecting your conditional purchases and leases, directed to be disallowed by the Minister, I have the honor to inform you that the matter will be before the Local Land Board at Burrowa, on the 17th February next, when you will have an opportunity of making any representations to the Board that you may desire relating to your case.

Burrowa.
C.P. 85-161.
C.P. 85-157.
C.L. 85-99.
C.L. 85-101.

I have, &c.,
J. G. BLAXLAND
(For the Chairman).

No. 71.

Mr. T. Maloney to The Chairman, Land Board, Goulburn.

Sir,

Goba Creek, Burrowa, 21 January, 1888.

With reference to your communication of 10th instant, *re* where to send deposit of £10 on appeal against decision of Burrowa Land Board, at Frogmore, on 15th October, 1886, please forward same to Burrowa Branch of Bank New South Wales, to be placed to credit of my account in that institution.

Re C.P. 86-69.
C.L. 86-33.

I have, &c.,
THOMAS MALONEY.

Forwarded £10 cheque to bank, 23/1/88.

No. 72.

The Chairman, Land Board, Goulburn, to The Manager, Bank of New South Wales, Burrowa.

Sir,

Land Board Office, Goulburn, 23 January, 1888.

I have the honor, in accordance with Mr. Thomas Maloney's request, to forward cheque for £10, being deposit in appeal case against Board's decision on his conditional purchase 86-69, and conditional lease 86-38, Burrowa, to be placed to his credit in your bank, and to ask you to sign and return the enclosed receipt.

I have, &c.,

J. G. BLAXLAND

(For the Chairman).

No. 73.

The Manager, Bank of New South Wales, Burrowa, to The Chairman, Land Board, Goulburn.

Dear Sir,

Bank of New South Wales, Burrowa, 24 January, 1888.

I am in receipt of yours of 23rd instant, enclosing cheque for £10, for credit of Thomas Maloney, and return herewith receipt signed as requested.

Yours, &c.,

CHAS. C. ROBINSON.

Receipt put in book.—J.G.B., 25/1/88. Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer's demand for refund enclosed, L.B. 88-1,383.—W.G., 9/4/88. Mr. Blaxland. The Under Secretary for Lands, as requested by telegram of this date.—A.O.M., B.C., 23/4/88.

No. 74.

Decision of Land Board, Burrowa.

Crown Lands Act of 1884 (part II, section 14, subsection 4).

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

WHEREAS, on the 17th day of February, 1888, it became a matter for investigation before us, the conditional purchase No. 85-157, and the conditional lease No. 85-99 of Mary O'Dwyer, and the appeal thereon.

Reverting to the proceedings on the 22nd September, 1887 and previous dates, the original documents herein were now re-submitted with the decision of the Minister endorsed thereon, under date 8th December, 1887, to the effect that the conditional purchases must be disallowed.

The applicant appeared with his solicitor, Mr. Banks Smith, and the decision of the Minister was announced.

The parties were informed that on the return of the certificates of conformity of the conditional purchase and conditional lease the usual orders for refund of the deposits would be forwarded.

Given under our hands, at Burrowa, this 17th day of February, 1888.

A. O. MORIARTY,

Chairman.

W. J. E. WOTTON,

Member of the Local Land Board.

No. 75.

Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer to The Chairman, Land Board, Goulburn.

Sir,

121, Cowper-street, Glebe, Sydney, 3 March, 1888.

I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to forward me the document containing the decision of the Minister for Lands respecting my conditional purchases and conditional leases, No. 85-157 of 131 acres, and conditional lease No. 85-99, 393 acres, &c., in the Burrowa District. I have forwarded the above to your office in January last, with another document, but it was not returned to me. I would, therefore, feel much obliged by your returning me the same, as I intend requesting the Minister to allow my case for hearing in the Supreme Court, respecting the disallowance of the above selection.

I have, &c.,

M. O'DWYER.

Papers herewith.—W.T., 5/3/88. Send back the official letter.—A.O.M., 8/3/88. Forwarded with letter, 9/3/88.

No. 76.

The Chairman, Land Board, Goulburn, to Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer.

Madam,

Land Board Office, Goulburn, 9 March, 1888.

In reply to your letter of the 3rd instant, and your request therein, I have the honor to return you your letter from the Under Secretary for Lands, dated 21st December, 1887.

I have, &c.,

J. G. BLAXLAND

(For the Chairman).

No. 77.

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No. 77.

Mr. M. O'Dwyer to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

121, Cowper-street, Glebe, Sydney, 26 March, 1888.

I do myself the honor to state, for the information of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, that on the 6th of October, 1875, Mary Maloney, spinster, became the owner of 300 acres of land, in pursuance of the 13th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1861, and under the Land Act of 1884. She made additional conditional purchases and conditional leases to the extent allowed by the Act. Before taking up the said additional she was married to me, and consequently took up the same in her married name, Mary O'Dwyer, believing that she was entitled by law to do so, the original selection remaining at that time in her name in the books of the Department.

I, her husband, was under no disability at the time, not being a conditional purchaser either before or since that date.

I beg to point out for the Minister's information that my wife's opponents were really the Bank of New South Wales, who, I submit, were not entitled to select under the Act.

The appellant, Thomas Maloney, acting only as agent for the said Bank, because the original and additional selections stand in the name of the Bank in the books of your Department.

My wife received a letter, dated 21st of December, 1887, from your Department, stating that the Minister for Lands had no doubt whatever that my wife was under a legal disability to select, as she was married in 1877, and the Married Women's Act was not passed till 1879.

I respectfully beg to point out that the Married Women's Act has nothing whatever to do with the selections in question, as the said Act relates solely to personal property and not real estate.

In conclusion I respectfully request that the Honorable the Minister for Lands will be good enough to cause my case to be submitted for the opinion of the Honorable the Attorney-General, or that the Minister for Lands should be pleased to permit a special case thereon to be stated for the opinion of the Supreme Court.

I have been pursued by the Bank of New South Wales in this case now going on four years, and the expense and loss I am put to, especially if I lose this land, will be the cause of my ruin.

I have, &c.,

MICHL. O'DWYER.

Papers 87-51,481 D., noted, B.C., Local Land Board, Goulburn, 3/1/88, for refund.—A.D. (pro. J.P.M.), 11/4/88. Writer may be informed that the papers of the case are with the Chairman of the Goulburn Land Board, to whom this communication will also be forwarded.—W.H.C., 18/4/88. Telegraph to the Chairman to return the papers by to-night's mail.—C.O., 18/4/88. Wire, 18/4/88.

No. 78.

Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer to The Chairman, Land Board, Goulburn.

Sir,

121, Cowper-street, Glebe, Sydney, 7 April, 1888.

I have to request that you will be good enough to cause my deposit money, *re* lands mentioned in attached decision of Minister, to be refunded to me.

I remain, &c.,

MARY O'DWYER.

The £10 was paid by T. Maloney and refunded to him, 23/1/88. Mr. O'Dwyer informed, 9/4/88.

No. 79.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Lands to The Chairman, Land Board, Goulburn.

Sydney, 18 April, 1888.

PLEASE forward by to-night's post, papers, 87-51,481 Dep., Mary O'Dwyer's C.P. 85-157, Burrowa, to you, 3rd January last.

STEPHEN FREEMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 80.

The Chairman, Land Board, Goulburn, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Land Board Office, Goulburn, 13 April, 1888.

In response to your telegram of to-day I have the honor to forward the papers in the case of Mary O'Dwyer, conditional purchases, Nos. 85-157 and 85-161, and conditional leases Nos. 85-99 and 85-101, Burrowa district. C.S. 87-51,481 Dep.

The case came before the Local Land Board on the 17th February last, when Mrs. O'Dwyer appeared with her solicitor, Mr. Bank Smith, and the decision of the Minister was announced. The parties were informed that on the return of the certificates of confirmation the usual orders for refund of the deposits would be forwarded.

I have, &c.,

JNO. G. BLAXLAND

(For the Chairman).

No. 81.

Office Memorandum.

Thos. Maloney *v.* O'Dwyer.

THE circumstances of this case are as follows:—Mrs. Mary O'Dwyer, being possessed in her spinsterhood of conditional purchase 72-7,063, Boorowa, subsequently married Michael O'Dwyer, and applied for two additional conditional purchases 85-171 and 85-161, and conditional leases 85-99 and 85-101, in virtue thereof in her married name Mary O'Dwyer. Her interest in the first of the series reached her by transfer on 6th October, 1875. These

These additional conditional purchases and conditional leases were confirmed by the Local Land Board.

Thomas Maloney appealed from this decision of the Board (neglecting to lodge a caveat) as an applicant for same country, basing his appeal on section 124.

The appeal was dismissed as against Mrs. O'Dwyer with costs, but the matter was referred back to Board, as to any evidence of Mrs. O'Dwyer's separate estate.

The Board having re-examined the case, report that in the instance of confirmation they were guided by an opinion of the late Sir James Martin, when Attorney-General, that—"A married woman, when a *femme sole*, conditionally purchased land, may after her marriage, make an additional conditional purchase, provided she does so with her husband's consent.

Mr. Secretary Garrett has no doubt whatever that Mrs. O'Dwyer is under a legal disability to select. She was married in 1877, and the Married Women's Property Act was not passed till 1879; and instructed that the additional conditional purchases were to be disallowed.

It is distinctly to be noted that the original conditional purchase 72-7,063 reached her by transfer in 1875. G.W., 24/4/88.

The enclosed papers may be returned to the Chairman of the Goulburn Board.—W.H.C., 27/4/88. Yes.—F.H.W. (For the Under Secretary), 27/4/88.

No. 82.

Office Memorandum.

Thomas Maloney and Mary O'Dwyer's case.

The enclosed papers referring to the conditional purchase and conditional lease, quoted in the margin are returned to the Chairman of the Local Land Board, Goulburn, the land having been applied for under the Crown Lands Act of 1884.

F.H.W.

(For the Under Secretary),

B.C., 1/5/88.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Goulburn.

No. 83.

Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Re Maloney's Conditional Purchase and Conditional Lease.

Dear Sir,

Goulburn, 12 May, 1888.

In accordance with our interview of yesterday, I have had prepared by Messrs. Macnamarra and Norton, a statutory declaration of the various facts in connection with the matter.

By comparing the dates set out in the declaration you will see that Maloney repaid the deposit a little over two months prior to Sinclair's application, and we also take it that after reading the declaration you will at once gather that the bank manager, without our knowledge or consent, took a refund of our money at the very time he knew we were prosecuting our appeal before the Minister, and never disclosed the fact to us for four months, and you will also see that immediately our client discovered this he again paid the deposit to the Burrowa Land Agent, who accepted it, subject to approval. What we now ask for is to receive that approval before Sinclair's application comes before the Local Board. This, we think will be only a matter of right and justice to our client, who has over this matter been thoroughly persecuted. An early answer will oblige.

Yours, &c.,

O'BRIEN & O'BRIEN,

Solicitors.

Conditional purchase 86-69, Burrowa, 22 April, 1886; Bank of New South Wales; 300 acres; 42nd section; county of Monteagle, parish of Congera. No papers. Noted, 14/5/88. Papers, 88-17,179 Dep. is an office memo. referring the papers to Local Land Board, Goulburn, 1/5/88.—J.P.M., 14/5/88. The Under Secretary.—W.H.C., 15/5/88. Submitted.—C.O., 15/5/88. Re-payment of deposit may be accepted.—T.G., 23/5/88. O'Brien and O'Brien informed.—H.L.T., 1/6/88.

[Enclosure.]

I, THOMAS MALONEY, of Goba Creek, near Burrowa, in the Colony of New South Wales, farmer and grazier, do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:—

1. That on the 22nd day of April, 1886, I made an application at the Lands Office at Burrowa, in the said Colony, to conditionally purchase 300 acres of land and conditionally lease 675 acres of land in the county of Monteagle, parish of Congera.
2. That on the 15th day of October, 1886, the said application came before the Land Board at Frogmoor for confirmation, and the said Board decided to disallow my application, and granted the land to one Mrs. O'Dwyer, a married woman, having no separate estate, who had previously applied for it.
3. Against this decision I appealed to the Minister for Lands, and on the 15th December, 1887, my appeal was heard and allowed, and the application of Mrs. O'Dwyer disallowed.
4. That after the disallowance of my said application by the Land Board, and while my appeal was pending, namely, on the 17th day of August, 1887, the Chairman of the Land Board refunded to the Bank of New South Wales, Burrowa, who were my bankers, the amounts of deposits paid on my said application; and the manager of the said bank, without my having signed the refund voucher or without consulting me in any way or informing me of the fact, accepted the said refund, and the Land Agent at Burrowa has, as I am informed and believe, marked my conditional purchase and conditional lease as cancelled in his book.
5. On the 22nd day of December, 1887, the date when I discovered that the said refund had been obtained, I tendered to the Land Agent at Burrowa aforesaid the amount so refunded as aforesaid, and he accepted same, subject to approval.

6. Nearly two months after, namely on the 16th day of February, 1888, one David Sinclair, lodged an application with the said Land Agent at Burrowa to conditionally lease a portion of the said conditional lease, but the said application has not yet been dealt with by the Local Land Board.

And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the ninth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled, "An Act for the more effectual abolition of oaths and affirmations taken and made in various departments of the Government of New South Wales, and to substitute declarations in lieu thereof, and for the suppression of voluntary and extra-judicial oaths and affirmations.

THOMAS MALONEY.

Subscribed and declared at Sydney, this 12th day of May, 1888, before me,—
HAROLD O'BRIEN,
A Commissioner for Affidavits.

No 84.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien.

Gentlemen,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 1 June, 1888.

Referring to your letter of the 12th ultimo, respecting Thomas Maloney's conditional purchase and conditional lease at Burrowa, I have the honor to inform you that the Secretary for Lands has decided that the repayment of deposit may be accepted.

I have, &c.,

F. H. WILSON

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 85.

Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Dear Sir,

Goulburn, 13 June, 1888.

Adverting to your letter of the 1st instant to us (and marked as in the top corner hereof, in answer to one of ours of 12th May), in connection with the conditional purchase 86-69, of 300 acres, selected 22nd April, 1886, taken up by the Bank of New South Wales, who are the mortgagees of Thomas Maloney, and taken in his interest and by his direction, and conditional lease 86-38, of 675 acres, taken up on same date, and in a similar manner, we would call your attention to the fact that the Crown Lands Agent at Burrowa had not, up to yesterday, received any information from the Department on the matter. According to his books, the conditional purchase stands as disallowed, land being "held by Mary O'Dwyer as a conditional lease, dated 26th October, 1886," and his conditional lease is marked in the said books as being "held by Mary O'Dwyer as a conditional purchase of date 26th October, 1886." These are the portions of land which the Minister disallowed to Mrs. O'Dwyer on appeal, and upheld the appeal of Thomas Maloney, made in the name of the Bank of New South Wales, who took up the lands for him as above stated.

We have to request, on behalf of Thomas Maloney, that, following up the information contained in your letter to us of the 1st instant (the reference number of which is given on the top corner hereof), you will, as soon as possible, instruct the Land Agent at Burrowa, in accordance with the Minister's decision on appeal, and in terms (as complied with by him) of our letter to you of 12th May last, intimated to us by the letter of 1st instant, to restore the said lands into the name of the bank, for the interest of Thomas Maloney, in the Land Office books at Burrowa.

An early answer will greatly oblige.

Yours, &c.,

O'BRIEN & O'BRIEN.

Special.—With regard to this matter, that is, an application for an additional conditional purchase by the Bank of New South Wales, in the interest of Thomas Maloney, it will be seen that the Minister, on the 23rd ultimo, authorized the acceptance of the repayment of the deposit. The authority was conveyed to Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien, but has not yet been issued to the Land Agent through an oversight. Still, before writing to the Land Agent, special attention is drawn to the fact that the application is for an additional conditional purchase in the name of the Bank of New South Wales.—W.H.C., 18/6/88. The Assistant Under Secretary.

The Land Agent may be informed of the decision of the 23rd May. The fact of the conditional purchase having been made by the bank in the interest of Maloney has never been before the Department, and therefore, so far as that point is concerned, it will be for the Local Board to deal with the application on its merits.—C.O., 19/6/88.

Inform as above.—T.G., 19/6/88. Writers and Crown Land Agent informed.—19/6/88. The Chairman, Local Land Board, Goulburn.—C.O., B.C., 19/6/88.

No. 86.

Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Re Maloney's conditional purchase and conditional lease.

Dear Sir,

Goulburn, 17 June, 1888.

Mr. Sinclair's application for conditional purchase and conditional lease are to come on for hearing before the Local Land Board at Burrowa on Thursday next, 21st instant.

You will therefore see that it is absolutely necessary that the local Crown Lands Agent should be instructed by to-morrow's post to place the land in the name of the Bank of New South Wales for Thomas Maloney as originally taken, and in accordance with the decision of the Secretary for Lands, as reported to us by you in your letter to us of the 1st instant.

Unless this is done immediately we are afraid that the Land Board will allow Sinclair's applications, thus putting Maloney again out in the cold.

Your immediate attention will oblige.

Yours, &c.,

O'BRIEN & O'BRIEN.

No. 87.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Burrowa.

Sir, Department of Lands, Sydney, 19 June, 1888.

I have the honor to inform you that the Secretary for Lands on the 23rd ultimo approved of the repayment of the deposit money in connection with the conditional purchase and conditional lease quoted in the margin being accepted, and to request that you will be good enough to accept such repayment.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES OLIVER,

Under Secretary.

Boorowa,
C.P. 86-69, 300
acres ;
C.L. 86-38, 675
acres ;
Bank of New
South Wales ;
Thos. Maloney ;
parish Congera,
county Mon-
teagle.

No. 88.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Messrs. O'Brien and O'Brien.

Gentlemen, Department of Lands, Sydney, 19 June, 1888.

With reference to your letter of the 13th instant respecting the conditional purchase and conditional lease quoted in the margin, I have the honor, by direction of the Secretary for Lands, to inform you that instructions have been issued to the Crown Lands Agent, Boorowa, to receive the repayment of the deposit money in connection therewith, and your communication referred to the local Land Board for consideration when dealing with the case.

I have, &c.,

F. H. WILSON

(For the Under Secretary).

Boorowa,
C.P. 86-69, 300
acres ;
C.L. 86-38, 675
acres ;
Bank of New
South Wales ;
Thos. Maloney ;
parish Congera,
county Mon-
teagle.

No. 89.

Mr. M. O'Dwyer to The Chairman, Land Board, Burrowa.

Thomas Maloney's and Mary O'Dwyer's case.

Sir, Burrowa, 21 June, 1888.

I do myself the honor to state for your information (on behalf of myself and Mrs. O'Dwyer) that it is our intention to still claim the conditional purchases and leases which were disallowed by the Minister to Wm. O'Dwyer. I therefore, respectively lodge this as my protest against the Board allowing or granting the same land to any other person or persons at present.

I have, &c.,

MICHAEL O'DWYER.

No. 90.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Chairman, Land Board, Goulburn.

Sir, Department of Lands, Sydney, 27 June, 1888.

I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to return to this Department, as early as practicable, all papers in connection with the conditional purchase, noted in the margin, which were forwarded to you on 1st ultimo.

I have, &c.,

F. H. WILSON

(For the Under Secretary).

Papers No.
88-17, 179 D. ;
C.Ps. No.
85-157 and
85-161, made by
Mary Maloney,
at Burrowa.

Papers, C.Ps., 85-157 and 161, Burrowa, are now returned to the Under Secretary as request herein.—JNO. G. BLAXLAND (for the Chairman), B.C., Land Board Office, Goulburn, 28/6/88. The Under Secretary for Lands. Note. This land has been applied for by D. Sinclair, which was before the Court 21st June, 1888, at Burrowa. These papers are separated therefrom, to be sent to head office as per request.—J.G.B.

[Eleven Plans.]

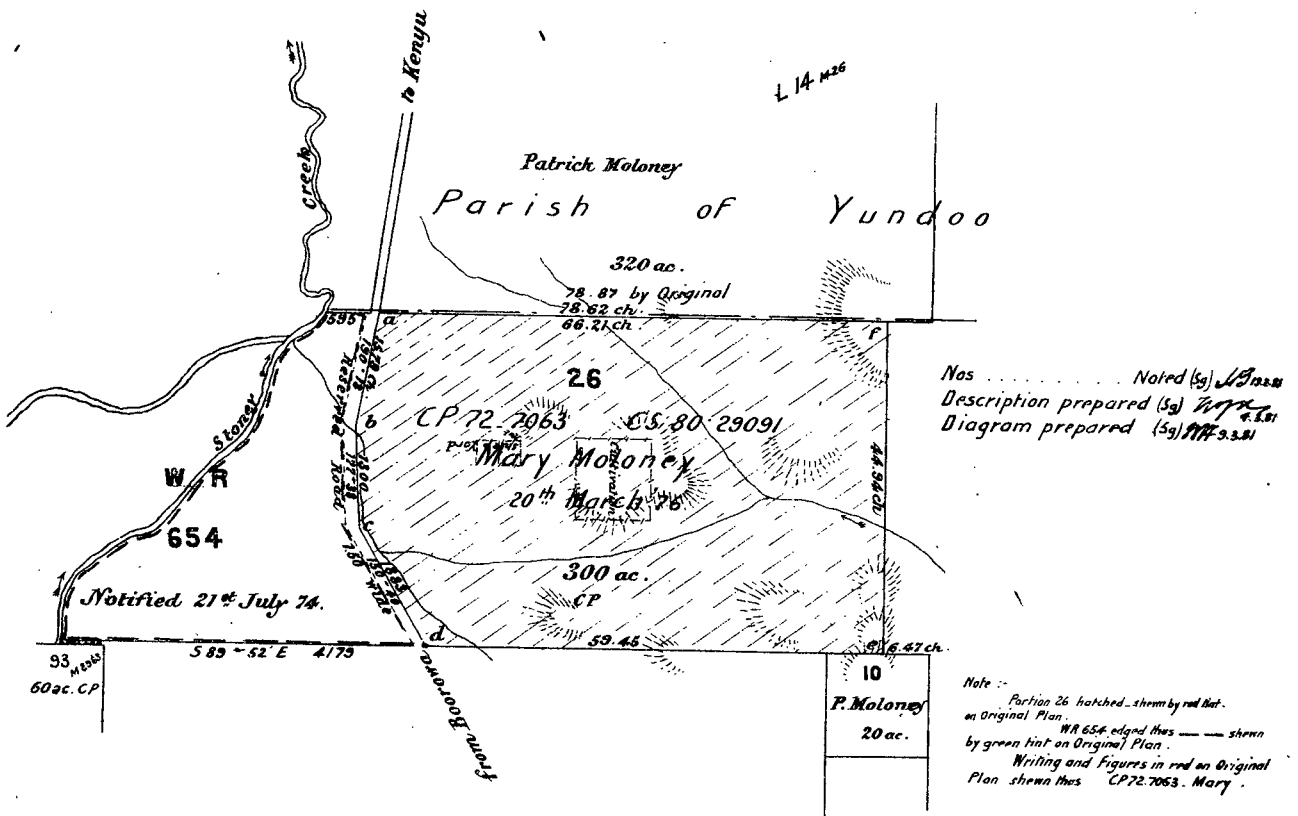
CAT. N^o M 304.1780

Q¹st Branch
73. 16653
Lands Department

APPENDIX A.
Enclosure to N^o 21.

TRACING
Of portion N^o. 26 in the
Parish of Congera
County of Montego

Applied for under the 13th Clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, by
James Moloney



93 M 2345
60 ac. CP

5 83 - 52 E 4175

10
P. Moloney
20 ac.

Note :-
Portion 26 hatched, shown by red tint on Original Plan.
WA 654 edged thus — shown by green tint on Original Plan.
Writing and figures in red on Original Plan shown thus CP 72.7063. Mary.

| REFERENCE TO CORNERS. | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| Corner. | Bearing. | From | Links | No. on Tree |
| a | 127° 23 | Apple | 43 | 26 |
| b | 213° 00 | Leaning Gum | 44 | 26 |
| c | 303° 26 | Gum Sap | 24 | 26 |
| d | 224° 15 | Gum | 18 | 26 |
| e | 174° 12 | Box | 41 | 10.26 |
| f | 150° 06 | Box | 28 | 26 |

under No. 1161 Min. L.
Plan accepted.
(Sg) T.H.L.
20 May 76
(Sig 301-)

Scale 20 Chains to an Inch.

Marked in accordance with regulations
Instrument used in Survey—Theodolite
Date of Survey 19th July 1873
Value of Improvements £ 50. 0. 0
Situated in the Police District of Boorowa

Can & Plan
73/15

Transmitted to the Surveyor General with my letter of
the 2nd August No. 73 - 23
Signed Charles Gardner L.S.

Cat. N^o M 904 1780
Schedule 64

Police District of Boorowa



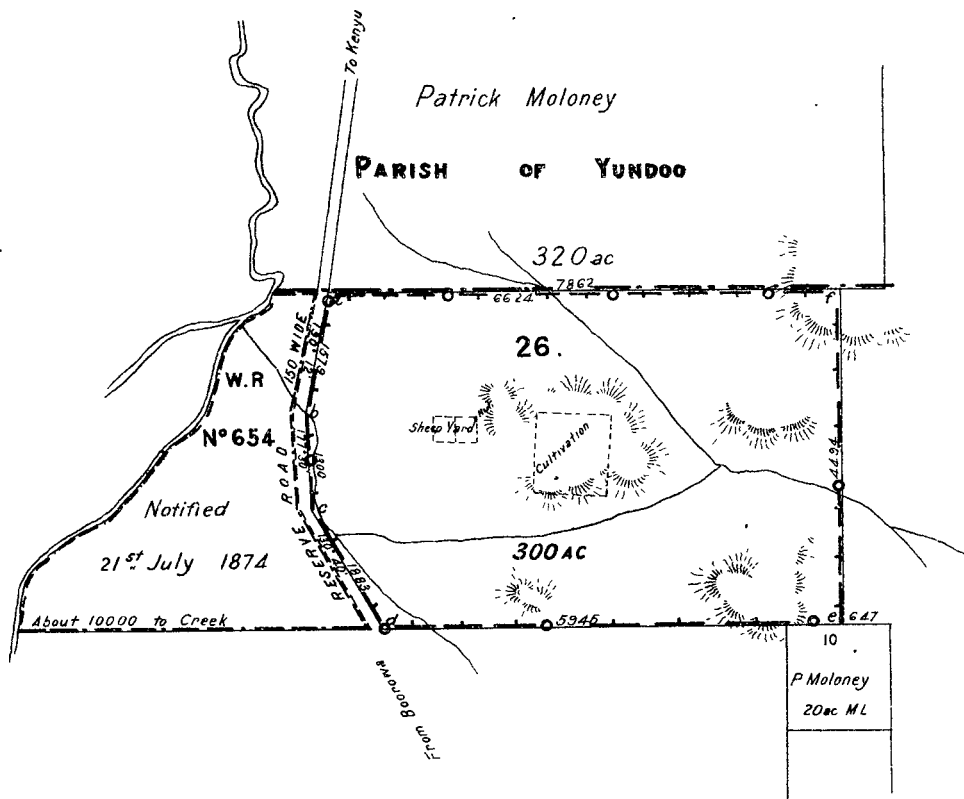
PLAN

showing Portion N^o 26
Parish of Congera
County of Monteagle

Applied for under the 13th clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861 by
James Moloney

— CP N^o 72-7063 —

APPENDIX B
Enclosure to N^o 8



NOTE—Portion edged red on original is shown on this copy thus green

Reference to Corners

| Corner | Bearing | From | Links | N ^o on Tree |
|--------|----------|-----------------------|-------|------------------------|
| a | 127° 23' | Apple | 43 | 26 |
| b | 219° | Lean ^d Gum | 44 | 26 |
| c | 303° 26' | Cum sap | 24 | 26 |
| d | 224° 15' | Cum | 18 | 26 |
| e | 174° 12' | box | 41 | 10 26 |
| f | 150° 6' | box | 28 | 26 |

Date of Survey 19th July 1873
Value of Improvements £.50

(sd) Charles Gardiner
Licensed Surveyor

(sd) E G Sewell

Traced by J.C.T.
Examined by

(Sig. 301-)

To REMAIN WITH PAPERS N^o LBD 86 2363

BOOROWA

PLAN

of Portions N^{os} 144 & 66

APPENDIX C.
Enclosure to N^o 26.

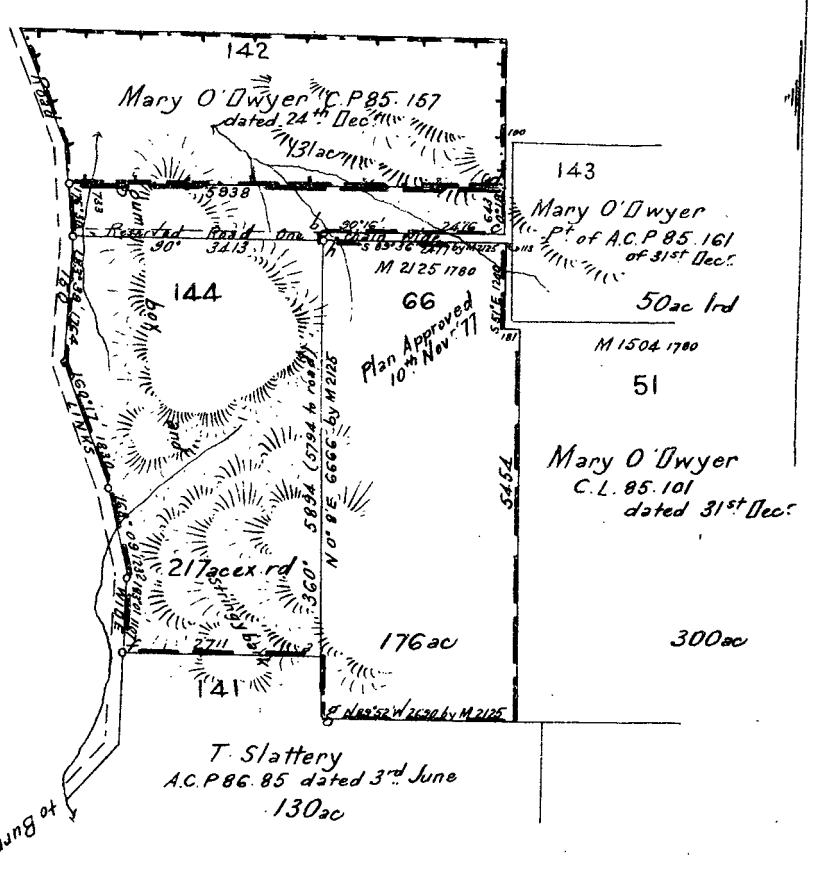
Parish of Congera — County of Monteaale

Applied for by Mary O'Dwyer C.L. under the 48th
Clause of the C.L.A. Act of 1884

From C.L. N^o 85.99 dated 24th Dec^r. Land District of Burrowa

NOTE: Portions edged blue on original plan are shown on this copy, thus

From Kerwin
to Burrowa



Azimuth taken from G.H

| Reference to Corners | | | | |
|----------------------|----------|------|--------|------------------------|
| Cor. | bearing | from | lks | N ^o on tree |
| a | 108° 55' | box | 57 | 144, 141 |
| b | 83° 15' | " | 15 | 144 |
| d | 46° | " | 21 | 144, 142 |
| c | 333° 30' | " | 10 | " |
| e | 128° | gum | 66 | " |
| f | 237° 50' | " | 67 1/2 | 144, 141 |

Certificate of conformity with the regulations
signed on plan transmitted with my letter
of the 23rd June 1886-113

Situated in the Burrowa Land District
Improvements - Nil

— Scale 20 chains to an inch —

Traced by J.C.T.
Exam^d by J.D.B.

Date of Survey 31 May 86
(sd)

Jas. E. Lester. L.S.

Approved
(sd) E. Twynam
D.S.

30th Aug. 86

District Survey Office
Goulburn
Examined by C.W.L. Balhausen
Charted on Office Maps 17 Aug 86

(Sig. 301-)

CAT. N^o M 2126.1780
 Alienation Branch }
 Lands Department } 7473

Boorowa

TRACING

Of portion N^o 61 in the

Parish of Congera

County of Monteagle

Measured under the 23rd Clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1875.

For Auction Sale

Cancels part of M.L. 13134 (Por N^o 8)

Sale at Boorowa 12th November 1879

Country lot A. Portion 61

Vide Aln 80-1123. above lot not bid for

Nos. Noted (Sign^d) L.B. 10.3.80.

Sale at Boorowa 9th June 1880

Country lot A. Portion 61

Vide Aln 80-7751 above lot not bid for

Part of A.C.P. 85.161 dated 31st Dec^r by Mary O'Dwyer Nos. Noted (Sign^d) L.B. 4.11.80.

Note

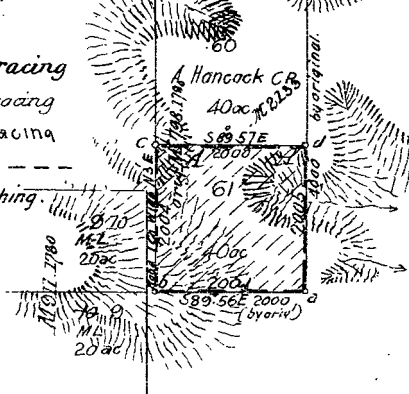
Red writing on original shown thus - Tracing

Blue do do do Tracing

Pencil do do do Tracing

Red edging on original shown thus - - - -

Red tint " " " by hatching.



| REFERENCE TO CORNERS. | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|-------------|--------|--------------|
| Corner. | Bearing. | From | Links. | No. on Tree. |
| a | S 39.55W | Leaning Gum | 50 | 8.61 |
| b | S 30.57W | Box | 09 | |
| c | N 39.25E | Box | 53 | 60.61 |
| d | N 50E | Box | 48 1/2 | |

(Sig 301-).

Scale 20 Chains to an Inch.

Marked in accordance with regulations

Instrument used in Survey—Theodolite

Date of Survey 6th March 1877

Value of Improvements None

Situated in the Goba Creek Run.

Transmitted to the Surveyor General with my letter of the 28th Aug 1877 No. 77/67

Signed

V. B. Riley L.S.

Plan accepted
 (Init^d) 20 May 79.

Cont Plan No 77.38.
 (Sign^d) G. D.

CAT. N^o M 2125.1780

CL^o Branch
T. 7472
Lands Department.

APPENDIX D.
Enclosure to N^o 27

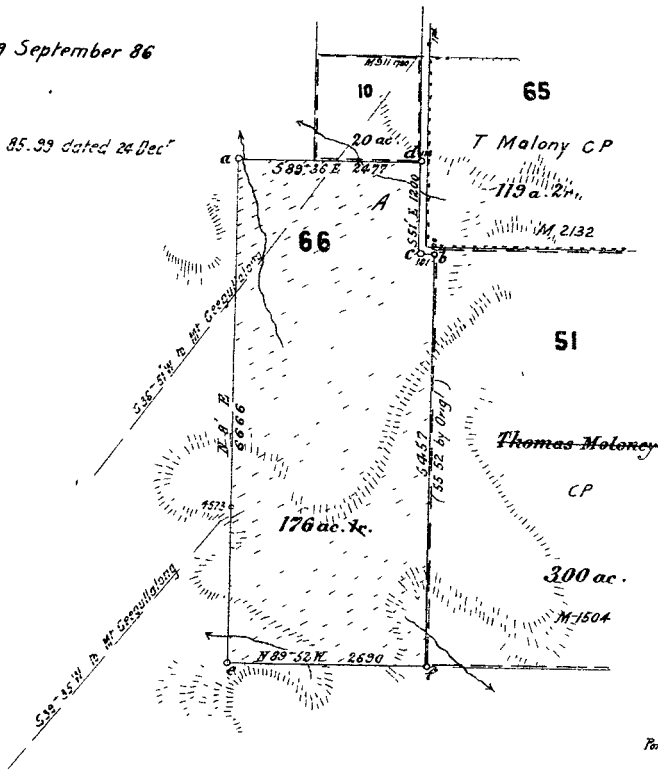
TRACING
Of portion N^o 66 in the
Parish of Congera
County of Monteagle

Applied for under the 23rd Clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, by
Thomas Moloney

Sale at Boorowa 16 January 1878 postponed to 16th February 1878
Country Lot A Portion 66
Vide A1ⁿ 78.4164 above lot not bid for

59
16 July 86

Sale at Boorowa 29 September 86
Country Lot
Portion 66
Mary O'Dwyer part of CL 85.33 dated 24 Dec^r



Portions edged blue on Original Plan. Shown thus: yellow.
Portions tinted red. Notes and Figures in red on Original Plan. Thus, Sale, 88. Mary CL

| REFERENCE TO CORNERS. | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|------|---------|------------|
| Corner | Bearing | From | Links | No on Tree |
| a | N 5° 20' E | Box | .32 | |
| b | N 68° 36' E | Box | .43 | 66 |
| c | S 66° 55' W | Box | .37 | |
| d | N 62° 46' E | Box | .33 1/2 | 9 66 |
| e | N 54° 40' W | Gum | .33 | 66 |
| f | S 53° 50' W | Gum | .57 | 51 66 |

Plan accepted

Scale 20 Chains to an Inch.

Marked in accordance with regulations
Instrument used in Survey—Theodolite
Date of Survey 22nd April 1877
Value of Improvements none
Sited in the Goba C^k Run

151P 77 50
13 11 77

Transmitted to the Surveyor General with my letter of
the 28th Aug. No 77-66
Signed

V.B. Riley L.S

(518301-)

59
W. H. ...

To remain with papers N^o L.B.D. 86.2362

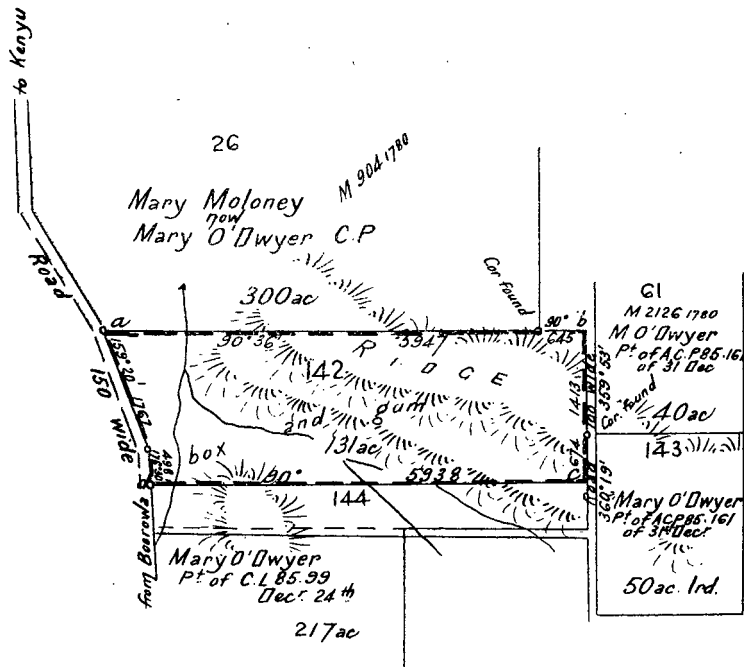
APPENDIX E.
Enclosure to N^o 27.

PLAN
OF PORTION N^o 142

Boorowa

Parish of Congera — County of Monteagle
Applied for by Mary O'Dwyer C.P under the 42nd
clause of the C.L.A. Act of 1884

A.C.P. No 85.157 Dec^r 24th Land District of Burrowa
Forwarded to the Land Agent at Burrowa



NOTE: - Portion edged pink on original is shown on this copy thus

Azimuth taken from d-c

| Reference to Corners | | | | |
|----------------------|----------|------|------|------------|
| Cor. | bearing | From | lbs | No on tree |
| a | 224° 15' | gum | 18 | 142.26 |
| b | 176° 40' | box | 61/4 | 142 |
| c | 46° 00' | box | 21 | 142 |
| d | 128° 00' | gum | 66 | 142 |

Certificate of conformity with the regulations
signed on plan transmitted with my letter of the
23rd June N^o 1886-112

Date of survey 31st May 1886
(sd) Jas. E. Lester
Lic. Surveyor

D. Survey Office
Goyburn
Exam^d by C.W.L. Ballhausen
Charted on Office Maps

Situated in the Burrowa Land District
Improvements - Nil

Approved
(sd) E. Twynam D.S.
30. Aug^r '86

Traced by J.C.T.
Exam^d by *[Signature]*

— Scale 20 chains to an inch —

(Sig. 301-)

CAT. N^o M2133 1780.
 Conditional Sales } 77/32806.
 Department of Lands }

Boorowa

APPENDIX F.
 Enclosure to N^o 28.

TRACING
 Of portion N^o 60 in the

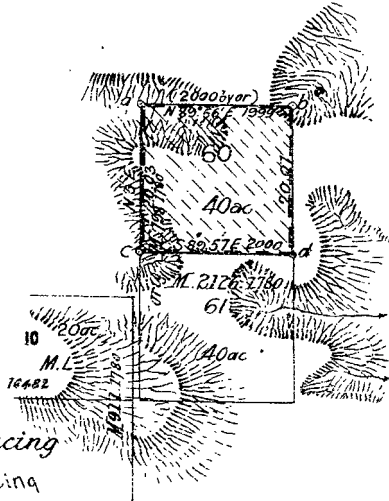
Parish of Congera
 County of Monteagle

Applied for under the 19th Clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, by
 Allen Hancock

CP 76.354 9th November 1876. Declared Void 13.8.77
 MCP. 78.171 of the 8th of August lapsed Vide Gazette, 2nd May 1883.
 Cancels part of 13134 (Por N^o 8)

Part of ACP 85.161 by dated 31st Dec^r by Mary O'Dwyer

Schedule for Auction
 (Signed) F.E. Fry
 17.8.86



Note

Red writing on original shown thus *Tracing*
 Pencil do do do *Tracing*
 Red edging on original - shown thus *---*
 Red tint by hatching.

Scoping examined
 (Signed) G.L.
 Chartered
 (Signed) W.A.
 Voucher 77, 28
 1.5.87

| REFERENCE TO CORNERS. | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|------|--------|-------------|
| Corner | Bearing. | From | Links | No. on Tree |
| a | N 35.51 W | Box | 26 | 8.60 |
| b | N 45.29 E | Box | 12 | |
| c | N 39.25 E | Box | 53 | 60.61 |
| d | N 50 E | Box | 48 1/2 | |

Scale 20 Chains to an Inch.
 Marked in accordance with regulations
 Instrument used in Survey—Theodolite
 Date of Survey 5th March 1877
 Value of Improvements none
 Situated in the Goba Creek Run

Transmitted to the Surveyor General with my letter of
 the 28th Aug 1877 No. 77/66
 Signed
 V. B. Riley L.S.

(Sig. 301-) Plan accepted
 (Signed) *[Signature]* 20 May 79

To REMAIN WITH PAPERS N^o LBD86-2361

BOOROWA

APPENDIX G.
Enclosure to N^o 28.



PLAN

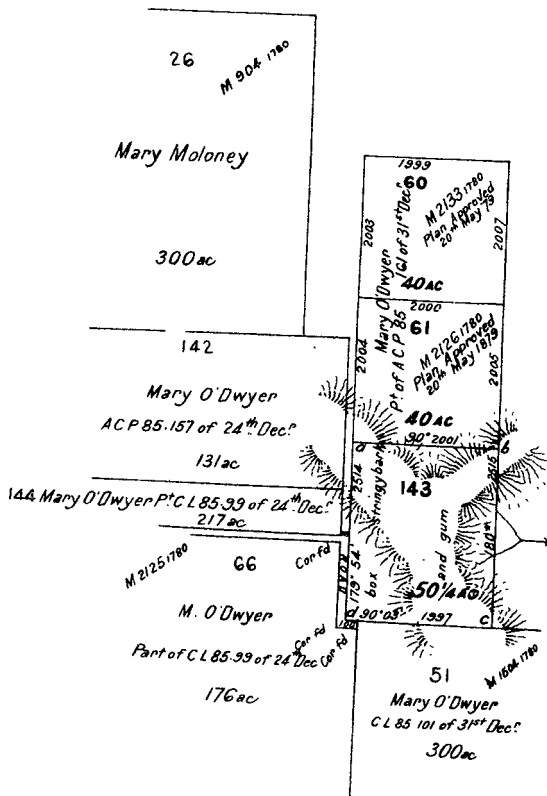
of Portion N^o 143

Parish of Congera County of Monteagle

Applied for by Mary O'Dwyer C P under the 42nd
Clause of the C. L. A. Act of 1884

A.C.P. No 85-161 Dec^r 31st — Land District of Burrowa

SCALE 20 CHAINS TO AN INCH



Note:-- Portions 60, 61 & 143 are hatched red on original plan

Certificate of conformity with the Regulations
signed on Plan transmitted with my letter of
the 23rd June N^o 1886-117
Sited in the Burrowa Land District
Improvements-- Nil

Azimuth taken from Par 61

| Reference to Corners | | | | |
|----------------------|----------|------|-----|------------------------|
| Cor | bearing | From | lks | W ⁿ on tree |
| a | 210° 57' | box | 63 | 143 61 |
| b | 220° 00' | gum | 50 | " " |
| c | 19° 20' | box | 22 | " " |
| d | 223° 35' | box | 42 | " " |

Dis. Survey Office Coulburn

Traced by J.C.T. Examined by

Date of Survey 12th February 1886
(sig)

Jas. E. Lester
Lic Surveyor

Approved
(sd) E. Twynam D.S.
30th Aug '86

(Sig. 301-)

CAT. N^o M 1504 1780 Submitted as to
Alienation Branch } 75.33511
Lands Department

Release on CS 81.1479
 to go on.

Boorowa.

APPENDIX H.
 Enclosure to N^o 29.

TRACING
 Of portion N^o 51 in the
 Parish of Conqera
 County of Menteagle

Applied for under the 13th Clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, by
 Thomas Moloney

Init^d C. J. 13th May 82

CP 74.13720 31st Dec 1874 forfeited vide Gaz 8th Nov 81
 Sale at Boorowa 6th Sept 1882.
 Country lot A Portion 51
 Vide Aln. 83 629 above lot not bid for
 Nos Noted (Sign^d) J. S. 13th April 1883.



CP. 86.103 Apr 2nd 1876
 Pth NSM

| REFERENCE TO CORNERS. | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------|-------|--------------|
| Corner | Bearing. | From | Links | No. on Trac. |
| A | 157. 10 | Box | 135 | 50.51 |
| B | 338 | Stringyb ^k | 25 | 50.51 |
| C | 233 50 | Gum | 57 | 51 |
| D | 308 50 | Box | 387 | 51 |

Plan accepted
 (Sign^d) J. F. G. 6th Sept 1876

(Sig. 301-)

Scale 20 Chains to an Inch.

Marked in accordance with regulations

Instrument used in Survey—Theodolite

Date of Survey 29th September 1875

Value of Improvements Nil

Situated in the

75.36
 Con and plan
 Connection
 (Init^d) D. T. S.
 6th Sept 76

Transmitted to the Surveyor General with my letter of
 the 30th Nov 1875 No. 75/178

Signed

C. H. Sheaffe L.S.

1888-9.

—
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

—
CROWN LANDS.

(MINUTES RESPECTING AUCTION SALES FOR 1887.)

—
Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 11 January, 1889.
 —

In considering the work of the Department for the present year, I desire that the important question of Auction Sales should receive early and special attention; and with a view to avoid the delay which occurred last year I have thought it expedient to give special instructions thus early in the year.

In the present state of the country's finances it would be desirable to effect sales during the year to the full limit of 200,000 acres, and with this object in view it will be necessary to bring forward for auction, including town and suburban and country lands, not less than 500,000 acres. These lands, as was the case last year, should be apportioned to the various districts with some degree of proportion to the amount of settlement, and to where there is likely to be a reasonable demand. In the Western Division, however, the sales will be restricted to town and suburban lands.

In cases where special areas have been proclaimed, and the land, after a reasonable interval, has not been selected, it may be brought forward to auction at the special area prices. And it should again be particularly noted that no reserve should be cancelled without a recommendation from the District Surveyor as to whether such land should or should not be proclaimed a special area, so that the notice of the revocation and the proclamation of special areas should be published simultaneously, and not, as on several occasions occurred last year, when it was found only some day or two before the land was open to selection, that a special area should have been proclaimed, which, when done under these circumstances, naturally caused great dissatisfaction amongst those who, at considerable trouble and expense, had prepared to select under the ordinary conditions.

A reminder of former instructions may be sent to District Surveyors to advise the Department where reserves are unnecessary, with a view to the same being cancelled. They should also be asked to advise as to the desirability of bringing forward town and suburban lands in their respective districts and to recommend prices.

The unsold portions of Harbord, Heathcote, and Field of Mars, also the subdivision near the Como Station, may be advertised for sale at some one of the auction-rooms in the city, the particular auctioneer to be forthwith decided on.

Sales at Beecroft, Stockton, Wilberforce, Katoomba, parish of Gordon, and other places where the subdivisions are ready, should be brought forward as quickly as possible, to be sold on the ground. Auctioneers in these cases can be appointed later on.

In many cases town and suburban lands have been offered at country towns, but it is thought the upset price having been fixed too high has precluded sales taking place. These lands should again be brought forward at a reduced upset.

HENRY COPELAND, 3/1/87.

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

SALE OF CERTAIN LAND, PARISH OF MOLONG, COUNTY
OF ASHBURNHAM.

(CORRESPONDENCE, PLANS, &c., IN CONNECTION WITH.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 19 December, 1888.

RETURN to an *Address* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, adopted 30th May, 1888, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“Copies of all correspondence, plans, *Gazette* Notices, Judge’s decision and ruling in Common Law or Equity, in connection with the sale or disposal of portions of land 59, 60, 21, 56, and 6, in the parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham.”

(Dr. Ross.)

Return, *re* Sale of certain Lands, Parish of Molong, County of Ashburnham, being Portions 59, 60, 21, 56, and 6.

SCHEDULE.

| NO. | | PAGE. |
|-----|---|-------|
| 1. | Copy of application by Thomas Rees and others for the purchase of Crown lands. 30 May, 1872..... | 3 |
| 2. | The Crown Land Agent, Molong, to the Under Secretary for Lands, with minutes and enclosures. 6 August, 1872 | 4 |
| 3. | Office memorandum by the Surveyor-General, with minutes. 21 November, 1872 | 4 |
| 3½. | Application by John Smith to select Crown lands, with minutes. 29 July, 1875..... | 4 |
| 4. | The same, with minutes and enclosure. 5 August, 1875..... | 4 |
| 5. | The same, with minutes and enclosure. 5 August, 1875..... | 5 |
| 6. | The Under Secretary for Lands to the Under Secretary for Finance and Trade, with enclosure. 31 October, 1875 | 5 |
| 7. | Application by John Smith to select Crown lands, with minutes. 28 May, 1877 | 5 |
| 8. | The same, with minutes. 28 May, 1877 | 6 |
| 9. | The same by Dennis Clancy, with minutes and enclosures. 26 July, 1877 | 6 |
| 10. | F. Fitzpatrick, Esq., to the Honorable the Minister for Lands, with minutes. 9 August, 1877..... | 7 |
| 11. | The Chief Commissioner of Conditional Sales to F. Fitzpatrick, Esq. 22 August, 1877 | 7 |
| 12. | The Under Secretary for Lands to John Smith. 22 August, 1877 | 7 |
| 13. | The same to the Under Secretary for Finance and Trade. 22 August, 1877 | 7 |
| 14. | The Chief Commissioner of Conditional Sales to F. Fitzpatrick, Esq. 22 August, 1877 | 8 |
| 15. | The same to Inspector J. C. Page. 31 August, 1877 | 8 |
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No. 1.

Application by Thomas Rees and others.

[C.P. 72-2,931.]

[L.A. No. 57.]

Applicants—Thomas Rees, Alfred Stevens, Henry Whicher, Henry Unwin, Robert Randal, John Wells ;
Police District, Molong ; date, 30th May, 1872 ; time, 10 ; area, 40 acres ; section, 19.

Description :—40 acres, county Ashburnham, parish, unnamed ; 40 acres, commencing at a tree marked R, about half a mile east of the Molong and Boree Road, to be in a square block.

Action taken :—Application to Mr. Tarves, 18/6/72. Application returned by 74-11,924, Tarves. Duplicate voucher for £21, including appraisalment fee, handed to Mr. Hoskins, M.P., in favour of Mr. Gordon. *Vide* 73-1,771, Misc., plan only, 74-443, Mr. Tarves. Cancelled by 72-11,924, as the land contains improvements to the value of £40.

No. 2.

The Crown Land Agent, Molong, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Land Office, Molong, 6 August, 1872.

In reference to your letter of the 2nd August instant, 72-9,172, directing me to withdraw from list of Crown lands open to selection in the district of Molong, the lands described hereunder, I do myself the honor to inform you that I can find no record in this office of any sale of lands during the period from 18th May, 1857, to 6th January, 1860.

I have, &c.,

THOS. FINCH,

Land Agent.

County of Ashburnham, lot 14, date of sale, 30th November, 1858.—The registers in this office show the sale under reference, the lot having been noted as withdrawn. These papers may be put away, 14/11/72.

[Enclosures.]

Office Memorandum.

21 November, 1872.

CAT. No. M. 10-1,325 (roll).—Lot A (portion 19) of sale at Molong, on the 7th April, 1865, county of Ashburnham, should now be withdrawn from selection, having been partly applied for by Messrs. King, Edwards, and Campbell as a mineral lease, 12,419, under the 22nd section of the Crown Lands Occupation Act of 1861.

J.S.A.

(For Surveyor-General).

Agent, 26/11/72. To be returned to Noting Branch, for notation of plan.

Memorandum.

22 November, 1872.

CAT. No. M. 10-1,325 (roll).—Lots C and G of sale at Molong, on the 7th April, 1865, county of Ashburnham, should now be withdrawn from selection, having been partly minerally conditionally purchased by Rees and party, and partly applied for as mineral leases by J. Skinner, under the 22nd section of the Crown Land Occupation Act.

J.S.A.

(For Surveyor-General).

Agent, 26/11/72. Return to Noting Branch, for notation of plan.

Office Memorandum.

Lots C and G, portions 21 and 56 (371 acres), of sale at Molong, of 7th April, 1865, selected after auction by John Smith, of Gamboola, on 5th August, 1875, at Molong.

The money in payment for the above lots was credited as follows, viz. :—

| | £ | s. | d. | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----|----|---------------------------------|
| Guarantee deposit..... | 16 | 0 | 0 | Credited 11th April, 1874. |
| Remitted by Land Agent..... | 355 | 0 | 0 | } Credited 11th November, 1875. |
| Deeds | 2 | 0 | 0 | |

— Evans, Esq., Auction Branch, Lands Department, Gresham-street.

T.J.M., 28/7/76.

Office Memorandum.

17 July, 1872.

CAT. No. M. 10-1,325 (roll).—Lot 14 (128 acres) of sale at Molong, on the 30th November, 1858, county Ashburnham, should now be withdrawn from selection, part of it having been taken up as a mineral lease by H. Betts. See L. 72-9,578, M.L. 6,632.

J.S.

Land Agent, 1/8/72.

No. 3.

No. 3.

Office Memorandum.

James Greer and others—Mineral lease 13,324, also Mineral leases 11,811 and 12. THERE would be no objection to the measurement of these leases out of the measured portions 6, 59, and 60, provided they are measured with frontage to Boree Road, but not otherwise; and as the portions referred to have been so long unsaleable, in their present form, perhaps the usual charges for subdivision need not be asked for.

Portions 6, 59, and 60, being lots 3, 30, and 31, of sale at Molong, 30th November, 1858, are now withdrawn from auction selection by memo. of this date.

J.S.A.

(For Surveyor-General).

Mr. Licensed Surveyor Tarves, per Mr. District Surveyor Fisher, B.C., 21st November, 1872.

NOTE.—From the accompanying sketch copy from leases 11,811 and 12, it will be seen that the leases are applied for up to the road, although the distance of 20 chains east from the does not apparently reach up to the road.—J.S.A.

Forwarded to Mr. Licensed Surveyor Tarves, November, 1872.—E. MACF. (for the District Surveyor). Returned to the Surveyor-General in accordance with instructions, 73-155, dated 6th August, 1873, the survey not having been made.—J.W. TARVES, 8th August, 1873.

Rent demanded, 17/12/77. Resubmitted, 30/1/78. Recommend refusal for non-observance of conditions, 15/2/78. Mineral lease refused, 27/3/78. Forwarded as requested, B.C., 22nd June, 1878.—H. W. Applicant informed, 22nd June, 1878.

No. 3½.

Application by Mr. John Smith.

Exhibit I.—Smith v. Farnell.

[No. of 188.]

Application by John Smith, Molong, to select Crown Lands.

Received this 29th day of July, 1875, with price of lot and deed fee, at 10 o'clock, by,—

N. O. LANE,
Acting Land Agent for Molong District.

Sir,

Molong, 29 July, 1875.

I hereby tender the sum of £129 as the price by selection (and deed fee) of the Crown lands hereunder described:—Place of sale, Molong; date on which last offered for sale, 30th November, 1858; lot at last sale, 14; county, Ashburnham; parish or place, West Molong; number of portion, 27; extent of the lot, 128 acres; price of the lot, £128; fee on the deed, £1.

I am, &c.,

The Crown Lands Agent, Molong.

JOHN SMITH,

The land herein referred to having been withdrawn from auction selection, this purchase should I presume be cancelled and the money refunded.—28/9/75.

Cancel purchase and refund money, papers then to Charting Branch, in order that the land may be advertised for sale, should no objection exist.—W.C.E., 7/10/75.

The mineral lease referred to herein having become forfeited, the land should be re-advertised for sale.—W.C.E., 24/1/76. Mr. Stevens. Put away. Cancellation reversed, *vide* C.S. 87-6,601 Dep., and Aln. 87-2,482.—E.C.M., 13/8/87.

No. 4.

Application by Mr. John Smith.

D.

Application by John Smith to select Crown lands.

RECEIVED this 5th day of August, 1875, at 10 o'clock, by,—

N. O. LANE,
Acting Land Agent for Molong District.

Sir,

Molong, 5 August, 1875.

I hereby tender the sum of £193, as the price by selection (and deed fee) of the Crown lands hereunder described:—Place of sale, Molong; date on which last advertised, 24th February, 1865; date on which last offered for sale, 7th April, 1865; lot at last sale, G; county, Ashburnham; parish or place, West Molong; number of portion, 56; extent of the lot, 192 acres (area as per description); price of the lot, £192.

I am, &c.,

The Crown Lands Agent, Molong.

JOHN SMITH,

Gamboola.

Area, as per description, 193 acres 2 roods.—J.N., 10/10/87. Mr. Edwards. Withdrawn, *vide* 72-15,513, mineral lease. Papers herewith. Mr. Edwards,—It does not appear that this application has been finally acted upon as yet. The land was withdrawn, *vide* Selection Register and 72-15,513 Aln. herewith.—R.H.D., 16/1/79.

The auction selection should be cancelled and money refunded, in accordance with the Minister's decision on 78-6,729, and these papers sent to Charting Branch, in order that Mr. Smith's auction selections should be advertised for sale.—W.C.E., 5/2/79.

Mr. Smith, care of F. Fitzpatrick and Treasury and Land Agent.—14/2/79.

Mr. Gale, 17/2/79.

[Enclosure.]

5

[Enclosure.]

No. 6,332—Deed fee, £1.

RECEIVED from John Smith the sum of £192, being the purchase money of 192 acres of land, situated at West Molong, in the county of Ashburnham, which was offered for sale on the 7th day of April, 1865, as lot 9, and not then bid for, or the deposit on which was forfeited.

Police District of Molong, 5 August, 1875.
N. O. LANE,
Agent for the sale of Crown Lands.

Forward to the Surveyor-General with my letter, 77-53, of 21st August.—E. FISHER, District Surveyor.

No. 5.

Application by John Smith.

D.

Application by John Smith to select Crown lands.

RECEIVED this 5th day of August, 1875, with price of lot and deed fee, at 10 o'clock, by,—
N. O. LANE,
Acting Land Agent for District of Molong.

Sir,

I hereby tender the sum of £180, price by selection (and deed fee) of the Crown lands hereunder described:—Place of sale, Molong; date on which last advertised, 24th February, 1865; date on which last offered for sale, 7th April, 1865; lot at last sale, C; county, Ashburnham; parish or place, West Molong; portion, 21; extent of the lot, 179 acres; price of the lot, £179; fee on the deed, £1.

I am, &c.,

Molong, 5 August, 1875.

JOHN SMITH,

Gamboola.

Crown Lands Agent, Molong.

Mr. Edwards.—Mr. Moppet cannot trace the credit at Audit Office.—30/6/76. Inquire at Treasury.—W.C.E. Credited 11th November, 1875. Records.—Required 72-15,514 herewith. Mr. Edwards.—This selection having been withdrawn by 72-15,514 herewith, it should therefore be cancelled.—14/11/76. Submitted.—H.O.R., 6/12/76. Approved.—W.W.S., 16/8/87. Cancelled. Mr. Smith and Treasury, 22/8/77. Cancellation reversed, *vide* C.S. 87-6,601, Dep. and Aln. 87-2,482.—E.M. (*per* R.H.D.), 13/2/87.

[Enclosure.]

Office Memorandum.

No. 6,361—Deed fee, £1.

RECEIVED from John Smith, of Molong, the sum of £179, being the purchase money of 179 acres of land, situated at West Molong, in the county of Ashburnham, which was offered for sale on the 7th day of April, 1865, as lot C, and then not bid for, or the deposit on which was forfeited.

Police District of Molong, 5 August, 1875.
N. O. LANE,
Acting Agent for the sale of Crown Lands.

No. 6.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Sir,

I am directed to request that you will be good enough to refund to Mr. John Smith or his order the sum of £129, being the amount paid by him and credited on the 13th August last, as the price of lot 14, of the sale at Molong, on the 30th November, 1858, the selection having been cancelled, as the land was previously withdrawn from selection.

I have, &c.,

W. W. STEPHEN.

[Enclosure.]

Revenue refunded.

Sir,

I am directed to request that you will be good enough to refund to Mr. John Smith, of Molong, the sum of £129, credited at the Treasury, on the 13th August, 1875, being amount paid as purchase money on "after auction selection" and deed fee for portion No. 27, West Molong, county of Ashburnham, offered at auction sale on the 30th November, 1858.

I have, &c.

W. W. STEPHEN,

Under Secretary.

No. 7.

Application by Mr. J. Smith.

D.

Application by John Smith to select Crown lands.

RECEIVED this 28th day of May, 1877, with price of lot and deed fee, at 1 o'clock, by me.

JOHN H. NISBETT,

Agent for Molong District.

Molong,

[No. of 188.]

Sir,

Molong, 28 May, 1877.

I hereby tender the sum of £130, as the price by selection (and deed fee) of the Crown lands hereunder described:—Place of sale, Molong; date on which last advertised, 12th October, 1858; date on which last offered for sale, 30th November, 1858; lot at last sale, 31; county, Ashburnham; parish or place, West Molong; portion, 60; extent of the lot, 129 acres; price of the lot, £129; fee on the deed, £1.

I am, &c.,

JOHN SMITH,

The Crown Lands Agent, Molong.

Gamboola, Molong.

Records for papers, 72-15,515. Records, 14/6/77. These selections cannot be dealt with without the above-mentioned paper.—H.R., 30/10/77. Mr. Edwards. The paper upon which these selections were withdrawn cannot be found at Records.—H.R., 17/1/78. How does the paper stand at Records.—W.C.E., 7/2/78. Charting Branch. Will you please state the reasons, noted on plans, why the within-mentioned lots were withdrawn from selection.—H.R., 5/3/78. M. 10-1,328.

It is not clear from map why these portions were withdrawn, but a note referring to papers 72-22,028, mineral leases, apparently relates to these portions. (See also Aln. 12-15,515).—T.S., 15/4/78. Mr. Edwards.

72-22,028 carried on to 73-6,469, mineral lease. Mr. Edwards.

Having examined (73-6,469 mineral lease), the paper being at the Department of Mines, I find that these selections were withdrawn for re-measurement, as they had been laying idle for a great number of years; also a portion was applied for as a mineral lease. The withdrawal paper, 72-15,515, which will be seen from previous memos, has been lost. Perhaps, under the circumstances, these selections may be cancelled, 7/6/78.

The Department of Mines, for papers referred to.—P. F. RICHARDSON (for Under Secretary for Lands), 17/6/78. B.C., 17/6/78. 73-6,469 herewith. To be returned.—T.C.B., 22/6/78. Cancel, and refund purchase money.—P.F.R., 15/7/78. Cancelled, *vide* 73-6,469, 16/7/78. Mr. Smith and Treasury, 20/7/78. Cancellation reversed, *vide* C.S. 87-6,601 Dep., and Aln. 87-2,482.—E.C.M., 12/2/87.

No. 8.

Application by Mr. John Smith.

D.

Application by John Smith to select Crown Lands.

Received this 28th day of May, 1877, with price of lot and deed fee, at 1 o'clock, by,—

JOHN H. NISBETT,

Land Agent for Molong District.

Sir,

Molong, 28 May, 1877.

I hereby tender the sum of £136, as the price by selection (and deed fee) of the Crown lands hereunder described:—Place of sale, Molong; date on which last advertised, 12th October, 1858; date on which last offered for sale, 30th November, 1858; lot at last sale, 30; county, Ashburnham; parish or place, West Molong; number or portion, 59; extent of the lot, 135 acres; price of the lot, £135; fee on the deed, £1.

I am, &c.,

JOHN SMITH,

The Crown Lands Agent, Molong.

Gamboola, Molong.

Four portions (*vide* papers 72-15,515).—14/6/77. This selection may be cancelled (*vide* 73-6,469; also 73-4,303).—15/7/78. Mr. Smith and Treasury.—27/8/78. Cancelled. 28/8/78.—Put away. Cancellation revoked (*vide* 87-6,601, Dep., Aln. 87-2,482).—E.M., 13/2/87.

No. 9.

Application by Mr. Dennis Clancy.

C. [Alienation Act, sections 13, 14, and 19.]

District of Molong, No. 290 of 1877.

Application by Dennis Clancy for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 50 acres unimproved Crown lands.

RECEIVED by me, with a deposit of £12 10s., this 26th day of July, 1877, at 10:30 o'clock.

J. H. NISBETT,

Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Molong.

Sir,

26th July, 1877.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown land hereunder described, containing 50 acres; and I herewith tender the sum of £12 10s., being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply.

I am, &c.,

DENNIS CLANCY,

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Molong.

Molong.

Description.

County of Ashburnham, parish of Molong, 50 acres, on the east side of Reed's Creek, starting opposite P. Burns' conditional purchase, with a line east, and having frontage down the creek, to include a measured portion, marked in county map No. 117.

This

This application includes a measured portion of 40 acres, originally applied for as a mining conditional purchase, 72-2,931, by Rees, Stevens, & Co., also 10 acres of land comprised within a portion marked out on the ground, but the plan of which has not yet been accepted and the land not considered as measured. The mineral conditional purchase application was declared void in 1874, under a report from Mr. Licensed-Surveyor James, 74-11,924, as the area required contained improvements, valued at £40, though an earlier report stated the improvements worth only £30. A cancelled plan (M. 10-1,325) showed that the land, as then measured, was improved. It is submitted whether, in view of the foregoing, the conditional purchase should be declared void without report from the Conditional Purchase Inspector, as the improvements have doubtless deteriorated in value. It is, of course, possible, that they have been added to, and are now of a value to bar.—ROBT. D. FITZGERALD (for Surveyor-General), 16 August, 1877.

Then to Mr. Edwards,—As to selection under the 25th section of Act of 1861 of cancelled portions. In the absence of the papers, I do not see sufficient grounds for at present declaring this selection void. Applicant should, however, be warned as to the improvements, and Inspector called upon to report as soon as possible.—A.M., 16/8/77.

Selector warned, 22/8/77. Mr. Horton. Declared void by 78-337, C.S., as containing improvements.

No. 10.

F. Fitzpatrick, Esq., to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

I have the honor to draw your attention to the fact that the land conditionally purchased by Dennis Clancy, at Molong, on 26th ultimo, forms part of mineral leases Nos. 7,600 and 7,602. May I beg that Clancy be warned not to improve the lands, pending inquiry, and that the matter receive speedy attention?
251, George-street, 9 August, 1877. C.P. 77-290, Molong.

I have, &c.,

FRANCIS FITZPATRICK.

Mr. Wiseman,—The papers Ls. 74-352, covering mineral leases, three portions, by James Skinner, are not dealt with. The applications by Skinner are not cancelled, and the case cannot be permitted to leave this Department in connection with application 77-29 at Molong, by Dennis Clancy, till finally dealt with, which will be done immediately.—M.C., 16/8/77.

The land referred to in the within receipt was withdrawn from selection by 72-15,513.—J.S.W., 16/8/77.

The application in this case is in the Branch. Will you be good enough to get it?—J.W., 20/8/77. Mr. Neale, 21/8/77. Herewith, 22/8/77. Inform Mr. Fitzpatrick of action that has been taken, *vide* conditional purchase application, and that case is going on to Inspector.—J.W., 22/8/77. Mr. F. Fitzpatrick, 22/8/77. Then to Mr. Horton. Inspector Page, 31/8/77. End of September.

No. 11.

The Chief Commissioner of Conditional Sales to F. Fitzpatrick, Esq.

Sir,

Referring to your letter of the 9th instant, respecting the conditional purchase noted in the margin, I am directed to inform you that Clancy has been warned as to the improvements on the land, and the Inspector will be at once called upon to report thereon as soon as possible.
Department of Lands, Conditional Sales Branch, 22 August, 1877. Molong; C.P. 77-290; 50 acres; 26 July, 1877; Dennis Clancy.

I have, &c.,

WM. BLACKMAN

(For Commissioner).

No. 12.

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

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that the Colonial Treasurer has been authorized to refund to you the sum of £180, being amount paid by you as purchase money and deed fee on "after auction selection" of portion 21, West Molong, county of Ashburnham, advertised for auction sale on the 24th February, 1865.

2. I am to add that when the money is ready for payment notice to that effect will be forwarded to you from the Treasury.

I have, &c.,

W. C. EDWARDS

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 13.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Revenue refunded.

Sir,

I am directed to request that you will be good enough to refund to Mr. John Smith, of Molong, the sum of £180, credited at the Treasury, on the 11th November, 1875, being amount paid as purchase money and deed fee on "after auction selection" of portion 21, West Molong, county of Ashburnham, offered at auction sale on the 24th February, 1865.

I have, &c.,

W. C. EDWARDS

(Pro Under Secretary).

No. 14.

The Chief Commissioner of Conditional Sales to F. Fitzpatrick, Esq.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Conditional Sales Branch, 22 August, 1877.

Referring to your letter of the 9th instant, respecting the conditional purchase noted in the margin, I am directed to inform you that Clancy has been warned as to the improvements on the land, and the Inspector will be at once called upon to report thereon as soon as possible.

I have, &c.,

WM. BLACKMAN

(For Commissioner).

Molong; C.P.
77-290; 50 acres;
26 July, 1877;
Dennis Clancy

No. 15.

The Chief Commissioner of Conditional Sales to Inspector J. C. Page.

Sir,

Conditional Sales Division, Department of Lands, Sydney, 31 August, 1877.

I am directed to forward you herewith a tracing and description of a portion of land selected at Molong on 26th July last, which it has been stated contains improvements, and I am to request that you will, with as little delay as possible, report as to the character and value of the alleged improvements at the date of Clancy's application.

I have, &c.,

WM. BLACKMAN

(For the Commissioner).

No. 16.

Mr. D. Clancy to The Secretary for Lands.

Honorable Sir,

Molong, 8 September, 1877.

Referring to your letter of the 22nd August last, stating that it had been represented that the 50 acres conditionally purchased by me at Molong on the 26th of July last were improved at the date of selection,—Sir, I wish to inform you that I called on Mr. Jno. Smith, the lessee of the on the 27th of August last, to have him appoint some person to value the said improvements and that I would get another. His answer to me was, that he received intimation that Mr. Page was to come on to the land to settle it.

I may here state that there are no improvements on the 50 acres by me. According to my application the frontage would be about 8 chains.

I have called upon two men to value what might be called improvements, which I enclose to your honor. There are of a three-rail fence included in it which I did not intend to take in. Sir, it is really very wrong to allow men to monopolize the Crown lands of the Colony. This is the third time I have made to select land, but cannot, through the influence of the squatter.

Sir, I think it very wrong to allow the squatter compensation for the firewood that their shepherds cut and burn.

Hoping you will give this your earliest consideration and have the matter settled as soon as you possibly can,—

I have, &c.,

DENNIS CLANCY.

[Enclosure.]

Sir,

Molong, 6 September, 1877.

Having inspected the land conditionally purchased by Dennis Clancy, on the 26th of July last, in the parish of Molong, and commencing at a point on the Reed's Station, I find improvements thereon to the following amounts:—A three-rail fence about 7 chains, value £7; there was also a tumble-down shepherd's hut, with sheets of galvanized iron roofing on, at about 5s. per sheet, £1 10s.; clearing about 3 acres, with the trees cut off for fireing for the convenience of the shepherds' fireing in the hut, value for the clearing, £1 per acre, £3. Fencing, £7; roofing, £1 10s.; clearing, £3; total, £11 10s

THOS. OGDEN.

THOMAS BYRNE.

No. 17.

Application by Mr. J. Parslow.

Application by Joseph Parslow to select Crown Lands.

RECEIVED this 28th day of September, 1877, with price of lot and deed fee, at 11 o'clock, by me,—

J. H. NISBETT,

Agent for the sale of Crown lands, district of Molong.

Sir,

Land District of Molong, 28 September, 1877.

I hereby tender the sum of £109 as the price by selection (and deed fee) of the Crown lands hereunder described:—

Place of sale, Molong; date on which last advertised, 12th October, 1858; date on which last offered for sale, 30th November, 1858; lot at last sale, 3; county, Ashburnham; parish or place, West Molong; portion, 6; extent of the lot, 108 acres; price of the lot, £108; fee on the deed, £1.

I am, &c.,

JOSEPH PARSLOW,

The Agent for the Sale of Crown lands at Molong.

Molong.

Police

Police District of Molong, 28 September, 1877
 RECEIVED by me, this day, from the abovenamed Joseph Parslow, the sum of £109, being the price of selection (and deed fee) of the Crown lands above described.

J. H. NISBETT,
 Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands, Molong.

Charting Branch,—How does the within mentioned lot stand, noted on the plan?—H.R., 25/2/78.
 Mr. Stevens.—F.W.R., 11/3/78. See note on 77-4,303 Aln. Apparently these portions have been applied for as mineral leases.—T.S., 15/4/78. Mr. Edwards. Cancelled 73-6,469.—16/7/78. Mr. Parslow and Treasury.—20/7/78. Put away.—28/8/78.

No. 18.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. J. Greer and others.

Department of Mines, Sydney, 17th December, 1877.
 It is hereby notified to you that the rent (£10), payable in respect of mineral lease, No. 13,324, is overdue, and unless such rent be paid within thirty days from the date hereof the said lease will be cancelled.

HARRIE WOOD,
 Under Secretary for Mines.

No. 19.

J. McElhone, Esq., M.P., to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir, Sydney, 20 December, 1877.

I have the honor to enclose you a letter from Dennis Clancy in reference to a conditional purchase of 50 acres of land taken up by him at Molong on 26th July, 1877.

His conditional purchase is claimed by Mr. John Smith in virtue of improvements. Clancy states that Mr. Page, Inspector of Conditional Purchases, visited the place and stated there was no improvements on it to bar selection. He also says, if he loses this conditional purchase, it will be the third one he has been done out of. Trusting you will give a speedy decision in this case, and cause Clancy to be advised of it,—

I have, &c.,
 J. McELHONE.

Mr. Moriarty,—Do you know anything of this case; if not, will you procure the papers?—J.S.F., December, 1877. Papers herewith, except 77-28,139 (?), which is noted end of month at Records, but cannot be found.—W.A., 29/12/77. Has the Inspector reported; if not, request him to expedite report and submit papers to me.—A.O.M., 3/1/78. 77-28,139 (?). Immediate. Received.—8/1/78. Report, 78-337 C.S., herewith.

[Enclosure.]

To the Honorable J. McElhone, M.L.A.,—

Sir,

Molong, 18 December, 1877.

I take the liberty of addressing you, seeing that you are the only person in the Legislative Council who is advocating for the interests of the free selectors. Sir,—Selected 50 acres of land at the Molong Land Office on the 26th of July, 1877, on Reedy Creek, including a measured portion, marked on the county map 117 (it being in the parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham, being an old station of Jno. Smith's). I find that Mr. Fitzpatrick, as agent for Mr. Smith, has written to the Lands Department for the cancellation of my selection, representing it to be improved at the date of selection. On that account I received a letter, warning me not to improve the land, about the 25th of August last, which has put me to a good deal of inconvenience.

Mr. Page, the Inspector, was on the land in question on Monday, the 10th of December. He said he saw no improvements to hinder me from getting the land. Still Mr. Smith's influence in Sydney is very great.

He can do as he thinks proper here. He has upwards of 3,000 acres of land adjoining, fenced, in parish of Boree-Nyrang, in virtue of what he calls improvements—ringbarking, &c. Now, Sir, this is the third time with me being done out of my selection.

Hoping you will be kind enough to inquire into my request,—

I have, &c.,
 DENNIS CLANCY,
 Molong.

No. 20.

Inspector J. C. Page to The Chief Commissioner of Conditional Sales.

Sir,

Bathurst, 24 December, 1877.

With reference to your instructions contained in your letter of the 31st August last, I have the honor to inform you that I visited the conditional purchase in question on the 10th instant, and that I then found the following improvements had been erected by Mr. John Smith, the lessee of the run on which the conditional purchase is situated, and forming a portion of 192 acres, purchased by the said Mr. Smith:—Hut, £10; sheep yards, £10; 20 acres, cleared and timbered, burnt off, £40; 40 rod of three-rail split-fence, 7s. 6d. per rod, £15; tank, £2; total, £77.

The conditional purchaser, Clancy, accompanied me on my first visit, and his description to me of the land is so at variance with his form of application, also tracing that I now enclose, that I can come to no other conclusion than he, Clancy, was misleading me. I then called on Mr. Smith, and was shown by him the marked trees, as stated by the surveyor to include the portion marked on county map, No. 117, but which Clancy repudiates, and also includes the improvements made by Mr. Smith, and I am of opinion that Clancy has altered the position of his ground, quite contrary to what it should be in his original application.

I have, &c.,
 JOSEPH C. PAGE,
 Inspector of Conditional Purchases.

See enclosed declaration. For cancellation.—A.O.M., 14/1/78. Applicant, with refund order, care of J. McElhone, Esq. Agent and Treasury informed, 15/1/78. Ch. Branch.

No. 21.

Mr. Appraiser Edwards to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Forbes, 2 January, 1878.

In reply to your letter of the 30th ultimo, on the subject of Dennis Clancy's claim to certain land near Molong, and asking why I had not given Mr. Clancy notice as to the time of holding the Court of Appraisal in connection therewith, I beg respectfully to draw your attention to my memo. which accompanied the return of the instructions for appraisal in this matter some months ago, explaining my reason for not holding the said Court.

I have, &c.,
J. EDWARDS.

Submitted for consideration.—J.M'G., 4/1/79.

Mr. Gale,—Would you please say whether (from the description) the 40 acres conditionally purchased by Clancy is included in the area (192 acres) applied for by John Smith on 5th August, 1875, as an after auction selection.—J.M'G., 6/5/79.

Auction Branch,—Will you please state whether portion No. 56 (192 acres) has been taken up by Mr. John Smith as an after auction selection, about 5th August, 1875, and, if so, whether the auction selection still stands good.—J.M'G., 6/5/79.

Mr. Blaxland,—John Smith, of Gamboola, selected after auction portion No. 56, lot G, of sale at Molong, on 7th April, 1865, *vide* 75-21,325 Aln. The selection was cancelled on the 14th February, 1879.—R.H.D. (*pro* J.G.B.), 6/5/79.

No. 22.

Mr. D. Clancy to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Molong, 7 January, 1878.

I selected 50 acres of land at Molong on the 26th July, 1877, situated on the Reedy Creek, parish of Molong, including a measured portion, marked on the county map No. 117, which selection has been represented as improved at the date of selection, through which means I received a letter from the Lands Department warning me not to improve the land pending inquiry.

Now, sir, Mr. Page inspected the land referred to, on the 10th of December last. He said he saw no improvements on my selection to hinder me from getting the land. No person could candidly say there was £10 worth of improvements on the old station altogether; there is an old hut, propped up on all sides, only fit for firewood.

Sir, I hope no influence of the squatter will compel you to act in any way but a straightforward and conscientious manner, as it is really shameful how the Crown lands of the Colony are monopolized. This is the third time with me being bamboozled out of my selection. If your honor will have the kindness to refer to my application to Mr. Garrett on the 19th April, 1876, respecting a portion of land selected by me at Molong Land Office on the 16th of April, 1876.

Now, sir, Mr. Smith takes up two selections of land at this particular place, adjoining each other, under 31st clause, which I have no hesitation in saying it is merely a snare to prevent the *bond fide* selector from making a home for himself and family.

Sir, the improvements were supposed to be on the land at the expiration of twelve months to the amount of £1 per acre, which is also a sham. The improvements are not on the land now, much less twelve months ago. I distinctly told Mr. Garrett that it was more than he lawfully could do to take 1,280 acres, where I am sure he was not entitled to half that area, and I also pointed out the way these persons were permitted to abuse the Act,—some of these persons having as many as ten or twelve persons employed as dummies, in fact, they have this part of the country to themselves.

Honorable sir, I earnestly hope you will give this last selection of mine your earnest consideration, and at your earliest convenience inform me how to act. I would have a good house erected on it now were it not for Mr. Smith's influence.

I have, &c.,
DENNIS CLANCY.

No. 23.

F. Fitzpatrick, Esq., to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

251, George-street, Sydney, 7 January, 1878.

I have the honor to address you on behalf of John Smith, Esq.

Some time ago a mineral conditional purchase was applied for on his run. This was, however, declared void, on account of containing valuable improvements belonging to my client.

The same land was conditionally purchased by one D. Clancy, on 26th July, 1877. I am given to understand that the matter has been referred to the Inspector.

May I beg that you will cause a report to be sent in at once on this case.

The mineral conditional purchase was voided by your Department on account of Mr. Smith's improvements. I presume the same course will be taken with regard to Clancy's conditional purchase.

I have, &c.,
FRANCIS FITZPATRICK.

M.C.P., 72-2,931,
Rees and party.

C.P., 77-290,
Molong.

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No. 24.

The Chief Commissioner of Conditional Sales to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Conditional purchase.—Revenue refunded.

C.P., No. 77-290 ; C.S., No. 78-337.

Department of Lands, Conditional Sales Division,

Sydney, 15 January, 1878.

Sir, I have to inform you that the conditional purchase noted in the margin, being void, as the land contains improvements of sufficient value to bar selection, you will be good enough to refund to the selector the sum of £12 10s., being the deposit money paid thereon.

2. I am to add, that a receipt form for the disposal of the money has been forwarded to the applicant, with instructions to fill up same and transmit it to the Treasury.

I have, &c.,

WM. BLACKMAN

(For the Chief Commissioner).

District, Molong.
name, Dennis
Clancy ; date of
selection, 26th
July, 1877 ; 50
acres ; deposit,
£12 10s.

No. 25.

The Chief Commissioner of Conditional Sales to The Land Agent, Molong.

C.P. No. 77-290 ; C.S. No. 78-337.

Sir,

I desire to inform you that the application of Dennis Clancy on the 26th July, 1877, for the conditional purchase of 50 acres of land, is void, as the land contains improvements of sufficient value to bar selection.

2. A form for refund of deposit has been forwarded for the signature of the applicant, the nature of which you will be so good as to explain to him, if required.

I have, &c.,

WM. BLACKMAN

(For the Chief Commissioner).

No. 26.

The Chief Commissioner of Conditional Sales to Mr. D. Clancy.

C.P. No. 77-290 ; C.S. No. 78-337.

Sir,

I desire to inform you that the application made by you at Molong on the 26th July, 1877, for the conditional purchase of 50 acres of land, is void, as the land contains improvements of sufficient value to bar selection.

2. Enclosed is a form which, on being filled up in accordance with the instructions thereon, and forwarded to the Treasury, Sydney, will enable you at once to obtain the refund of your deposit.

I have, &c.,

WM. BLACKMAN

(For the Chief Commissioner).

[Enclosure.]

Conditional purchase.—Revenue refunded.

Department of Lands, Conditional Sales Branch, Dr. to Dennis Clancy for the following refund, viz. :—C.S. No. 78-337 ; C.P. No. 77-290.

Land Office at Molong ; date of selection, 26th day of July, 1877 ; deposit paid on 50 acres, selection void, as the land contains improvements of sufficient value to bar selection. Deposit to be refunded on 50 acres, £12 10s.

Cancelled.

No. 27.

J. McElhone, Esq., M.P., to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

I have the honor to return a refund voucher for £12 10s. for and on behalf of Mr. Dennis Clancy, of Molong, for a conditional purchase of 50 acres taken up by him on Mr. Smith's run at Molong.

I have the honor to request that a fresh inquiry or an appraisalment as to value of improvements made on this conditional purchase at date of selection may be at once made, or I shall feel compelled to bring this matter before the Assembly, as Mr. Clancy, in a letter written to me, makes a serious charge against a member of the Government, who, he says, acted as land agent for Mr. Smith in this case.

He states to me that Mr. Page, Inspector of Conditional Purchases, told him there was nothing on the land to prevent his getting it ; also that Mr. Smith is fencing the land from Molong to Boree, and taking up thousands of acres, under the 2nd and 31st clauses, to which he is not entitled ; and at date of his selection there were no improvements on the land to bar his selection, and that the improvements were erected since date of selection, and that part of the improvements—an iron hut—has been removed to four different selections. Trusting this matter will be attended to at once,—

I have, &c.,

J. McELHONE.

Conditional Sales Branch,—Inform the writer that he may appeal by appraisalment upon payment of the fee of £1 1s. Then place papers 74-4,443 Aln. herewith.—F.W.R., 29/3/78. Dennis Clancy. J. McElhone, Esq., M.P., 12/4/78. Then place papers 74-4,443 Aln. herewith. In two months.

No. 28.

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No. 28.

The Chief Commissioner of Conditional Sales to Mr. D. Clancy.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 12 April, 1878.

With reference to your letter of the 1st January last, objecting to the cancellation of your conditional purchase, as you state that the improvements on the land at date of selection were not sufficient to bar the purchase, I am to inform you that you are at liberty to have the value of the improvements referred to appraisement on payment of the usual fee of £1 1s. into the Treasury.

I have, &c.,

A. O. MORIARTY,
Chief Commissioner.

Molong ; 26th
July, 1877 ; 50
acres ; section
13.

No. 29.

The Chief Commissioner of Conditional Sales to J. McElhone, Esq., M.P.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 12 April, 1878.

With reference to your letter of the 28th January last, on behalf of Dennis Clancy, objecting to the cancellation of his conditional purchase, as you state that the improvements on the land are not of sufficient value to bar selection, I am to inform you that Mr. Clancy is at liberty to have the value of the improvements referred to appraisement on his paying the usual fee of £1 1s. into the Treasury.

I have, &c.,

A. O. MORIARTY,
Chief Commissioner.

Molong ;
50 acres ;
section 13 ;
26th July, 1877.
£1 1s.

No. 30.

A. H. Bray, Esq., to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

16, Bridge-street, Sydney, 23 April, 1878.

With reference to your letter of 12th instant, I have the honor to advise you that I have this day paid into the Treasury the sum of £1 1s., being fee for appraisement of the improvements said to exist on Dennis Clancy's selection.

I have, &c.,

A. H. BRAY.

C.P., 77-290 ;
26th July, 1877 ;
50 acres,
Molong.

The sum of £1 1s. credited this day to revenue on the within account.—W. NEWCOMBE, 23/4/78. Treasury. Papers for Mis. Branch.—14/5/78. Mr. Gibson,—Please prepare the necessary instruction.—J.E., 12/6/78. Appraiser Edwards, and applicant.—5/8/78.

No. 31.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. J. Greer and others.

Gentlemen,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 22 June, 1878.

I am directed by the Secretary for Mines to inform you that the application for the mineral lease, noted in the margin, has been refused for non-observance of conditions.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary for Mines.

M.L. No. 13,324.

No. 32.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Revenue refunded.

Sir,

Lands Department, Sydney, 20 July, 1878.

I am directed to request that you will be good enough to refund to Mr. John Smith, of Molong, the sum of £130, credited at the Treasury, on the 4th June, 1877, being amount paid as purchase money and deed fee on "after auction selection" of portion 60, West Molong, county of Ashburnham, advertised for auction sale on the 30th November, 1858.

I have, &c.,

W. C. EDWARDS
(Pro Under Secretary).

No. 33.

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

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 20 July, 1878.

I am directed to inform you that the Colonial Treasurer has been authorized to refund to you the sum of £130, being amount paid by you as purchase money and deed fee on "after auction selection" of portion 60, West Molong, county of Ashburnham, offered at auction sale on the 30th November, 1858.

2. I am to add, that when the money is ready for payment, notice to that effect will be forwarded to you from the Treasury.

I have, &c.,

W. C. EDWARDS
(For the Under Secretary.)

No. 34.

No. 34.

Appointment of Appraiser Edwards.

WHEREAS, on the 26th July, 1877, Dennis Clancy, of Molong, applied to purchase, under the 13th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, 50 acres of land as hereunder described: And whereas, John Smith, of Molong, in the Colony of New South Wales, claims the land on account of it containing improvements (his property), at the date of Clancy's application, of sufficient value to bar its sale to him: Now I, the Under Secretary for Lands, having been duly authorized by the Minister for Lands, in pursuance of the powers vested in him under and by virtue of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, do hereby appoint John Edwards, of Mudgee, in the Colony of New South Wales, to be the appraiser, on behalf of the Crown, to appraise the value of the said improvements at the date of Clancy's application for the land, viz., 26th July, 1877.

In witness whereof, I have hereto set my hand, this 5th day of August, 1878,—

W. W. STEPHEN.

Schedule referred to.

50 acres of land in the parish of Molong, county Ashburnham, C.P., 77-290.

Instructions are returned, as Mr. Smith informed me that he bases no claim to the land in virtue of improvements, he having purchased a portion containing 192 acres as an after auction selection, part of which Clancy claims. The land was paid for by Mr. Smith on 7th August, 1875. No notice appeared to have been sent to the lessee, and he objects to any appraisement being held for the reasons above stated. I visited the land and inspected the improvements, which are as follows:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|----|
| — chains, 3 rail, bottom wire fencing | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| About 20 acres, cleared, &c. | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| Brush sheep-yards | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| And the remains of a hut which was blown down during a storm, the original cost of which would be about | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| In all about | 68 | 0 | 0 |

J. EDWARDS, 14th September, 1878.

No. 35.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. John Smith.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 27 August, 1878.

I am directed to inform you that the Colonial Treasurer has been authorized to refund to you or your order the sum of £266, being the amount paid by you for lots 30 and 31 of sale at Molong, 30th November, 1858, the sale having been cancelled, as the land in question had been previously alienated under a mineral lease.

2. I am to add that, when the money is ready for payment, notice to that effect will be forwarded to you from the Treasury.

I have, &c.,

W. C. EDWARDS
(For the Under Secretary).

Lot 30, portion 59; area, 135 acres; lot 31, portion 60; area, 129 acres; county of Ashburnham, parish West Molong.

These portions do not appear to have been alienated under mineral lease according to the map.—
J.G.N., 13/1/79.

No. 36.

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

Aln. No. 77-4,304.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 28 August, 1878.

I am directed to inform you that the Colonial Treasurer has been authorized to refund to you the sum of £136, being amount paid by you as purchase money and deed fee on "after auction selection" of portion 59, West Molong, county of Ashburnham, advertised for auction sale on the 30th November, 1858.

2. I am to add that, when the money is ready for payment, notice to that effect will be forwarded to you from the Treasury.

I have, &c.,

W. C. EDWARDS
(Pro Under Secretary).

No. 37.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

77-4,304 Aln.

Sir,

Lands Department, Sydney, 28 August, 1878.

I am directed to request that you will be good enough to refund to Mr. John Smith, of Molong, the sum of £136, credited at the Treasury, on the being amount paid as purchase money and deed fee on "after auction selection," of portion 59, West Molong, county of Ashburnham, offered at auction on the 30th November, 1858.

I have, &c.,

W. C. EDWARDS
(Pro Under Secretary).

No. 38.

No. 38.

J. Smith, Esq., to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Gamboola, Molong, 31 August, 1878.

Referring to your letter of the 27th instant, intimating that the sum of £266 would be refunded to me, the sale of two portions of land, viz., portions 59 and 60, of the Molong Reserve, having been cancelled, "as the land in question had been previously alienated under a mineral lease," I beg to state:—

1. That, in the *Government Gazette* of the 28th April, 1859, these portions, among others, are notified as open to selection after auction.
2. That no notification of the withdrawal of these lands from selection had ever been published.
3. That no mineral lease of either portion or any part thereof has ever been executed.
4. That no mineral lot on either portion has ever been taken possession of.
5. That the portions were selected by me on the 28th May, 1877, and that I have since expended money in fencing.
6. That the lands adjoining these portions on the north and south have been selected.

I respectfully submit that my purchase is valid both in Law and Equity; and the purchase money having been retained by Government for fifteen months, I trust the deeds of grant will be issued in my favour, there being no other claimant.

I have, &c.,

JOHN SMITH.

The facts of this case are as follows:—Lots 30 and 31, portions 59 and 60, were offered for sale at Molong, on the 30th November, 1858, and not bid for. On the 21st November, 1872, they were withdrawn from selection, as they had remained unsold so long, also as application was made to select the land as mineral leases. On the 28th May, 1877, the Crown Lands Agent allowed lots 30 and 31, portions 59 and 60, to be selected as auction selections by Mr. John Smith. His applications were cancelled, as the land was not open to selection. A letter has been received from Mr. Smith, protesting against the cancellation of his applications, as the land had never been taken possession of as mineral leases, and that he had effected valuable improvements on it by fencing. It is submitted that as the mineral leases were cancelled before Smith made his applications, and also, as he has effected improvements on the land in question, whether the cancellation of the selections after auction should be reversed, or that lots 30 and 31 should be re-offered, with the value of improvements added to the upset price.—P.F.R., 8/10/78.

If the lots were withdrawn from auction selection, of which there appears to be no doubt, Mr. Smith's applications are clearly illegal, and I conclude that the only course which can be pursued is that suggested in the last part of this minute, which is in some instances of a similar character.—W.W.S.

The local Land Agent ought to have told Mr. Smith when he applied for these portions that they were withdrawn from selection, and that Mr. Smith's application could consequently not be satisfied. I concur with the Under Secretary that these portions should be submitted for auction, with value of the improvements added to the upset price.—J.H., 15/1/79.

Inform Mr. Smith (address Union Club) of the decision of the Minister. Papers then to Mr. Gale.—W.C.E., 16/1/79. Mr. Smith informed, 20/1/79. Mr. Gale, 20/1/79.

No. 39.

J. McElhone, Esq., M.P., to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Sydney, 16 October, 1878.

Enclosed I have the honor to forward you letter from Dennis Clancy, of Molong, in reference to a person named Edwards, who was appointed to appraise improvements on Gamboola, I believe Mr. Smith's run, as against Clancy's conditional purchase, and appears to have made the appraisal without giving Clancy notice.

If this is a fact, I submit to you he should be dismissed as a warning to Government officials who fail to do their duty honestly and impartially.

I also wish to call your attention to the serious charge made against Inspector Page in the matter of his report on conditional purchase of 40 acres of Gertrude K. Smith, parish Boree, county Ashburnham. Clancy states that Page, on oath, stated that on visiting the conditional purchase he found no one resident; that there was a hut of slabs, and bark roof, &c., 160 rods of 2-rail fence, £1 per mile.

Clancy states that Page committed perjury, as there was not a slab in the hut, and there were only a few rods of the fence with holes bored in the posts, and that there never was a 2-rail fence on the land. Also that, prior to the hearing of the case, Mr. Inspector Page and the Commissioner, who was to hear the case, stayed with the squatter, who drove them to the Court at Molong.

As this is a serious matter, I have the honor to request that some honest Government official (I suggest Mr. Moriarty) be at once sent, and if a tithe of the charges are proved that Page and the Commissioner may be dismissed.

Regulations were issued some time ago prohibiting Commissioners and Inspectors from staying with persons who had cases to be heard. From advices received from all parts, I am aware that Inspectors and Commissioners disobey the regulations. Further, they partake of the hospitality of the rich squatter, the poor selector is often robbed and the public wronged. In many cases the Inspectors stay all night with the squatter, and never go near their dummy conditional purchases to report, but take down a list of improvements as told, and report accordingly. Trusting that this matter will receive immediate attention,—

I am, &c.,

J. McELHONE.

This matter should be attended to without delay.—J.S.F., 18/10/78.

The material circumstance in the enclosed representation is with reference to the appraisal and to the alleged omission to give the complainant notice, I suggest that this be referred to the Under Secretary. I do not think the complaint is of such a character as to warrant the Inspector being asked to reply to a charge of having perjured himself.—A.O.M., 24/10/78.

Approved.—J.S.F., 26/10/78. Let immediate reference be made to Mr. Edwards.—W.W.S., 16/11/78.

The

The appraiser's report has now been received, and by it it would appear that the circumstances of the case are not altogether the same as those set forth in Clancy's letter to Mr. McElhone. Mr. Edwards made no actual appraisal; but in returning his instructions, he states that Mr. Smith bases no claim to the land in virtue of improvements, as he bought the land as an after auction selection, and paid for the same as far back as 7th August, 1875. It is submitted that, before reference is made to the appraiser, it should be ascertained whether the auction selection still stands good, which, if such is the case, Clancy's claim for an appraisal cannot be entertained, inasmuch as the conditional purchase was made subsequent to the auction selection.—J.M.G., 20/11/78.

John Edwards informed, 30/12/78. Records put away.

[Enclosure.]

Mr. D. Clancy to J. McElhone, Esq., M.P.

Sir,

Molong, 15 October, 1878.

Having received notice about two months ago that an appraiser was appointed, named Edwards, who would give me notice of the date of appraisal of my selection of 50 acres, taken up in July, 1877, I am informed that Mr. Edwards was at Gamboola, near Molong, Mr. Smith's residence, also on the land unawares to me. It appears he intends acting like Page—Land Inquiry Court. Sir, I would wish to bring under your notice a case of Gertrude K. Smith, who was called upon to show cause on behalf of 40 acres of land, county of Ashburnham, parish of Boree. Mr. J. C. Page, Inspector of Conditional Purchases, on oath, said that, upon visiting the land in question, he found no one resident thereon. There was a hut built of slabs, with a bark roof, which he valued at £7; 5 acres had been cleared, he valued at £20; a shed he valued at £5; also 160 rods of a 2-rail fence and 1 wire, which he valued at 5s. per rod, £40; total value, £72. He was aware the claimant was an infant residing with her parents at Boree, 4 miles from the selection. Case referred to the Minister.

Honorable Sir, my object in stating this case is, that Page committed a wilful and corrupt perjury. He swears there is a hut built of slabs, when there is not a slab in it. The shed is two or three sheets of bark placed on forks. There was not that number of acres cleared. He also swears that there was 160 rods of a 2-rail fence and 1 wire. Sir, there was a few rods of 1-rail fence with the holes bored in the posts. There never was a 2-rail fence on this land. Page must never have visited the land in question or he should have known better. Both he and the Commissioner were the guests of the squatter for a day and a night previous to the hearing of this case. L. N. Smith, Esq., then drove them to Molong. Had Page looked around him he could have seen over a dozen dummies. They may be truly called the squatter's spies.

Honorable Sir, I may also state that this said improvement was made by a *bonâ fide* selector named Ryan, who, after selecting 400 acres of land, was pulled as a trespasser, also an action was brought against him, in short Smith ruined him. Sir, this is an instance of what reliance a poor man can place on such persons as Mr. Page. Hoping I have not trespassed too much, Sir,—

I have, &c.,

DENNIS CLANCY.

No. 40.

From Mr. D. Clancy.

Sir,

Molong, 14 November, 1878.

Referring to the appraisal on 50 acres of land in the parish of Molong, county Ashburnham, selected by me on the 26th July, 1877, the Inspector (Mr. Page) visited on December, 1877. His report to me was he saw no improvements on the land to bar selection. Yet he must have sent a different report to the Lands. In April last I paid the usual appraisal fee into the Treasury. In August last I received intimation from the Lands Department that an appraiser was appointed, named Mr. Edwards, who would give me notice of the time and place of such appraisal.

Now, Sir, Mr. Edwards has been at Gamboola, the residence of John Smith, also on the land referred to, unknown to me. And as Mr. Smith improved the land since the date of my selection, for instance, he has put up a hut on the said land in August, after I giving him a written not to do so. No doubt he was well aware he could make it all right with Mr. Edwards. It is really strange that none of these persons can act in a straightforward and honest manner, without being influenced by the squatter. John Smith first tells me he bought this land on the 5th August, 1875. He also sends me a cheque of £5 as compensation for my expenses, which I would not accept, which will give you to understand that there was not sufficient improvements to bar selection.

Hoping, Sir, you will inquire into my case, and have the appraisal in public, as in duty bound I shall ever pray,—

I have, &c.,

DENNIS CLANCY.

No. 41.

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

Sir,

Department of Lands, Alienation Branch, 20 January, 1879.

In reference to your letter of the 31st August last, relative to the cancellation of the auction selections made by you on the 28th May, 1877, of the lands noted in the margin, I am directed to inform you that the Minister for Lands is of opinion that the cancellation must stand.

2. I am to add, however, that Mr. Hoskins has decided to submit the lands to auction with the value of the improvements on them added to the upset price, and of which notice will be sent you.

I have, &c.,

W. C. EDWARDS

(For the Under Secretary).

Lots 30 and 31; portions 59 and 60; sale at Molong, 30th November, 1858.

No. 42.

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

Sir,

Union Club, Sydney, 21 January, 1879.

I learned at the Auction Branch yesterday that on the 22nd August, 1877, the Treasury had been instructed to refund to me the sum of £180, being the purchase money and deed fee for 179 acres of land, portion 21, on the Molong Reserve, selected after auction by me on the 5th August, 1875.

On reference to the Treasury I was informed that no address had been given with my name, and consequently no notice of refund had been sent to me.

Nearly

Nearly three and a half years have now elapsed since I paid for the land in question, and taking into consideration that I have expended a considerable sum of money in fencing and making a reservoir, I respectfully submit that I have an equitable claim to consideration; and I venture to hope the sale to me will not now be disturbed, but that the deed of grant will be issued in my favour. Nor is there any other claimant for the land.

I have, &c.,

JOHN SMITH,
Gamboola, Molong.

Mr. Edwards,—Mr. Smith may perhaps be informed that the Minister has decided that cancellation must stand.—R.H.D., 26/2/79.

No. 43.

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

Sir,

Union Club, 21 January, 1879.

Referring to your communication of yesterday's date, noted in the margin, I beg respectfully to repeat my protest against the cancellation of the sales of lands therein referred to (portions 59 and 60 on the Molong Reserve) as clearly against law, no mineral lease having been taken up on either of these portions, as is shown by actual measurement on the county maps, nor is there any claimant for such.

The mineral leases were measured by the late Licensed Surveyor Tarves on the south side of the portions purchased by me.

Trusting you will submit the case for the reconsideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands,—

I have, &c.,

JOHN SMITH,
Gamboola, Molong.

As stated by the Minister, the question of the mineral leases has nothing to do with the legal position of the case or the auction selections. I believe that it is the intention of Mr. Hoskins to adhere to the decision already given.—W.W.S., 23/1/79.

Approved.—J.H., 24/1/79. Inform Mr. Smith; also inform Crown Land Agent in terms of Minister's decision of 15th January, 1879.—29/1/79. Mr. De Low. Mr. Smith and Crown Land Agent, Molong informed.—3/2/79. Mr. Gale (*vide* minute on 75-21,325 Aln. herewith also).—3/2/79.

No. 44.

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

Sir,

Department of Lands, Alienation Branch, 3 February, 1879.

In reference to your letter of the 21st ultimo, requesting that the question of the cancellation of the auction selections made by you on the 23th of May, 1877, may be submitted for the consideration of the Minister for Lands, I am directed to inform you that your request has been complied with, and that Mr. Hoskins is unable to alter his decision conveyed to you by my letter of the 20th ultimo, No. 78-6,729 Aln.

I have, &c.,

W. C. EDWARDS
(For the Under Secretary).

Sale at Molong,
30th November,
1858; lots 30 and
31, portions 59
and 60.

No. 45.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Land Agent, Molong.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 3 February, 1879.

I am directed to inform you that the auction selections made by Mr. John Smith, of Gamboola, on the 28th of May, 1877, have been cancelled, and to request that you will make the necessary alterations in your books.

2. I am to add that the Minister for Lands is of opinion that, when Mr. Smith applied for the land in question, he should have been informed it was not open to auction selection, having been withdrawn.

I have, &c.,

W. C. EDWARDS
(For the Under Secretary).

Sale at Molong,
30th November,
1858; lots 30 and
31, portions 59
and 60.

No. 46.

Mr. D. Clancy to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Molong, 7 February, 1879.

I wish to draw your attention to 50 acres of land, selected by me at Molong on the 26th of July, 1877. Through the influence of Jno. Smith, Esq., the lessee of the run, it had been represented as improved land. The Inspector, Mr. Page, visited this land on the 10th of December, 1877. His report to me was that he saw no improvements to bar selection. Yet through the influence of Jno. Smith and his agent, Mr. Fitzpatrick, I received a refund voucher for my deposit money, which I returned again. I was then requested to pay £1 1s. into the Treasury as an appraisal fee, which I did. I then received intimation from the Lands Department that an appraiser was appointed, named Edwards, who would give me notice of the time of holding such appraisal. Mr. Edwards came to Molong about September or October last. He has frequently visited the residence of Jno. Smith, Esq., who escorted him to this portion of 50 acres selected by me, and no doubt showed him whatever he thought proper without giving me the slightest notice of the matter. I understand this person has valued the so-called improvements to £77, where there is not really £5; in fact, there is nothing but a few trees cut down for firewood by the shepherds who resided there. I look upon this farce as only obtaining money under false pretences.

Honorable

17

Honorable Sir, I earnestly hope you will be kind enough to inquire into the above and not allow the lord of the soil to prevent me from making a home for my family. He has deprived me of two places ere this. He having upwards of 4,000 acres in virtue of sham improvements, I may say adjoining this portion, and that is not a tenth part of what both he and his sons have fenced in in virtue of the so-called improvements. Besides having a great number of dummies employed, some of which do not reside an hour on the land taken up by them, yet the Inspector, Mr. Page, and the Commissioner stopped at his son's, L. N. Smith's, in October last. They were also driven to Molong by this gentleman, where they held one of their sham Courts of Inquiry—40 acres of land taken up by L. N. Smith for his daughter, G. Kathleen Smith, infant—where the Inspector, Mr. Page, committed perjury, at Molong, on the 3rd of October, 1878, by swearing there was 160 rods of a 2-rail split fence with one wire, when there was not a single rod of a 2-rail fence on the land referred to. I merely mention this to give your Honor an idea what reliance can be placed in such persons.

Honorable Sir, I hope you will, at your earliest convenience, give me a favourable answer as regards my selection, for which I shall ever pray.

I have, &c.,
DENNIS CLANCY.

No. 47.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Land Agent, Molong.

Sir, Department of Lands, Alienation Branch, 14 February, 1879.

I am directed to inform you that the auction selections made by Mr. John Smith, of Gamboola, on the 5th August, 1875; of the lands noted in the margin, have been cancelled, as they were withdrawn from selection prior to the date abovenamed.

2. You will therefore be good enough to make the necessary alteration in your books.

I have, &c.,

W. C. EDWARDS

(For the Under Secretary).

Sale at Molong,
7th April, 1865;
lots C and G,
portions 21 and
56.

No. 48.

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

Sir, Department of Lands, Sydney, 14 February, 1879.

I am directed to inform you that the Colonial Treasurer has been authorized to refund to you the sum of £193, being amount paid by you as purchase money and deed fee on "after auction selection" of portion No. 56, West Molong, county of Ashburnham, advertised for auction sale on the 24th February, 1865.

2. I am to add that when the money is ready for payment, notice to that effect will be forwarded to you from the Treasury.

I have, &c.,

JNO. G. BLAXLAND

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 49.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Sir, Lands Department, Sydney, 14 February, 1879.

I am directed to request that you will be enough to refund to Mr. John Smith, of Molong, the sum of £193, credited at the Treasury, on the 11th November, 1875, being amount paid as purchase money and deed fee on "after auction selection" of portion No. 56, West Molong, county of Ashburnham, advertised for auction sale on the 24th February, 1865.

I have, &c.,

JNO. G. BLAXLAND

(Pro Under Secretary).

No. 50.

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

Sir, Gamboola, Molong, 18 February, 1879.

I am somewhat surprised at the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, intimating that the sale of a portion of land to me on the 5th August, 1875, by the Agent for the sale of Crown Lands at Molong, had been cancelled, on the ground that at the time of the sale the land was not open to auction selection.

Three and a half years have now elapsed since I purchased and paid for this portion of land. I have fenced and otherwise improved it, and I trust I am not now to be dispossessed.

The land was sold to me in the ordinary way by the Agent for the sale of Crown Lands, nor had it ever been gazetted as withdrawn from selection; and I respectfully submit that the sale by the authorized agent of the Government has been confirmed by the lapse of time, if there is to be any finality in land sales.

This portion is adapted for pastoral purposes only, and not agricultural, and has been enclosed by a substantial fence, which cost 7s. 7½d. per rod, £1 10s. 6d. per chain.

Under such circumstances, I confidently rely on the Minister's sense of justice to countermand the order for refund, and to direct the deed of grant to be issued in my favour.

I have, &c.,

JOHN SMITH.

Mr.

Mr. Smith declines to accept the refund of purchase money paid by him on account of the auction selection, which was cancelled by decision upon 78-6,729 Aln., and further decision on 79-605 Aln.

Submitted—Whether in view of Mr. Smith's protest, the cancellation is to be upheld and the land sent to auction with the value of the improvements added to the upset price.—C.O., 22/3/79. The Under Secretary.

This case has been twice before the Secretary for Lands, who has on each occasion decided that the cancellation of the auction selection must be upheld.—W.W.S., 29/3/79.

I see no reason for reversing my previous decision that the portions be submitted for sale with value of improvements added to upset price, and if Mr. Smith is not the purchaser thereof the value of improvements may be returned to him.—J.H., 31/3/79.

Inform, 1/4/79. John Smith, Esq., informed, 10/4/79. Refund order returned to Treasury (79-1,785, Mr. Houston), 19/4/79. Mr. Dickson. Included in next schedule, 24/4/79. Aln. Records, Please enter and forward the enclosed papers to Mr. M'Guinn, Miscellaneous Branch.—W.H., 7/5/79. Urgent. Mr. Houston.

If the portion has been included in schedule for sale at auction it should be withdrawn, as there is another conflicting claim by Clancy (selector), who claims the land.—L.M'G., 8/5/79. Urgent.

No. 51.

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

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 10 April, 1879.

In reference to your letter of the 18th February last, protesting against the cancellation of the after auction selections made by you on the 5th August, 1875, of the land noted in the margin, I am directed to inform you that the Minister for Lands sees no reason to disturb the decision, viz., that the cancellation must stand, and the land be again submitted to auction, with the value of the improvements added to the upset price of it.

I have, &c.,

W. C. EDWARDS

(For the Under Secretary).

Lot G, portion
56, sale at
Molong, 7th
April, 1865.

No. 52.

Office Memorandum.

Case of Mr. Smith's application after auction, part of which selection has been conditionally purchased by Clancy.

BEFORE the decision of the Minister, approving of the auction sale of this land, is carried into effect, I would submit the following facts in connection with this case:—

Portion 56 (192 acres) was offered at auction sale at Molong on 7th April, 1865, but not bid for then. On the 5th August, 1875, Mr. Smith applied for the land as an after auction selection. This selection was cancelled on the 14th February, 1879, on the ground that the land having been previously applied for as a mineral lease, was not open to selection after auction. On the 26th July, 1877, one Dennis Clancy selected a portion of 50 acres embraced within portion 56. This portion contained improvements, the property of Mr. Smith, and as Clancy disputed their value, he was informed by the Department, on 12th April, 1878, that he might appeal to appraisement upon payment of the fee of £1 1s. He paid the fee on 23rd April following. On the 5th August Mr. Edwards was instructed to appraise the improvements. Mr. Edwards did not carry out the appraisement, but returned his instructions, stating that Mr. Smith informed him that he never claimed the land in virtue of improvements, but had taken it up as an after auction selection two years previous to the date of conditional purchaser's application. Such in reality was the case, but the selection was illegal. On the ground before stated, Mr. Smith has applied on several occasions for the revocation of the cancellation of his selection, but without avail, the Minister having decided on paper 79-1,305 that the land should be sold at auction, with the value of the improvements added to the upset price.

It is therefore submitted that the auction sale should be stayed until Clancy's claim has been satisfied, and that the necessary instructions for the appraisement of the improvements should immediately issue. J.M'G., 12/5/79.

Submitted that the course suggested in the above memo. be now adopted.—W.W.S., 12/5/79.

The after auction selection was invalid in consequence of the portion having been withdrawn from sale. The appraisement of the alleged improvements must be proceeded with, and the portion must not be offered for sale, pending the result of appraisement.—J.H., 2/6/79.

Mr. Houston,—To note the most recent decision of Minister on third page of this minute, dated 2nd June, 1879, after which please return as soon as possible.—J.G.B., 3/6/79. Seen.—W.H., 10/6/79. Records, 10/6/79. Mr. M'Guinn,—Misc. Branch, 12/7/79. Records.—J.M'G., 16/6/79.

No. 53.

Mr. D. Clancy to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Molong, 14 June, 1879.

As you have kindly consented to have the improvements erected by Mr. Jno. Smith on the land I selected appraised, I have to request that you will be pleased to appoint some disinterested official to carry out the appraisement, as my confidence in Mr. Edwards is weakened from the fact of his being the guest of Mr. Smith whenever he visits this quarter. No unprejudiced man could value the improvements at more than £20; and as I have been very unjustly treated, all I ask for is fair play.

I am, &c.,

DENNIS CLANCY.

As

As Mr. Clancy (the conditional purchaser) objects to the district appraiser carrying out this appraisal, submitted whether the Commissioner for the district should be entrusted with the duty.—J.L.T., 27/6/79. J.M'G.

Since submitting the above, the Minister has appointed the District Surveyor to carry out a similar duty in the same county.—J.M'G., 26/7/79. W.W.S., 8/8.

I prefer that under the circumstances the District Surveyor should represent the Crown in this appraisal. I wish the Under Secretary would please call the attention of Mr. Appraiser Edwards to the terms of my circular relative to appraisers staying at private houses.—J.H., 8/8/79.

Mr. M'Lean,—Would you please supply a tracing showing position of improvements on land in dispute for the use of the appraiser.—J.M'G., 8/8/79. Very urgent. Tracing herewith.—L.A.W., 11/8/79. Appraiser Fisher, John Smith, and Dennis Clancy, 11/8/79. Mr. Edwards' attention has been drawn to the terms of Minister's circular, as requested.—J.M'G., 11/8/79.

No. 54.

Appointment of Appraiser Fisher.

By the Minister for Lands, to determine the value of improvements forming matter of dispute.

WHEREAS Dennis Clancy, of Molong, applied to purchase, under the 13th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of land as hereunder described: And whereas John Smith, of Molong, claims the land on account of its containing improvements, his property, at date of Dennis Clancy's application, of sufficient value to bar selection: Now I, the Under Secretary for Lands, having been duly authorized by the Minister for Lands, in pursuance of the powers vested in him under and by virtue of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, do hereby appoint Edward Fisher, of Orange, in the Colony of New South Wales, to be the Appraiser on behalf of the Crown, to appraise the value of the said improvements at the date of Dennis Clancy's application, viz., 26th July, 1877.

In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand, this 11th day of August, 1879.

W. W. STEPHEN.

Description.

50 acres of land in the parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham.

No. 55.

Appointment of Appraiser Fisher.

By the Minister for Lands, to determine the value of improvements forming matter of dispute.

WHEREAS Dennis Clancy, of Molong, applied to purchase, under the 13th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of land as hereunder described: And whereas John Smith, of Molong, claims the land on account of its containing improvements (his property) at date of Dennis Clancy's application, of sufficient value to bar selection: Now I, the Under Secretary for Lands, having been duly authorized by the Minister for Lands, in pursuance of the powers vested in him under and by virtue of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, do hereby appoint Edward Fisher, of Orange, in the Colony of New South Wales, to be the appraiser, on behalf of the Crown, to appraise the value of the said improvement at the date of Dennis Clancy's application, viz., 26th July, 1877.

In witness whereof, I have hereto set my hand, this 11th day of August, 1879.

W. W. STEPHEN.

Description.

50 acres of land, in the parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham.

I, the within-named Edward Fisher, do solemnly and sincerely declare that I am not directly or indirectly interested in the matter referred to me, and that I will faithfully and honestly, and to the best of my skill and ability, hear and determine the matters referred to me, under the Crown Lands Act of 1861.

Subscribed and declared, the 2nd day of }
October, A.D., 1879, before me,— }

EDWARD FISHER.

JAS. HASLAM, J.P.

In this case I shall be happy to point out on the ground to Mr. Fisher, and give every information; but can be no party to appraisal, seeing I do not claim the land in virtue of improvements, but as selection after auction.—JNO. SMITH.

No. 56.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. Appraiser Fisher.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 11 August, 1879.

Referring to former instructions sent you for your guidance in making appraisements under the 28th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, I now forward the documents necessary to enable you to appraise the value of the improvements on the land particularized in the annexed Schedule, which has been applied for by Dennis Clancy, under the 13th clause of the Crown Lands Act of 1861. I may explain that the Crown lessee, John Smith, claims that the land contains improvements (his property) of sufficient value to bar its sale to Clancy.

2. You will be good enough to apprise Mr. Dennis Clancy of the time and place of holding the Court of Appraisal, in order that he may have an opportunity of producing evidence in his own behalf.

I have, &c.,

LINDSAY J. THOMPSON

(For the Under Secretary).

NOTE

NOTE.—The 28th section, clause 6, of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, provides that a single appraiser or arbitrator must make his award within sixty days after his appointment, or within such extended time (if any), not exceeding thirty days, as shall have been duly appointed by him. Failure on part of any appraiser or arbitrator to comply with the terms of this section will, in the absence of sufficient explanation, involve the forfeiture of half the amount of appraisal fee.

Registration No., M.S. 79-7,533; parties to the appraisal, the Crown v. John Smith; area, 50 acres; situation of land, parish Molong, county Ashburnham.

In making your award you will be good enough to state the nature and value of the improvements on the land referred to, and, if possible, the date of their completion, and whether they are so situated as to be capable of being included within an area (measured in accordance with the Regulations), commensurate to their value, viz., £1 worth of improvements for each acre of land.

Forwarded to the Surveyor-General, with my letter 79-58, of 21st August, 1879. Letter from J. Smith, Esq., also copy of his receipt, enclosed.—E. FISHER, District Surveyor. Again returned to the Surveyor-General, with my letter of 15 October, 79-77.—E. FISHER, District Surveyor.

No. 57.

Mr. J. Smith to Mr. Appraiser Fisher.

Sir,

Gamboola, Molong, 20 August, 1879.

In reply to your letter of the 18th instant, I beg to state that Clancy's claim of 50 acres forms a portion of No. 56, 192 acres, on the Molong Reserve, selected after auction by me, on the 5th August, 1875, at the Molong Lands Office; since fenced and otherwise improved by me.

That some time after Mr. Clancy had selected, Mr. Inspector Page was sent by Government to appraise the value of my improvements on the land so selected by Clancy, and subsequently Mr. Appraiser Edwards visited the place, accompanied by me.

I enclose copy of the Land Agent's receipt.

I have, &c.,
JNO. SMITH.

Forwarded to the Surveyor-General, with my letter 79-58, of 21 August.—E. FISHER, District Surveyor.

[Enclosure.]

No. 6,362—Deed fee, £1.

RECEIVED from John Smith, of Gamboola, the sum of £192, being the purchase money of 192 acres of land, situated at West Molong, in the county of Ashburnham, which was offered for sale on the 7th day of April, 1865, as lot 9, and then not bid for.

Police District of Molong, 5 August, 1875.

N. O. LANE,
Acting Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands.

Conditional Sales Branch,—This land was withdrawn in 1872, 15,513 Aln. How, then, could it be purchased as a whole, when the plan A 807-1,770 shows portion 7-4? Rees, Stevens, & Co. took up 40 acres by mineral conditional purchase in 1874, or earlier, with papers 74-4,443 Aln., with leases 74-352, and that similar areas were measured adjoining that 40 acres on the north and south.—F.W.B., 15/8/77.

No. 58.

Mr. District-Surveyor Fisher to The Surveyor-General.

Sir,

District Survey Office, Orange, 21 August, 1879.

In connection with my appointment as appraiser to value the improvements of portion 7-4, area 40 acres, in the parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham, applied for as a conditional purchase by D. Clancy, on the 26th July, 1877, I have the honor to return the papers in this case, and would respectfully solicit further instructions if I am to proceed with such appraisal.

2. It appears that Mr. John Smith does not claim the land in right of existing improvements, but in right of having purchased the land, being portion No. 56, area 192 acres, which includes this 40 acres, No. 7-4, as shown on tracing.

3. I enclose a copy of the receipt of the Land Agent at Molong, of 5th August, 1872, No. 6,362, for the sale of the land to Mr. Smith, from which it appears that this portion, No. 56, area 192 acres, was offered for sale by auction at Molong on the 7th April, 1865, as lot G, and I presume that no notice was subsequently sent to the Land Agent that such land was withdrawn from sale; otherwise he would not have accepted Mr. Smith's application to purchase such land on the 5th August, 1875.

4. Portions Nos. 6-4, 7-4, 8-4, and 9-4 appear to have been measured as mineral leases by Mr. Licensed-Surveyor Tarves, on the 11th and 12th February, 1874, and such leases have, I presume, since been cancelled.

5. In the description of the land applied for as a conditional purchase by D. Clancy, there is no mention made of portion 7-4, and the description attached to these papers would apply to any land in the parish of Molong.

6. I would respectfully inform you that Mr. D. Clancy states portion 7-4 is the land he intended to select by his application of 26th July, 1877, and that he is willing to accept of a refund of the deposit paid by him, as he has, up to the present time, been prevented from proceeding with the erection of any improvements on this land.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD FISHER,
District Surveyor.

Appraisalment

Appraisalment papers Ms. 79-7,533 herewith, also tracing. The Under Secretary for Lands.—
L.A.W., 1/9/79.

Returned to Mr. District-Surveyor Fisher, whose attention is drawn to the enclosed tracing, forwarded to him in the first instance, and which shows the portion of land, as well as the position of the improvements effected thereon, in dispute between Messrs. Smith and Clancy, viz., portion 7-4, 40 acres. I would further explain, for Mr. Fisher's information, that Mr. Smith did apply to purchase the land in dispute as an after auction selection, but that the purchase was cancelled for the reason that the land was withdrawn from auction selection at date of his application. Although Mr. Smith has on several occasions requested a reversal of the cancellation of this selection, the Minister for Lands has seen fit not to disturb the previous decision. Mr. Smith has, therefore, no claim to the land in question other than on the ground of his alleged improvements, which, if not of the value of £40, and of a character as required by the 3rd clause of the amended Act, at the date of Clancy's conditional purchase, the improvement purchase cannot stand.—B.C., J.L.F. (for Under Secretary), Department of Lands, 20/9/79.

[Enclosure.]

Office Memorandum.

Deed fee, £1.

RECEIVED from John Smith the sum of £192, being the purchase money of 192 acres of land, situated at West Molong, in the county of Ashburnham, which was offered for sale on the 7th day of April, 1865, as lot 9, and not then bid for (or the deposit on which was forfeited).

Police District of Molong, 5 August, 1875.

N. O. LANE,

Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands.

Forwarded to the Surveyor-General with my letter, 79-58, of 21st August.—E. FISHER, District Surveyor.

No. 59.

Appraisalment by Single Appraiser.

7 October, 1879.

To all to whom these presents shall come, I, Edward Fisher, District Surveyor, of Orange, in the Colony of New South Wales, send greeting:—

WHEREAS on the 11th day of August, in the year of our Lord 1879, I was duly appointed by the Minister for Lands, as the sole appraiser to fix and determine the value of the improvements said to exist on certain Crown lands described in the margin, conditionally purchased by Dennis Clancy, of Molong, at the date of such conditional purchase, a description of which improvements and land is set out in the schedule in the paper writing hereto annexed, marked : And whereas I have entered upon the consideration of the value of the said improvements, and have heard and considered the evidence produced before me by or on behalf of the Minister for Lands, and the said Messrs. John Smith and Dennis Clancy: Now I, the said Edward Fisher, do hereby declare the sum of £55 sterling to be the value of the said improvements at the date referred to, and do appraise and fix that sum as the value thereof; and I assess and fix the costs of this appraisalment payable to me at the sum of 10s. 6d., which said sum I direct shall be paid by the Minister for Lands. In witness,—

Two plans,
Appendix B and
C.
50 acres, at
Reedy Creek,
parish of Mo-
long, county of
Ashburnham.

EDWARD FISHER,
District Surveyor.

No. 60.

Mr. District-Surveyor Fisher to The Surveyor-General.

Sir,

District Survey Office, Orange, 15 October, 1879.

In connection with instructions, 11th August last, to appraise the value of improvements, the property of Mr. John Smith, now standing on portion No. 7-4, in the parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham, applied for as a conditional purchase No. 77-270, of 26th July, 1877, by Mr. Dennis Clancy, I have the honor to return all papers connected with this case, and would respectfully inform you Mr. John Smith declined to submit any evidence as to the value of these improvements, stating he had purchased the land on the 5th August, 1875, and has held possession of the land since that date.

2. On inspecting this portion No. 7-4, I find there are the following improvements now standing on such portion, the property of Mr. Smith, viz.:—34 rods of three-rail fence, valued at 6s. per rod, £10; about 20 acres of land, cleared but not stumped, at 30s. per acre, £30; two sheep-yards, out of repair, £5; a hut, £10; total, £55.

3. The present hut was re-erected in September, 1878, as the one standing on the land at date of selection was blown down in a hurricane. The former hut was larger than the present one.

4. Dennis Clancy and another witness only valued the cost of clearing at 20s. per acre, but I consider it would not be done at that price.

5. I was informed that Messrs. Page and Edwards have also appraised the value of these improvements on behalf of Government.

6. Mr. John Smith still contends that he is the purchaser of this land by right of his receipt from the Land Agent, dated 5th August, 1875; and the Land Agent states he received no notice of the withdrawal of the land from auction selection.

7. Mr. D. Clancy states he received notice through the Land Agent by letter 78-337, of 15th January, 1878, that his conditional purchase No. 77-270 was void, and he is willing to accept of a refund of his deposit, as he has up to the present time been prevented from occupying and improving the land.

8. In connection with paragraph 6 I omitted to state that Mr. Smith informed me he was in possession of the land for two years before he received any intimation that his selection after auction of 5th of August, 1875, was cancelled.

9. As there was £40 value of improvements on portion No. 7-4 at the date of Mr. D. Clancy's selection, I would respectfully recommend that such conditional purchase be declared void, and the amount of deposit returned to applicant, who is, I believe, anxious to make another selection.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD FISHER,
District Surveyor.

No. 61.

No. 61.

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

Sir,

239, Macquarie-street, Sydney, 30 October, 1879.

Plan, Appendix
D.
Clancy v. Smith.

I beg to express my dissatisfaction, and that of my client (whose letter I enclose), at the irregular and unjustifiable conduct of Mr. District-Surveyor Fisher in failing to discharge his duty in connection with the case noted in the margin.

You had been pleased to issue instructions to Mr. Fisher to value the improvements erected by the lessee, but he declined to do so, and returned the instructions.

A second time you sent him fresh instructions, and again he declines to appraise, contenting himself with a report advocating the supposed claims of Mr. Smith.

As Mr. Fisher does not appear to be a disinterested party, my client's confidence being lost in him, I have the honor to request that some other official be appointed to carry out the appraisement.

I have, &c.,

JAMES CARROLL

(Agent *pro* D. CLANCY).

Clancy v. Smith, Molong.—It seems of little use in further referring this matter to Mr. District-Surveyor Fisher. He has twice received instructions to carry out the appraisement of the improvements, which instructions he has failed to act upon; and, notwithstanding that he has been informed that Mr. Smith (the lessee) has no claim whatever to the land in dispute, other than on the ground of his alleged improvements, he still persists in returning his instructions, with a report to the effect that Mr. Smith has already purchased the land, and that the conditional purchaser has no claim. It would appear that Mr. Fisher has been guided in the matter by the lessee's statements, and not by his instructions. If Mr. Smith refused to be any party to the appraisement, as stated by Mr. Fisher, that circumstance alone would justly be construed to imply that his claim, on the ground of improvements, was not the strongest. It certainly would not justify Mr. Fisher in refusing to carry out the appraisement. Mr. Fisher also states that the conditional purchaser is willing to take a refund of his deposit. This statement is not, however, verified by Mr. Clancy's letter (*vide* enclosure), in which he asserts that Mr. Fisher requested him to take a refund, and have nothing more to do with the land. The case is submitted.—J.L.T., 7/11/79.

[Enclosure.]

Mr. Jas. Carroll,—
Sir,

Molong, 6 October, 1879.

Parts of letter
torn.

With reference to Mr. Fisher's appraisement of my conditional purchase, I can candidly assure you it was a mere farce. I did not receive notice of it until past 10 o'clock p.m., on Wednesday, 1st October; I had then to travel upwards of 20 miles to my residence. I then went to the * * * who appraised on my behalf, but it was * * * purpose. Mr. Fisher would not call * * * person who knew the value of such * * * He valued the said improvements at £40; that is about 15 acres, of which some of * * * had been cut down by shepherds for firewood at 30s. per acre; also about 33 rods rail fence, at 6s. per rod.

Now, sir, the outside value of such work would be 15s. per acre for the so-called clearing, as * * * are lying on the land; the fence is worth * * * 5s. per rod, or £1 per chain * * * parties valued it at about £20. I consequently did not want to have it appraised, as the said land should not be selected * * * had a moral right to it, being * * * it for a number of years; he also recommended me to take a refund of my deposit, and have no more to do with it. I required of him to call upon * * * person that knew the value of such improvements, what they could be done for; he would not do so. This land had been put up at auction, and not sold, but is then taken up as a mineral conditional purchase, which Smith thought to upset (it has been withdrawn from auction), the reason of which I would like to find out. If it was prior to Mr. Smith's purchase, he could have no claim; if he purchased the land before it was withdrawn from sale, then, I say, he has a perfect right to it, and the Government are to blame in not giving me notice of such purchase, soon after I took up this land.

As for the improvements, they are not sufficient to bar selection. There were two more cases for inquiry besides mine on the 2nd ultimo; one was similar to mine. * * * trees cut down. Mr. Fisher would not call any evidence in either case. The three were on Smith's run. * * * to fence and improve this land * * * him, put me off. Smith, he said it should be settled in a Supreme Court action. * * * almost impossible for a poor man to get any justice from such parties.

I would like to hear your advice in * * * matter, or if you could get the date it was actually withdrawn from sale; 5th of August, 1875, is the date on which he says he purchased this land.

Yours, &c.,

DENNIS CLANCY.

No. 62.

Questions and Answers.

Legislative Assembly, 7 November, 1879.

D. CLANCY'S CONDITIONAL PURCHASE, NEAR MOLONG:—Mr. McElhone asked the Secretary for Lands:—

- (1.) In reference to the conditional purchase of Mr. D. Clancy, near Molong, claimed by Mr. Smith, in virtue of improvements, has any decision been yet given; if so, what is it; and if none has been given, what is the cause of the long delay in deciding the case?
- (2.) Is it a fact that Surveyor Fisher was appointed to appraise Smith's improvements, or hold a Court of Appraisement, and declined and returned his instructions, on the ground that Smith's improvements were worth £40 or more?
- (3.) Is it true that the Minister for Lands a second time sent instructions to appraise Smith's improvements, and that Surveyor Fisher again returned papers, and sent a report in favour of Smith's claims?
- (4.) What action does the Minister intend to take in regard to Surveyor Fisher's conduct; will he compel him to obey instructions, or suspend or dismiss him for disobedience of orders?

MR.

MR. HOSKINS answered,—

- (1.) No decision has been given, the case having been under reference to Mr. Appraiser Fisher, who has not yet carried out the instructions issued to him.
- (2.) He was appointed, but returned his appointment, stating that the improvements were worth over £40, and asking for further instructions.
- (3.) Yes.
- (4.) Another officer will be appointed to make the appraisal, and the Surveyor-General will be asked to call upon Mr. Fisher for an explanation of his conduct.

Register, and submit to Miscellaneous Branch.—T.B., 12. Place with the papers.—J.L.T., 17/11/79. Papers are at present with Surveyor-General.—J.M'G., 17/11/79.

No. 63.

Office Memorandum.

MR. BLAXLAND,—Will you please state whether the Land Agent and Mr. Smith received notice of the withdrawal from auction selection of the land herein referred to.

J.M'G., November, 1879.

The land was withdrawn from sale by 72-15,513 Aln., on 22/11/72, and Land Agent informed 26th of same month. Land Agent does not appear to have replied to the instructions to withdraw, and this would so far bear out Mr. Smith's statement that the Land Agent never received the notice. Mr. Smith took up the land in 1875, and held possession of it until February, 1879, when he was informed that it had been withdrawn from selection so far back as 1872.—J.S.F., 11/11/79.

My attention has been called to this case by Mr. Secretary Hoskins, who sees no valid reason why the appraisal should not be proceeded with. Mr. Surveyor Crouch may be requested to appraise, and Mr. Fisher requested to explain why he did not carry out his instructions instead of returning the cases.—P. F. ADAMS, 11 November.

Approved.—J.H., 11/11/79. Instruct Mr. Crouch, and inform Messrs. Smith and Clancy accordingly.—J.M'G., 12/11/79. H. A. Crouch, John Smith, and D. Clancy informed.—12/11/79. Referred to Surveyor-General as to letter to Mr. Fisher.—J.S.T., 15/11/79. Request Mr. Fisher in terms of my memo., and then forward papers to Mr. Crouch for action for appraisal.—P.F.A. District-Surveyor Fisher, 17/11/. Mr. Surveyor Crouch, B.C., 17/11/79.

No. 64.

Appointment of Appraiser Crouch.

By the Minister for Lands, to determine the value of improvements forming matter of dispute.

WHEREAS Dennis Clancy, of Molong, applied to purchase, under the 13th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of land hereunder described: And whereas John Smith, of Molong, claims the land on account of its containing improvements, his property, at date of Dennis Clancy's selection, of sufficient value to bar its sale to him: Now I, the Under Secretary for Lands, having been duly authorized by the Minister for Lands, in pursuance of the powers vested in him under and by virtue of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, do hereby appoint Henry Augustus Crouch, of Bathurst, in the Colony of New South Wales, to be appraiser on behalf of the Crown, to appraise the value of the said improvements existing on the land at the date of Dennis Clancy's application, viz., 26th July, 1877.

In witness whereof, I have hereto set my hand this 12th day of November, 1879.

W. W. STEPHEN.

Description.

A portion of land containing 50 acres, embracing portion 7-4, containing 40 acres, being part of portion 56, containing 192 acres, in the parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham.

These instructions are in lieu of those which issued to Mr. District-Surveyor Fisher on 11th August last, but which were withdrawn from him by direction of the Secretary for Lands.

I, the within-named Henry A. Crouch, do solemnly and sincerely declare that I am not directly or indirectly interested in the matter referred to me, and that I will faithfully and honestly, and to the best of my skill and ability, hear and determine the matters referred to me under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.

Subscribed and declared this 12th day }
of January, 1880, before me,— }

HENRY A. CROUCH.

BENJAMIN LEE, P.M., Bathurst.

No. 65.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. Appraiser Crouch.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 12 November, 1879.

Referring to former instructions, sent to you for your guidance in making appraisements under the 28th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, I now forward the documents necessary to enable you to appraise the value of the improvements on the land particularized in the annexed schedule, which has been applied for by Dennis Clancy, under the 13th clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861. I may explain that the Crown lessee, Mr. John Smith, claims that the land contains improvements, his property, of sufficient value to bar its sale to him.

2. You will be good enough to apprise Mr. Dennis Clancy of the time and place of holding the Court of Appraisement in order that he may have an opportunity of producing evidence in his own behalf.

I have to direct your especial attention to the 3rd clause of the Lands Acts Amendment Act, quoted hereunder, and to request that you will state in a separate letter, to be forwarded with your award, the position and respective value of the several improvements, and if they are of the character set out in the clause.

Improvements in respect of which sales may be made:—The improvements in respect of which any land may be sold and granted shall be any work or erection of a fixed character, and such as would render more beneficial the occupation and use of the land, and which shall have been constructed, erected, placed, made, or maintained at the cost of the person applying to purchase in respect of any such improvements or of the person or persons, either singly or continuously, through whom such applicant claims and is entitled to the land whereon are such improvements. Provided that such improvements have not at any time before been used for a like purpose.

I have, &c.,

LINDSAY J. THOMPSON

(For the Under Secretary).

NOTE.—The 28th section, clause 6, of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, provides that a single appraiser or arbitrator must make his award within sixty days after his appointment, or within such extended time, if any, not exceeding thirty days, as shall have been duly appointed by him. Failure on part of any appraiser or arbitrator to comply with the terms of this section, will in the absence of sufficient explanation, involve the forfeiture of half the amount of the appraisement fee.

Registration number, Misc. 79-13,529; parties to the appraisement, the Crown *v.* John Smith; 50 acres; portion, portion of 56; situation of land, parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham.

1. In making your award you will be good enough to state the nature and value of the improvements on the land referred to, and if possible the date of their completion, and whether they are so situated as to be capable of being included within an area (measured in accordance with the Regulations) commensurate to their value, viz., £1 worth of improvements for each acre of land.

2. I am also to request that you will give fourteen days' notice in writing to all concerned of the date of holding of the Court of Appraisement, in accordance with the regulations of the 27th September, 1876.

3. You will also be required to state whether the improvements render more beneficial the working and occupation of the purchase.

No. 66.

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

Sir,

Gamboola, Molong, 14 November, 1879.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, intimating that you have appointed Mr. Henry A. Crouch, on behalf of the Government, to appraise the value of my improvements on 50 acres of land selected by Mr. D. Clancy on the 26th July, 1877.

This is the fourth appointment made by you in the matter of this selection, in which I have been called on to concur.

The first appraiser was Mr. Inspector Page (who sent in his report); the second was Mr. Edwards; the third, Mr. District-Surveyor Fisher, and now a fourth appointment is made.

I attended the three appraisers above named and pointed out my improvements. I respectfully decline becoming a party to further appraisements in this case.

I have, &c.,

JNO. SMITH.

No. 67.

The Surveyor-General to Mr. District Surveyor Fisher.

Sir,

Surveyor-General's Office, Sydney, 17 November, 1879.

In reference to previous communication respecting the value of improvements now standing on portion No. 7-4, parish of Molong, I beg to inform you that my attention has been called to the case by Mr. Secretary Hoskins, who sees no valid reason why the appraisement should not be proceeded with, and I have to request that you will be good enough to explain why you did not carry out your instructions, instead of returning the papers connected with the case.

I have, &c.,

P. F. ADAMS.

Returned to the Surveyor-General, as I made the appraisement of the value of improvements now standing on portion No. 7-4, parish of Molong, and signed same on 7th October, as per form enclosed. I gave Messrs. Smith and Clancy the usual notice, but neither party formally appointed any one to act as appraiser on their behalf. Mr. J. Smith would give no evidence as to the cost of improvements erected by him on the land, and Mr. D. Clancy stated he only received the notice on the 1st October, or the day previous to my visiting Molong.—E. FISHER, District Surveyor. B.C., 17th November, 1879.

I presume this is Mr. Fisher's explanation, although nothing is said on the subject by the Surveyor-General. Mr. Fisher states that he made the award on the 7th October. It is strange, however, that he did not forward it to the Department on that date. I would point out that the award is irregular, having been made on the wrong form, and further, that Mr. Fisher subscribed the declaration on the copy of the appointment, and not on the appointment itself. Mr. Fisher also states that he gave the parties the required fourteen days' notice, but that Clancy did not receive his until day before the appraisement was made. Fresh instructions have issued to Mr. Crouch, as described on 79-13,754. In view of the above it is submitted that the award cannot be accepted.—J.M.G., 20/11/79.

For the consideration of the Minister.—W.W.S., 20/11/79. Approved.

I can only express my surprise that an officer filling the high position of District Surveyor should be so deficient in intelligence in carrying out or performing a duty which any person of average capacity, and who received such full, clear, and definite instructions for his guidance, ought to have been able to do. I hope Mr. Surveyor Crouch will manage better.—J.H., 23/12/79.

No. 68.

No. 68.

Mr. J. Smith to Mr. Surveyor Crouch.

Sir,

Gamboola, Molong, 22 November, 1879.

Referring to your note of the 19th instant, I beg to state that, on the 14th instant, I received a communication from the Under Secretary for Lands notifying that you had been appointed to appraise the value of my improvements on a portion of land selected by Dennis Clancy on the 26th July, 1877, to which I replied, on same day, that I declined becoming a party to any further appraisements in the case in question.

The improvements have already been appraised three times.

First by Mr. Inspector Page, then by Mr. Appraiser Edwards, and lastly by Mr. District Surveyor Fisher.

I attended these appraisements at some inconvenience, on one occasion coming from Bathurst expressly to do so, and now respectfully decline to become a party to further appraisement.

I have, &c.,
JNO. SMITH.

No. 69.

Report by Mr. Appraiser Crouch to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Improvements effected upon Dennis Clancy's conditional purchase, 26th July, 1877, containing 50 acres, in the parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham.

Sir,

Bathurst, 9 February, 1880.

In accordance with your instructions, I have the honor to report the improvements upon the abovementioned portion were personally inspected by me, and that I found them to be of the following description and value:—15 acres of partially cleared land at £2 5s. per acre, £33 15s.; fence, 34 rods, at 6s. per rod (three-rail, split), £10 4s.; according to Clancy's evidence there was an old hut on the ground at date of his selection, which I estimate at (since blown down), £2; total, £45 19s.

These improvements were erected prior to the 26th July, 1877, by John Smith, and are now the property of John Smith. They have not been previously used to satisfy a claim in virtue of improvements. They are, excepting the hut, of a fixed and permanent character. They are calculated to render more beneficial the occupation and use of the land, and in every respect answer the requirements of the 3rd clause of the Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875.

I have, &c.,
HENRY A. CROUCH,
Appraiser.

[Enclosures.]

Appraisement of improvements, wherein the intending purchaser has not complied with the provisions of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.

To all to whom these presents shall come, I, Henry Augustus Crouch, of Bathurst, in the Colony of New South Wales, send greeting,—

WHEREAS, on the seventh day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight, it was represented on behalf of John Smith, of Gamboola, near Molong, that the conditional purchase noted in the margin by Dennis Clancy, at Molong, on the 26th July, 1877, contained improvements belonging to the said John Smith of sufficient value to bar such conditional purchase: And whereas, on the twelfth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine, I was duly appointed, by the authority of the Minister for Lands, to be appraiser on behalf of the Crown to fix and determine the price or value of the improvements upon the said land at the date it was applied for by Dennis Clancy: And whereas, on the lastmentioned date, notice of such appointment was given to the said John Smith: And whereas, the said John Smith having allowed the period limited by the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861 to elapse, without having concurred in my appointment as sole appraiser, or having appointed an appraiser to act on his own behalf, I have entered upon the consideration of the value of the said improvements, and have heard and considered the evidence produced before me: Now I, the said Henry Augustus Crouch, do hereby declare the sum of £45 19s. to be the value of the said improvements at such date, and I assess and fix the costs of this appraisement, payable to me, at the sum of 10s. 6d., which said sum I direct shall be paid by the Minister for Lands.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, this 9th day of February, A.D. 1880,—

HENRY A. CROUCH.

Charting Branch, Mr. Houston, as to whether, in view of Mr. Crouch's award and report, an area could be measured in accordance with regulations to embrace the improvements.—J.G.M., 24/2/80. To be returned to Misc. Branch. Attention is drawn to Ms. 80-4,804, now herewith, on which it is stated that the conditional purchase, as designed for measurement by Mr. Crouch, is not in accordance with the description contained in application.—J.M'G., 15/5/80.

Court of Appraisement.—The Crown v. John Smith re D. Clancy.

WHEREAS on the 12th day of November, 1879, I was appointed by the Honorable the Minister for Lands to act as appraiser in the above case on behalf of the Crown, and whereas it is necessary to extend the period wherein the award may be made, as provided by the 6th clause of the 28th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1861, now, therefore, I do hereby extend such time, to a period amounting in all to ninety days from the above-named 12th November, 1879.

Molong, 6 February, 1880.

HENRY A. CROUCH.

COURT of Appraisement at the Court-house, Molong.—The Crown v. John Smith re Dennis Clancy, held before Henry A. Crouch, 6 February, 1879.—No appearance for or on behalf of John Smith.

Dennis Clancy, being duly sworn, deposed:—I took up a selection of 50 acres on the 26th July, 1877; describe it as on the east side of Reed's Creek, starting opposite P. Burns' conditional purchase with a line east, and having frontage down the creek, to include a measured portion, marked on county map as 117; portion 117 is the portion marked on ground as 7-4; I intended my selection to start from the main creek; I wished the southern line to miss the sheep-yards on portion 7-4; I was warned not to improve on the 22nd August, 1877; I received notice privately three or four days earlier; I endeavoured to settle the matter with Mr. Smith, suggesting arbitration, immediately after receiving notice; his reply was that Mr. Page was coming to value the improvements; I did not reside on the land before I received notice from the Minister, but I did before the expiration of three months from my selection; I resided for over two or three months; I built a bark hut and burnt a few trees down, about half a dozen, but did not otherwise improve the land, as I was doubtful of getting it; the yards are much the same now as then, but have been topped; the clearing is the same now as then; there

there was a hut there which has since fallen down; the hut now on the ground was, I believe, erected in October, 1878, by Mr. Smith; I warned Mr. Smith against improving; the old hut was erected by Mr. Smith; the yards were erected by Mr. Smith, and, I believe, the clearing was done by Mr. Smith's men for firewood and the yards; in the event of my securing the ground, I would cultivate after clearing the portion now cleared; I estimate the value of the yards at the date of my selection at £5; I estimate the value of the hut that was standing for its roofing, six sheets of iron, at 5s. per sheet, £1 10s.; I value the clearing at 15s. per acre; I estimate the entire clearing of the land in its original state as worth £1 10s. per acre; I am paying 25s. per acre for grubbing land in the vicinity, which I consider more heavily timbered than the portion in dispute, and I consider it would be worth 10s. per acre to clear off such timber after being grubbed; I estimate there might be about ten trees to the acre as an average on the land grubbed, but I cannot say positively; on the cleared portion, about portion 7-4, I estimate there are about two stumps to the acre left; I estimate it would be worth 1s. 3d. per stump at the lowest to grub all the stumps on the cleared portion about 7-4; I don't consider the clearing as done now of any value towards the cultivation of the land, as if the trees were standing they would help to fence the land; there are about 16 rods of three-rail split fence on the land, as described by me, which I value at 5s. to 5s. 6d. per rod; I value the bark hut in which I was residing at £2; I do not think any stumps were grubbed on the cleared portion; Mr. Page inspected the land on the 10th December, 1877; he told me that he did not see sufficient improvements to bar my selection.

DENNIS CLANCY.

Thomas Byrne, being duly sworn, deposed:—I know the ground selected by Dennis Clancy on the 26th July, 1877; I have known the ground about fifteen or sixteen years; when I then knew the ground there were odd trees here and there cut down—no attempt at regular clearing; the trees had been used for yard making; there was then a sheep-yard on the ground and a hut, the hut being the same as that which fell down shortly after Clancy selected; I might have passed over the ground five or six times before Clancy selected; the trees appeared to have been occasionally cut down; I believe the trees were cut down by Mr. Smith's men; I believe the hut and yards were erected by Mr. Smith; I remember the land about eight or nine months after Clancy selected; I visited it then with Clancy, at his request, for the purpose of valuing the improvements; I did not value the yards; I valued the hut at £2; I valued the thirty-two panels of fence on the creek at 5s. 6d. per rod; I considered the clearing of no value (C.S. 77-32,337 put in witness's hands, wherein he values clearing at £1 per acre); the signature is mine, but I have no recollection of the contents of the paper, and I consider the valuation of the clearing therein given as wrong; I reside about 2 miles from the selection in dispute; I estimate that it would have been worth £1 10s. or £2 per acre to have grubbed the trees as they originally stood; I estimate that it would have been worth a further 10s. to have cleared them off; it would have been worth 7s. per acre to have filled up the holes; I estimate that originally there were twenty or twenty-five trees to the acre on the land over 6 inches; I think the stumps are nearly all there yet; I reckon it is worth about 1s. 6d. per tree, as an average in such country, to grub, and about 1s. per tree to clear off; I reckon, as an average, a man can grub two or three trees a day; I estimate it would be worth 1s. 9d. per stump to remove all stumps now on the cleared portion.

In answer to Mr. Clancy: I do not consider the clearing as it now is on the portion as of any value; when I knew the ground originally it was fairly timbered; I consider the cost of grubbing should have been 30s.; I correct my statement 30s., or £2.

Henry A. Crouch, 6 February, 1880.

THOMAS BYRNE.

Daniel Duffy, being duly sworn, deposed: I know the position of the selection taken up by Dennis Clancy on the 26th July, 1877; it is about sixteen months since I first saw the selection; I went with Mr. Clancy at his request to inspect the improvements; the improvements consisted of some clearing, about 16 or 17 acres, which I valued at 15s. per acre; I cannot form a notion what it would be worth to cut down the trees only in such country; I do not consider the yards were of any value; they are in the same state now as when I first saw them; there was only the hut then on the ground, which is there now; I live about 7 miles from the selection; I did not go on to the creek; I did not see any fencing there; judging by the number of stumps there now, I think the land was lightly timbered; I think there are about twenty-two stumps to the acre left; I think it would have been worth £1 per acre to have grubbed the timber, and 10s. per acre to clear it off, and 2s. per acre to fill up the holes; I could grub ten to twelve trees on an average, big and little, per day; I could grub six trees per day on an average over 6 inches; I estimate it would be worth 1s. per stump to grub all the stumps on the cleared portion, as they now stand; I don't know what it would be worth to burn them, and fill up the holes.

In answer to Mr. Clancy: The country where I live isn't the same as that in dispute; the usual price of a three-rail fence is 5s. per rod.

HENRY A. CROUCH, 6 February, 1880.

DANIEL DUFFY.

Michael O'Sullivan, being duly sworn, deposed: I know the position of the selection taken up by Dennis Clancy on the 26th July, 1877; I first saw the land about sixteen months ago; I then went there at Mr. Clancy's request to inspect the improvements; I saw about 16 acres cleared, the stumps being left—which I valued at 10s. per acre; I saw the remains of a sheep-yard; I estimate they were worth to Mr. Smith about £2 or £3; I saw Mr. Clancy's hut, which I valued at 15s.; I did not see any fencing on the creek—it may have been there; I saw the remains of an old hut blown down; the yards are in about the same state now as they were then; I think there would be about twenty trees to the acre generally; I think about £1 an acre a fair value for grubbing such country; I think about 10s. per acre would burn it off and fill the holes; I think I could grub five or six trees per day of such country as that in dispute; I think it would be worth about 10d. to 1s. to grub all the stumps on the portion as they now stand, and about the same to burn them off and fill up the holes; I am getting a two-rail fence erected at £44 per mile; I think it would be about an average of 8d. per tree for cutting down on such country, throwing in all saplings, and I could on an average cut down about twenty-four per diem; I reckon fair wages as 10s. per day.

Witness—HENRY A. CROUCH, 6 February, 1880.

MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN.
his
mark.

No. 70.

Report by Mr. Appraiser Crouch to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Appraisement—The Crown *v.* John Smith *in re* Dennis Clancy.

Sir,

Bathurst, 9 February, 1880.

In forwarding the accompanying award in the case of the Crown *v.* John Smith *in re* Dennis Clancy, as to the value of improvements on the conditional purchase of Dennis Clancy, 50 acres, parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham, selected on the 26th July, 1877, at the date of such selection, I have the honor to state that the appraisement was conducted strictly in accordance with the requirements of 28th section of Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, and the additional regulations respecting appraisement, published in the *Government Gazette* of the 27th September, 1876, and the fourteen days' notice in writing of the time and place appointed for the holding of it was given to Messrs. John Smith and Dennis Clancy.

2. The inquiry was conducted in open Court, at the Court-house, Molong, on the 6th instant, and during the investigation there were present the following persons, who were examined as witnesses on oath on behalf Dennis Clancy:—Dennis Clancy, Thomas Byrne, Daniel Duffy, and Michael O'Sullivan.

3. There was no appearance for or on behalf of John Smith.

4.

4. The documentary part of the evidence is forwarded herewith, together with a sketch which I have prepared, showing the position of Clancy's conditional purchase, as stated by him at the inquiry to have been the position he intended to select.

5. In company with Clancy's son I inspected the land on the 4th instant, and I have shown on sketch the position of the improvements as then determined by me.

6. Since the date of his selection, 26th July, 1877, Clancy has only erected a small bark gunyah, and it appears the land is now in the same state as it was then, with the exception that Smith's hut, then on the ground, has been blown down, and a new one erected by him in its place.

7. My award of the value of improvements on the 50 acres is £45 19s., the particulars of which are given in Schedule A.

8. The principal item in the valuation is the clearing, and as it is one on which different opinions may reasonably be held, it appears to me to be advisable to state the basis of my estimate. It appears that the area has been used as a sheep station, probably about twenty years, during which time the surrounding trees have been felled, some of the timber being used for yards, and the remainder (and a great many stumps) burnt. This clearing appears to have been done gradually, and I am of opinion that as for clearing, it probably did not cost Mr. Smith anything; and further, that it is unlikely that Mr. Smith will cultivate the ground, in which case the clearing would not represent any value to him. Mr. Clancy and his witnesses assume that if the trees were now standing they would be useful for paddock fencing when felled, and so affirm that they consider the clearing, if not prejudicial, at any rate of little value. This latter view appears, however, merely as a matter of opinion, and I do not think it is a sound one. I consider that the only way of arriving at a definite value of the present incomplete clearing is by determining what would be the cost of the complete clearing of similar country, and what would be the cost of completing the clearing of the portion now left.

9. By inspection of the surrounding country I consider that the complete clearing of the land, as it was originally, would have cost £3 per acre; also by inspection I found that on an average there were about six stumps to the acre now left, which I estimate could be grubbed and removed for 15s. per acre. I therefore estimate the present value of the clearing as the difference between those prices, viz., £2 5s. per acre.

10. It will be seen that in this view I am supported by one of Mr. Clancy's witnesses, named Thomas Byrne, the only one who appears to have known the land many years. His estimate of the original timber was twenty to twenty-five trees to the acre, say twenty-two; cost of grubbing, 1s. 6d. per tree; cost of clearing, 1s. per tree; cost of removal of stumps as at present, 1s. 9d. per stump. Therefore cost of grubbing twenty-two trees, at 1s. 6d., £1 13s.; cost of clearing of same, at 1s., £1 2s.; estimated cost of complete clearing, £2 15s.; present removal of six stumps, at 1s. 9d., 10s. 6d.: £2 4s. 6d.

11. The estimates of Clancy, Duffy, and O'Sullivan of 30s. per acre for the complete clearing of the land are absurdly low, and do not represent the fair market value for such work.

12. Dealing with the whole of Mr. Smith's improvements at the station on the date of Clancy's selection, 26th July, 1877, I estimate there were 23 acres partially cleared—at £2 5s., £51 15s.; hut, £2; yards, £8; 34 rods three-rail fence, at 6s., £10 4s.; total value, £71 19s. And I am of opinion that such improvements answer the requirements of the 3rd clause of the Lands Act Amendment Act of 1875, and that they are capable of being included in a measured portion, extending from the creek to the alienated land on the east, which measurement would be accepted under the ordinary practice of the Surveyor-General's Department.

I have, &c.,

HENRY A. CROUCH,
Government Surveyor.

The hut now on the ground, erected by Mr. Smith in September, 1878, I value at £10. It has not been included in the above report.—H.C.

No. 71.

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

Sir,

215, Macquarie-street, Sydney, 2 April, 1880.

On behalf of Mr. Dennis Clancy, whose claim to the portion noted in the margin is disputed by Mr. John Smith, lessee, upon the ground that the land was improved by the latter at the time the selection was made to the extent required by law after the first defence failed, viz., that he already held the land selected as an after auction selection, I have the honor to furnish you with a summary of the facts of the case, with a view to a decision being granted in my client's favour; and while deeply impressed with the consciousness that a grievous injustice is being done my client, I will content myself with animadverting on only two features of the case, viz. :—

Clancy v. John
Smith, Molong;
50 acres;
26 July, 1877;
78-42,441, C.S.

1. The manner in which the terms of the conditional purchase application are construed, and (2), the appraisement of the improvements.

2. To illustrate my client's application, I beg to append hereto a copy thereof, together with tracing showing exactly the land he applied for. His application has been interpreted in another way by the surveyor, as may be seen from the sketch he submitted with the papers. Clancy asks for his land on the east side of Reed's Creek—the main creek, and the only one Clancy knew to exist, and not on the east side of a blind tributary, known on charts by the same name, as is alleged.

He simply had a desire to secure a water frontage, and accordingly had in view only the creek which contained water, and at the same time had not even a knowledge of the tributary of the same name, which is always dry, and which can scarcely be distinguished.

It is only the main creek that is known by the name of Reed's Creek in that neighbourhood. If the application be strictly adhered to—and as it is regular there can be no valid reason for deviating from it—there could be no exception taken to it on the score of improvements; the next and only other point I shall deal with.

3. With all deference, I cannot refrain from stating that what are designated improvements in this case are simply a farce; I am astonished that any official could attach any pecuniary value to them. It has been proven at the Appraisement Court and not denied by the lessee, that the supposed improvements consist

consist of burned down trees, in some instances stump high, and in others trunk high (if I may use the expression), with only the upper branches and tops burned off. In no case has an axe been laid to a tree. And these fallen trees still lie on the ground and their charred stumps and trunks as firmly rooted as ever, and to remove which, by the ordinary process of grubbing, would be much more difficult and expensive than if the pretended clearing had never been attempted. This assertion has been corroborated by the sworn evidence of two or three witnesses. Those witnesses have further stated that the alleged improvements have materially deteriorated the value of the land rather than enhanced it, the destruction of the trees, which would be needed for fencing and other purposes, being a most serious loss. Besides, Mr. Smith admits that the so-called clearing cost him nothing—that it was done by shepherds many years ago, and that he never engaged or paid men to do it.

Mr. Smith's first plea to oust an honest *bonâ fide* selector having failed, he reverts to an equally untenable one, in which, unhappily, he is supported by officials who, to say the least of it, ought to know their duty better.

A person of a very limited colonial experience, combined with a knowledge of the 3rd section of the Amended Land Act of 1875, might know that the land was not improved at all.

4. In conclusion I respectfully contend (1) that my client's application should be granted according to description, and (2) that the alleged improvements are not of a kind, nor possess a value in accordance with the provisions of the 3rd section of the Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875 to bar selection.

I have, &c.,

JAMES CARROLL

(Agent for D. CLANCY).

Should be placed with Ms. 80-2,041. Urgent.—J.M.G., 15/4/80. Mr. Houston,—This case should be looked into, and submitted speedily.—CHAS. E. FINCH, 16/4/80.

No. 72.

Mr. D. Clancy to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

With reference to the improvements claimed by Jno. Smith on this portion of land, I can positively and conscientiously say that I never intended taking in this portion of a three-railed fence, as I did not mean to cross the main creek, my application being from the eastern side of Reedy Creek, it being principally for the sake of having permanent supply of water that I selected this portion, it being the third time with my selecting land with water; each time I have been baffled through the influence of John Smith, and the corruptness of the officials appointed to investigate.

How is it, sir? This portion was appraised in 1874 by the late Mr. Tarves, surveyor, who was an intimate friend of Jno. Smith, and by two others on behalf of a mining company. Their valuation was £30 and £35 at that time. I would give you to understand, sir, there was upwards of £20 worth more improvements than at the date of my selection; the sheep-yards were in good order, the hut equally so, a milking yard and bale, a garden fenced, and some sheds. None of these were on the land when I selected, yet the improvements are valued at more than double the amount.

These are the persons who make the Act what it is. Hoping you will give me fair play,—

I have, &c.,

DENNIS CLANCY.

No. 73.

Office Memorandum.

23 April, 1880.

In *re* appraisement of improvements on land claimed by D. Clancy as his conditional purchase 77-290, within portion No. 56, parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham. Adverting to the memoranda on papers 80-2,041 Ms. herewith, an area could be measured to embrace the improvements mentioned in the award in accordance with the regulations and practice of the Department.

The only point in the letter of 2nd April, 1880, requiring consideration in this office is the issue raised by D. Clancy's agent as to the interpretation of the description of Clancy's conditional purchase by the appraiser.

The tracing accompanying that letter (80-4,804) represents the land as being in a position still less favourable to Clancy than that assigned to it by Mr. Surveyor Crouch, inasmuch as it embraces the whole of the improvements constructed by John Smith, on portion 56 (value, £71 19s.), and could not be included within a portion measured under the regulations.

2. The latter objection does not apply to Surveyor Crouch's representation of the land applied for, which is stated to be in the position given by Clancy himself as what he intended.

It is, however, according to the accompanying appraisement, improved to the value of £45, and there is, therefore, no reason why the voiding of Clancy's conditional purchase should not be upheld.

ROBT. D. FITZGERALD

(For Surveyor-General).

U.H., 23/4/80, B.C. Chief Commissioner Conditional Sales. As this appraisement has reference to a conditional purchase, it must be referred to the Chief Commissioner for his report thereon.—J.H., 6/5/80.

This case has been sent out of its proper course. The papers should have been directed to the Under Secretary for submission by the Misc. Branch in the first instance. The result has been productive of unnecessary delay. The award is regular, but it does not appear that the conditional purchaser's contention has been fully dealt with in the Survey Office minute of the 23rd April. The selector contends that the position of his conditional purchase, as designed for measurement by Mr. Crouch, is not in accordance with the description contained in his application. Mr. Crouch indicates on this sketch the form of survey of Clancy's conditional purchase, which he makes to front the blind tributary of the main creek. This measurement should cross the main creek, and it does not appear how this survey, presuming the creek to be a frontage one, could be consistent with regulations. If the conditional purchase was measured to front the main creek, the fencing (valued, £10 4s.) would be excluded from the portion.

The

The sheep-yards and but (valued at £10) are not considered as improvements within the meaning of the 3rd section. The only improvement that remains, therefore, is the clearing (valued at £2 5s. per acre), and it will be a matter for consideration whether this value can be attached to clearing effected under the circumstances as set out in the enclosed evidence, and in view of the letter Misc. 80-5,242, in which it is stated by six persons that 15s. per acre would be fair value for effecting such improvements.—M.G., 29/5/80.

I do not think I can add anything to the report of the Deputy Surveyor-General beyond expressing my concurrence therein.—A.O.M., 2/6/80.

I concur with the Deputy Surveyor-General and Chief Commissioner, and would further remark that, if 50 acres had been measured for the conditional purchase (Clancy's), as shown by green lines on the tracing sent in by his agent, that such measurement would have included nearly the whole of the lessee's improvements, and would have excluded the hut erected by Clancy.—J.H., 8/6/80.

See decision on page 3.—W.W.S., 9/6/80. Inform lessee of result of appraisal, then to C. S. Branch.—J.M.G., 10/6/80. Jno. Smith informed, 18/6/80. C. S. Branch,—Mr. Dennis Clancy should be informed of the decision, namely, that under the award the voiding of the conditional purchase must stand. A fresh voucher should be sent to him.—C.N., 7/7/80. James Carroll (as agent), M. with duplicate voucher, 3/8/80. Ch. Branch. Voiding noted, papers returned to C. S. Branch.—W.H.H. (*per* W. Houston), 13/8/80.

No. 74.

Mr. M. Boland and others to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

We, the undersigned, having been called upon to appraise certain improvements on a portion of land selected by Dennis Clancy, at Molong, on the 26th of July, 1877 (being part of a measured portion, marked 7-4),—

There is 15 acres partially cleared, that is, the trees burned and cut down by shepherds in the employ of the lessee for firewood, also some cut down for the purpose of making sheep-yards.

We consider 15s. per acre a high price for doing what is done to this portion of land, as a great many of the trunks of the trees are lying on the land, also some of them standing 12 feet high, which had been burned.

We have no hesitation in saying this work could be done for 10s. per acre cash, as the trees were very thin on it, there being not more than six trees an an average to the acre (also, this timber will burn standing).

15 acres, at 15s. per acre, £11 5s.; fence, 33 rods, at 5s. per rod, £8 5s.; old hut, £2; remains of sheep-yard, £2; total, £23 10s. This is really a high valuation, as they are of no use to the selector.

MATTHEW BOLAND, Farmer.
JOHN BURNS, "
HENRY JOHNSTONE, "
PATRICK FLANAGAN, "
DANIEL SULLIVAN, "
D. M'DONALD, "

Mr. Kelly,—Let me have the papers in connection with the appraisal of improvements in dispute between Clancy and Smith.—J.M.G., 24/4/80. Urgent. Mr. M'Guinn. Previous papers, Mis. 80-4,804, are with Chief Commissioner.—D.F.K., 27/4/80. Mr. Finch, 26/4/80. Sent to Minister. Mr. Stobo,—I believe the case is under submission to the Minister. Will you please have this paper put with the other papers.—J.M.G. Urgent. Papers not with Minister.—E.H.S., 3/5/80. Mr. Newman,—Are the papers with the Under Secretary?—J.M.G. Not with me.—T.N.

No. 75.

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

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 18 June, 1880.

With reference to the appraisal lately held by Mr. Crouch to determine the value of the improvements on the portion of land specified in the margin hereof, in dispute between yourself and Dennis Clancy, I am directed to inform you that in view of Mr. Crouch's award, stating that there were improvements on the land to the value of £45 19s. at date of selection, the Secretary for Lands has therefore approved of the cancellation of the conditional purchase by D. Clancy being upheld.

I have, &c.,

W. W. STEPHEN.

No. 76.

The Chief Commissioner of Conditional Sales to Mr. J. Carroll.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Conditional Sales Division, Sydney, 3 August, 1880.

With reference to your letter of the 2nd April last, on behalf of Dennis Clancy, relative to the disputed claim by the lessee of Gamboola Station, to the conditional purchase noted in the margin, which was declared void on 15th January, 1878, on account of land containing improvements of sufficient value to bar selection, I am now directed to inform you that the Minister for Lands has decided that under the award of Mr. Appraiser Crouch the voiding of the conditional purchase of your constituent referred to must stand.

2. I have consequently to send you the accompanying duplicate voucher for the amount of the deposit money paid thereon.

I have, &c.,

W. BLACKMAN

(For the Chief Commissioner).

Enclosed duplicate refund voucher, £12 10s.

No. 77.

Portion 7-4, containing 40 acres, parish of Molong county of Ashburnham.

Molong: C.P. 77-290; 26th July, 1877; 50 acres; 13th section; Dennis Clancy; cancelled 15th January, 1878.

No. 77.

Mr. D. Clancy to The Chief Commissioner of Conditional Sales.

Sir,

Molong, 25 October, 1880.

I would be extremely thankful if you would send me a counterpart voucher for the sum of £12 10s., being a refund of deposit on 50 acres of land, selected by me at Molong on the 26th July, 1877, and which had been cancelled, as containing improvements to bar selection. I now have lost it, and I candidly say that there was not £15 worth of improvements on the said land. Or, if I received an order to select 50 acres instead. This is the fourth time I have been deprived of land through the influence of the rich man. It strikes me very forcibly that John Smith, Esq., of Molong, can do as he thinks proper with surveyors and other officials connected with the Lands Department.

Hoping you will send me either the counterpart voucher or an order to re-select 50 acres instead at your earliest convenience,—

Yours, &c.,
DENNIS CLANCY,
Molong.

May be informed.—C.A.B. Correspondence. Mr. C. A. Brown.

There is some slight mistake here. After a good search I found all the papers at Mis. Records, therefore they are evidently not with the surveyor as above noted. This noting had better be made correct, these papers connected, and fresh instructions given. A duplicate voucher seems to have gone to Mr. Carroll for applicant.—H.E.S., 4 December.

Mis. No. 79-7,533 was mistaken in other records for 79-7,553, hence the wrong notation.—H.A.F., 18/12/80. Records,—Please observe these papers were sent to Mr. C. A. Brown for instructions.—E.B., 22/12/80. The writer may be informed that a duplicate voucher was sent to his agent, Mr. James Carroll, on 3rd August last.—C.A.B., 23/12/80. D. Clancy informed, 17/1/81.

No. 78.

The Chief Commissioner of Conditional Sales to Mr. D. Clancy.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 17 January, 1881.

Replying to your letter of the 25th October last, requesting to be furnished with a duplicate voucher for the refund of your deposit money on the cancelled selection noted in the margin, I am directed to apprise you that the required voucher was forwarded to your agent, Mr. James Carroll, on the 3rd August last.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD BROWN
(For the Chief Commissioner).

Molong; C.P.
77-290.

No. 79.

Mr. D. Clancy to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Reed's Creek, near Molong, 24 January, 1881.

Your letter of 17th January, 80-46,050, is to hand. I again request to be favoured with a duplicate voucher for the refund of deposit money, £12 10s., so that I can obtain the money from the Treasury; or, if you decline to furnish me with another duplicate voucher (in lieu of the one which has gone astray), will you send me an order for the £12 10s., so that I can hand it to the Land Agent here, as I intend again to select more land during the week. Either order or voucher will suit my purpose, which I trust to receive, either one or the other, by return of post, or within a few days. I trust there will be no further delay in the matter.

I have, &c.,
DENNIS CLANCY.

The writer should make application for the duplicate voucher sent to his agent, Mr. Carroll, on 3rd August last. *Vide* previous action on 80-46,050.—C.A.B., 4/2/81. Yes; inform.—W.B., 8/2/81. Dennis Clancy informed, 28/2/81. Put away.

No. 80.

The Chief Commissioner of Conditional Sales to Mr. D. Clancy.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 28 February, 1881.

In reply to your letter of the 24th ultimo, again requesting that a duplicate voucher may issue to you on account of your conditional purchase noted in the margin, I have again to refer you to Mr. James Carroll, of 215, Macquare-street, Sydney, to whom, at your request, the voucher was forwarded on the 3rd August last.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD BROWN
(For the Chief Commissioner).

Molong, 77-290

No. 81.

A. Ross, Esq., M.D., to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Molong, 1 March, 1881.

Dennis Clancy, of Molong, desires to obtain a duplicate voucher form, to enable him to get a refund of deposit money from the Treasury, on a selection made by him at Molong of 50 acres, on 26th July, 1877. Will you be pleased to send him the necessary form or duplicate voucher for this purpose during the week.

I have, &c.,
A. ROSS, M.D.
(Pro Dennis Clancy),
Molong.

Urgent.—C.O., 3/3/81. The writer may be referred to letter sent to Mr. Clancy on 28th ultimo. Correspondence.—C.A.B., 4/3/81. A. Ross, M.D., 22/3/81. Put away.

No. 82.

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No. 82.

The Chief Commissioner of Conditional Sales to A. Ross, Esq., M.D.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 22 March, 1881.

In reply to your application of the 1st March instant, on behalf of Dennis Clancy, for a duplicate refund voucher on account of his conditional purchase noted in the margin, I have the honor to inform you that a duplicate voucher was sent to his agent, Mr. James Carroll, of 215, Macquarie-street, Sydney, on the 3rd August last, upon his application duly made; that, on the 17th January, Mr. Clancy was informed of this, and that he was again informed on the 28th ultimo.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM BLACKMAN

(For the Chief Commissioner).

No. 83.

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

Sir,

Gamboola, Molong, 30 March, 1882.

I beg to apply for the deed of grant for portion No. 56, area 192 acres, parish of Molong, county Ashburnham, being a selection after auction by me, at Molong Land Office, on the 5th August, 1875, now nearly seven years since.

I have, &c.,

JOHN SMITH.

Mr. Farnsworth.—F.M.K., 1/4/82. I cannot trace the purchase herein referred to.—W.F., 13/4/82. Mr. Blaxland.—F.M.K., 14/4/82. Mr. Marr.—How does it stand.—J.G.B., 21/4/82.

Lots C and G, portions Nos. 21 and 56, containing 179 and 192 acres respectively, of sale, 7th April, 1865, withdrawn from after auction sale, *vide* 72-15,513, mineral lease of J. Skinner. The sum of £371 and deed fees credited for above lots on 11th November, 1875.—E.M., 24/4/82.

No. 84.

Office Memorandum.

MR. JOHN SMITH, of Gamboola, applies for deed of grant of portion No. 86, parish Molong.

This portion was offered at auction at Molong, 7th April, 1865, and not bid for; it contained 192 acres. Mr. John Smith, of Gamboola, selected it on the 5th August, 1875, under the 25th clause, but this selection was cancelled on the 14th February, 1879, as the portion had been previously withdrawn from selection after auction (72-15,513 Aln.)

While Mr. Smith held possession of this portion, viz., on the 26th July, 1877, a man named Dennis Clancy selected 50 acres of it under the 13th clause. This selection was voided, as containing Mr. Smith's improvements, and, therefore, not available.

Clancy protested, and paid £1 ls. for appraisement of the improvements.

On paper 79-9,679, it was suggested that this portion, No. 56, should be offered at auction, with the value of improvements added to the upset price for Mr. Smith's protection; but the Minister (Mr. Hoskins) withheld his decision pending the appraisement, the result of which was to uphold the voiding of the conditional purchase of Clancy.

Mr. Smith was informed of this, 18th June, 1880, and there the matter ended. Papers were away at Records.

Mr. Smith asks for the deed of his after auction selection, and must, I presume, be told of the cancellation again; but what is to be done with the land? Its area is 192 acres, as portion No. 56, and the improvements on it are apparently, by Mr. Crouch's latest appraisement, £71 19s. Perhaps Mr. Smith may purchase part of the portion in virtue of these improvements, or increase the improvements and purchase the whole.

Portions Nos. 59 and 60 are also cancelled after auctions selections of Mr. John Smith, taken up on 28th May, 1877, and the Minister (Mr. Hoskins) decided they should be offered at auction with the value of the improvements erected by Mr. Smith added to the upset price for his protection; but the papers were delayed by the appraisement of portion No. 56, and then erroneously put away at Records. Now the only evidence of any improvements on these two portions is Mr. Smith's letter of the 31st August, 1878 (paper 78-6,729 Aln.), when he protests against the cancellation of his after auction selection; he merely states he has improved them by fencing.

1 May, 1882.

J. G. BLAXLAND.

So many years have elapsed since this case first arose, and as all other conflicting interests have been disposed of, perhaps special action may be considered justifiable. There can be no question that the land had been withdrawn from after auction selection; but as Mr. Smith's application was accepted by the Department without grounds, and as he had probably improved the land, he may be thought to have some claim to it. Mr. Smith has now held this land for eight years, and has not accepted a refund of the amount paid for it; and, in order to dispose of a vexatious case, and in the absence of conflicting interests, I think the withdrawal of the land from after auction selection may be reversed, and the sale of portion No. 56 in Mr. Smith's favour completed.—C.O., 3/5/82.

A decision was made several years ago against this sale. Mr. Smith was informed thereof, and offered his money back, at any rate as long ago as four years from the present time. Mr. Smith declined to take the money. I do not think he can now be allowed to benefit in consequence of his own erring in that behalf.—JOHN R., 4/5/82.

Inform and send portions Nos. 56, 59, and 60 to auction.—J.G.B., 6/5/82. J. Smith informed.—12/5/82. Mr. Houston. For auction of portions Nos. 56, 59, and 60, as per minute of 6/5/82.—R.H.D. (*pro* J.G.B.), 13/5/82. Plan (M. 10) to Reserve Branch.—H.H., 17/5/82.

No. 85.

No. 85.

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

Sir, Gamboola, Molong, 13 May, 1882.

On the 30th March last, I addressed a letter to Mr. Under Secretary Oliver, asking for the deed of grant for 192 acres of land, portion 56, parish of Molong, an after auction selection by me in August, 1875. I am now informed by Mr. Oliver that my application is refused.

I had been led to hope, sir, that you would take a more equitable view of this case than your predecessor appears to have done. It is now nearly seven years since I purchased this land, and the whole of the so-called mineral portions adjoining have now been conditionally purchased by Byrnes, Ogden, E. Evers, W. Evers, Wicker, Dowling, Bergen, and others, and no objection taken thereto.

The portion purchased by me had been gazetted with the other unsold lots as open to after auction selection. No notice of withdrawal had ever been published, or sent to the Molong Lands Office. The authorized agent for the sale of Crown lands sold the portion to me, and for two years and a half no exception was taken. Surely if there is to be any finality in land sales, the act of the Crown Lands Agent was confirmed by time. I had enclosed and otherwise improved the land, and then I am told I can have the purchase money refunded, and thus lose my improvements.

Clancy selected 50 acres of the portion, and the Minister, after having had my improvements appraised no less than four times, finally ousted Clancy and returned his deposit. I do trust, sir, to receive some justice at your hands. If it could have been shown me that the portion had been withdrawn from selection, I would have accepted the refund, the lapse of two and a half years notwithstanding.

I now ask if you will consent to refer the case to the decision of the Supreme Court by friendly action.

I have, &c.,
JNO. SMITH.

82-4,380 Aln. Mr. Blaxland, 8/5/82. Now with Mr. Houston, 15/5/82. Mr. Houston,—Will you please return papers for this.—J.G.B., 16/5/82. Papers, Aln. 82-4,380, required as above, now attached.—T.S.H. (*pro* W. Houston), 17/5/82. Mr. Blaxland,—Submitted. The case was set out in a *précis* a few days ago.—J.G.B., 19/5/82. Re-submitted.—C.O., 23/5/82.

Mr. Smith, it appears, was informed that he could not have the land, after full inquiry, no less than three and a half years ago. His holding the land for those years illegally cannot give him a title to it. His own wrongdoing cannot make him a title either equitable or on any acknowledged principle. The best thing that can be done with the land will be to submit the land to auction.—JOURN R., 1/6/82.

Honorable John Smith, M.L.C., June, 1882.

No. 86.

Office Memorandum.

Re John Smith's Claim to portion 56, of 192 acres, parish West Molong, County Ashburnham, 82-4,569 Aln.

1. Portion 56 was offered at auction at Molong on the 7th April, 1865, as lot G, and not then bid for.

2. In November, 1872, this land was recommended to be withdrawn from selection after auction, on account of mineral conditional purchases and mineral leases.

By a notation on Aln. 72-15,513, it is set forth that a notice was, on the 26th of November, 1872, sent to the land agent to withdraw the portion. Beyond this, there is nothing to show that the notice was sent; nor is it clear that it was ever received.

3. On the 5th August, 1875, the Honorable John Smith tendered an application to select the land after attempted auction sale; and on the 14th February, 1879, three and a half years after this application was cancelled, Mr. Smith, having by letter of the 18th February, 1879, protested against such cancellation, was informed that the cancellation must be upheld, but that the land would be submitted to auction sale with the value of the improvements added to the upset price of the land. (Copy herewith.)

4. On the 26th July, 1877, D. Clancy applied to conditionally purchase 50 acres of this portion (conditional purchase 77-290), but on the 15th January, 1878, his application was cancelled or declared void, as the land contained improvements.

5. Mr. Hoskins' decision of 31/3/79, on Aln. 79-1,305, to send the land to auction, has not been carried out, owing to Clancy's protest relative to the alleged value of improvements on the land having only recently been finally disposed of.

6. Mr. Smith, in his letter of the 13th May, 1882 (Aln. 82-4,569) states that the portion 56 had, with other lots, been gazetted as open to selection, but I am unable to trace any such notice.

It is not, nor has it been, the custom to publish notice of withdrawal from selection after auction. It is difficult to understand how Mr. Smith can assert that notice of withdrawal was not sent to the Land Agent. It is quite certain, however, that Mr. Smith was aware, three years prior to his letter of 30th March, 1882, that his application, although three and a half years old, would not be recognized, and that the land was to go to auction.

R.H.D.,
11/7/82.

I understand the Under Secretary desired this case re-submitted.—J.G.B., 17/7/82. The Under Secretary has seen this case, and has nothing further to add at present.—J.G.B., 28/10/82.

No. 87.

Mr. J. Carroll to The Chief Commissioner of Conditional Sales.

Sir, 13, Church Hill, Sydney, 30 August, 1882.

I have the honor to request that you will be pleased to expedite action on the case noted in the margin hercof, and issue at your earliest convenience the certificate of conformity.

I have, &c.,

JAMES CARROLL.

Mr.

This is not the reason given on the papers. See Aln. 72-15,513.

C.S. 80-46,650.
Clancy case.

Mr. Carroll should be informed that a duplicate refund voucher, on behalf of Mr. Dennis Clancy, was sent to him on 4th August, 1880, *vide* 80-4,804 Mis., and in compliance with his own request (81-8,646), and that the voiding of the purchase must stand. It was decided on 80-5,242 Mis., that under the award the voiding of Clancy's conditional purchase must stand, improvements being sufficient to bar selection. Papers finally for Auction Branch. Mr. Blaxland.—C.N., 22/11/82.

No. 88.

Office Memorandum.

Selection after auction, parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham, 5th August, 1875; objection notified 14th February, 1879, after the portion had been improved.—Gamboola—Mr. Smith, M.L.C.

To what does the within refer?

C. O., 1/8/83.

This is, I am informed, a Conditional Sales case. The Minister wishes to know the position of it.—C.O., 1/8/83.

The Chief Commissioner.—The case is as set forth in the Under Secretary's minute on Aln. 4,380 enclosed. There is no pending conditional purchase question. I would invite attention to the enclosed *précis*, 4,569, and to paragraphs marked *ⁿ as being very important.—A.O.M., 2/8/83.

I find that the *précis* is correct. Submitted—As to whether the decision given by Mr. Hoskins is now to be carried out.—C.O., 4/8/83. I think Mr. Hoskins' decision should be carried out; but the upset price should not be less than 25s. per acre.—J.S.F., 8/8/83. Inform that portion 56 will go to auction, &c.—R.H.D., 9/8/83. J. Smith informed.—R.H.D., 14/8/83. Mr. Small,—Please have portion 56, West Molong, sent to auction as early as possible. Upset price of land, £1 5s. per acre, with £71 19s. added for the improvements.—R.H.D., 15/8/83.

Forwarded to Reserve Branch for inspection of portion 56 prior to auction sale. Instructions have been sent to Mr. Acting District-Surveyor Crouch for re-marking of this portion; also, to efface the marking of portion 7-4 (A 807-1770), which covers part of this portion.—F.S.H. (*pro* J. T. SMALL), 31/8/83. Mr. G. Lewis (M 10-1,325 attached).

Inspected.—J.T.K. (*pro* Surveyor-General), 25/9/83. Instructions now fulfilled. (See Mis. 84-2,900).—F.S.H., 3/3/84.

No. 89.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Hon. J. Smith, M.L.C.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 14 August, 1883.

In reference to your inquiry respecting portion 56, parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham, I have the honor to inform you that the Minister for Lands has approved of the decision of Mr. Secretary Hoskins, as conveyed in my letter of the 10th April, 1879, being carried out.

The land will therefore, be offered at auction at the upset price of 25s. per acre, with the value of the improvements added thereto, to be paid to you, subject to approval of Parliament.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES OLIVER,
Under Secretary.

No. 90.

Memorandum from The Surveyor-General to The District Surveyor, Orange.

Surveyor-General's Office, Sydney, 31 August, 1883.

Subject.—Mr. Acting District-Surveyor Crouch is requested at his early convenience to re-mark portion 56, parish of Molong, on the ground prior to auction sale, the survey having been effected in the year 1858. Also, to efface the marking of portion 7-4, of 40 acres, a void mineral conditional purchase of Rees, Stevens, & Co, which was measured out of the area of portion No. 56 by Licensed Surveyor Tarves, in the year 1874. A salaried surveyor should, if possible, be employed in this service, in order that the matter may be expedited. Tracings of both portions are attached hereto.

J. ELLIS,

(*pro* Surveyor-General).

Reply.—Transferred to Mr. Acting Surveyor Busby for early attention.

5th November, 1883.

H. A. CROUCH,

District Surveyor.

No. 91.

Mr. Acting Surveyor Busby to The Surveyor-General.

Sir,

Camp, Newrea, 11 January, 1884.

In accordance with your memo. of instructions of the 31st August, No. 83-803, issued to Mr. District-Surveyor Crouch and transferred to me, I have the honor to transmit herewith plan showing the lengths and bearings of the boundaries of portion 56, in the parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham, as re-marked by me.

The improvements consist of 5 acres ploughed and cleared at £4 per acre, £20; 25 acres partly cleared at £2 per acre, £50; 30 chains log fence at £20 per mile, £7 10s.; hut, iron roof, £15; 8 chains split fence, £6; total, £98 10s.

The country consists of open undulating box forest, the greater part of which is suitable for grazing only, and is of limestone formation. Reference to original corners was obtained from a lithograph of Licensed-Surveyor Gordon's plan, issued from the Surveyor-General's Office in 1858, and now in the possession of Mr. John Smith. All corner trees were found, and pegs fixed by reference. It will be seen

in

in the south boundary there is a difference of 171 links between the length given on original plan and that chained by me, and 187 links in that part of the west boundary forming the east side of the road from Molong to Boree. In each case the lengths were carefully chained, and without doubt the original corner trees were found; corners C and D had been correctly placed by Licensed-Surveyor Connolly.

The marking of portion 7-4 has been obliterated; date of survey, 26th November, 1883.

I have, &c.,

W. F. BUSBY.

P.S.—The improvements specified herein were erected by and are the property of Mr. John Smith.—W.F.B.

Examined and charted on parish maps.—H. C. BROOKS, 3/2/84. Submitted.—H. A. CROUCH, District Surveyor. 6th February, 1884. Mr. Small, 21/2/84. Mr. Hughes.—J.H.L., 2 January, 1885.

Mr. Bush,—Is the land held under pre or auction lease? Plan herewith.—H.S.B. per J. T. Small, 1/1/85. Mr. Small,—No pre or auction lease.—J.B., 12th January, 1885. May await resumption of country auction sales.—H.S.B. (per J. T. Small), 28/1/85.

Alienation Branch. Mr. Marr. Auction Branch.—G.H.G., 20/5/86.

No. 92.

Messrs Laurence and Rich to The Principal Under Secretary.

Sir,

35, Castlereagh-street, 15 July, 1885.

We enclose petition of the Honorable John Smith for the appointment of a nominal defendant in respect of a claim which he deems himself to have against the Government. Be good enough to see that the matter receives early attention and oblige,—

Yours, &c.,

LAURENCE & RICH.

Minute appointing Secretary for Lands herewith.—18th.

[Enclosure.]

To His Excellency the Right Honorable Lord Augustus Loftus, G.C.B., Governor of the Colony of New South Wales.

The Petition of the Honorable John Smith, of Bathurst, in the Colony of New South Wales,

Humbly showeth,—

1. That on the 29th day of July and the 5th day of August, in the year of our Lord 1875, and 28th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1879, the Honorable John Smith, of Bathurst, in the Colony of New South Wales, under and in accordance with the regulations of the 1st day of March, in the year of our Lord 1843, and the 8th day of March, in the year of our Lord 1853, for the sale of Crown lands in the Colony of New South Wales, and under and in accordance with the provisions of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861 and the regulations then in force, applied for and became the purchaser from the Crown of the following parcels of land being Crown lands and open to such purchase, containing 128, 179, 192, 135, and 129 acres respectively, known respectively as portions 27, 21, 56, 59, and 60, in the parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham, the same having been previously submitted for sale by public auction at the upset price, but were not then sold, and the said John Smith, in accordance with the regulations, having paid at the time of his said application the purchase money demanded of him for the same. That ever since the respective dates of the said several purchases so made by the said John Smith he has been in continuous and undisturbed possession of the said several parcels of land, and has expended large sums of money in fencing and other improvements.

That he has applied to the Minister for Lands for the issue to him of grants of the said several parcels of land so purchased by him, but the Minister has refused and still refuses to authorize the issue of the said grants or any of them to the plaintiff, and on the contrary, has claimed and still claims to disallow or cancel the said several purchases by the said John Smith.

2. That your Petitioner deems himself to have a just claim for specific performance of the several contracts before referred to.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays that your Excellency will be pleased to appoint a nominal defendant in the matter of this Petition.

And your Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

JOHN SMITH.

Dated this 10th day of July in the year of our Lord 1885.

No. 93.

Messrs. Laurence and Rich to The Principal Under Secretary.

Dear Sir,

35, Castlereagh-street, 29 July, 1885.

On the 15th instant we wrote you, enclosing petition for the appointment of a nominal defendant in respect of a claim which the Hon. John Smith has against the Government. Mr. Smith has seen us to-day, and is anxious to file his statement of claim. Will you be good enough to see that the matter receives immediate attention, and oblige,—

Yours, &c.,

LAURENCE & RICH.

85-7,899 Ex. Co. minute.—24/7/85. Act on this, if possible, at once.—31.

No. 94.

The Principal Under Secretary to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 4 August, 1885.

Papers herewith

I am directed by the Colonial Secretary to state that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to appoint, by notification in this day's *Government Gazette*, in conformity with the provisions of the second section of the Claims against the Colonial Government Act, the Honorable James Squire Farnell, Esquire, Secretary for Lands, to be the nominal defendant

defendant in the matter of the Petition presented by Messrs. Laurence and Rich, solicitors, on behalf of the Honorable John Smith, M.L.C., as to a certain claim or demand which he deems himself to have against the Government.

I have, &c.,

CRITCHETT WALKER,
Principal Under Secretary.

The papers in this case, 84-2,900 Misc., were this morning sent to the Crown Solicitor.—R.H.D., 14/8/85. Crown Solicitor, 14/8/85.

No. 95.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Land Agent, Molong.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 19 October, 1885.

I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to forward to this office forthwith your Sale Book, No. 9, and Auction Selection Register, No. 10, showing the entries of the lots noted below, as they may be required in connection with the Equity suit, *Smith v. Farnell*.

I have, &c.,

F. H. WILSON
(For the Under Secretary).

County of Ashburnham, parish of West Molong, portion 27, 128 acres; sale, 30th November, 1858. Portion 21, 179 acres; sale, 7th April, 1865. Portion 56, 192 acres; sale, 7th April, 1865. Portion 60, 129 acres; sale, 30th November, 1858. Portion 59, 135 acres; sale, 30th November, 1858.

No. 96.

The Crown Land Agent, Molong, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Crown Lands Office, Molong, 21 October, 1885.

I have the honor to forward, under separate cover, one Sale Book, No. 9, and one After-Auction Selection Book, No. 10, in accordance with the instructions conveyed in your letter of 19th instant.

The information connected with the auction sale held 7th April, 1865, is, I believe, complete; but I can find no entry of an auction sale held on 30th November, 1858, except in After-Auction Book, page 2.

I have an older book of auction sales, commencing June, 1850; but there is no entry of a sale therein between the dates of 18th May, 1857, and 6th January, 1860.

I have, &c.,

HENRY J. JEFFREYS,
Crown Lands Agent.

Submitted. The books may be forwarded to the Crown Solicitor in response to a verbal request of Mr. H. H. Ould, who has asked for them in connection with the Equity suit, *Smith v. Farnell*. To be forwarded by letter with a request that they be returned.—R.H.D., 24/10/85.

Yes.—C.O., 26/10/85. Correspondence Branch.—R.H.D., 27/10/85. Crown Solicitor, with two books mentioned.—28/10/85. Mr. De Low.

No. 97.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Solicitor.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 28 October, 1885.

In response to a request made through Mr. Ould, of your office, I have the honor to forward one Sale Book, No. 9, and one After-Auction Selection Book, No. 10, showing the sale of certain land at Molong, cause of litigation in the Equity suit, *Smith, v. Farnell*, and to request that you will be good enough to return them as soon as practicable. Two books.

I have, &c.,

F. H. WILSON
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 98.

Extract from *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16th December, 1885.

Equity Court—Before his Honor the Primary Judge—*Smith v. Farnell*.

Mr. Darley, Q.C., and Dr. Donovan, instructed by Messrs. Laurence and Rich, for the plaintiff; Mr. A. H. Simpson, instructed by the Crown Solicitor, for the defendant.

This was a suit brought by the Hon. John Smith to compel the Crown to specifically perform contracts to sell five blocks of land on his Gamboola Run, near Molong. The lands in question were put up for sale by auction, and passed, and in 1875 the plaintiff purchased them from the Crown Lands Agent at Molong, taking a receipt, and paying £1 deed fee in each case. Three years after the receipt of the money, the Department of Lands notified to Mr. Smith that the lands had been withdrawn from sale, and sent him a refund order.

The case for the Crown was that the endorsements on the applications showed that the land had been withdrawn. The Minister for Lands having intimated that this was insufficient evidence, Counsel stated that it was believed that it had been done personally, and some years before, but the documents were not obtainable. Counsel for the Crown then submitted that there was no contract, and if there were, it could not be enforced against the Crown.

His Honor said he had no doubt that there was a contract. The Government had power to sell land in a certain way, and these lands, having been passed at auction, the defendant notifies that the land is for sale by the Land Agent in a particular way. Then the plaintiff applies in the form prescribed, and it is obviously implied that his application is accepted. The plaintiff then pays his money, which is accepted.

accepted. The receipt made a good contract, and it was emphasised by the acceptance of £1 for the deed in each case, for it meant that a grant was to be issued. He had no doubt as to the other matter. The terms of the "Claims against the Government Act" were very full, and, although there had been a difference of opinion as to the liability of the Government to an action of tort, still he, with another Judge, believed that there was a liability. Here, however, he had simply to deal with a case of specific performance, and that came distinctly under the words of the Act. He considered that there was such a contract made out here as would be enforced in the case of a private individual, and he saw nothing in the Act to invalidate it so far as the Crown was concerned. He decreed in favour of the plaintiff, with costs.

No. 99.

The Crown Solicitor to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 31 December, 1885.
Farnell—Smith.

I have the honor to inform you that this suit came on for hearing before the Primary Judge on the 10th instant, when a decree was granted as prayed, with costs. I should be instructed at once if there is any intention of appealing.

I have, &c.,

JOHN WILLIAMS,
Crown Solicitor
(by H. H. Ould).

It would appear that the Crown Law officers should advise whether an appeal should be made.—C.O., 20/1/86. I do not think it desirable to appeal in this case, but I am of opinion that it would be well for the Law officers of the Crown to advise the Minister where they believe there are sufficient grounds for an appeal.—G.S., 26/1/86. The Crown Solicitor.—C.O., B.C., 22/1/86.

[Enclosure.]

Smith v. Farnell—Memo. of after auction selection, with papers Ms. 84-2,900.

County of Ashburnham, parish of West Molong, portion 27, containing 128 acres, of sale 30th November, 1858 (*vide* 75-20,915).Portion 21, containing 179 acres, of sale 7th April, 1865 (*vide* 75-21,324).Portion 56, containing 192 acres, of sale 7th April, 1865 (*vide* 75-21,325).Portion 60, containing 129 acres, of sale 30th November, 1858 (*vide* 77-4,303).Portion 59, containing 135 acres, of sale 30th November, 1858 (*vide* 77-4,304).

Memo.

The Under Secretary has verbally instructed that the Crown Lands Agent be asked to send in his Sale Book, No. 9, and his Auction Selection Register, No. 10, showing the entries of the abovementioned lots. The books may be required in Court. Will Correspondence Branch be good enough to write for them.

R.H.D., 14/10/85.

Crown Lands Agent, Molong, asked.—V.C., 19/10/85.

No. 100.

The Crown Solicitor to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 18 May, 1886.

Smith v. Farnell.

I have the honor to enclose a voucher for the sum of £148 3s. 7d., being the amount of the plaintiff's taxed costs in the above suit, which I shall be obliged if you will cause to be paid in the manner indicated in the voucher.

The papers are returned herewith.

I have, &c.,

JOHN WILLIAMS,
Crown Solicitor.

No. 101.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Solicitor.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 15 June, 1886.

I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to return at once the papers quoted in the margin, relating to the case of Smith v. Farnell.

I may add that the papers in question are urgently requested, in order that the voucher submitted for plaintiff's costs may be dealt with.

I have, &c.,

F. H. WILSON
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 102.

The Crown Solicitor to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 16 June, 1886.

Smith v. Farnell.

In reply to your letter of yesterday's date, asking that the papers in the above matter shall be returned to you, I have the honor to remind you that the principal papers in the matter were forwarded with my letter to you of the 18th ultimo. The only papers now in my possession are those I now enclose.

As it is very necessary that the costs should be paid without delay, I shall feel obliged if you will expedite their payment.

I have, &c.,

JOHN WILLIAMS,
Crown Solicitor.

I also return two books containing entries of Crown lands sales at Molong, which were used in the Equity suit.—J.W.

[Enclosure.]

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[Enclosure.]

35, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 30 June, 1886.

Dear Sir,

Smith v. Farnell.

We cannot obtain payment of these costs. We must therefore insist, as we are entitled to do, to payment of interest on the amount thereof from the 14th May last, when the certificate was drawn up and served.

The Crown Solicitor, Macquarie-street.

We are, &c.,

LAURENCE & RICH.

No. 103.

The Crown Solicitor to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 1 July, 1886.

Sir,

Smith v. Farnell.

I have the honor to enclose herewith a letter, which I have this day received from Messrs. Laurence and Rich, with reference to the taxed costs which are payable to them in the above matter, and to the delay which has occurred in their settlement, and to remind you that I wrote to you on the 18th May last, forwarding the papers in the matter, and requesting that the amount of these costs might be paid. You will observe that Messrs. Laurence and Rich now claim interest thereon, so the matter should receive early attention.

I have, &c.,

JOHN WILLIAMS,

Crown Solicitor.

Immediate.—C.O., 1/7/86. Mr. Banks. Alienation Branch, for registration and former papers.—T.B., 1/7/86. Aln. 86-1,492, to Account Branch, 22/6/86.—E.C.M., 1/7/86. Here-with.—T.B., 1/7/86. Alienation Branch (voucher to Treasury for payment).—J.W.B. (*pro* Acting Accountant), 3/7/86.

[Enclosure.]

35, Castlereagh-street, 30 June, 1886.

Dear Sir,

Smith v. Farnell.

We cannot obtain payment of these costs. We must therefore insist, as we are entitled to do, to payment of interest on the amount thereof from the 14th May last, when the certificate was drawn up and served.

The Crown Solicitor, Macquarie-street.

Truly yours,

LAURENCE & RICH.

No. 104.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Commissioner for Railways.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 24 September, 1886.

Referring to your letter of the 31st ultimo (86-5,541), I have the honor to inform you that an area containing 5 acres 1 rood 19 perches has been resumed out of portion No. 27, in the parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham, under Railway Act, 22 Victoria No. 19, and that the area of the portion now is 122 acres 2 roods 21 perches, exclusive of railway.

I have, &c.,

STEPHEN FREEMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

Forwarded through the Under Secretary, Department of Public Works.

No. 105.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Solicitor.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 24 September, 1886.

I have the honor, in reply to your letter of the 9th ultimo, to inform you that an area containing 5 acres 1 rood 19 perches has been resumed out of portion No. 27, in the parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham, under Railway Act, 22 Victoria No. 19, and that the area of the portion now is 122 acres 2 roods 21 perches, exclusive of railway.

I have, &c.,

STEPHEN FREEMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 106.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 24 September, 1886.

I have the honor to inform you that an area, containing 5 acres 1 rood 19 perches, has been resumed out of portion No. 27, in the parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham, under Railway Act, 22 Victoria No. 19, and that the area of the portion now is 122 acres 2 roods 21 perches, exclusive of railway.

The portion above referred to was selected by John Smith, after auction, as lot 14 of sale at Molong, on the 30th November, 1858.

I have, &c.,

STEPHEN FREEMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 107.

No. 107.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Land Agent, Molong.

Sir, Department of Lands, Sydney, 24 September, 1886.
I have the honor to inform you that an area, containing 5 acres 1 rood 19 perches, has been resumed out of portion No. 27, in the parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham, under Railway Act, 22 Victoria No. 19, and that the area of the portion now is 122 acres 2 roods 21 perches, exclusive of railway. The portion above referred to was selected by John Smith, after auction, as lot 14 of sale at Molong, on the 30th November, 1858.

I have, &c.,

STEPHEN FREEMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 108.

The District Surveyor, Orange, to The Crown Land Agent, Molong.

Memorandum.

Re Portions 21 and 56, parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham.

24 September, 1886.

UPON Mary Byrnes' additional conditional purchase 67, of 9th September, for portions 21 and 56, parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham, a note has been made by the Crown Lands Agent to the following effect. Applicant was also warned that the land applied for is claimed by the Honorable John Smith as his property:—

Will the Crown Lands Agent be good enough to state upon what grounds the Honorable John Smith claims these portions as his property?

H. A. CROUCH,
District Surveyor.

Forwarded to me in mistake, and now returned to the District Surveyor.—LINDEN BIDDULPH, Licensed Surveyor, Camp, Waltamandara, 30/9/86. Now forwarded to the Crown Lands Agent as originally intended.—E. GERARD (for District Surveyor), 2/10/86. For reply see attached letter.—H. J. JEFFREYS, Crown Lands Agent, 11/10/86.

No. 109.

Mr. J. Smith to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir, Gamboola, Molong, 4 October, 1886.
May I beg to ask when I may expect to receive deeds of grant for the five portions of land decreed in my favour by the Court of Equity in December last.

I have, &c.,
JNO. SMITH.

No. 110.

The Crown Land Agent, Molong, to The Hon. John Smith, Esq., M.L.C.

Sir, Crown Lands Office, Molong, 5 October, 1886.
I have the honor to intimate that on the 9th ultimo Mrs. Mary Byrnes selected two portions in the parish of Molong, Nos. 21, of 179 acres, and 56, of 192 acres.
On her application I wrote a minute to the effect that applicant was warned that the land applied for is claimed by the Honorable John Smith as his property.
I make this note on the strength of a verbal communication from yourself, made shortly after you won a case in the Supreme Court against the Government, I believe, in the latter part of the year 1885.
I have been called on by the Land Board at Orange to state upon what grounds this claim is made, and I have therefore to request that you will be good enough to supply the necessary information.

I have, &c.,

H. J. JEFFREYS,

Crown Lands Agent.

Mr. Jeffreys will find by the books in his office that this land was sold to me as an after auction selection on the 5th August, 1875, which sale has been confirmed by the Court of Equity.—JNO. SMITH.

The After-Auction Selection Register does not appear to have been very regularly kept in 1875, and shows nothing of the selection referred to. The Ledger shows that the Honorable John Smith purchased several lots at after auction on 5th August, 1875, including one portion of 192 acres (*i.e.*, supposing upset price to have been £1 per acre); also several lots on 29th July, 1875, including one for which he paid £179, supposed to be portion 21 of 179 acres.—H. J. JEFFREYS, Crown Lands Agent, Molong, 11/10/86.

No. 111.

The District Surveyor, Orange, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Portions Nos. 21 and 56, parish of Molong, county Ashburnham.

14 October, 1886.

THE Honorable John Smith claims portions No. 21 of 179 acres, and No. 56 of 198 acres, parish of Molong, county Ashburnham, as after auction selection taken up on the 5th August, 1875, and subsequent confirmation of the sale by the Court of Equity.

As the portions have been applied for under a recent C.P., 86-67, and as there is no information in this office in support of Mr. Smith's claim, I have the honor to request that particulars might be afforded to me as to the recognition or otherwise of his claim.

H. A. CROUCH,
District Surveyor.
Aln.

Aln. 72-15,513, shows lots C and G, portions 21 and 56, as withdrawn from selection; sale at Molong, 7th April, 1865. By the plans of this office (Survey) portions 21 and 56 appear as vacant. Perhaps the Department of Lands can supply Mr. District-Surveyor Crouch with information respecting the Honorable John Smith's claim.—JOHN J. SLADE (for Surveyor-General), 22 October, 1886. Con. Sales Branch.

Auction Branch, as to the after auction selections stated to have been made on 5th August, 1875.—W.H.C., 19/11/86. Mr. Legg,—Look through After-Auction Selection Register please.—E.C.M., 21/11/86. C.S. Branch. M.S. 86-17,301 herewith.—J.M.R., 14/12/86. Urgent.

The Honorable John Smith upon the 5th August, 1875, applied, *vide* 75-21,324 and 21,325, for lots C and G, portions 21 and 56, 179 acres and 192 acres respectively, after auction, not bid for sale of 24th February, 1865, Molong. The applications referred to, to auction select, were cancelled, as the land had been withdrawn prior to date of selection. It is now alleged by Mr. Smith that the sale has been confirmed by the Court of Equity. Charting Branch will please state whether the action of that Branch is completed.—Ed. B., 6/1/87.

Not further required in Geographical Division. To Mr. Owen, for any action that may be necessary. Afterwards the District Surveyor should be informed, *vide* his request on front page.—J.J.S., 23/2/87. Mr. Owen.

Mr. Slade,—I see no present action for Noting Branch. If the notation of auction sale be placed on plan of portion No. 56, A. 3,765-1,770, in Charting Branch, withdrawal from selection will be duly noted. Plan of portion No. 21 (M. 10-1,325 R.) is in the District Office.—C. OWEN, 28/2/87.

The sale now noted on plan A. 3,765-1,770, and returned herewith.—O.W.S. (*per* J. J. SLADE), 7/3/87. Mr. Owen. Now to Conditional Sales Branch for further action. Withdrawal now noted on plan of portion No. 56.—C. OWEN, 14/3/87. C. S. Branch.

No. 112.

Declaration by Mr. J. Smith.

I, JOHN SMITH, of Gamboola, Molong, do solemnly and sincerely declare that the improvements effected by me on 192 acres of land, being portion 56 in the parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham, and which improvements were inspected and appraised by Mr. Inspector Page on or about the 11th day of December last, were so effected and erected long before Mr. Clancy selected 50 acres, a portion of the above described 192 acres, and I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true, and in virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the ninth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act for the more effectual abolition of Oaths and Affirmations taken and made in various Departments of the Government of New South Wales, and to substitute Declarations in lieu thereof, and for the suppression of voluntary and extra-judicial Oaths and Affidavits."

JOHN SMITH.

Made and signed before me at Sydney, this }
14th day of January, 1887,— }
JOSEPH C. PAGE, J.P.

Charting Branch,—Do the plans available in this Department show any claim to the portions quoted?—W.H.C., 29/1/87. Plan M. 10-1,325 is noted to District Survey Office, Orange, 1/2/87. Probably the required information will be the more easily obtained by forwarding this paper to the District Surveyor.—J.J.S., 3/2/87. C.S. Branch. The suggestion for approval.—W.H.C., 16/2/87. Forwarded as suggested.—F.H.W. (for the Under Secretary), 21/2/87. Noted, 24/2/87. Herewith.—E.J.P. (*pro* J.P.M.), 15/3/87. In view of the decree of the Court it is presumed that the necessary steps be taken to reinstate the purchases by the Honorable John Smith and prepare the deeds.—W.H.C., 30/3/87. F.H.W. S.F., 9/5/87. Submitted for approval.—C.O., 13/5/87. Approved.—T.G., 14/5/87.

[Enclosure.]

Sir,

Land Board Office, Orange, 15 January, 1887.

With reference to the application for the conditional purchase specified in the margin, I have to inform you that the Local Land Board for the district of Molong agreed to postpone this case on the 13th instant at the request of applicant, in order that further information may be obtained as to Mr. Smith's claim to the same land. Mr. Powley was appraised by the Crown Lands Agent at Molong at date of his application, that his application was received under protest, the land applied for being claimed by the Honorable John Smith as his property, having been the subject of his recent successful action against the Government.

I have, therefore, to request that you will be good enough to furnish me with the required information on the subject.

I have, &c.,

CHAS. E. FINCH,

Chairman.

The Under Secretary for Lands, Sydney.

No. 113.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The District Surveyor, Orange.

THE enclosed letter from the Chairman of the Local Land Board, Orange, referring to the conditional purchase noted in the margin, is forwarded to the District Surveyor, with a view of obtaining the required information.

B.C., 25/2/87.

F. H. W.

(For the Under Secretary).

The plan does not afford any clue. The Honorable John Smith claims the land, and I remember that he obtained a favourable verdict in an Equity suit against the Crown, I think in the early part of last year. On the 14th October last, a memorandum was forwarded by me, seeking an official reply as to the claim, but no reply has been received. As our maps show the land vacant, and must do so until official intimation is received, it is most desirable that immediate inquiry should be made.—H. A. CROUCH, District Surveyor, 3/3/87.

Records for memo. by District Surveyor Crouch of the 16th October last.—W.H.C., 11/3/87.

No. 114.

No. 114.

Telegram from The Chairman, Local Land Board, Orange, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

26 May, 1887.

PLEASE supply information asked for, my letter, 15th January, John Smith's claim, parish Molong.

C. E. FINCH,
Chairman.

Cannot trace in Miscellaneous or Alienation Branches.—R.H.D., 26/5/87. The paper is with C.S. 87-6,601 Dep., herewith.—R.H.D., 26/5/87.

May be informed that the Minister approves of the necessary steps being taken to carry out the decree of the Supreme Court, which is to the effect that the Honorable John Smith's claim to the land specified is good.—W.H.C., 26/5/87. F.H.W. (for the Under Secretary), 26/5/87. Telegram, 27/5/87. Noted.

No. 115.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Lands to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Orange.

27 May, 1887.

MINISTER has approved of steps being taken to carry out Supreme Court decree in *Smith v. Farnell*, that Mr. Smith's claim to land, parish Molong, is good.

STEPHEN FREEMAN
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 116.

Memo. from Mr. District-Surveyor Crouch to The Under Secretary for Lands.

31 May, 1887.

REFERRING to your telegram of the 26th instant to the Chairman, stating that the claim of the Honorable John Smith to certain land in the parish of Molong, under Equity suit, would be allowed, I have the honor to request that the numbers and areas of all the portions affected might be recorded on the margin hereof, in order that the maps in this office may be correctly noted.

H. A. CROUCH,
District Surveyor.

No. 117.

Telegram from The Chairman, Local Land Board, Molong, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

7 June, 1887.

YOUR telegram, 26th May, in reply to my letter 15th January, and telegram 26th May, *re* Honorable John Smith's claim to land, parish Molong, upheld by Supreme Court, does not indicate portions for which claim was upheld. This information required to-day for disposal of Powley's and Byrnes' conditional purchases 86, 75, and 67.

CHAS. E. FINCH,
Chairman Land Board.

Immediate.—S.F., 7/6/87.

Mr. Capper,—If the decision of the Supreme Court, copy of which is herein (extract from the *Sydney Morning Herald*), may be taken as applying to the five applications herein tendered by John Smith, at Molong, of 29th July, 1875, 5th August, 1875, and 28th May, 1877, then the portions are: 59, of 135 acres; 60, of 129 acres; 27, of 122½ acres; 21, of 179 acres; and 56, of 198½ acres, all in the parish of Molong, county Ashburnham.—J.T.K., 7/6/87.

Mr. Capper,—The Assistant Under Secretary.—W.H.C., 7/6/87. Inform that the portions to which the claim of the Hon. John Smith was upheld are those specified in Mr. Keating's minute.—S.F., 13/6/87. Telegram 1,165.—13/6/87. Then submit as to preparation of deed of grant.—S.F. Submitted as to whether the deeds of grant are now to be prepared in Mr. Smith's favour.—S.F., 15/6/87. Yes.—F.G., 22/6/87. Correspondence Branch,—Please ask Treasury to return the refund voucher sent them. Also, inform Mr. Smith of the action taken *re* preparation of deeds of grant.—E.C.M. (*pro* R.H.D.), 27/6/87. Urgent. Honorable John Smith informed *re* issue of deeds, and Under Secretary for Finance and Trade asked to cancel authority for refund of moneys paid on the after auction selections.—H.L.F., 2/7/87. Mr. M'Kern,—For preparation of deeds.—E.C.M. (*pro* R.H.D.), 11/7/87. Mr. M'Kern,—Should not the reversal of cancellation be noted on application?—J.N., 12/8/87. Mr. De Low,—Please note on application the reversal of cancellation.—F.M'K., 12/8/87. Deeds Branch.—Noted.—E.C.M., 13/8/87. Urgent.—Record No., Aln. 87-2,482. Deed prepared. Mr. Shepherd, for notation of after auction selections by the Hon. John Smith, of Molong, as per applications, Aln. 75-20,915, 75-21,324, 75-21,325, 77-4,303, 77-4,304.—F.M'K., 16/8/87. Portions 56, 59, and 60 noted.—J.S., 24/9/87. Mr. Neill,—For descriptions. Descriptions prepared.—J.C., 26/9/87. Mr. Bacon,—For diagrams. Mr. M'Kern,—Diagrams prepared, examined, and found correct.—J.E., 4/10/87. Mr. Walker,—Engross deeds in accordance with indorsement on description form.—F.M'K., 4/10/87. Mr. M'Kern,—Engrossed and returned.—J.W., 7/10/87.

[Enclosures.]

Description.

J. Smith—Deed prepared, lot 31, 5/10/87.

129 acres, county of Ashburnham, parish of Molong, portion 60: Commencing on the western side of a road 1 chain wide, from Boree to Molong, at the south-eastern corner of portion 59 of 135 acres, and bounded thence on the east by that road, dividing it from part of portion 7 of 148 acres, and from portion 58 of 143 acres, bearing south 5 degrees east 30 chains

38 links ; on the south by a line bearing north 88 degrees 30 minutes west 45 chains ; on the west by a line bearing north 1 degree 30 minutes east 30 chains 16 links ; and on the north by the southern boundary of portion 59 aforesaid, bearing south 88 degrees 30 minutes east 41 chains, to the point of commencement.

Country lot M 10-1,325 R. and tracing. 30/11/58, Molong, John Smith, of Gamboola, £129, 12/10/58. Description prepared. Examined.—J.C., 26/9/87.

Description.

J. Smith, deed prepared, lot 30, 5/10/87.

135 acres, county of Ashburnham, parish of Molong, portion 59 : Commencing on the western side of a road 1 chain wide from Boree to Molong at the most southerly south-eastern corner of portion 6 of 108 acres ; and bounded thence on the east by that road dividing it from parts of portions 8 and 7 of 154 acres and 148 acres respectively, bearing south 13 chains 80 links ; and thence bearing south 5 degrees east 21 chains ; on the south by the northern boundary of portion 60 of 129 acres, bearing north 88 degrees 30 minutes west 41 chains ; on the west by a line bearing north 1 degree 30 minutes east 34 chains 5 links ; and on the north by a southern boundary of portion 6 aforesaid, bearing east 39 chains 8 links, to the point of commencement.

Country lot M 10-1,325 R. and tracing, 30th November, 1858, Molong, John Smith, of Gamboola, £135, 12/10/58. Description prepared.—J.C., 26/9/87. Engrossment examined and found correct.—C.J.N., G.S., 11/10/87. Deeds initialled and submitted to Secretary for Lands for signature, 14/10/87. The Colonial Secretary for Great Seal and signature of Governor, 17/10/87. To Registrar-General for delivery, portions 59 and 60, 11/11/87. Mr. M'Kern,—Applicant has paid for 192 acres, portion 56. Re-survey shows the area to be 198½ acres.—J.S., 24/9/87. After preparation of deeds for the three portions mentioned above, papers should be returned to allow of action being taken with regard to survey of portions 21 and 27.—J.S. Mr. M'Kern,—The sum of £6 5s. will, I presume, have to be collected for the extra area in portion 56.—J.N., 11/10/87. Auction Branch for action, and then return to Deeds Branch.—F. M'K., 12/10/87. Urgent. Correspondence Branch,—Call upon the Hon. J. Smith for the sum of £6 5s. for extra area on portion 56.—E.C.M., 15/10/87. Hon. J. Smith, M.L.C., and Treasury.—H.L.T., 21/10/87.

No. 118.

The Hon. J. Smith, Esq., M.L.C., to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Union Club, Sydney, 10 June, 1887.

Permit me to remind you I have not yet received your promised reply to my second application for deeds of grant of the five portions of land in the parish of Molong, for which I obtained a decree in the Court of Equity in December, 1885.

I have just called at the Deeds Branch for the fourth time, but can obtain no information in the matter. When I waited on you a fortnight since you said you would send a reply to this club.

I have, &c.,
JNO. SMITH.

No. 119.

The Hon. J. Smith, Esq., M.L.C., to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Union Club, Sydney, 24 June, 1887.

In December, 1885, I obtained a decree in the Court of Equity for five portions of land, after auction purchases, in the parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham. I have written five letters to the Department asking if I am to be furnished with deeds of grant therefor, to which I have received no reply, and I have made personal application at the Deeds Branch four times and can obtain no information whatever. May I again ask what course it is intended to take in the matter ?

I regret to say the impression is forced upon me that every obstacle is thrown in the way of my obtaining my rights. I have always found Government ready enough to take money, but very slow to fulfil its obligations. The lands in question were purchased by me in 1875—over ten years ago.

I have, &c.,
JNO. SMITH.

No. 120.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 2 July, 1887.

I have the honor to inform you that the five applications under date, 29th July, 1875, 5th August, 1875 (2), and 28th May, 1877 (2), for portions 27, 21, 56, 59, and 60, in the parish of West Molong, county of Ashburnham, made by the Honorable John Smith, of Gamboola, Molong, as after auction selections, are now to be proceeded with, and to request that you will be good enough to cancel the authority for the refund of the money paid in connection with the same.

I have, &c.,
F. H. WILSON
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 121.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Hon. J. Smith, Esq., M.L.C.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 2 July, 1887.

Referring to your letter of 10th May, 1886, I have the honor in reply to inform you that the five deeds of grant decreed in your favour by the Court of Equity in December, 1885, are in course of preparation, and will be issued with as little delay as possible.

I have, &c.,
F. H. WILSON
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 122.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Hon. J. Smith, Esq., M.L.C.

Sir, Department of Lands, Sydney, 21 October, 1887.

77-21,325 ;
portion 56,
192 acres, now
198½ acres,
parish of Molong,
county of Ash-
burnham; Hon.
John Smith,
5th August, 1875.
£6 5s.

With reference to your after auction selection of the portion of land noted in the margin, I have the honor to inform you that it has now been ascertained upon re-survey that the portion in question contains 198½ acres, instead of 192 acres, as purchased, and to request that you will be good enough to pay into the Treasury the sum of £6 5s., being the purchase money for the excess area of 6½ acres.

I have, &c.,

F. H. WILSON

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 123.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Sir, Department of Lands, Sydney, 21 October, 1887.

Portion 56, 192,
now 198½ acres,
parish West
Molong, county
Ashburnham ;
after auction
selection by John
Smith, 5th
August, 1875.
£6 5s.

I have the honor to inform you, that it has now been ascertained upon re-survey that the portion of land noted in the margin, contains 198½ acres, instead of 192 acres, as originally estimated, and to request that you will be good enough to receive from the Honorable John Smith the sum of £6 5s., being the purchase money for the excess area, viz., 6½ acres, and to favour me with a report when such payment shall have been made.

I have, &c.,

F. H. WILSON

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 124.

The Hon. J. Smith, Esq., M.L.C., to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir, Gamboola, Molong, 29 October, 1887.

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, intimating that it has been ascertained by re-survey that the portion of land, No. 56, contains 198½ acres instead of 192, as purchased by me. I beg respectfully to state that I do not acknowledge the re-survey. There are fresh lines marked. I claim the portion as decreed in my favour by the Court of Equity, and bounded by the original lines, as submitted to auction and passed. This portion is bounded on three sides by my land, and on the fourth by a creek, and any increase in the area must have been taken from my other portions where the marks are extinct, the original survey having been made by Mr. Lewis Gordon over thirty years ago.

I have, &c.,

JOHN SMITH.

Special.—Submitted that unless Mr. Smith pays the money, nothing further be done, that is' the grant be not issued.—R.H.D., 10/11/87. S.F. Submission approved. Inform.—T.G., 14/11/87. Corresponding Branch. To inform.—E.C.M., 15/11/87. Hon. J. Smith informed.—H.L.T., 22/11/87

No. 125.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Hon. J. Smith, Esq., M.L.C.

Sir, Department of Lands, Sydney, 22 November, 1887.

Portion 56 ;
Parish West
Molong, county
Ashburnham ;
Hon. J. Smith ;
5 August, 1875.

Referring to your letter of the 29th ultimo, protesting against the payment of £6 5s., being the purchase money for the excess of area of 6½ acres in connection with the land noted in the margin, I am directed by the Secretary for Lands to inform you that unless you pay the amount in question the deeds of grant for the land cannot issue.

I have, &c.,

F. H. WILSON

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 126.

Messrs. Laurence and Rich to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir, 35, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 1 December, 1887.

Referring to your letters of the 21st of October last and the 22nd ultimo to the Honorable John Smith, M.L.C., in reply to a request of his for the issue to him of the grant of portion 56, 192 acres, parish of West Molong, and county of Ashburnham, we are instructed by him to demand from you such grant in terms of the decree pronounced in his favour so far back as the 15th day of December, 1885. And we wish to point out to you, in reply to your contention in the letter of the 22nd ultimo, that he must pay for the excess of area alleged to be 6½ acres, that he purchased the land as lot G after it had been advertised for and put up for sale by auction but not then sold; and such purchase was made after survey for such auction sale, and upon the lines of such survey. We are also directed to ask the immediate issue to him of the grants of the other portions decreed in his favour, and to intimate that unless our request is complied with by this day week that we shall be compelled to take steps to enforce the decree.

Yours, &c.,

LAURENCE & RICH.

Urgent.—C.O., 2/12/87.

Mr. Smith claims the land as surveyed when he applied for it, and the Court of Equity has decided that he is entitled to have his applications satisfied. The circumstances of the amended survey should be fully set out. Will the Chief Draftsman please have this done.—C.O., 9/12/87.

[Enclosure.]

[Enclosure.]

Statement re the Measurement of Portion 56.

PORTION 56, parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham, was originally measured in 1858 by Mr. Surveyor Gordon for sale and shown on plan M 10-1,325 Roll, to contain 192 acres.

To satisfy an application, mineral conditional purchase 72-2,931, an area of 40 acres, numbered 7-4, as per plan A 807-1,770, was measured out of portion 56, which was cancelled in consequence.

Some time after this conditional purchase was declared void, it was decided, *vide* papers C.S. 83-6,752 Cor., to re-mark the boundaries of portion 56, and obliterate the marking of portion 7-4.

This has been effected, *vide* plan A 3,765-1,770 and papers Ms. 84-2,900, and the area of portion 56 is shown to be 198 acres 1 rood by this re-survey; hence the reason of the demand for payment on 6½ acres in excess of 192 acres paid for.

The fact is that the old survey was incorrect, and the portion really contains 198½ acres, instead of 192 acres, as shown on the old plan. What Mr. Smith claims is that as the portion was advertised for sale as 192 acres and selected after auction by him as that area, he cannot be called upon to pay the extra area which the re-survey discloses. As the deed will be issued for the larger area, it is presumed that area should be paid for.

The Under Secretary for Lands.

C. J. SAUNDERS,
15th December, 1887.

The facts of the case may be explained to Mr. Smith's solicitors. The Department has no desire whatever to disregard the decree of the Court of Equity, which so far as the present contention is concerned was to the effect that he was entitled to a grant of portion 56 of 192 acres, but it is now found that the portion as originally surveyed was long prior to his claim having arisen subdivided to satisfy a mineral conditional purchase. This purchase having been subsequently disallowed, the area representing the original portion 56 was re-surveyed, with the result that it was found to contain 198½ acres, and it is now reasonably asked that the excess of area should be paid for.—C.O., 20/12/87.

Inform.—T.G., 23/12/87. Register alienation and send to Correspondence Branch.—R.H.D., 23/12/87. Correspondence Branch. Laurence and Rich informed.—H.L.T., 5/1/88. To await report of payment.—E.C.M., 6/1/88.

No. 127.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Messrs. Laurence and Rich.

Gentlemen,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 5 January, 1888.

With reference to your letter of the 1st ultimo on behalf of the Honorable John Smith, relative to the measurements of portion 56, in the parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham, I am directed by the Minister for Lands to inform you that the Department have no desire whatever to disregard the decree of the Court of Equity, which, so far as the present contention is concerned, was to the effect that Mr. Smith was entitled to a grant of portion 56 of 192 acres, but it is now found that the portion as originally surveyed was, long prior to his claim having arisen, subdivided to satisfy a mineral conditional purchase. This purchase having subsequently been disallowed, the area representing the original portion 56 was re-surveyed with the result that it was found to contain 198½ acres, and it is now reasonably asked that the excess of area should be paid for.

I have, &c.,

F. H. WILSON

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 128.

The Hon. J. Smith, Esq., M.L.C., to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Union Club, 24 March, 1888.

I beg to ask if the deeds of grant are being prepared for the five portions of land in the parish of Molong, a decree for which was obtained in the Court of Equity over two years ago.

I have, &c.,

JNO. SMITH.

Mr. M'Kern.—Are all other deeds, except for portion No. 56, prepared yet.—21/3/88. Mr. Farnsworth.—F.M'K., 28/3/88.

The deeds for portions Nos. 59 and 60 were, on the 11th November last, forwarded to the Registrar-General for delivery; that for portion No. 56 is awaiting payment for increased area (6 acres 1 rood), and those for portions 21 and 27 have not been prepared, action as to re-survey being necessary, *vide* memo. on covering paper of 87-2,482 Aln.—W.F., 28/3/88.

Mr. Marr.—F.M'K., 28/3/88. Extra area credited, 9/8/88. Now for preparation of deeds.—C.E.M., 10/8/88. Mr. M'Kern.

No. 129.

Office Memorandum.

Portions 21 and 27, parish of Molong, after auction selections by the Honorable John Smith.

PORTIONS 21 and 27 were surveyed by Mr. Surveyor Gordon in 1858.

The survey of No. 21, according to parish map and plan, stands intact, though there is evidence on the latter that a portion of 20 acres was excised in favour of a mineral lease application by J. M'Donald & Co. In view of the decision of the Equity Court of the 16th December, 1885, in favour of the Honorable John Smith, as regards his after auction selection of the portion on the 5th of August, 1875, it is presumed that the survey would stand as originally made, representing the area upon which purchase money was paid.

Part of portion 27 has been appropriated in connection with the extension of the railway line from Orange to Molong, an area of 5 acres 1 rood 19 perches being absorbed for this purpose.

On the assumption that the portion was unalienated, the marking of the survey as far as it remained was obliterated by Mr. Surveyor W. F. Busby, *vide* Mis. 85-6,870.

Under the circumstances, it is submitted that re-survey of portion 21 should be made, and that the marking of No. 27 be re-established, the area to be calculated as exclusive of the part required for railway purposes, refund of deposit on difference to be considered after survey.

The Acting Surveyor-General.

R.M., 5/4/88.
Botl

Both portions 21 and 27 are surrounded by lands alienated to the same person, and, therefore, further survey is not required. The effacement of marking of portion 27 consisted merely in removing the broad-arrow mark from the trees. The area of portion 27 to be granted should be exclusive of the railway.—E.T., 6/4/88.

The mineral lease was cancelled on 11th September, 1876.—R.M., 6/4/88.

Under the above decision that further marking is unnecessary, there would appear to be no reason why action in regard to deeds of these portions should not be proceeded with after replying to the enclosed letter.—R.M., 7/4/88. Mr. De Low.

Mr. Smith has informed me personally that he will pay the £6, and accept the deeds as proposed to be issued by the Department. Re-submit end of month.—C.O., 12/5/88. To await report of payment.—E.M., 15/5/88. Mr. M'Kera.—C.E.M., 20/8/88.

No. 130.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Orange, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Land Board Office, Orange, 7 May, 1888.

I have to request that you will inform me what action has been taken upon an application to purchase by James Parslow as an after auction selection a portion of land in parish of Molong, No. 6, of 108 acres, made on 28th September, 1877. The same land has recently been applied for by another person as a conditional purchase, and he alleges that Parslow's application was refused.

I have, &c.,

C. E. FINCH,
Chairman.
(Per E.W.S.)

Portion 6, of 108 acres, parish of Molong, offered at auction on 30th November, 1858, at Molong, and not bid for.

No. 131.

Memo. from Mr. District-Surveyor Connolly, Orange, to The Surveyor-General.

Portion 6, 108 acres, parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham, alleged to have been purchased as after auction selection by James Parslow, No. 88-17.

THE certified copy of M 10-1,325, signed by G. G. Turri, 15th February, 1888, forwarded to this office in lieu of original plan, shows portion 6, 108 acres, parish Molong, as unsold.

The Crown Lands Agent at Molong gave evidence before Local Land Board on 1st instant that this land was purchased by James Parslow, as an after auction selection, on 28th September, 1877, and produced receipts for purchase-money and deed fees. It is requested that copy of M 10-1,325 be compared with original and returned as early as possible.

I have, &c.,

T. M. CONNOLLY,
Acting District Surveyor.

Specially urgent. Certified copy of M 10-1,325 herewith under separate cover. Mr. M'Lean, —Please have this matter carefully investigated at once. It is another question similar apparently to that just dealt with, on the same plan, in which an after auction selection has been allowed to J. Smith.—C.J.S., 10/5/88.

Alienation Branch,—Is there any record of lot 3 of sale at Molong on the 30th November, 1858, having been taken up as an after auction selection, by James Parslow, on the 28th September, 1877? If so, the application is required.—R.M., 12/5/88.

The land was taken up as an after auction selection on the 28th September, 1877. Sale was cancelled, and a refund voucher issued on the 16th July, 1878, and action is now being taken on Aln. 88-2,239.—C.E.M., 14/5/88. Mr. M'Lean.

The certified tracing of M 10-1,325 R., forwarded by the District Surveyor, has been compared with the original, and the information shown thereon is apparently identical. There is no note on the original that portion 6 of 108 acres had been applied for as an after auction selection, nor does the fact that such sale was subsequently cancelled appear. These are undoubtedly omissions that should not have occurred. The application (Aln. 77-8,033) by Joseph Parslow, for portion 6, made at Molong on the 28th September, 1877, was received in the Head Office, on the 1st October following. The sale was subsequently cancelled, as would appear from a note on the face of this paper, but the authority on which such action was taken cannot be found. It is clear from the plan and papers that the application was open to two objections—1st, the land had previously (in 1872) been withdrawn from after auction selection; 2nd, there was some reason for believing that the portion was covered by a mineral lease application. By letter to the Department, dated 18th April, 1879 (Aln. 79-2,857), Parslow definitely declined to accept refund of the purchase money. Inquiry made on the 14th instant shows that it is still in the Treasury. As action is being taken by the Auction Branch in connection with a letter (Aln. 88-2,239) from the Chairman of the Local Land Board on the subject, with a view to a decision either for or against Parslow's claim, this paper might perhaps be returned to the District Surveyor for his information, together with the certified tracing of the plan.—R.M., 16/5/88. The Chief Draftsman.

Memorandum sent to District Surveyor, stating facts of the case, and returning certified tracing M 10.—R.M., 16/5/88.

I understand that this case is already under investigation. The particulars are as pointed out by Mr. M'Lean over-leaf. It is a remarkable coincidence that this portion is shown on the same plan and has been dealt with in a similar manner to the two portions which formed the subject of an Equity suit recently between the Government and Mr. Smith, of Molong. In view of the ruling of the Chief Justice in Smith's case—that the fact of the Land Agent receiving the purchase money and deed fee and giving a receipt constituted a contract to sell—it may be held desirable to complete the sale to Parslow, seeing also that his money has not yet been refunded.—C.J.S., 16/5/88. The Under Secretary.

Special,—

Plan,
Appendix I.

C.P. 88-17,
5th April;
J. Powley.

Papers have been
applied for both
by District
Surveyor,
24/4/88, and
Chairman,
1/5/88.

Special,—In face of the Equity decree in the case quoted above, it would be useless to contest this. The application may perhaps be treated in Parslow's favour in the same manner as Smith's, and the Chairman informed, so that the conditional purchase, 88-17, J. Powley, can be disallowed.—R.H.D., 4/6/88.

Submitted.—C.O., 6/6/88. Approved—T.G., 7/6/88.

Inform Board and District Surveyor of intention to issue grant in Joseph Parslow's favour for portion 6 of 108 acres, parish of West Molong. Then inform Treasury that the refund of £108 and £1 deed fee in favour of Parslow, authorized by Lands, printed letter No. 77-8,033 Aln., of 20th July, 1878, should not now be made. Request return of the voucher.—R.H.D., 7/6/88.

Chairman, District Surveyor, and Treasury informed, 9/6/88.

No. 132.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Orange.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 9 June, 1888.

Referring to your letter of the 7th ultimo, respecting portion No. 6 of 101 acres, in the parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham, which was on the 28th September, 1877, applied for by Joseph Parslow as an after auction selection, I have the honor to inform you that the Secretary for Lands has decided to issue the deed of grant in favour of Joseph Parslow for the land in question, and that the application made by J. Powley for the same land must be disallowed.

C.P. 88-17;
J. Powley.

I have, &c.,

STEPHEN FREEMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 133.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The District Surveyor, Orange.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 9 June, 1888.

Referring to your memorandum of the 9th ultimo, No. 88-17, respecting portion 6 of 108 acres, in the parish of Molong, which was on the 28th September, 1877, applied for by Joseph Parslow as an after auction selection, I have the honor to inform you that the Secretary for Lands has decided to issue a deed of grant in favour of Joseph Parslow for the land in question.

I have, &c.,

STEPHEN FREEMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 134.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 9 June, 1888.

Referring to portion No. 6 of 108 acres, in the parish of Molong, county of Ashburnham, which was on the 28th September, 1877, applied for by Joseph Parslow as an after auction selection, I have the honor to inform you that the Secretary for Lands has approved of a deed of grant being issued in favour of Joseph Parslow for the land in question, and to request that you will be good enough to cancel the authority conveyed in printed letter of 20th July, 1878, to refund the sum of £109 to Mr. Parslow.

I have, &c.,

STEPHEN FREEMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

[Nine Plans.]

TRACING

— OF —

PORTION OF PLAN CAT. N^o M10 1325

PARISH OF MOLONG

COUNTY OF ASHBURNHAM

Nos 59 & 60 Noted JS 24987
Description Prepared J.C. 2654/87
Diagram Prepared 4 10 87

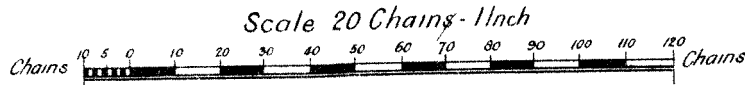


PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHED AT THE GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE
SYDNEY N.W. SOUTH WALES

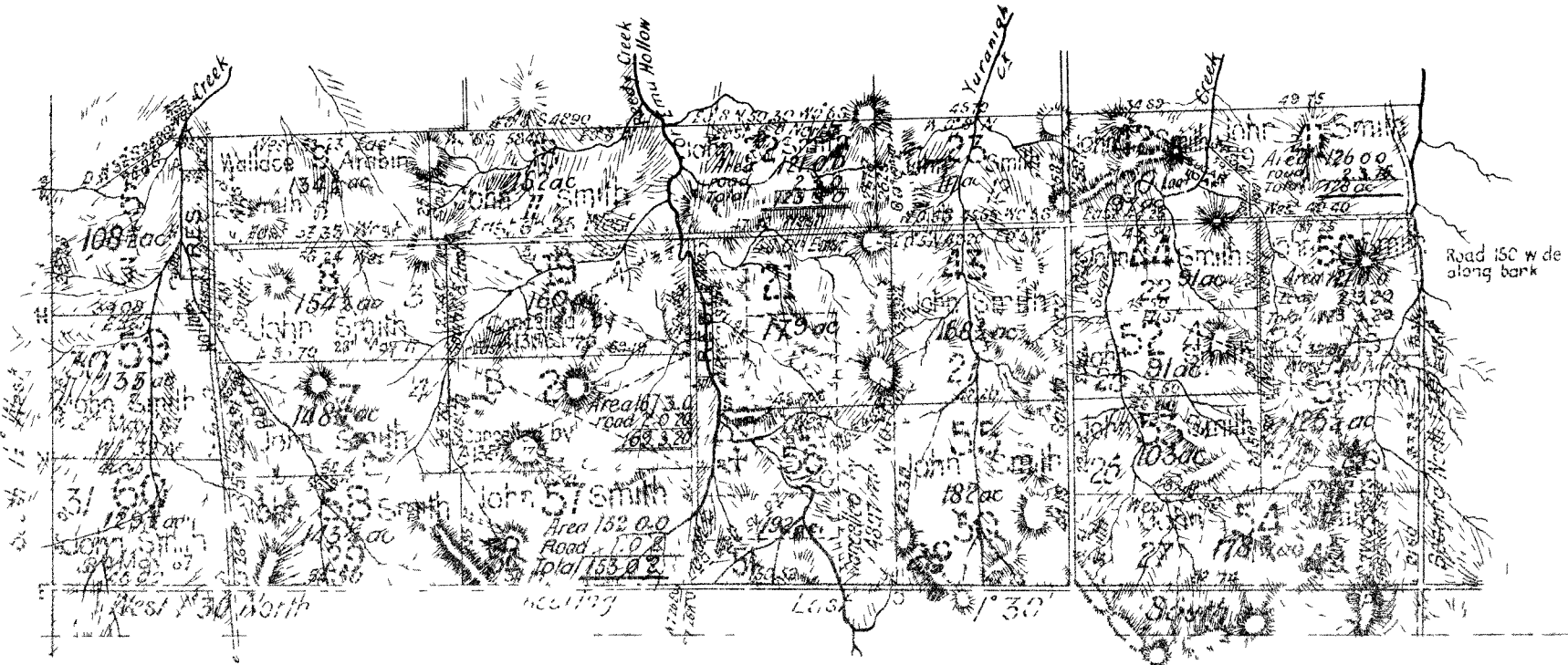
Sale at Molong on the 30th Nov^r 1858
Country Lots 1 to 31
Portions 4 to 11, 58 to 60 } not bid for

Sale at Molong on the 7th April 1865
Country Lots A to H
Portions 19 to 22, 25, 26, 56, 57
Vide 69/1102 Lots D E F Portions 22, 25, 26 sold
Remaining lots not bid for
Vide A/n 72/15513 Lots C and G Per-21 and 56 withdrawn from selection
87/2482 Lot 30 Per 59 selected by John Smith
" " " 31 " 60 " " " "

Vide A/n 72/15513 Lots 3, 30, 31 withdrawn from selection
Vide memo on 69/6273
Portions 19 to 22, 25, 26, 56, 57 are to be withheld from sale
until applied for when the question of width of road
will be referred for decision to SLPW

Ports 59, 60 CP 865 of 14th January by John Woolbank Jun^r Section 26
disallowed by Local L.B. vide memo with S.G.O. 58 5419

High Dividing Ridge



REFERENCE TO CORNERS

| Lot | Corner | Bearing | Distance | Remarks |
|--------|--------|---------|----------|---------|
| Por 6 | 1 | N 1/2 E | 116 | 0.1 |
| | 2 | N 1/2 E | 180 | 1.05 |
| | 3 | N 1/2 E | 270 | 1.26 |
| | 4 | N 1/2 E | 177.5 | 0 |
| | 5 | N 1/2 E | 81.0 | 0.66 |
| Por 21 | 1 | N 1/2 E | 270 | 1 |
| | 2 | N 1/2 E | 181.36 | 37 |
| | 3 | N 1/2 E | 170 | 0.32 |
| | 4 | N 1/2 E | 295 | 0.16 |
| | 5 | N 1/2 E | 270 | 1 |
| Por 36 | 1 | N 1/2 E | 270 | 1 |
| | 2 | N 1/2 E | 181.36 | 37 |
| | 3 | N 1/2 E | 170 | 0.32 |
| | 4 | N 1/2 E | 295 | 0.16 |
| | 5 | N 1/2 E | 270 | 1 |

CP 71200 void wide 80 4304 M²

NOTES

Lines Red on Original shown thus
Writing and Figures Red on Original shown upright thus 20 20 75
" " Blue " Sloping H 1/2 54 32.00

Accompanying Letters & Descriptions
of the 8th June 1858
Signed L.B. 27 187
A. S. C. M. G.

(S10 326)

6/2/1862

Scale of 1000

APPENDIX B
Enclosure to N^o 59.

Police Dis^t Molong
79.14102 Misc

TRACING

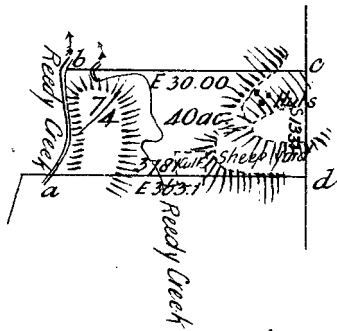
Showing portion $\frac{1}{4}$ in the
Parish of Molong

County of Ashburnham

Scale: 20 Chains to an Inch

Applied for by Denis Clancy under the
13th Clause of the C.L.A. Act of 1861

C.P. N^o 77.290



| Reference to Corners | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------|------------------------|
| Cor. | Bearing | From | Links | N ^o on tree |
| a | N 75° 30' W | Box Sap ^d | 33 | 7.4 |
| b | S 37° 40' E | Gum | 8 | 6.7 4 |
| c | S 2° 30' W | Box | 105 | 6.7 4 |
| d | S 28° 50' W | Box | 66 | 7.8 4 |

Date of Survey 11th & 12th Feb^y 1874
Value of Improvements £ 30
(Signed) J. M. Tarves
Licensed Surveyor

(Sig 325)

Traced by J. H. Webber. Ex^d MS 3.12.88

APPENDIX C.

Cat N^o A807. 1770 Enclosure to N^o 59

74 4443 A1^o

Molong

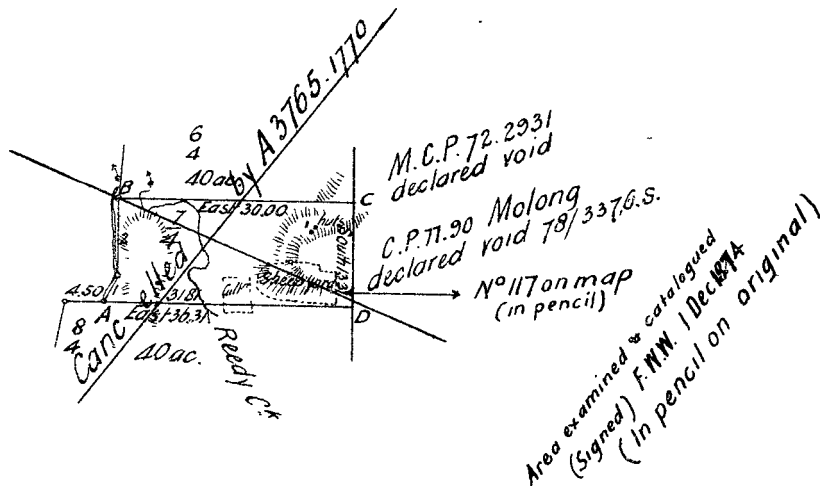
PLAN
of portion number 7₄
on Reedy Creek
COUNTY OF ASHBURNHAM

Applied for under the 19th clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861 by
Rees Stevens & Co

Cancels portion 56 on
M10. 1325 roll

Scale: 20 Chains to 1 Inch

Plan accepted
(Signed) THL 4 Dec 74



Note. When this M.C.P. by Rees Stevens & Co is cancelled it is suggested that this survey should not be used for alienation purposes as there is some doubt as to its position with regard to measurements on M10. 1325 roll. See A.

(Note written in pencil on original)

| Reference to Corners | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------|-----|------------------------|
| Cor | Bear ^g | From | Lks | N ^o on tree |
| A | N 75° 30' W | Box sap | 33 | 7 ₄ |
| B | S 37° 40' E | Gum | 8 | 6.7 ↑ 4 |
| C | S 2° 30' W | Box | 105 | 6.7 ↑ 4 |
| D | S 28° 50' W | Box | 56 | 7.2 ↑ 4 |

| Reference to Traverse | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Line | Bear ^g | Dist ^o |
| 1 | N 30° 58' E | 3.87 |
| 2 | N 1° 6' W | 10.00 |

Marked in accordance with regulations
Instrument used in survey Theodolite

Date of Survey 11th 12th Feb^y 1874

Value of Improvements £ 30

Situated in the Gamboola Run, Wellington district

Transmitted to the Surveyor General with my letter
of the 29th February N^o 74/58

(Signed) J. M. Tarves (Sig 325)
Licensed Surveyor

Traced by J.H. Yepper
K^o 115 12.88

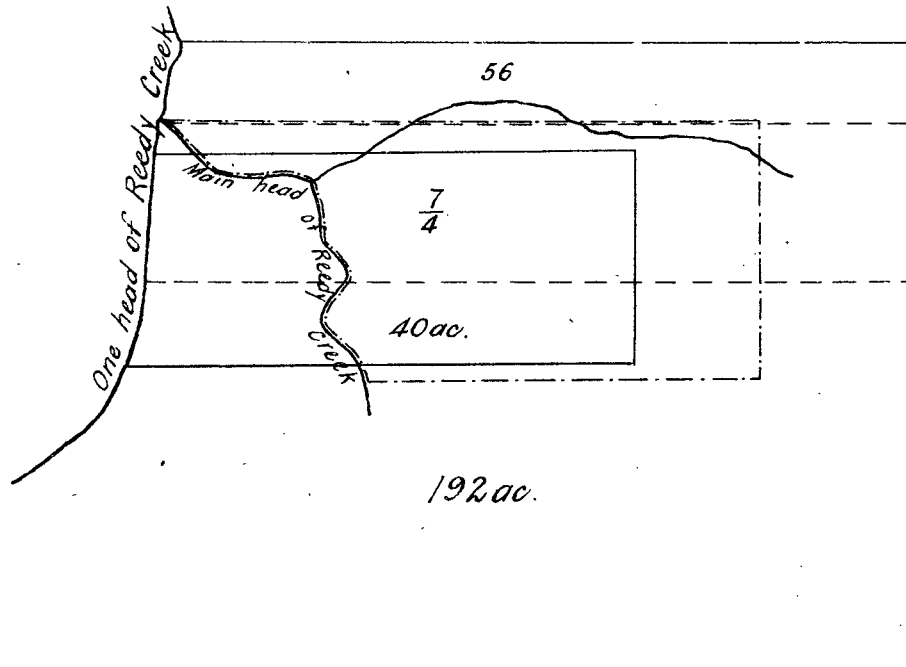
APPENDIX D.

TRACING

sent in by M^r Carroll.

agent for Clancy

Enclosure to 61.



NOTES

Land applied for by Clancy as per green line
on Original - - - - - shewn thus

Description of land as interpreted by Surveyor and
as per Red line on Original shewn thus

Black full line shews portion referred to
as 117 in application.

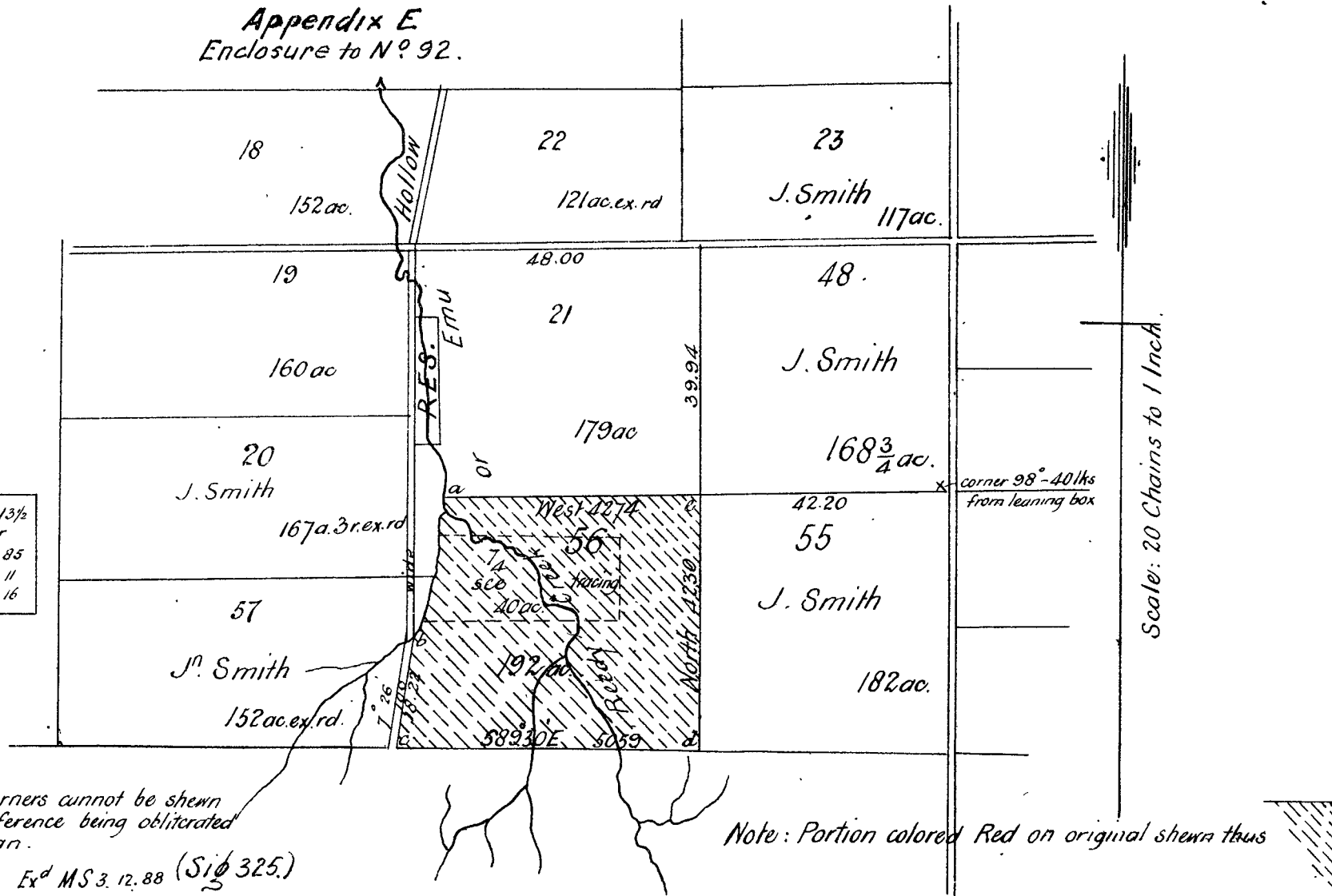
Ex d (Sid 325)

M.S.
3.12.88

Portion 56. Parish of Molong, County of Ashburnham.

*Appendix E
Enclosure to N^o 92.*

| Corners | | | |
|---------|---------|--------------------|-----|
| a | 7° 50' | Y ^l Box | 13½ |
| b | | Yellow Box at cor | |
| c | 71° 30' | Box | 85 |
| d | 358° 0' | " | 11 |
| e | 295° 0' | " | 16 |



*The corners cannot be shewn
the reference being obliterated
on plan.*

Traced by J. H. Webber Ex^d MS 3. 12. 88 (Sig 325.)

APPENDIX F
Enclosure to N^o 92.

Molong

TRACING

Showing Portion $\frac{1}{4}$

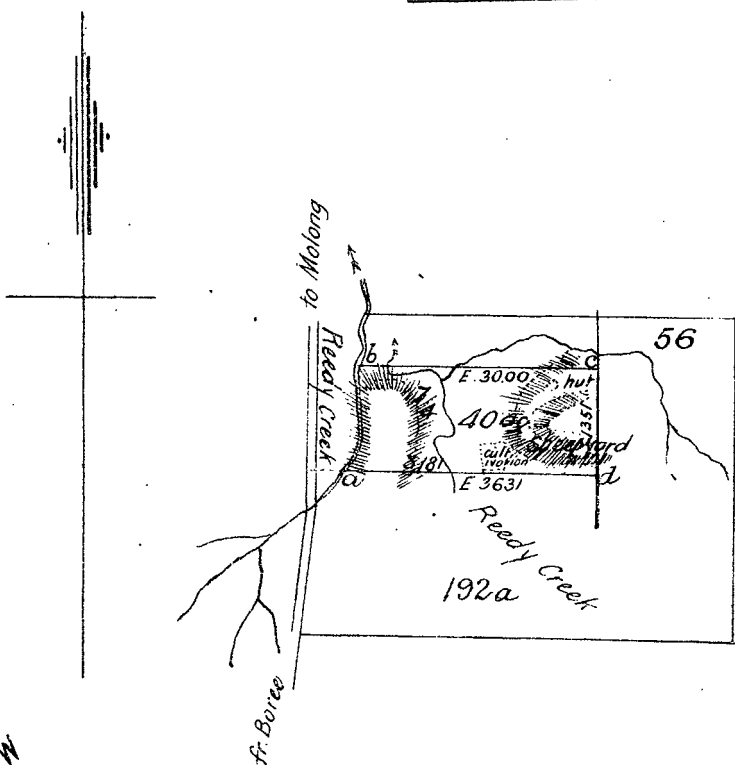
Parish of Molong

County of Ashburnham

Applied for under the Conditional Purchase clause

by Denis Clancy

Scale: 20 Chains to an Inch.



(Initd) L.A.W
11 Aug 79

Date of Survey 11th & 12th of February 1874

(Signed) J. M. Tarves
Licensed Surveyor

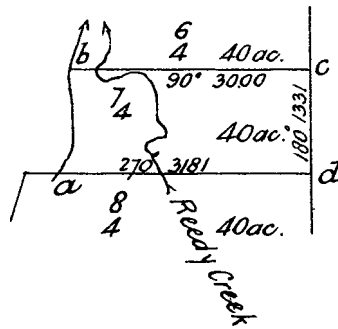
(S^g 325)

Traced by J. H. Webber
Ex^d M.S. 3.12.88

APPENDIX G.
Enclosure to N^o 92.

Portion $\frac{7}{4}$
Parish of Molong
County of Ashburnham

Scale: 20 Chains = 1 Inch



No plans have apparently been
received of Pors. $\frac{6}{4}$ and $\frac{8}{4}$

| Reference to Corners | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|---------|-----|-------------------------|
| Cor | Bearing | From | Lks | N ^o on trees |
| a | N 75° 30' W | Box Sap | 33 | $\frac{7}{4}$ |
| b | S 37° 40' E | Gum | 8 | $\frac{6.7}{4}$ |
| c | S 2° 30' W | Box | 105 | $\frac{6.7}{4}$ |
| d | S 28° 50' W | Box | 66 | $\frac{7.8}{4}$ |

(Sig 325)

Traced by J. H. Webber

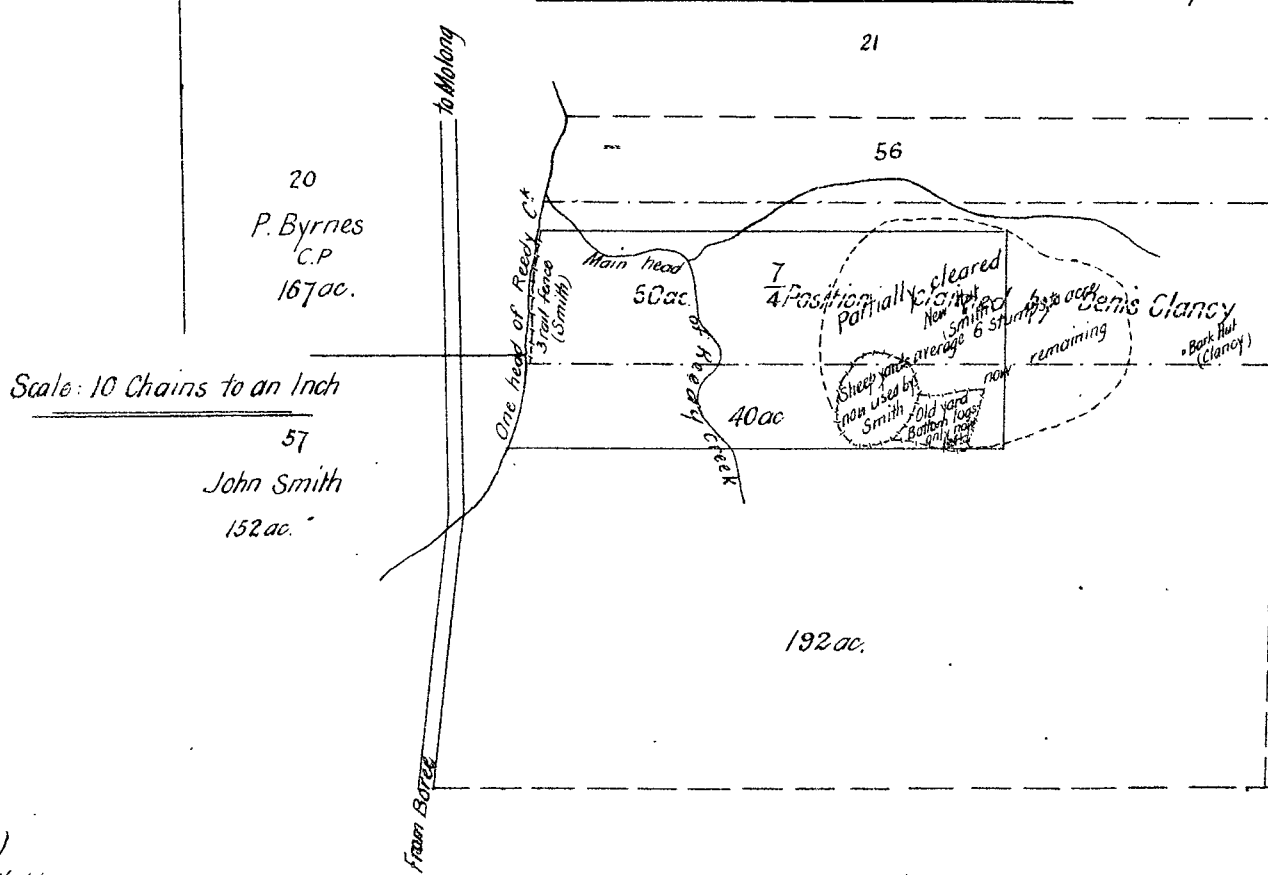
Ex^d MS 3 12 88

SKETCH

Showing position of improvements about Portion $\frac{7}{4}$

Parish of Molong. C^o of Ashburnham

To illustrate dispute between Mess^{rs} John Smith and Clancy



APPENDIX H.

Enclosure to No 92.

(Sig 325)
Traced by J.H. Webber
Ex^d M.S. 3 12. 88


APPENDIX I.
Enclosure to N^o 130.

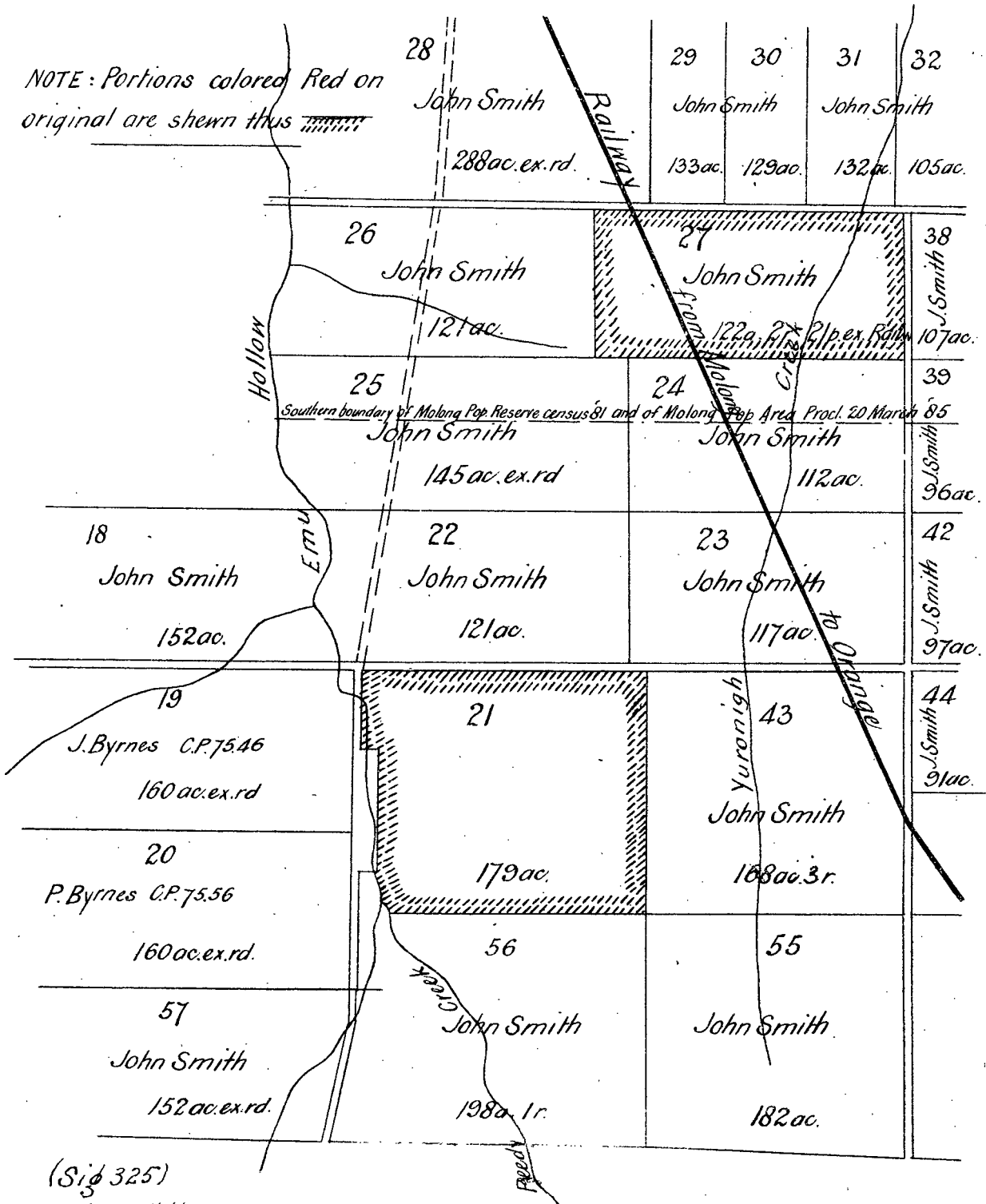
Sketch

to accompany A1ⁿ 88-1486

Part of PARISH OF MOLONG, COUNTY OF ASHBURNHAM

Scale: 20 Ch. to 1 Inch

NOTE: Portions colored Red on original are shewn thus 



(Sig 325)

Traced by J.H. Webber
Ex. M.S. 3. 12. 88

PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHED AT THE GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE,
SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.
(RETURN SHOWING ARREARS OF RENTS ON.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 13 November, 1888.

ARREARS OF RENTS.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|----------|----|----|
| Six months' rent due as arrears, end of 1885 | 250,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Less paid in 1884 on account of six months, 1885 | 134,077 | 0 | 0 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Due end of 1885 on account of arrears of rent | 115,923 | 0 | 0 |
| Arrears for 1886... .. | £500,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Received in 1885 on account of 1886 | 140,940 | 0 | 0 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| | 359,060 | 0 | 0 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Arrears due at end of 1886 | 474,983 | 0 | 0 |
| Amount estimated to be returnable on account of appeals under section 100 | 102,000 | 0 | 0 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| | 372,983 | 0 | 0 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Arrears for 1887 | £500,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Received in 1886 for 1887 | 132,000 | 0 | 0 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| | 368,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Amount returnable | 68,000 | 0 | 0 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| | 300,000 | 0 | 0 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Due at end of 1887 | £672,983 | 0 | 0 |

It will of course be understood by the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer that the above statement is only an approximation, and that it was hurriedly prepared some two months ago for a purpose unconnected with the Financial Statement.

W. NEWCOMBE,

31/10/88.

CHARLES OLIVER,

31/10/88.

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

RENT ON MARRA RUN.

(RETURN RELATING TO THE FIXING OF.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 12 December, 1888.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 23rd June, 1887, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“Copies of all documents referring to the fixing of Rent on the Run known as Marra, situated near the River Darling, Bourke District.”

(*Mr. Waddell.*)

Marra Pastoral Holding, Leasehold Area No. 103,
Western Division.

SCHEDULE.

| NO. | PAGE. |
|---|-------|
| 1. Office Memoranda. 29 January, 1886 | 1 |
| 2. Mr. A. W. Paxton to the Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, with minutes. 1 September, 1886 | 2 |
| 3. <i>Gazette</i> Notice of Amended Regulation, No. 134, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884. 8 December, 1886 | 2 |
| 4. Telegram from Mr. A. W. Paxton to the Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke. 20 December, 1886 | 3 |
| 5. Caption to Depositions of Witnesses, with enclosures. 20 December, 1886 | 3 |
| 6. Mr. A. W. Paxton to the Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, with minutes. 16 January, 1887 | 7 |
| 7. Appraisalment by Local Land Board of Rent to be paid for next period of five years of Pastoral Lease, with minutes. 9 February, 1887 | 8 |
| 8. Memorandum by the Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, with enclosures (9). 10 February, 1887 | 8 |
| 9. Mr. A. W. Paxton to the Secretary for Lands, with enclosure and minutes. 17 February, 1887 | 12 |
| 10. The same to the same, with minutes | 13 |
| 11. The same to the Under Secretary for Lands. 21 February, 1887 | 13 |
| 12. <i>Government Gazette</i> Notice. 30 April, 1887 | 13 |
| 13. Mr. A. W. Paxton to the Under Secretary for Lands, with enclosure and minutes. 25 May, 1887 | 14 |
| 14. Office Memorandum | 15 |
| 15. The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. A. W. Paxton. 27 June, 1887 | 15 |
| 16. Appendix | 16 |

No. 1.

Office Memoranda.

Marra Holding, Western Division—Leasehold area No. 103, gazetted 11th July, 1885—Revision of areas after division at Head Office.

Total estimated area, 231,400 acres; alienated land (*a*), 1,460 acres; reserves from lease (*b*), nil.

Total unavailable land, 1,460 acres. Total area available, 229,940 acres.

J. T. KEATING, 29th January, 1886.

A.L.B., 17th December, 1885.

302—A

Final

[830 copies—Approximate cost of Printing (labour and material), £24 4s. 1d.

Final revision at District Survey Office, prior to appraisalment.

Total area available (by Head Office estimate), 229,940 acres. Withdrawals.—Conditional purchases, (c), nil; conditional leases (d), nil; homestead leases (e), nil; converted pre-leases, nil; reserves from lease, nil; auction leases (f), nil. Total unavailable land, nil. Total area available for appraisalment, 229,940 acres.

EDWARD MacFARLANE,
District Surveyor.

12th August, 1886.

- (a) Includes only such portions as are shown upon the tracing which has been charted up from the maps in the S.G.O.
 (b) Includes all reserves from lease or lands exempt from lease under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, as shown on tracing.
 (c) Conditional purchase under Crown Lands Act of 1884, which have been confirmed by the Board.
 (d) Conditional leases under Crown Lands Act of 1884, which have been confirmed by the Board.
 (e) Includes only such homestead leases as have been approved.
 (f) Auction leases converted into annual leases under 9th sub-section of 85th clause of the Crown Lands Act of 1884.

[Enclosure.]

Marra Holding, No. 103, Western Division, leasehold area.

List of improvement purchase applications within the above Holding, which had not been finally completed (*i.e.*, purchase money paid) at date of revision of areas for appraisalment at Head Office, and which have not therefore been treated as alienated land.

| I.P. No. | Land District. | Area. | Parish. | No. of Portion (if surveyed). | Remarks. |
|----------|----------------|--------|-------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | Acres. | | | |
| 83-20 | Bourke | 320 | Towri | 1 | |
| 83-21 | „ | 200 | „ | 4 | |
| 83-22 | „ | 200 | „ | 3 | |
| | | | | | J.T.K., 29th January, 1886. |
| 84-303 | Bourke | 40 | Warook..... | 7 | |
| | | | | | J.J.C., 15th August, 1886. |

No. 2.

Mr. A. W. Paxton to The Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

Sir,

Marra Station, 1 September, 1886.

I find on my return to Marra, that the appraiser, Mr. Fraser, has made his inspection, and that he informed Mr. Mark, our manager, that the Court was to be held at Louth, on the 20th ultimo, but I am in hopes that our run was postponed. I should feel much obliged if you would inform me when it is likely our case will be called, and whether it would be possible for you to hear both Marra and Talyealye on the same day, thereby saving me a long journey.

I remain, &c.,

A. W. PAXTON.

Inform, by telegram, to Tilpa, that Marra and Talyealye Runs will be appraised on same day at Bourke, about November.—G.C.T., 4/9/86. Telegram sent, 6/9/86.

No. 3.

Gazette Notice.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 8 December, 1886.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of Regulations Nos. 33 and 134, under the "Crown Lands Act of 1884," published on the 2nd January, 1885, being amended as hereunder.

HENRY COPELAND.

AMENDMENT OF REGULATION 134.

134. Every application under section 100 of the Act by the holder of a pastoral or homestead lease or occupation license for a reduction of the minimum rent or license fee fixed in respect thereof shall be made in the form 51 and tendered to the Local Land Board within sixty days of the notification in the *Government Gazette* of the determination of such rent or license fee, and all inquiries into such applications shall be conducted by the Board in the manner prescribed in Regulation 21.

Every such application shall be accompanied by a receipt from the Colonial Treasurer, showing that the rent or license fee for the current year, with any arrears in respect of such lease or license, shall have first been duly paid.

And if any reduction of rent or license fee be allowed such reduction shall be notified in the *Gazette*, and should such rent or license fee thereafter be restored to the minimum rate notification thereof shall be similarly given.

No. 4.

Telegram from Mr. A. W. Paxton to The Chairman of the Local Land Board,
Bourke.

LEAVING steamer here, and taking coach. Would feel obliged by your delaying case till coach arrives.

Louth Station.
A. W. PAXTON.

Received at Bourke Telegraph Office on 20th December, 1886.—F.G.R.

No. 5.

Caption to Depositions of Witnesses.

[Crown Lands Act of 1884—Part II, section 14, sub-section 1.]

Leasehold area No. 103, Western Division, Marra Holding.

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

The examination of Colin Campbell Fraser, of Bourke, in the Colony of New South Wales, Inspector of Runs, and Alfred William Paxton, of Kallara, in the said Colony.

WHEREAS it hath been necessary to appraise the fair annual value of leasehold area No. 103, Western Division, Marra Holding, and it hath been found necessary to investigate the said matter on oath, the depositions of the several witnesses are appended hereto.

G. C. TOMPSON.

[Enclosures.]

THIS deponent, *Colin Campbell Fraser*, of Bourke, in the Colony of New South Wales, Inspector of Runs (Bourke District), being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows:—Between the 22nd July and 1st August, I inspected the leasehold area of Marra Holding; report produced, marked Exhibit "A," is mine; said area tracing, marked "B," shows the area in question; the area is watered on the frontage by the Darling River and a billabong some miles out from the river; the Darling is a permanent stream; the billabong is not; besides the natural water there are four wells and eight tanks; total number of cubic yards in tanks, 68,175; there are 47 miles 6-wire boundary fences on the area, and 76 miles of division fencing, 5 wires; there are nine sheep paddocks, and part of four through which the dividing line runs; also four horse paddocks; the following is a list of wells:—

- No. 19. Well, 5½ feet by 2½ feet; 190 feet deep; unlimited supply; good stock water.
- No. 20. Well, 5½ feet by 2½ feet; 280 feet deep; unlimited supply fresh water.
- No. 23. Well, 5½ feet by 2½ feet; 70 feet deep; fresh water; 2,000 gallons in twenty-four hours.
- No. 24. Well, 4 feet by 2 feet; 113 feet deep; fresh water; 1,000 gallons in twenty-four hours.

The following is a list of tanks:—

- No. 15. Tank, 18,275 yards; 13 feet deep; 13 feet water.
- No. 16. Tank, 20,700 yards; 15 feet deep; 12 feet water; silted 3 feet.
- No. 17. Tank, 7,000 yards; 12 feet deep; 9 feet water; silted 3 feet.
- No. 17. Tank, 1,700 yards; 10 feet deep; 2 feet water; silted to top nearly.
- No. 18. Tank, 4,000 yards; 12 feet deep; 9 feet water; silted 3 feet.
- No. 21. Tank, 8,000 yards; 12 feet deep; 12 feet water.
- No. 22. Tank, 7,000 yards; 8 feet deep; 8 feet water.
- No. 23. Tank, 1,500 yards; 8 feet deep; 8 feet water.

The nature of the soil on frontage is grey clay plains, red soil on tablelands and ridges; the rock formation is sandstone and ironstone; the area on the whole is thinly timbered; the timbers are box, gum, belar, mulga, whitewood, and ironwood; a good portion of the area is hilly and rocky; it is nearly all scrub country, with the exception of the run Walker's No. 22 Camp, and the north-eastern portion of Mount M'Pherson A Block. The scrubs are mulga, turpentine, rosewood, hop, and needle brush; the grasses are mulga, silver grass on the level country, barley grass, blue, cotton, and salt bush flats; the herbage is carrot spinnacle, and other kinds of edible herbs; the grazing capabilities are—on Walker's No. 22 Camp Back, Mount M'Pherson, and Mount M'Pherson "A" runs, I estimate the grazing capabilities in the natural state at equal to 6,000 sheep per annum; on Walker's No. 22 Camp, frontage block, 4 acres per sheep, natural or improved; on the whole of the leasehold area I estimate 4½ acres to each sheep; the rainfall for 1884 was 9 inches 31 points; for 1885, 17 inches 78 points; for 1886, 6 inches to 31st July; since then there has been abundant rainfall all over the district; taking the frontage country, with the assistance of the Marra Billabong running through it, I estimate the country a distance of 10 miles back from the Darling capable of carrying sheep all the year round in its natural state, and for that distance of 10 miles back I estimate on Walker's Camp, No. 22, 4 acres to a sheep, and on Walker's Camp, No. 22 Back, 5 acres to a sheep, which will make an average (allowing for the stock road passing down the frontage) 4½ acres to a sheep for the distance of 10 miles back; starting from a point 10 miles back from the river, the back country in its natural state is waterless; if water were conserved on this area they would carry on Mount M'Pherson a sheep to 5 acres; on Mount M'Pherson "A" a sheep to 4½ acres; on Myall Block, No. 5, a sheep to 4½ acres; the country is fully watered, and capable of permanently supplying at the rate of the number of stock mentioned by me; there were rabbiters on the run catching rabbits; the only scrub which is increasing on the area is the turpentine bush, a useless scrub; lots of places, which I am informed were open plain, are now covered with it; it will decrease the grazing capability of the run, unless means are adopted of checking its spread.

Sworn by this deponent, Colin Campbell Fraser, at Bourke, }
this 20th December, 1886, before us,—

COLIN C. FRASER.

G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
E. B. BARTON, Member of Board.

[Exhibit "A."]

Leasehold Area.—Report for Appraisalment of Rent or License Fee.

Office reference number, 103; name of lessee or licensee, Hay, Graves, and Paxton; name of holding, Marra; date of inspection, 22nd, 25th, 26th, 27th, 29th, 30th, and 31st July; division, Western.

Is water supply natural and permanent? Partly natural, but not permanent.

Give the names of rivers, creeks, lakes, or lagoons affording this natural supply? Darling River and billabong.

Is this supply sufficient to keep the land fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.

If not, state for how many months of the year, and for what number of stock the supply is available? One sheep to each 4 acres permanently on Walker's 22 Camp; 2,000 sheep per annum on Walker's 22 Camp, Back Run.

Is water supply artificial? Yes, principally.

Is

Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? Wells and tanks; rain-water.

If from underground sources, state the depth and interior size of the shaft or well; its capacity to water a given number of stock every twenty-four hours; the quality of water, whether pure and wholesome, or of the kind called "stock-water"? 19. Well, 5½ feet by 2½ feet, 190 feet deep, good stock-water, unlimited supply; 20. Well, 5½ feet by 2½ feet, 280 feet deep, fresh water, unlimited supply; 23. Well, 5½ feet by 2½ feet, 70 feet deep, fresh water, 2,000 gallons in twenty-four hours; 24. Well, 4 feet by 2 feet, 113 feet deep, fresh water, 1,000 gallons in twenty-four hours.

If from tanks, state the original depth, the number of cubic yards, and, as near as you can tell, the present water supply; also as to catchments? 15. Tank, 18,275 yards, 13 feet deep, 13 feet water; 16. Tank, 20,700 yards, 15 feet deep, 12 feet water (full); 17. Tank, 7,000 yards, 12 feet deep, 9 feet water (full); 17. Tank, 1,700 yards, 10 feet deep, 2 feet water (full); 18. Tank, 4,000 yards, 12 feet deep, 9 feet water (full); 21. Tank, 8,000 yards, 12 feet deep, 12 feet water; 22. Tank, 7,000 yards, 8 feet deep, 8 feet water; 23. Tank, 1,500 yards, 8 feet deep, 8 feet water. Good catchments.

Is the present artificial supply sufficient to keep the land permanently and fully stocked in ordinary seasons? Yes.

Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial? If so, state particulars? Both; Darling River and billabong, natural; tanks and wells, artificial.

Ascertain where practicable, from station records, the rainfall for the preceding twelve months, two years, or more? 1884, 9 inches 36 points; 1885, 17 inches 78 points; 1886, 6 inches to 31st July.

State whether any extraordinary or special facilities for obtaining or securing water appear to exist on the land? None exist.

What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, limestone, trap, &c.? Grey clayey soil on frontage and plains, red soil on tablelands and ridges, sandstone and ironstone.

What is the character of the country—is it level, hilly, or mountainous; thickly or thinly timbered; rocky, or otherwise? Undulating, hilly and rocky in parts; thinly timbered.

Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyea, brigalow, &c. Indicate its position on tracing? Nearly all "scrub" country; Walker's 22 Camp and north-eastern side of Mount M'Pherson "A" excepted; mulga, turpentine, bloodbush, rosebush, hop, and needlebush, &c.

State the number of stock the land will carry, if the stock is fully supplied with water? One sheep to each 4½ acres.

State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Fattening.

Is the country timbered; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered; and what is the kind or kinds of timber? Indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? Yes, but thinly; box, gum, mulga, belar, whitewood, and ironwood.

What is the description of pasturage; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent and fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Mulga, barley, and silver grass; blue, cotton, and salt bush; crowsfoot, carrots, and numerous kinds of edible herbs.

State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? On Walker's 22 Camp Back, Mount M'Pherson, and Mount M'Pherson "A" runs 6,000 sheep per annum, unimproved, and on Walker's 22 Camp, 4 acres per sheep, natural or improved; on whole of leasehold area, 4½ acres per sheep, improved.

Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c.? Mulga and silver grass; blue, cotton, and salt bush flats; mulga scrub predominates; box and yapunia flats.

I hereby certify that I have inspected the land shown in accompanying tracing, and described as 103 by office reference, and I have also made inquiry concerning its character and capabilities, and I declare that the statements as to facts contained in this report are correct to the best of my knowledge, and that they are given to the best of my judgment as to other particulars.

Gorimpa, 2nd August, 1886.

COLIN C. FRASER,

To the Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

Inspector.

This deponent, *Colin Campbell Fraser*, of Bourke, in the Colony of New South Wales, Inspector of Runs (Bourke District), being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows:—

By Mr. Paxton: I estimate the country can be used in its natural state 10 miles back from the river; I think you could use more than 8 miles back from the river; I saw as much of the country as I could see out of flood waters; I crossed over the billabong in a canoe with Mr. Mark; I could only get on one corner of the frontage of Walker's No. 22, on the top end; the other portion of the block was under water, with the exception of the lower corner; Mr. Marks, the manager, showed me the sand ridges; I inspected the lower portion of this block, which is all high ground; I have made no allowance as to the increase of the turpentine bush; I think the area is fully improved by water and fully improved in every respect; I estimate Mount M'Pherson at 5 acres to a sheep, and Mount M'Pherson "A" at 4½ acres; Mount M'Pherson is rougher country; I think it is possible, after a lengthened residence, to estimate the grazing capability to within a quarter of an acre between different blocks; I think after inspection of the blocks that it is possible to distinguish to a quarter to half an acre between them; I estimate the whole of the country at 4½ acres to a sheep; I do not know what the average rainfall is; I do not know what the average rainfall is at Wilcannia; the rainfall at Bourke is, I believe, about 15 or 16 inches; country always looks better when not fully stocked; I do not know how many sheep were on it when I was inspecting the country; I would call 80 per cent. good lambing; I would call 70 per cent. only fair; I am not aware that you have had a proper season for lambing for years; I have had experience in frontage; the frontage is risky for bogging sheep, especially when the flood is falling; if you could get well water at a reasonable depth, within 80 or 90 feet, it would be safer for the sheep, as there would be no bogging; I knew the river formed itself into a chain of pools last year, and was dry in places for some distances; I believe that in consequence of the flooded state of the country the shearing was not finished until this Christmas, and, consequently, was very injurious to the wool, owing to grass seed, and the sheep don't do as well with the wool on so late; the flood this year has been a nuisance, as it kept up too long; the flood goes right through the resumed area; I know the flood waters have been at back of the leasehold area by seeing the flood mark; I expect it would be there this flood, as it was very high; I have made no allowance for rabbits.

By Board: When I inspected Marra Holding it was all water between the billabong and the river, with the exception of some sand ridges near the southern boundary; I was on that portion of Walker's 22 Camp Block; I went across the billabong with Mr. Marks, the manager, in a canoe, and saw what dry country there was which was on the resumed area; I could not get on to the leasehold area between the billabong and the river; I rode along on the outside of the billabong, and Mr. Marks described the country to me, and showed me landmarks inside the billabong; could see dry sand ridges between the billabong and the river; I made a careful inspection of all the other blocks on the leasehold area; all the other blocks were free from flood waters, and not likely to be flooded, with the exception of portion of Mount M'Pherson "A," and Myall No. 5; all the other portion outside the billabong is dry country; I arrived at my estimate of 4 acres to a sheep on the country between the billabong and the river by comparison with the country on the resumed area, which I was informed was of a similar character; I now hand in a list of the improvements and their values on the purchased land and the Crown lands, marked Exhibit "G," which is correct, according to my estimate, and taken from station books and my estimate of the value of fencing.

By Mr. Paxton: A good deal of thick scrub at the back of Mount M'Pherson; a good deal of turpentine bush increasing at the south of Mount M'Pherson on the flat country; the good scrubs are deteriorating; I should think this year that this flood has done more harm than good, as it kept up so long.

By Board: As a rule floods are a benefit, as they improve the pasturage on the frontage.

COLIN C. FRASER.

Sworn by this deponent, Colin Campbell Fraser, at Bourke, }
this 23th day of December, 1886, before us, — }

G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.

E. B. BARTON, Member of Board.

THIS deponent, *Alfred William Paxton*, of Marra, in the Colony of New South Wales, grazier, being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows:—I am one of the owners of Marra Holding; Exhibit "B" shows the leasehold area in question. I consider the appraiser has considerably over-estimated the grazing capacity; I estimate 6 acres to a sheep on the whole of the leasehold area; I wish to put in an exhibit showing the expenditure and receipts for the past three years on this holding, including Taleale, marked Exhibit "H"; in the year 1882, we shored 58,000 sheep, and lost 10,000, through drought and had 30 per cent. of lambs; in 1883, we shored 67,000 sheep, and had 70 per cent. of lambs; in 1884 we shored 64,000 sheep, and we lost 8,000 through drought, and had 40 per cent. of lambs; in 1885 we shored 83,000 sheep, and had 85 per cent.; this year we shored 90,000, and had 70 per cent. of lambs; after last shearing we attempted to keep a sheep to 4½ acres for three months, although we sent 9,000 away before the lambing was finished; our sheep were almost dying on the frontage paddocks; I am only keeping about 90,000 sheep this year; it is the best year we have had; 90,000 sheep is a little over 5 acres to a sheep; I consider 80,000 sheep would be about a fair thing on an average on the whole holding, including leasehold and resumed areas; I consider the Marra Billabong almost useless, as it runs dry when you want it; I consider the frontage country the worst country; there is a great deal of lignum, roley-poley, and Bathurst burr; I think the flood this year on the Darling did more harm than good, owing to the delay in shearing and prevalence of grass seeds; Stock Road is a very great loss; I have seen as many as 70,000 travelling sheep on the run at the one time; wool deteriorates from 2d. to 3d. per lb. in this country, and the rabbits are increasing very fast; I consider the average rainfall on this run has not exceeded 11 inches; when I was at the Appraisement Court in Wilcannia, I heard Mr. Inspector Langtree give in his evidence that the Kinchega Holding having a large frontage to the Darling, which I consider to be equally good country with ours; he stated that he estimated 7 acres to a sheep.

By Board: I have been through the Kinchega Run; I have never been all over it; I could not arrive at the grazing capability by passing through it; the frontage I saw was similar to Marra frontage; We have the advantage of the cheap railway rates; we got goods up from Sydney last year; the railway is 160 miles from the woolshed, and 140 miles from the station; carriage from the railway to the station is £5 to £6; carriage from station to railway for wool, we only sent it last year, half we paid £6 for, the other £5, averaging £5 10s. per ton; previous to last year we have sent it always by river; the freight was, including insurance, from £8 down to £5 per ton; this year we only paid £2 7s. per ton freight, delivered on the London ships at Port Victor, and insurance about 30s.; that is the lowest freight I have ever known; the average weight of fleece last year, it weighed 3½ lb. scoured and realized from 10d. to 20d. per lb.; only a few bales fetched 20d. sold in September; the average weight about 7½ lb. of greasy wool, prior to last year, and generally averaged 7d. to 8d. in the London market; this year I do not know the average weight; the sheep had nearly eighteen months wool on them; taking the frontage to the Darling, I estimate that 8 miles from the river could be used profitably, but we have one paddock 12 miles, but we have had to make other water on the back of it, as we found it too far from water; the top paddock next the resumed area goes 12 miles back; the Marra Billabong runs as near as possible through the middle of that paddock; one very good hole in that billabong is not permanent, and I have seen it all dry; in this paddock we have a bridge across the billabong, ½ a mile long; it cost about £1,500; in that paddock we have also got a red tank about 7,000 yards; in that paddock we generally run 7,000 sheep for ten months; the middle paddocks at the woolshed, we put nothing in except at shearing time; the paddock at the back of the woolshed paddock, 6,000 to 7,000 sheep for ten months; that paddock is watered by the billabong; there is water in the billabong on an average seven months in the year; in the lower paddock it goes back 8 miles from the river; in that paddock we keep about 4,000 sheep; there is a lot of high country at the back of the woolshed; on the frontage paddocks I estimate 6 acres to a sheep; the five paddocks at the back of the frontage paddocks, the country in them is all the same character; four of those paddocks are watered by two wells and three tanks; on portion 1, purchase of 80 acres, there is a well 250 feet deep; water was struck at 250 feet; rises 150 feet in shaft; unlimited supply, and could water more sheep than the country could carry; well on No. 2, of 80 acres purchased, 190 feet deep; water struck at 190 feet, rises 80 feet in shaft; I think unlimited supply, water more sheep than the country could carry, both pumped up with horse whim; another well on the line dividing the leasehold and resumed areas; cannot say on which area it will be; water struck at 80 feet; 80 feet deep; unlimited supply of brackish water fit for stock; water as many stock as the country could carry; well on improved purchase, 83-20; the former wells are all on purchased land; the two first-named wells the water can be used for domestic purposes; on improved purchase 83-20 a small supply, no good; very good water, but mineral water; north corner at portion 3; 16,000-yard tank, generally run 5,000 to 6,000 sheep in that paddock all the year round; this tank has never been dry since it has been full; tank purchased; in the five paddocks at the back of frontage we generally run from 20,000 to 25,000 sheep, sometimes more. This year I dare say we had 50,000 or 60,000 sheep in them, owing to having been driven out of the frontage country of the leasehold and resumed areas by flood; in those five paddocks, as fully improved by conservation of water and fencing, I estimate 6 acres to a sheep; there is sufficient water conserved to carry at that rate, but all the water improvements, with the exception of the well on improvement purchase 83-20, are purchased, and as the well on improvement purchase 83-20 was not fit to water sheep, owing to the small supply, we did not consider it good enough to purchase; the area held under lease is waterless, except the small supply at improvement purchase 83-20 and the water in the Darling and the billabong, the latter which is not permanent.

To Mr. Fraser: I estimate 6 acres to a sheep; I over-estimated the country when I put 4½ acres per sheep.

Sworn by this deponent, *Alfred William Paxton*, at Bourke, } A. W. PAXTON.
this 28th day of December, 1886, before us,—
G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
E. B. BARTON, Member of Board.

THIS deponent, *Alfred William Paxton*, of Marra, in the Colony of New South Wales, grazier, being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows:—I have already given evidence relative to the appraisement of leasehold area of Marra Holding; I know that at the time Mr. Fraser inspected Marra Holding it was impossible to inspect the country between the billabong and the river on the leasehold area, owing to flood; that flood remained up until about ten days ago; I dare say it could be inspected now; the country between the billabong and the river consists of high ground, large quantities of lignum in the flooded part, roley-poley, and button saltbush, which is useless, as sheep won't eat it, and salt and cotton bush, blue bush, silver grass, spear grass, in fact all sorts of grasses and herbage in a good season; for two months, from the end of August to October, the bridge across the billabong was under water, and that portion of the run was cut off from communication, except by boat; we used to go in a boat from the woolshed on portion 1 on the Darling to portion 1, parish of Towri; on the sand ridge between the billabong and the Darling there were about 1,500 ration sheep kept there during the whole time of the flood, and 600 rams; the ridge is about 5 miles long by about 2 miles wide.

By Mr. Fraser: Sheep won't eat button saltbush if they can get anything else.

Sworn by this deponent, *Alfred William Paxton*, at Bourke, } A. W. PAXTON.
this 29th day of December, 1886, before us,—
G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
E. B. BARTON, Member of Board.

THIS deponent, *Henry Phillip Goldie*, of Buckambe, in the Colony of New South Wales, manager, being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows:—

By Mr. Paxton: I know button saltbush; sheep will only eat it in extreme cases; they won't eat it when they can get anything else.

Sworn by this deponent, *Henry Phillip Goldie*, at Bourke, } H. P. GOLDIE.
this 29th day of December, 1886, before us,—
G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
E. B. BARTON, Member of Board.

THIS deponent, *Colin Campbell Fraser*, of Bourke, in the Colony of New South Wales, Inspector of Runs, Bourke District, being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows:—I have already given evidence relative to the leasehold area of Marra Holding; at the time I inspected the Marra leasehold area, the bridge over the billabong was partly under water and unapproachable; Mr. Marks, the manager of Marra, informed me that it was impossible to see the country any more than he showed me from outside the billabong; he showed me the sand-hills inside the billabong water, and told me that the country was similar to the frontage country on the resumed area, with the exception of the plain near Tilpa, which was more open, and on that information I arrived at the estimate of 4 acres to a sheep; I did not see the woolshed.

Sworn by this deponent, Colin Campbell Fraser, at Bourke, } COLIN C. FRASER.
 this 29th day of December, 1886, before us,—
 G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
 E. B. BARTON, Member of Board.

THIS deponent, *Colin Campbell Fraser*, of Bourke, in the Colony of New South Wales, Inspector of Runs, being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows:—I have already given evidence relative to the leasehold area of Marra Holding; on the 10th and 11th instant I inspected the portion of Walker's 22 Camp Block between the billabong known as Marra Billabong and the Darling River, which, at the time of my previous inspection was inaccessible owing to flood waters; I found extensive beds of high lignum on the northern portion near the billabong, and on the southern portion immediately adjoining the billabong; there is also a bed of lignum running out from the Darling River, above the woolshed, for some miles across to the billabong around sand-hills; the country between those belts of lignum is principally high country; the plains at back of woolshed which I saw before from outside the billabong; on this plain there is silver grass, water grasses, a little Mitchell grass, and hop saltbush; immediately adjoining the plain and sloping off to the billabong, there are sand-hills, referred to in my report on the block; they are of greater extent than I thought; they are more of the red soil nature; on them there is scattered mulga, leopard-wood, white-wood, also a little cotton and salt bush—the greater part of it is dead; along the frontage there are extensive flats of blue bush or cabbage saltbush and the ordinary blue bush, called by some currant bush; the country which I referred to in my former evidence, between the Marra Billabong and the Darling River, is, I now find from the boundaries of the blocks, all on Myali Block, so that the only portion of Walker's No. 22 that I rode over when I first inspected the run in August last was the country lying between Momba Run and Marra Billabong and the back boundary of Walker's 22 Camp; the portion of the country between the billabong and the Darling River that I inspected with Mr. Mark, the manager, he said: "We are about the boundary of the leasehold area, and it is no use going further, as we have seen all we can"; at that time it was impossible to go further on account of flood waters; we were riding, and even then had to swim on our horses to get out to where the canoe was on the main billabong, as the water had risen so quickly; since the flood waters had gone off the land, I find that I was not on the boundary of the leasehold area; I wish to amend my evidence as regards the grazing capability of Walker's 22 Camp; I think in taking into account the lignum, which is very heavy in places and dense, that it is at least an acre worse than the block adjoining it on the resumed area; on Walker's Camp 22 Block, I now estimate 5 acres to a sheep; I did not see any great quantity of Bathurst burr or roley-poley; I estimate that, with the assistance of acres (?) billabong, the frontage country could be used in its natural state 10 miles back from the Darling River; and I wish to amend my former evidence from 4 acres, and to fix the grazing capability of that frontage at 5 acres to a sheep, and on the whole leasehold area at 4½ acres per sheep, when fully improved by conservation of water and fencing; the country is fully improved so as to enable it to carry a sheep to 4½ acres; on the back area, from a point 10 miles from the river, I estimate 4¼ acres to a sheep; in August last I made a careful inspection of all the leasehold area of Marra Holding, except between the Marra Billabong and the river; I inspected the frontage block outside the billabong in August last; on Walker's 22 Camp Back Run, I do not wish to alter the estimate of 3 acres to a sheep; in August last it was impossible to inspect the area between the billabong and river in consequence of the flood waters; Mr. Marks, the manager, was with me and we rode outside the billabong, and we saw all the open country and the sand-hills near the billabong, and Mr. Marks described the country to me; the woolshed is on this area and out-buildings; I have already given the value of those improvements, which were taken from the station books, and which, after inspection, is correct according to my estimate.

Sworn by this deponent, Colin Campbell Fraser, at Bourke, } COLIN C. FRASER.
 this 25th day of January, 1887, before us,—
 G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
 E. B. BARTON, Member of Board.

[Exhibit "G. "]

SCHEDULE showing the nature and value of improvements effected by the pastoral lessee on the leasehold area of the pastoral holding, as elicited from evidence at the date of appraisalment of the leasehold and resumed areas.

Resumed area No. 103, Western Division; Hay, Graves, and Paxton, occupation licensees.

| Improvements situated on Lands alienated to Lessees. | | | Improvements on Crown Lands under Occupation License by Licensees. | | |
|--|-------------|-----------------|--|------------|--------------|
| Nature of improvements. | Value. | Remarks. | Nature of improvements. | Value. | Remarks. |
| Woolshed | £ 2,000 0 0 | Purchased land. | Eulo hut | £ 80 0 0 | Crown lands. |
| House | 300 0 0 | | Drafting yards | 150 0 0 | |
| Wool-store | 500 0 0 | | Well and fittings | 200 0 0 | |
| Shearers' hut | 200 0 0 | | Horse yard | 20 0 0 | |
| Men's hut | 150 0 0 | | Bridge, half a mile long..... | 1,000 0 0 | |
| Kitchen | 150 0 0 | | 47 miles six-wire boundary | | |
| Drafting yards | 300 0 0 | | fencing at £45, a half-share | 1,057 10 0 | |
| Horse yards | 100 0 0 | | 37 miles six-wire division | | |
| Well and fittings | 300 0 0 | | fencing, at £45..... | 1,665 0 0 | |
| Mason's well and fittings, | | | 76 miles five-wire division | | |
| troughs, &c. | 700 0 0 | | fencing, at £40 per mile... | 3,040 0 0 | |
| Hut | 80 0 0 | | 1,000 chains drains, at 7s.... | 350 0 0 | |
| Horse yard | 20 0 0 | | | | |
| Wire sheep yard | 20 0 0 | | | | |
| Bagdad well and fittings, | | | | | |
| trough, &c. | 1,000 0 0 | | | | |
| Hut | 80 0 0 | | | | |
| Drafting yards | 200 0 0 | | | | |
| Horse yard | 20 0 0 | | | | |
| Wire sheep yard | 20 0 0 | | | | |
| 66,675 yards tanks, at 1s. ... | 3,333 15 0 | | | | |
| | 9,493 15 0 | | 7,562 10 0 | | |

COLIN C. FRASER.

[Exhibit

[Exhibit "H."]

Marra and Talyealye Stations.

STATEMENT of Income and Expenditure for the years 1883, 1884, and 1885 :—

| INCOME. | | | EXPENDITURE. | | |
|-----------------------|--------|-------|---|--------|-------|
| | £ | s. d. | | £ | s. d. |
| 1883. | | | 1883. | | |
| Sundry receipts | 545 | 0 0 | Sundry expenses..... | 18,360 | 0 0 |
| Wool | 15,360 | 0 0 | Rent..... | 1,974 | 0 0 |
| | | | Interest on £125,000 at 8 per cent..... | 10,000 | 0 0 |
| | | | | 30,334 | 0 0 |
| | 15,905 | 6 0 | Less income per contra | 15,905 | 0 0 |
| | | | Deficit, 1883 | 14,429 | 0 0 |
| 1884. | | | 1884. | | |
| Sundry receipts..... | 1,250 | 0 0 | Sundry expenses..... | 15,094 | 0 0 |
| Wool | 10,168 | 0 0 | Rent..... | 1,989 | 0 0 |
| | | | Interest | 10,000 | 0 0 |
| | | | | 27,083 | 0 0 |
| | 11,418 | 0 0 | Less income per contra | 11,418 | 0 0 |
| | | | Deficit, 1884..... | 15,665 | 0 0 |
| 1885. | | | 1885. | | |
| Sundry receipts | 1,228 | 0 0 | Sundry expenses..... | 17,527 | 0 0 |
| Wool | 16,500 | 0 0 | Rent..... | 930 | 0 0 |
| | | | Occupation licenses | 1,706 | 0 0 |
| | | | Interest | 10,000 | 0 0 |
| | | | | 30,163 | 0 0 |
| | 17,728 | 0 0 | Less income per contra | 17,728 | 0 0 |
| | | | Deficit, 1885 | 12,435 | 0 0 |

I, John Henry Luxmoore, of Adelaide, in the Province of South Australia, accountant, do solemnly declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief the within figures are a correct abstract from the accounts of the firm of Hay, Graves, and Paxton, of Marra and Talyealye stations, in the Province of New South Wales, and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true.

Declared before me, this 17th day of September, 1886, at Adelaide, }
in the Colony of South Australia,—

JNO. H. LUXMOORE.

A. V. TREVER, J.P. for the Colony of New South Wales.

I have no reason to doubt the correctness of this declaration in any particular.—A. V. TREVER.

Memo. of Stock Transactions.

| | Received. | | | Paid. | |
|------------|-----------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| | £ | s. d. | | £ | s. d. |
| 1883 | 11,546 | 0 0 | ..... | 1,750 | 0 0 |
| 1884 | 2,790 | 0 0 | ..... | 9,368 | 0 0 |
| 1885 | 2,259 | 0 0 | ..... | 4,875 | 0 0 |
| | 16,595 | 0 0 | | 15,993 | 0 0 |

Improvement Purchases.

| | £ | s. d. |
|--------------------|-------|-------|
| Paid in 1884 | 578 | 0 0 |
| „ 1885 | 5,264 | 0 0 |
| | 5,842 | 0 0 |

No. 6.

Mr. A. W. Paxton to The Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

Sir,

Marra Station, 16 January, 1887.

As I shall be unable to attend the Land Court when the Marra appraisement is reconsidered, I beg to bring the following facts under your notice :—That the runs, Cultowa and Murtie, immediately opposite us, Tongo, almost joining us out back, and Billilla, a little lower down, have been appraised by different men, at from 6½ acres up to a very much higher average per sheep, as against Mr. Fraser's estimate of from 4 acres to 5 acres on our run. That it is well known that Cultowa and Murtie are at least fair average specimens of river runs, and Tongo, almost joining our back country, is of the same character of country.

It is therefore evident that Mr. Fraser's estimate of this country is directly opposed to that of Messrs. Moore, Ranken, and Langtree, and I certainly think that their evidence as to neighbouring country should be taken in consideration.

It is manifestly absurd and unjust in the highest degree that a run like Cultowa should be assessed from 6½ to 8 acres, while a run like Talyealye is put at 6½ acres. The injustice is palpable to anyone who has ever seen the country, even in the most casual way.

I would also beg to point out to you, that in no one instance in the Wilcannia District has the resumed area been put over the minimum, and that Murtie at 1½d., Cultowa at 1¼d., are, with the exception of Culpaulin, all frontage at 1½d., the highest rental run in that district.

I must, moreover, enter my formal protest against the Marra Run and Talyealye being appraised at all on Mr. Fraser's evidence, as I consider that a man who deliberately describes and appraises country which he never saw is totally unfit to be entrusted with such an amount of responsibility.

I remain, &c.,

A. W. PAXTON.

Acknowledge

Acknowledge receipt, and inform that his letter has been placed with the papers in Marra case, which have been sent to the Under Secretary for Lands. Receipt acknowledged.—M.L., 14/2/87. Place with Marra papers. This protest is now transmitted with the appraisal papers in Marra holding to the Under Secretary for Lands. In cross-examination, *vide* page 6 of depositions, it was ascertained that Mr. Inspector Fraser had not inspected the portion of Marra Holding between the billabong and the river in consequence of flood waters, *vide* pages 19 and 22. The case was adjourned and Mr. Fraser directed to inspect that portion, which he did on the 10th and 11th ultimo, and the case was further considered on the 25th ultimo, when Mr. Fraser stated that he wished to amend his former evidence as regards the grazing capability, and alter his estimate from 4 to 5 acres to a sheep, *vide* pages 23 to 27, on frontage block.—G. C. TOMPSON, B.C., Bourke, 14 Feb., 1887. The Under Secretary for Lands.

No. 7.

Appraisalment by Local Land Board.

Leasehold Area 103, Western, Marra Holding.

[Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

Appraisalment by Local Land Board of rent to be paid for next period of five years of Pastoral Lease.
New South Wales, }
to wit. }

WHEREAS by direction of the Minister for Lands, it was ordered that the rent to be paid in respect of the next period of five years of lease of pastoral lease 103, Marra, land district of Bourke, county of Killara, parish of _____, held by Messrs. Hay and Graves, should be subject to appraisalment by the Local Land Board for the Bourke District: These are, therefore, to certify that the said Local Land Board having taken evidence, and inquired into the matter, hereby appraises the rental payable for the five-year term of lease commencing on 11th July, 1885, as at the rate of 1½d. per acre per annum.

Given under my hand, at the office of the Local Land Board, at Bourke, this 9th day of February, 1887,—

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

Rent determined at the rate of 1½d. per acre per annum, commencing at date of notification of division of holding, and to apply to the unexpired mean term of the pre-existing leases (if any), and thence for a further period of five years.—THOS. GARRETT, 31/3/87. Gazetted, 30/4/87. Rent called for.—A. HAY and T. GRAVES, 5/5/87.

No. 8.

Office Memorandum.

10 February, 1887.

THE enclosed nine reports on the undermentioned blocks may remain with the leasehold papers of Marra Pastoral Holding No. 103;—Mount M'Pherson Block A, Mount M'Pherson, Walker's 22 Camp, Myall Block No. 5, Myali Run, Balara, Myall Block No. 4, Walker's 22 Camp Back Run, Myali Back.

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

[Enclosures.]

Mount M'Pherson Block A.—Report for Appraisalment of Rent or License Fee.

Office reference number, 103; name of lessee or licensee, Hay, Graves, and Paxton; name of holding, Marra; date of inspection, 29th July; division, Western.

Is water supply natural and permanent? No.

Is water artificial? Yes.

Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? Well and tanks; rain water.

If from underground sources, state the depth and interior size of the shaft or well; its capacity to water a given number of stock every twenty-four hours; the quality of water, whether pure and wholesome, or of the kind called "stock-water"? 19. Well, 5½ feet by 2½ feet, 190 feet deep; very good stock water; supply unlimited.

If from tanks, state the original depth, the number of cubic yards, and, as near as you can tell, the present water supply; also as to catchments? 16. Tank, 20,700 yards, 15 feet deep, 12 feet water (full); 17. Tank, 7,000 yards, 12 feet deep, 9 feet water (full); 17. Tank, 1,700 yards, 10 feet deep, 2 feet water (full); 18. Tank, 4,000 yards, 12 feet deep, 9 feet water (full). Good catchments.

Is the present artificial supply sufficient to keep the land permanently and fully stocked in ordinary seasons? Yes.

Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial:—if so, state particulars? All artificial.

What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, limestone, trap, &c.? Red soil and grey clayey plains, sandstone, and quartz conglomerate.

What is the character of the country;—is it level, hilly, or mountainous; thickly or thinly timbered; rocky or otherwise? Undulating; hilly and rocky in parts; thinly timbered.

Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyea, brigalow, &c.; indicate its position on tracing? Seven-eighths scrub country, mulga, hopbush, turpentine, and blood-bush, rosebush, leopardwood, needlebush.

State the number of stock the land will carry, if the stock is fully supplied with water? One sheep to each 4¼ acres.

State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Fattening.

Is the country timbered; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered; and what is the kind or kinds of timber;—indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? Yes, thinly; box, belar, and tree mulga.

What is the description of pasturage; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent and fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Mulga-grass, silver-grass, blue, cotton, and salt bush flats; crowfoot, carrots, and numerous edible herbs.

State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? 2,000 sheep per annum unimproved; one sheep to each 4¼ acres improved.

Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c.? Silver and mulga grass, mulga, belar, and box timber, mulga scrub.

I hereby certify that I have inspected the land shown in accompanying tracing, and described as 103 by office reference, and I have also made inquiry concerning its character and capabilities, and I declare that the statements as to facts contained in this report are correct to the best of my knowledge, and that they are given to the best of my judgment as to other particulars.

Gorimpa, 2nd August, 1886.
To the Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

COLIN C. FRASER,
Inspector.

Mount

Mount M'Pherson.—Report for Appraisalment of Rent or License Fee.

Office reference number, 103 ; name of lessee or licensee, Hay, Graves, and Paxton ; name of holding, Marra ; date of inspection, 29th and 30th July ; division, Western.

- Is water supply natural and permanent? No.
 Is water supply artificial? Yes.
 Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? Well.
 If from underground sources, state the depth and interior size of the shaft or well ; its capacity to water a given number of stock every twenty-four hours ; the quality of water, whether pure and wholesome, or of the kind called "stock-water"? 20. Well, 5½ feet by 2½ feet, 280 feet deep ; fresh water ; supply unlimited.
 Is the present artificial supply sufficient to keep the land permanently and fully stocked in ordinary seasons? Yes.
 Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial ; if so, state particulars? Artificial.
 What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, lime-stone, trap, &c.? Red soil, sandstone, and quartz conglomerate.
 What is the character of the country—is it level, hilly, or mountainous ; thickly or thinly timbered ; rocky, or otherwise? Hilly ; thinly timbered ; rocky on hills.
 Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyea, brigalow, &c. Indicate its position on tracing? All scrub country ; mulga, turpentine, needlebush, hopbush, rosebush, and leopardwood.
 State the number of stock the land will carry, if the stock is fully supplied with water? One sheep to each 5 acres.
 State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Fattening.
 Is the country timbered ; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered ; and what is the kind or kinds of timber—indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? Yes, thinly ; box, belar, and tree mulga.
 What is the description of pasturage ; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent and fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Mulga grass ; flats of cotton, blue, and salt bush ; herbs : crowfoot, carrot, &c.
 State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? 2,000 sheep per annum unimproved ; one sheep to each 5 acres improved.
 Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c.? Mulga grass, mulga scrub ; mulga and box timber ; flats—blue, cotton, and salt bush.
 I hereby certify that I have inspected the land shown in accompanying tracing, and described as 103 by office reference, and I have also made inquiry concerning its character and capabilities, and I declare that the statements as to facts contained in this report are correct to the best of my knowledge, and that they are given to the best of my judgment as to other particulars.
 Gorimpa, 2nd August, 1886.
 To the Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

COLIN C. FRASER,

Inspector.

Walker's 22 Camp.—Report for Appraisalment of Rent or License Fee.

Office reference number, 103 ; name of lessee or licensee, Hay, Graves, and Paxton ; name of holding, Marra ; date of inspection, 28th July ; division, Western.

- Is water supply natural and permanent? Yes.
 Give the names of rivers, creeks, lakes, or lagoons affording this natural supply? Darling River.
 Is this supply sufficient to keep the land fully stocked in ordinary seasons? Yes.
 Is water supply artificial? Partly.
 Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? Well.
 If from underground sources, state the depth and interior size of the shaft or well ; its capacity to water a given number of stock every twenty-four hours ; the quality of water, whether pure and wholesome, or of the kind called "stock-water"? 24. Well, 4 by 2 feet, 113 feet deep, 1,000 gallons. Fresh water.
 Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial? If so, state particulars? Both. Darling River. Natural and well.
 Ascertain where practicable from station records, the rainfall for the preceding twelve months, two years, or more? 1884, 9 inches 36 points ; 1885, 17 inches 78 points ; 1886, 6 inches to 31st July.
 What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, limestone, trap, &c.? Gray clayey soil. A few isolated sand-hills.
 What is the character of the country—is it level, hilly, or mountainous ; thickly or thinly timbered ; rocky, or otherwise? Principally level ; thinly timbered ; no rocks.
 Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyea, brigalow, &c. Indicate its position on tracing? None.
 State the number of stock the land will carry ; if the stock is fully supplied with water? One sheep to each 4 acres.
 State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Fattening.
 Is the country timbered ; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered ; and what is the kind or kinds of timber ; indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? Yes, on frontage only and thinly ; box and gum.
 What is the description of pasturage ; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent and fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Silver and barley grass, crowfoot, carrots, and other edible herbs ; patches of cotton and salt bush.
 State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? 4 acres to each sheep, natural or improved.
 Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c.? Silver and barley grass ; numerous edible herbs ; box and gum timber ; large tracts of lignum.

I hereby certify that I have inspected the land shown in accompanying tracing and described as 103 by office reference, and I have also made inquiry concerning its character and capabilities, and I declare that the statements as to facts contained in this report are correct to the best of my knowledge, and that they are given to the best of my judgment as to other particulars.

Gorimpa, 2nd August, 1886.

To the Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

COLIN C. FRASER,

Inspector.

Myall Block No. 5.—Report for Appraisalment of Rent or License Fee.

Office reference number, 103 ; name of lessee or licensee, Hay, Graves, and Paxton ; name of holding, Marra ; date of inspection, 29th and 30th July ; division, Western.

- Is water supply natural and permanent? No.
 Is water supply artificial? Yes.
 Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? Tanks, rain-water.
 If from tanks, state the original depth, the number of cubic yards, and, as near as you can tell, the present water supply ; also as to catchments? 11. Tank, 23,900 yards, 16 feet deep, 12 feet water ; 12. Tank, 1,700 yards, 10 feet deep, 6 feet water (full) ; 13. Tank, 3,470 yards, 12 feet deep, 12 feet water ; 14. Tank, 5,200 yards, 12 feet deep, 12 feet water ; *15. Tank, 18,275 yards, 13 feet deep, 13 feet water. All good catchments.
 Is the present artificial supply sufficient to keep the land permanently and fully stocked in ordinary seasons? Yes.
 Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial ; if so, state particulars? All artificial.

Ascertain

Ascertain where practicable, from station records, the rainfall for the preceding twelve months, two years, or more? 1884, 8 inches 90 points; 1885, 17 inches 78 points; 1886, 5 inches 41 points to 31st July.
 State whether any extraordinary or special facilities for obtaining or securing water appear to exist on the land? None exist.
 What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, limestone, trap, &c.? Grey clayey soil, red loamy tablelands, sandstone ridges.
 What is the character of the country—is it level, hilly, or mountainous; thickly or thinly timbered; rocky, or otherwise? Undulating; thinly timbered; a few rocky hills.
 Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyea, brigalow, &c. Indicate its position on tracing? One-quarter. Mulga on north-eastern corner, turpentine, blood-bush, hop-bush on ridges.
 State the number of stock the land will carry if the stock is fully supplied with water? One sheep to each 4½ acres.
 State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Fattening.
 Is the country timbered; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered; and what is the kind or kinds of timber. Indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? Yes, in parts, but thinly. Yapunia, belar, and box.
 What is the description of pasturage; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent and fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Silver grass, blue, cotton, and salt bush, numerous edible herbs, crowfoot, carrots, &c.
 State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? 2,000 sheep per annum unimproved; 4½ acres per sheep improved.
 Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c.? Silver grass, bane grass, blue, cotton, and salt bush, yapunia, belar, and box.

I hereby certify that I have inspected the land shown in accompanying tracing and described as 103 by office reference, and I have also made inquiry concerning its character and capabilities, and I declare that the statements as to facts contained in this report are correct to the best of my knowledge, and that they are given to the best of my judgment as to other particulars.

Gorimpa, 2nd August, 1886.

To the Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

COLIN C. FRASER,

Inspector.

Myali Run.—Report for Appraisalment of Rent or License Fee.

Office reference number, 103; name of lessee or licensee, Hay, Graves, and Paxton; name of holding, Marra; date of inspection, 26th July; division, Western.

Is water supply natural and permanent? Yes.
 Give the names of rivers, creeks, lakes, or lagoons affording this natural supply? Darling River.
 Is this supply sufficient to keep the land fully stocked in ordinary seasons? Yes.
 Is water supply artificial? Partly.
 Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? Well.
 If from underground sources, state the depth and interior size of the shaft or well; its capacity to water a given number of stock every twenty-four hours; the quality of water, whether pure and wholesome, or of the kind called "stock-water"? 1. Well, 6 feet by 3 feet, 50 feet deep, 2,000 gallons, fresh water, used for domestic purposes.
 Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial? If so, state particulars? Both. Darling River, natural; well, artificial.
 Ascertain where practicable, from station records, the rainfall for the preceding twelve months, two years, or more? 1884, 8 inches 43 points; 1885, 15 inches 17 points; 1886, 6 inches to 31st July, 1886.
 What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, limestone, trap, &c.? Black soil and isolated sand-hills.
 What is the character of the country—is it level, hilly, or mountainous; thickly or thinly timbered; rocky or otherwise? Level; thinly timbered; no rocks.
 Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyea, brigalow, &c. Indicate its position on tracing? None.
 State the number of stock the land will carry, if the stock is fully supplied with water? One sheep to each 4 acres.
 State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Fattening.
 Is the country timbered; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered; and what is the kind or kinds of timber? Indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? Only on water frontages, and then thinly; box and gum.
 What is the description of pasturage; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent and fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Silver and barley grass, crowfoot, carrots, parsnips, and other edible herbs; cotton and salt bush in patches.
 State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? 4 acres per sheep, natural or improved.
 Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c.? Silver and barley grass, cotton and salt bush, box and gum; large tracts of lignum.

I hereby certify that I have inspected the land shown in accompanying tracing, and described as 103 by office reference, and I have also made inquiry concerning its character and capabilities, and I declare that the statements as to facts contained in this report are correct to the best of my knowledge, and that they are given to the best of my judgment as to other particulars.

Gorimpa, 2nd August, 1886.

To the Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

COLIN C. FRASER,

Inspector.

Balara.—Report for Appraisalment of Rent or License Fee.

Office reference number, 103; name of lessee or licensee, Hay, Graves, and Paxton; name of holding, Marra; date of inspection, 22nd and 25th July; division, Western.

Is water supply natural and permanent? No.
 Is water supply artificial? Yes.
 Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? Tanks and well.
 If from underground sources, state the depth and interior size of the shaft or well; its capacity to water a given number of stock every twenty-four hours; the quality of water, whether pure and wholesome, or of the kind called "stock-water"? 6. Well, 5½ feet by 2½ feet; 80 feet deep; good stock water; supply unlimited.
 If from tanks, state the original depth, the number of cubic yards, and, as near as you can tell, the present water supply; also as to catchments. 3. Tank, 14,500 yards, 15 feet deep, full; 3. Tank, 906 yards, 10 feet deep, 6 feet water, full; 4. Tank, 1,487 yards, 10 feet deep, 2 feet water, full; 5. Tank, 14,400 yards, 13 feet deep, 10 feet water, full; 7. Tank, 3,200 yards, 10 feet deep, 10 feet water; very good catchments.
 Is the present artificial supply sufficient to keep the land permanently and fully stocked in ordinary seasons? Yes.
 Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial? If so, state particulars? All artificial.
 State whether any extraordinary or special facilities for obtaining or securing water appear to exist on the land? Numerous good catchments.
 What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, limestone, trap, &c.? Grey clayey soil, and red loamy ridges.

What

What is the character of the country—is it level, hilly, or mountainous; thickly or thinly timbered; rocky or otherwise? Undulating; little timber; no rocks; cane grass flats.

Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyea, brigalow, &c. Indicate its position on tracing. A little scrub on sand-hills, but only enough for shelter; hop, rose, and turpentine brush.

State the number of stock the land will carry, if the stock is fully supplied with water? One sheep to each $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Fattening.

Is the country timbered; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered, and what is the kind or kinds of timber? Indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? No; a few isolated clumps of belar on ridges.

What is the description of pasturage; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent or fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Silver grass, cane grass, blue, cotton, and salt bush; crowsfoot, carrots, and numerous kinds of edible herbs.

State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? 2,000 sheep per annum unimproved; $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres per sheep improved.

Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c.? Silver grass, saltbush, blue and cotton bush, cane grass and roley-poley flats.

I hereby certify that I have inspected the land shown in accompanying tracing, and described as 103 by office reference, and I have also made inquiry concerning its character and capabilities, and I declare that the statements as to facts contained in this report are correct to the best of my knowledge, and that they are given to the best of my judgment as to other particulars.

Gorimpa, 2nd August, 1886. COLIN C. FRASER,
Inspector.

To the Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

Myall Block No. 4.—Report for Appraisalment of Rent or License Fee.

Office reference number, 103; name of lessee or licensee, Hay, Graves, and Paxton; name of holding, Marra; date of inspection, 25th and 30th July; division, Western.

Is water supply natural and permanent? No.

Is water supply artificial? Yes.

Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? Tanks, rain-water.

If from tanks, state the original depth, the number of cubic yards, and, as near as you can tell, the present water supply; also as to catchments? 8. Tank, 8,200 yards, 12 feet deep, 8 feet water (full); 9. Tank, 6,200 yards, 10 feet deep, 3 feet water (full); 10. Tank, 17,600 yards, 16 feet deep, 16 feet water; 10. Tank, 15,500 yards, 14 feet deep, 4 feet water (full). Good catchments.

Is the present artificial supply sufficient to keep the land permanently and fully stocked in ordinary seasons? Yes.

Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial? If so, state particulars? All artificial.

State whether any extraordinary or special facilities for obtaining or securing water appear to exist on the land? Very good catchments.

What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, limestone, trap, &c.? Grey clayey soil, red loamy ridges, sand and iron stone.

What is the character of the country—is it level, hilly, or mountainous; thickly or thinly timbered; rocky or otherwise? Undulating, thinly timbered, rocky on north-western corner, and hilly; cane grass flats.

Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyea, brigalow, &c. Indicate its position on tracing? One-sixteenth. Principally mulga on hills at north-western corner.

State the number of stock the land will carry, if the stock is fully supplied with water? One sheep to each $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Fattening.

Is the country timbered; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered; and what is the kind or kinds of timber. Indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? Yes; but very thinly. Belar and yapunia.

What is the description of pasturage; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent and fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Silver grass, cane grass; blue, cotton, and salt bush; herbs: crowsfoot, carrots, cabbage, parsnips, &c.

State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? 2,000 sheep per annum unimproved; $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres per sheep improved.

Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c.? Silver grass, cane grass, blue, cotton, and salt bush.

I hereby certify that I have inspected the land shown in accompanying tracing and described as 103 by office reference, and I have also made inquiry concerning its character and capabilities, and I declare that the statements as to facts contained in this report are correct to the best of my knowledge, and that they are given to the best of my judgment as to other particulars.

Gorimpa, 2nd August, 1886. COLIN C. FRASER,
Inspector.

To the Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

Walker's 22 Camp Back Run.—Report for Appraisalment of Rent or License Fee.

Office reference number, 103; name of lessee or licensee, Hay, Graves, and Paxton; name of holding, Marra; date of inspection, 28th July; division, Western.

Is water supply natural and permanent? Partly natural, but not permanent.

Give the names of rivers, creeks, lakes, or lagoons affording this natural supply? Billabong from Darling Biver.

Is this supply sufficient to keep the land fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.

If not, state for how many months of the year, and for what number of stock the supply is available? Four months, 5,000 sheep.

Is water supply artificial? Yes.

Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? Well, tanks, rain-water.

If from underground sources, state the depth and interior size of the shaft or well; its capacity to water a given number of stock every twenty-four hours; the quality of water, whether pure and wholesome, or of the kind called "stock-water"? 23. Well, $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet, 70 feet deep, 2,000 gallons, fresh water.

If from tanks, state the original depth, the number of cubic yards, and, as near as you can tell, the present water supply; also as to catchments? 21. Tank, 8,000 yards, 12 feet deep, 12 feet water? 22. Tank, 7,000 yards, 8 feet deep, 8 feet water. 23. Tank, 1,500 yards, 8 feet deep, 8 feet water; good catchments.

Is the present artificial supply sufficient to keep the land permanently and fully stocked in ordinary seasons? Yes.

Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial? If so, state particulars? Both. Billabong, natural tanks, and well.

State whether any extraordinary or special facilities for obtaining or securing water appear to exist on the land? None exist.

What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, limestone, trap, &c.? Red soil and stony hills, sandstone and quartz conglomerate.

What is the character of the country—is it level, hilly, or mountainous; thickly or thinly timbered; rocky, or otherwise? Two-thirds level, remainder hilly; thinly timbered; rocky on north-eastern side.

Give

Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyea, brigalow, &c. Indicate its position on tracing? Two-thirds scrub country. Mulga, fuchsia, hopbush, bloodbush, turpentine, needlebush and rosebush, leopard-wood.

State the number of stock the land will carry, if the stock is fully supplied with water? One sheep to each 5 acres.

State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Fattening.

Is the country timbered; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered; and what is the kind or kinds of timber;—indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? Yes, thinly; box, rosewood, whitewood, and belar.

What is the description of pasturage; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent and fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Silver and mulga grass, blue, cotton, and salt bush, crowfoot, &c., and numerous edible herbs.

State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? 2,000 sheep per annum unimproved; one sheep to each 5 acres improved.

Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c.? Silver and mulga grass; mulga, turpentine, hopbush and needle-bush; box and belar.

I hereby certify that I have inspected the land shown in accompanying tracing and described as 103 by office reference, and I have also made inquiry concerning its character and capabilities, and I declare that the statements as to facts contained in this report are correct to the best of my knowledge, and that they are given to the best of my judgment as to other particulars.

Gorimpa, 2nd August, 1886.
To the Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

COLIN C. FRASER,
Inspector.

Myali Back.—Report for Appraisalment of Rent or License Fee.

Office reference number, 103; name of lessee or licensee, Hay, Graves, and Paxton; name of holding, Marra; date of inspection, 27th, 31st July; division, Western.

Is water supply natural and permanent? Partly natural, but not permanent.

Give the names of rivers, creeks, lakes, or lagoons affording this natural supply? Billabong from Darling River.

Is this supply sufficient to keep the land fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.

If not, state for how many months of the year, and for what number of stock the supply is available? Four months, 5,000 sheep.

Is water supply artificial? Yes—partly.

Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? Tanks.

If from tanks, state the original depth, the number of cubic yards, and, as near as you can tell, the present water supply; also as to catchments? 2. Tank, 2,200 yards, 10 feet deep, full, silted, only 4 feet of water. 2. Tank, 135 yards, 6 feet deep, full, silted, 3 feet of water. Catchments fairly good.

Is the present artificial supply sufficient to keep the land permanently and fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.

If not, state for how many months, and for what number of stock the supply is sufficient? 12 months, 1,200 sheep.

Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial? If so, state particulars? Both. Billabong, natural tanks.

State whether any extraordinary or special facilities for obtaining or securing water appear to exist on the land? Numerous good catchments.

What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, limestone, trap, &c.? Grey clayey soil, red sand-hills and loamy ridges; isolated ridges; sand and iron stone.

What is the character of the country—is it level, hilly, or mountainous; thickly or thinly timbered; rocky, or otherwise? Undulating, thinly timbered, a few stony ridges.

Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyea, brigalow, &c. Indicate its position on tracing? None.

State the number of stock the land will carry, if the land is fully supplied with water? One sheep to each 4½ acres.

State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Fattening.

Is the country timbered; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered; and what is the kind or kinds of timber? Indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? All open.

What is the description of pasturage; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent and fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Silver grass; numerous edible herbs, viz., crowfoot, carrots, cabbage, &c.; cotton, blue, and salt bush.

State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? 2,000 sheep per annum unimproved; 4½ acres per sheep improved.

Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c.? Silver grass, cotton, blue, and salt bush.

I hereby certify that I have inspected the land shown in accompanying tracing and described as 103 by office reference, and I have also made inquiry concerning its character and capabilities, and I declare that the statements as to facts contained in this report are correct to the best of my knowledge, and that they are given to the best of my judgment as to other particulars.

Gorimpa, 2nd August, 1886.
To the Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

COLIN C. FRASER,
Inspector.

No. 9.

Mr. A. W. Paxton to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Warrigal Club, Sydney, 17 February, 1887.

I have the honor to request that you will either reduce the rental on the Marra leasehold and resumed areas, as recommended to you by the Bourke Land Board, or that you will order a re-appraisalment, and I bring forward the following arguments:—In estimating the average carrying capacity as he did at 4½ acres to a sheep, the appraiser, Mr. Fraser, considerably over-estimated it, as it has never carried that number, even in the present season, which is the best ever known.

My argument is borne out by the fact that adjoining and similar country in the Wilcannia District was estimated at from 6 to 10 acres by three different appraisers; and there can be no doubt but what the Boards have been guided in their decisions as to rent by their evidence;—the Wilcannia Board evidently putting the frontage in their district at 1½d. per acre, while the Bourke Board is putting it at 2d.—a most serious difference.

The

The rent as recommended represents over 6d. a head, and considering the £7,000 per block spent on improvements, the expenditure in rent and interest alone comes to over 1s. 6d. a sheep, without providing for any sinking fund. This amount is manifestly too high. I enclose a copy of our accounts for the last three years, showing a loss of nearly £40,000. How then can we pay more rent?

Although we have spent such a large sum of money on improvements, we received no concession in extended leases at low rents under the old Acts. Under the new Act we were told that as we were receiving an extended tenure we could afford to pay an increased rent; but not only have they recommended the rents on the leasehold to be raised, but they have also recommended the resumed area to be raised, on which we receive no tenure at all.

The Bourke is the only Board that has recommended any resumed area over the minimum, the Wilcannia Board having recommended them all at the minimum.

Moreover, it is extremely doubtful whether the Board took into consideration the fact that the appraiser admitted that the country is rapidly deteriorating owing to the spread of noxious scrubs, and as the rents are bound to be increased by a quarter and a half respectively at each period of five years, it is the more reason why a moderate rent should be imposed now, to enable us, if possible, to recover some of our losses, and to make ready for the increased rents of the future and the deterioration of the country.

I remain, &c.,
A. W. PAXTON.

[Enclosure.]

| Rents payable on Marra Station. | | | Rent payable on Murtee. | | |
|--|-------|-------|--|-------|-------|
| | 1879. | 1882. | | 1879. | 1884. |
| | £ | £ | | £ | £ |
| Myall 4 | 26 | 145 | Keilor | 15 | 15 |
| Myall | 110 | 287 | Duncan | 73 | 86 |
| Back | 35 | 180 | Keiss | 75 | 95 |
| Balara | 40 | 260 | Kilmeen | 74 | 84 |
| Myall 5 | 35 | 140 | Chance | 70 | 87 |
| Walker's 22 | 90 | 241 | Gurrooga | 15 | 15 |
| Back | 35 | 180 | Caltigeena | 15 | 80 |
| Mount M'Pherson | 50 | 200 | Calco | 20 | 20 |
| Back "A" | 24 | 147 | Wongalarra | 30 | 93 |
| | 445 | 1,780 | | 387 | 575 |
| Proposed rents at 1½d. and £2 4s. 9d., £2,156. | | | Proposed rents at 1½d. and £2, £1,375. | | |

Draw attention to this letter when submitting rent question.—C.O. Read and considered when fixing rent.—T.G., 28/3/87.

No. 10.

Mr. A. W. Paxton to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

I have the honor to request you to grant me an interview on the subject of the Marra and Talyealye rents, as fixed by the Bourke Land Board, with a view to their reduction or re-appraisement, in compliance with my protest to Bourke Land Board against Mr. Fraser's evidence being taken.

I remain, &c.,
A. W. PAXTON.

Saw Mr. Paxton, and decided that if he so applied I would refer the case back for further inquiry, consideration, and report.—T.G., 22/2/87. The Under Secretary.

No. 11.

Mr. A. W. Paxton to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Warrigal Club, Sydney, 21 February, 1887.

With reference to our conversation of this morning, *re* the rent on Marra, I have since learnt that both Dunlop and Toorale resumed areas have been fixed at the minimum, leaving us the only run on the north side of the Darling from Bourke to Wentworth with resumed areas over the minimum, a distance of nearly 500 miles. I trust you will place this before the Bourke Board.

I remain, &c.,
A. W. PAXTON.

No. 12.

Extract from *Gazette Supplement* of 30th April, 1887.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 30th April, 1887.

NOTICE is hereby given, that in pursuance of the provisions of "The Crown Lands Act of 1884," the Minister has determined the Annual Rentals of the Pastoral Leases specified in the annexed Schedule, at the respective rates per acre therein mentioned; such rentals to apply from the date of notification of the Division of the Pastoral Holding in each case until the expiration of the first period of the lease. For the second period the Annual Rentals will be increased by one-fourth, and for the residue of the term by one-half of those now determined.

The

The first period of the leases will be for the term hereunder specified, and is inclusive of the unexpired term or mean term of the lease or leases in existence on the 31st December, 1884; the second period will be for five years, commencing at the expiration of the first period; and the third period will be for five years, commencing at the expiration of the second period.

The leases may be terminated subject to the provisions of "The Crown Lands Act of 1884." The amounts now demanded must be paid to the Colonial Treasurer on or before the 29th June, 1887, subject in default to the penalties imposed by the 96th section of the Act hereinbefore mentioned.

THOS. GARRETT.

SCHEDULE.—WESTERN DIVISION.

* * * * *
Marra Pastoral Holding; leasehold area No. 103; lessees, A. Hay and T. Graves; 229,940 acres; notified in *Government Gazette*, 11 July, 1885; date of determination or mean determination of lease of runs included in pastoral holding, 11 October, 1886; annual rental determined, £1,628 14s. 10d., at 1 $\frac{1}{10}$ d. per acre; rent demanded to 10 July, 1887, £778 12s. 9d; lease commencing on 11 July, 1885, and terminating on 11 October, 1891; rent due on 10 July in each year.
* * * * *

Dunlop Pastoral Holding; leasehold area No. 240; lessee, Sir Samuel Wilson; 440,592 acres; notified in *Government Gazette*, 31 July, 1885; date of determination or mean determination of leases of runs included in pastoral holding, 14 March, 1887; annual rental determined, £2,360 6s. 3d., at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per acre; rent demanded to 30 July, 1887, £3,751 12s. 1d.; lease commencing on 31 July, 1885, and terminating on 14 March, 1892; rent due on 30 July in each year.
* * * * *

Toorale and Dunlop Pastoral Holdings; leasehold area No. 257; lessee, Sir Samuel Wilson; 615,484 acres; notified in *Government Gazette*, 5 August, 1885; date of determination or mean determination of leases of runs included in pastoral holding, 18 May, 1887; annual rental determined, £2,949 3s. 11d., at 1 $\frac{1}{3}$ d. per acre; rent demanded to 4 August, 1887, £3,849 11s. 7d.; lease commencing on 5 August, 1885, and terminating on 18 May, 1892; rent due on 4 August in each year.
* * * * *

No. 13.

Mr. A. W. Paxton to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Marra Station, River Darling, 25 May, 1887.

I have seen, to my intense astonishment, that the Minister for Lands has seen fit to raise the rent on the Marra leasehold from 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1 $\frac{1}{10}$ d.

You will doubtless remember that when I had the honor of seeing him in your presence, that he intimated his intention of sending my case back to the Bourke Land Board, on account of its harshness in fixing the rent so high.

Now we find that he has arbitrarily raised our rent to a point absolutely impossible for us to pay, and moreover totally out of fairness in comparison with the surrounding stations.

I enclose you a list of the rents fixed on the stations on both sides of the river from Wilcannia to Bourke, and you can see at a glance the extremely hard position in which we are placed. Why we should have been singled out in such a manner appears to me so strange that I am in hopes that the *Government Gazette* must have made a clerical error, and that the subject merely wants bringing to your notice to have it immediately rectified. Trusting that in any case you will point out to the Minister the hardship of the position in which he has placed us,—

I remain, &c.,

A. W. PAXTON.

[Enclosure.]

RENT of runs on both sides of the River Darling, from Bourke to Wilcannia.

| | Leasehold area. | Resumed area. | Difference. | | Leasehold area. | Resumed area. | Difference. |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| Momba | 3 13 0 | 2 4 9 | 1 8 3 | Gundabooka | 3 8 0 | 2 0 0 | 1 8 0 |
| As fixed by Board | 3 13 0 | 2 4 9 | 1 8 3 | Wimbar | 3 6 0 | 2 5 0 | 1 1 0 |
| Marra | 4 10 0 | 2 4 9 | 2 5 3 | Buckaabee | 3 8 0 | 2 3 3 | 1 4 9 |
| Kallara | 3 4 0 | 2 0 0 | 1 4 0 | Buddha | 5 6 0 | 4 0 0 | 1 6 0 |
| Dunlop | 3 9 0 | 2 0 0 | 1 9 0 | Nelyambo | 3 6 0 | 2 0 0 | 1 6 0 |
| Toorale | 3 6 0 | 2 0 0 | 1 6 0 | Cultowa | 2 18 0 | 2 0 0 | 0 18 0 |
| Fort Bourke | 3 6 0 | 2 0 0 | 1 6 0 | Murtee | 2 19 0 | 2 13 4 | 0 5 8 |
| Jandra | 3 6 0 | 2 0 0 | 1 6 0 | Billilea | 2 15 0 | 2 0 0 | 0 15 0 |
| Yanda | 3 6 0 | 2 0 0 | 1 6 0 | Currynalta | 3 14 0 | 2 6 8 | 1 7 4 |

Buddha consists of one block 10 miles frontage, and going only 5 miles back.

MARRA AND TALYEALYE STATIONS.

STATEMENT of Income and Expenditure for the years 1883, 1884, and 1885.

| | | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------|---------|--|------------------------------|---------|
| 1883. | Income.— | | 1883. | | |
| | Sundry receipts | £545 | Sundry expenses... .. | £18,360 | |
| | Wool | 15,360 | Rent | 1,974 | |
| | | | Interest on £125,000, at 8 per cent..... | 10,000 | |
| | | £15,905 | | 30,334 | |
| | | | Less income per contra | 15,905 | |
| | | | | £14,429 | |
| 1884. | Sundry receipts | £1,250 | 1884. | Sundry expenses | £15,094 |
| | Wool | 10,168 | | Rent | 1,989 |
| | | | | Interest | 10,000 |
| | | £11,418 | | | 27,083 |
| | | | | Less income per contra | 11,418 |
| | | | | | £15,665 |
| 1885. | Sundry receipts..... | £1,228 | 1885. | Sundry expenses | £17,527 |
| | Wool | 16,500 | | Rent | 930 |
| | | | | Occupation license .. | 1,706 |
| | | | | Interest | 10,000 |
| | | £17,728 | | | 30,163 |
| | | | | Less income per contra | 17,728 |
| | | | | | £12,435 |

I, JOHN HENRY LUXMOORE, of Adelaide, in the Province of South Australia, accountant, do solemnly declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief the within figures are a correct abstract from the accounts of the firm of Hay, Graves, and Paxton, of Marra and Talyealye Stations, in the Province of New South Wales. And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true.

JNO. H. LUXMOORE.

Declared before me, this 17th day of September, 1886, at Adelaide, in the Colony of South Australia,—

A. V. TREVER,

J.P. for the Colony of New South Wales.

I have no reason to doubt the correctness of this declaration in any particular.

A. V. TREVER.

Mr. Edson,—Let me have appraisement papers.—E.L., 9/6/87. Marra, 103, Western District, leasehold area, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; resumed area, £2 4s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Gazetted 30th April, 1887. Appraisement papers herewith.—F.M.E., 14/6/87. Submitted.—E.L., 14/6/87. Inform writer that the rent was fixed having solely in view the evidence as to the carrying capability of the run, about one sheep to 5 acres, at which rate the rent cannot be considered excessive, especially when it is remembered that the resumed area is fixed at the low rental (having regard to the character of the country) of less than 1d. per acre.—T.G., 24/6/87. A. W. Paxton informed, 29/6/87.

No. 14.

Office Memorandum.

Marra—Leasehold area No. 103; Western Division.

GRAZING capabilities.—Inspector Fraser estimates at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres to one sheep. A. W. Paxton, one of the owners of the lease, estimates at 6 acres to one sheep.

Nature of country.—Darling River frontage, clay soil, timbered with box, gum, &c. Large belts of lignum on flooded country, with roley-poley and Bathurst burr. Back country, red soil, with sandstone ridges, nearly all scrub, mulga, hophbush, &c. Barley and silver grass, blue, cotton, and salt bush plains.

Attention is specially directed to the attached letter (A. W. Paxton, 17th February, 1887).

No. 15.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. A. W. Paxton.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 27 June, 1887.

Referring to your letter of the 25th ultimo, respecting the rent determined for the Marra Holding, I am directed by the Secretary for Lands to inform you that the rent was fixed, having solely in view the evidence as to the carrying capacity of the holding, about one sheep to 5 acres, at which rate the rent cannot be considered excessive, especially when it is remembered that the resumed area is fixed at the low rental (having regard to character of the country) of less than 1d. per acre.

I have, &c.,

F. H. WILSON

(For the Under Secretary).

| Name of Pastoral Holding and No. of Leasehold Area. | Estimated acreage of Leasehold Area and date of notification in Government Gazette. | | Names of Registered Lessees on the 1st January, 1885, and 1st January, 1886, respectively. | | Names of Runs included in Pastoral Holding, showing Old expiration of each Lease, amount of rental paid from mean term of such Leases, and mean date of | | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------|--|----------------------------|---|------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--|--|-----------|
| | | | 1885. | 1886 and 1887. | Run. | Old Pastoral District. | Date of expiration of each Lease. | Amount of Rent paid. | | | |
| Marra, 103... | Acres. 229,940 | 1885. 11 July.. | Alex. Hay and Thos Graves. | Alex. Hay and Thos Graves. | Myali | Albert .. | 1886. 31 Dec. | £ 287 | | | |
| | | | Do | Do | Myali Back Run | do .. | do .. | 180 | | | |
| | | | Do | Do | Myall Block, No. 4 | do .. | do .. | 145 | | | |
| | | | Do | Do | Myall Block, No. 5 | do .. | 1885. 31 Dec. | 140 | | | |
| | | | Do | Do | Mount M'Pherson | do .. | do .. | 200 | | | |
| | | | Do | Do | Mount M'Pherson, Block "A." | do .. | 1886. 31 Dec. | 147 | | | |
| | | | Do | Do | Walker's 22-Camp | do .. | do .. | 241 | | | |
| | | | Do | Do | Walker's 22-Camp, Back Run. | do .. | do .. | 180 | | | |
| | | | Do | Do | Balara | do .. | do .. | 260 | | | |
| | | | Do | Do | Marra Leasehold Area, No. 103 | do .. | do .. | 815 3/- | | | |
| | | | Do | Do | Do | do .. | do .. | 815 3/- | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 3,410 6/- |

Marra Pastoral Holding.—Resumed Area No. 103, Western Division.

SCHEDULE.

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No. 1.

Application for an Occupation License.

[Crown Lands Act of 1884—Part IV, section 18.]

(Care of H. H. Brown & Co.)

14 April, 1885.

In accordance with the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, we, Alexander Hay and Thomas Graves, being runholders in the Western Division, and this day having made application for a pastoral lease, hereby apply for a license to occupy for the term of one year for grazing purposes whichever portion of our pastoral holding, known as Marra, may be converted into a resumed area under the said Act.

Annexed hereto is a receipt, showing that the sum of £703 6s. 9d. on account of the first year's license fee, at the rate of £2 per section of 640 acres of the estimated area of 234,427 acres we now apply for, has been deposited with the Colonial Treasurer, and we also agree to pay any further sum that may be demanded, being the difference between the sum paid into the Treasury and the said license fee, as appraised hereafter.

ALEXANDER HAY.
THOS. GRAVES.

To the Minister for Lands.

Received the sum of £703 6s. 9d., being the deposit required on this application.

W. H. BARRACLOUGH
(Pro Treasurer).

The Treasury, New South Wales, 28th April, 1885.

16.
ndix.
DULE.

| Pastoral District, date of 1st January, 1885; also determination thereof. | | | Annual Rental determined for Leasehold Area. | | Apportionment of amounts paid as Rent from 1st January, 1885. | | Date up to which Rent is now demanded. | Amount now demanded. | Date of commencement of first period of Lease. | Date of expiration of first period of Lease. | Date upon which payment of Rent is due in each year |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|--|--|--|----------------------|--|--|---|
| Year for which Rent paid. | Mean term of such Leases. | Mean date of determination. | Rate per acre. | Amount. | Amount to be retained as rent from 1st January, 1885, to date of notification of Leasehold Area. | Balance to credit of Lessee, to be applied as part payment of rent determined up to date shown in next column. | | | | | |
| 1885 | 1 year and 93 days. | 1886. 11 Oct. | d. 1 $\frac{7}{10}$ | £ s. d. 1,628 14 10 | £ s. d. 931 9 1 | £ s. d. 2,478 16 11 | 1887. 10 July | £ s. d. 778 12 9 | 1885. 11 July | 1891. 11 Oct. | 10 July |
| 1885 | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1887 | | | | | | | | | | | |

No. 2

Office Memoranda.

Marra Holding, Western Division—Resumed area No. 103, gazetted 11th July, 1885—Return of areas at date of division at Head Office (revised):—

Total estimated area, 241,600 acres; alienated land (*a*), 1,905 acres; reserves from lease (*b*), nil; total unavailable land, 1,905 acres; total area available (*c*), 239,695 acres.

J. T. KEATING, 29th January, 1886.

Extension of above at District Survey Office for appraisalment of occupation license for year 1885.

Area available by Head Office estimate, 239,695 acres. Withdrawals.—Convertible pre-leases (52nd clause), as approved or recommended, nil; conditional leases (54th clause), as confirmed, nil; auction leases (*d*), nil; miscellaneous, including any alienation under repealed Acts not already shown upon tracing, nil; total unavailable land, nil; total area available for occupation license at date of notification of resumed area (*e*), 239,695 acres.

E. MACFARLANE,
District Surveyor.

20th December, 1886.

Final revision at District Survey Office for appraisalment for 1886.

Total area available to 31st December, 1885, 239,695 acres; conditional purchase lapsed, November, 1885, 40 acres. Withdrawals.—Conditional purchases (*f*), nil; conditional leases (*g*), nil; homestead leases (*h*), nil; reserves from lease, nil; improvement purchases paid for since date of division, 40 acres; total unavailable land, 40 acres; total area available for appraisalment on 1st January, 1886, 239,695 acres.

EDWARD MACFARLANE,
District Surveyor.

12th August, 1886.

- (*a*) Includes only such portions as are shown upon the tracing, which has been charted up from the maps in the Surveyor-General's Office.
 (*b*) Includes all reserves from lease, or lands exempt from lease, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, as shown on tracing.
 (*c*) As far as ascertainable in Head Office.
 (*d*) Auction leases converted into annual leases, under 9th sub-section of 85th clause of Crown Lands Act of 1884.
 (*e*) Represents area chargeable for occupation from date of division to 31st December, 1885.
 (*f*) Conditional purchases under Crown Lands Act of 1884, which have been confirmed by the Board.
 (*g*) Conditional leases under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, which have been confirmed by the Board.
 (*h*) Includes only such homestead leases as have been approved.

239,695 acres, including 40 acres, lapsed since division.—E. MACFARLANE, 20/12/86.

[Enclosure.]

Marra Holding No. 103, Western Division—Resumed area.

List of improvement purchase applications within the above holding, which had not been finally completed (*i.e.*, purchase money paid) at date of division of areas at Head Office, and which have not therefore been treated as alienated land.

| I.P. No. | Land District. | Area. | Parish or Run. | No. of portion (if surveyed). | Remarks. |
|----------|----------------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 83-103 | Bourke | acres. 40 | Thoolabool | 3 | Paid for 18/9/85. |

J.T.K., 29 January, 1886.

No. 3.

Gazette Notice.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 8 December, 1886.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of Regulations Nos. 33 and 134, under the "Crown Lands Act of 1884," published on the 2nd January, 1885, being amended as hereunder.

HENRY COPELAND.

AMENDMENT OF REGULATION 134.

134. Every application under section 100 of the Act by the holder of a pastoral or homestead lease or occupation license for a reduction of the minimum rent or license fee fixed in respect thereof shall be made in the form 51 and tendered to the Local Land Board within sixty days of the notification in the *Government Gazette* of the determination of such rent or license fee, and all inquiries into such applications shall be conducted by the Board in the manner prescribed in Regulation 21.

Every such application shall be accompanied by a receipt from the Colonial Treasurer, showing that the rent or license fee for the current year, with any arrears in respect of such lease or license, shall have first been duly paid.

And if any reduction of rent or license fee be allowed such reduction shall be notified in the *Gazette*, and should such rent or license fee thereafter be restored to the minimum rate notification thereof shall be similarly given.

No. 4.

Caption to Depositions of Witnesses.

[Crown Lands Act of 1884—Part II, section 14, sub-section 1.]

Resumed area No. 103, Western Division, Marra Holding.

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

The examination of Colin Campbell Fraser, of Bourke, in the Colony of New South Wales, Inspector of Runs, and Alfred William Paxton, of Marra, in the said Colony.

WHEREAS it hath been necessary to appraise the license for the resumed area 103, Western Division, Marra Holding, and it hath been found necessary to investigate the said matter on oath, the depositions of the several witnesses are appended hereto.

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

[Enclosures.]

THIS deponent, *Colin Campbell Fraser*, of Bourke, in the Colony of New South Wales, Inspector of Runs (Bourke District), being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows:—Between the 28th July and 31st July, 1886, I inspected the resumed area of Marra Holding; report marked "C" is my report thereon, and tracing marked "D" shows the area in question; the country is watered by the Darling River, which is permanent, and by the Marra Billabong running out of that river about 3 miles below the northern boundary of the area; the water supply in this billabong is not permanent, but there are some good holes; there are two wells on the area, and fifteen tanks; number of cubic yards in tanks, 131,673; the area is fenced by 37 miles 6-wire boundary fencing, and is subdivided into six sheep paddocks, and part of four sheep paddocks, besides five horse paddocks; there are 57 miles subdivision fencing 6-wire, and 71 miles 5-wire; the wells are:—

No. 1 Well.—Shaft, 6 feet by 3 feet; 50 feet deep; fresh water; 2,000 gallons in 24 hours.

No. 6 Well.—Shaft, 5½ feet by 2½ feet; 80 feet deep; unlimited supply; good stock water.

The tanks are:—

No. 2 Tank.—2,200 yards; 10 feet deep; 4 feet of water; this tank is full, and silted 6 feet.

" 135 yards; 6 feet deep (full); silted 3 feet.

No. 3 Tank.—14,500 yards; 15 feet deep; 15 feet water.

" 906 yards; 10 feet deep (full); silted 4 feet.

No. 4 Tank.—1,487 yards; 10 feet deep (full); silted 8 feet.

No. 5 Tank.—14,400 yards; 13 feet deep (full); 10 feet water; silted 3 feet.

No. 7 Tank.—3,200 yards; 10 feet deep; 10 feet water.

No. 8 Tank.—3,200 yards; 12 feet deep (full); silted 4 feet.

No. 9 Tank.—6,200 yards; 10 feet deep (full); silted 7 feet.

No. 10 Tank.—17,600 yards; 16 feet deep; 16 feet water.

" 15,500 yards; 14 feet deep; nearly full of silt.

No. 11 Tank.—23,900 yards; 16 feet deep; 12 feet water.

No. 12 Tank.—1,700 yards; 10 feet deep (full); silted 4 feet.

No. 13 Tank.—3,470 yards; 12 feet deep; 12 feet water.

No. 14 Tank.—18,275 yards; 13 feet deep; 13 feet water.

The frontage soil is grey clay on flat country; the remaining portion is red loamy ridges and tablelands, isolated sand-hills, rock formation, ironstone and sandstone; there is not much scrub on the area, only sufficient for shelter and food at times; the principal scrub is mulga scattered over the sand-hills; it is timbered in parts, but very thinly—belar, yagunyah, and box are the principal varieties; the grasses are silver, mulga, and barley grass; the herbs are crowsfoot, mustard and other edible herbs; there is also blue, cotton, and salt bush, the latter in abundance; the grazing capabilities in natural state I estimate on Myall Back, Balara, Myall Block No. 4 and No. 5, about equal to 8,000 sheep per annum, and on Myali Frontage

Frontage Block 4 acres per sheep, natural or improved; on the whole resumed area I estimate $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres to a sheep when fully improved, which I consider the case; the rainfall for 1884 was 8.67 inches, for 1885 16.47 inches, for 1886 5.70 inches to 31st July; since then there has been abundant rainfall; when I say that the back country will carry 8,000 sheep in its natural state I do not mean all the year round, as there would not be sufficient water for that number; I arrive at my estimate of 8,000 by fixing the grazing capability of Myali Back at 5,000 sheep for four months, Balara 12,000 sheep for two months, equal to 2,000 for twelve months; on Myall Block No. 4, 12,000 sheep for two months, equal to 2,000 for twelve months; on Myall Block No. 5, 12,000 sheep for two months, equal to 2,000 sheep a year; I estimate that taking the frontage, which is capable of permanently depasturing stock all the year round in its natural state, striking an average of 8 miles on the upper or north-eastern boundary, and 10 miles on the south-western boundary; at about $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres per sheep; the back area from these points, if watered by artificial means, would I estimate carry a sheep to each $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres; the tanks are fast silting up, but in my opinion there is sufficient water conserved to carry a sheep to $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres; nearly all the tanks and wells are on purchased land; it is doubtful as to whether the well is on this area or the leasehold, but it is supposed to be on the resumed; there is very little scrub on this portion of the holding; a travelling stock route passes through this area.

Sworn by this deponent, Colin Campbell Fraser, at Bourke, }
this 20th December, 1886, before us,—

COLIN C. FRASER.

G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
E. B. BARTON, Member.

THIS deponent, *Colin Campbell Fraser*, of Bourke, in the Colony of New South Wales, Inspector of Runs (Bourke District), being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows:—I have already given evidence relative to the appraisement of the resumed area of Marra Holding.

By Mr. Paxton: When I was at Marra the flood was going out from the river; outside, along the billabong there was a great deal of lignum; lignum is very good after floods or rains; I have seen lignum that would not feed anything; in an extreme drought lignum would die and be of no use for anything; I did not notice the flood-waters out at Weewater; the flood-waters had not got out so far; there was a great deal of roley-poley about the centre of the area; near the dividing line, on a plain; about a third of that open country was roley-poley, which is useless; on country occupied by roley-poley one year there might be good grass next year; I saw a lot of hop saltbush; having admitted that lignum is no good in drought, and roley-poley no good, and button saltbush some good, but sheep are not fond of it, I presume that you make use of the country after flood by putting on more stock than the country would carry in an ordinary season; the resumed area has the most button saltbush, roley-poley, and lignum on it; I did not see any trial shafts for wells; I saw one at No. 13 tank, which shaft, I believe, was a failure; I took notice of all shafts shown me; I don't consider that improvements that are no value to the station are worth consideration sometimes.

By Board: I made a careful inspection of all the country on the resumed area outside the Marra Billabong; I inspected as much country between the billabong and the river as could be seen; the most of it was flooded; I arrived at my estimate of 4 acres to a sheep on the Myali Block by the country I saw on that block, on the top end of it, outside the billabong, and the portion I saw inside the billabong, and a general knowledge of flooded lignum country, similar to this; I don't think I saw quite half of the Myali Block on the resumed area, the other portions being unapproachable, owing to floods; there are some sand-ridges between the billabong and the river; I could see them, and that they were dry; but I could not get at them for flood-waters; I wish to say that I consider that from a point 8 miles on the upper boundary and 10 miles on the lower boundary to the back of the area I estimate, with the present water supply, allowing for silted tanks, at $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres per sheep, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres per sheep on the whole area when fully improved, so as to require no more expenditure.

By Mr. Paxton: I don't think I have seen a run with more excavations than Marra on the resumed area for the size of the area; I think the area is fully improved, but the tanks have silted; I saw an engine there used for pumping purposes, and I believe was to be tried for cleaning out the tanks by pumping the silt; I don't think I know a run upon which more money has been spent in improvements than Marra Holding for its size.

By Board: Mr. Marks, the manager of the run, described the country to me between the billabong and the river which I was unable to see, owing to flood-waters.

COLIN C. FRASER.

Sworn by this deponent, Colin Campbell Fraser, at Bourke, }
this 29th day of December, 1886, before us,—

G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
E. B. BARTON, Member of Board.

THIS deponent, *Colin Campbell Fraser*, of Bourke, in the Colony of New South Wales, Inspector of Runs (Bourke District), being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows:—I produce a list of the improvements on the resumed area of Marra Holding with their values, showing the improvements on Crown land and on purchased land; that list is correct according to my estimate.

Sworn by this deponent, Colin Campbell Fraser, at Bourke, }
this 29th day of December, 1886, before us,—

COLIN C. FRASER.

G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
E. B. BARTON, Member of Board.

THIS deponent, *Alfred William Paxton*, of Marra, in the Colony of New South Wales, grazier, being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows:—I hold the occupation license of the resumed area of Marra Holding; I think Mr. Inspector Fraser has considerably over-estimated the grazing capabilities—I think about 6 acres to a sheep; the scrub country on the leasehold is heavier carrying country than the resumed; there is a great deal more lignum, roley-poley, Bathurst burr, so that the available country has to carry many more sheep on it; if we had not had the scrub country during the drought we would have lost a great many more sheep; I think the frontage is the worst country of any, more than half, in my opinion, being almost useless, that is, inside the billabong; with the exception of the one well, which is doubtful as to which area it is on, we have been unsuccessful in getting well-water, having sunk five trial shafts, all bottomed on salt water; the shafts vary from 40 to 90 feet deep; the salt water was too much to get through it; I think Mr. Fraser's evidence, in which he states that trial shafts which are useless ought not to be taken into consideration when valuing the improvements, is most unfair to the lessee, as the more money sunk in useless improvements diminishes the lessee's profit, and that when wells are impossible to be obtained the country is much more risky, and ought to pay a lower rent; I wish to say that we have spent £45,000 in improvements, that we have been paying a very high rent for the whole holding for four years, and that during that period the country has been worked at a very heavy loss, and I think that ought to be taken into consideration in fixing the rent; I wish my evidence on the leasehold area, as regards wool, sheep, carriage, &c., to apply equally to this area; on the resumed area we have two frontage paddocks; the fences on the upper and lower boundary go back 8 miles, and we run the fence straight across; in addition to those two sheep paddocks we have small paddocks which we use for sheep, horses, and cattle; this year we only ran 4,000 sheep in each of the two large frontage paddocks; in those two frontage paddocks we have two tanks at the back of them and a dam near the back fence on a branch on the billabong; without the tanks, I think about 5 miles would be all that sheep could use profitably; I estimate 6 acres to a sheep, taking the flood into consideration; when you do get one you can put a lot of sheep on to the frontage then, as the flooded country is very much improved in pasturage; it is seven years since the last flood; the description of the country between the billabong and the river—the horse paddock is very good country; it is the best bit of country we have got; most of it is dry in flood time—half of it is dry; a few sand ridges outside the horse paddock; all the rest is flooded lignum country; out of 23,500 acres on the resumed area, more than half, in my opinion, must have been under water during this flood; except after a flood that country is very little use; after a flood the grasses grow well; Mr. Fraser's plan, showing the sand ridges between the billabong and the river, is very accurate; the area in its natural state is waterless, except the Darling River and the billabong; the billabong is not permanent; all the water improvements are on purchased land, except the supply tanks of about 1,700 yards, marked No. 12 on tracing; taking the area 8 miles
back

back from the river to the back boundary, it is fully improved by conservation of water and fencing, and I estimate about acres to a sheep; there are no wells on this area except the one I described in my evidence on leasehold area, and which I believe to be on the leasehold area, but it is doubtful on which area it will be; the head station is on this resumed area; I see the list of improvements shown on Exhibit marked "I"; the improvements are correct, but I think the valuation might have been higher; although we spent all that money in improvements, we never got extensions of leases at low rents.

By Mr. Fraser: I admitted yesterday that the available country on the resumed area was better than the leasehold; after a flood from the river the resumed area would carry more stock.

Sworn by this deponent, Alfred William Paxton, at Bourke, }
this 29th day of December, 1886, before us,—

A. W. PAXTON.

G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
E. B. BARTON, Member of Board.

THIS deponent, *Colin Campbell Fraser*, of Bourke, in the Colony of New South Wales, Inspector of Runs, being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows:—I have already given evidence relative to the resumed area of Marra Holding on the 10th and 11th of January last I again inspected the portion of the frontage between the Marra Billabong and the river, the greater portion of which was under water when I first inspected the area, on the 28th and 31st July last, and consequently I was unable to see the whole of that frontage; except in a few places, and from what I could see of it from outside the flooded billabong—on my last inspection the floods had subsided—the general character of the country is level, and a great portion of it flooded; there are some isolated sand-hills on different parts of area, also some open pieces of hard country, free from influence of floods; on the billabong there is a good extent of lignum; there are open plains on the block, in some places extending to near the river bank, in other places intersected by belts of lignum; there are also flats of blue and cotton bush, and box flats in the neighbourhood of sand-hills; on the south side there is a good extent of lignum; taking the block as a whole, it is well grassed, more so than the block adjoining it on the leasehold area; the grazing capabilities of this block when fenced I estimate at 4 acres per sheep; the head station is on portion 2 on this block; I have already stated that travelling stock road from Wilcannia to Burke passes through this run.

Sworn by this deponent, Colin Campbell Fraser, at Bourke, }
this 1st day of February, 1887, before us,—

COLIN C. FRASER.

G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
E. B. BARTON, Member of Board.

[Exhibit "C."]

Resumed Area.—Report for Appraisalment of Rent or License Fee.

Office reference number, 103; name of lessee or licensee, Hay, Graves, and Paxton; name of holding, Marra; date of inspection, 28th, 29th, and 30th July; division, Western.

Is water supply natural and permanent? Not permanent, partly natural.

Give the names of rivers, creeks, lakes, or lagoons affording this natural supply? Darling River and billabong.

Is this supply sufficient to keep the land fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.

If not, state for how many months of the year, and for what number of stock the supply is available? Permanently on Myali, one sheep to each 4 acres; on Myali Back, 2,000 sheep per annum.

Is water supply artificial? Principally.

Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? Wells and tanks; rain-water.

If from underground sources, state the depth and interior size of the shaft or well; its capacity to water a given number of stock every twenty-four hours; the quality of water, whether pure and wholesome, or of the kind called "stock-water"? 1. Well, 6 feet by 3 feet, 50 feet deep, fresh water, 2,000 gallons in twenty-four hours; 6. Well, 5½ feet by 2½ feet, 80 feet deep, good stock water, unlimited supply.

If from tanks, state the original depth, the number of cubic yards, and, as near as you can tell, the present water supply; also as to catchments? 2. Tank, 2,200 yards, 10 feet deep, 4 feet water (full); 2. Tank, 135 yards, 6 feet deep, 3 feet water (full); 3. Tank, 14,500 yards, 15 feet deep, 15 feet water; 3. Tank, 906 yards, 10 feet deep, 6 feet water (full); 4. Tank, 1,487 yards, 10 feet deep, 2 feet water (full); 5. Tank, 14,400 yards, 13 feet deep, 10 feet water (full); 7. Tank, 3,200 yards, 10 feet deep, 10 feet water; 8. Tank, 8,200 yards, 12 feet deep, 8 feet water (full); 9. Tank, 6,200 yards, 10 feet deep, 3 feet water (full); 10. Tank, 17,600 yards, 16 feet deep, 16 feet water; 10. Tank, 15,500 yards, 14 feet deep, 4 feet water (full); 11. Tank, 23,900 yards, 16 feet deep, 12 feet water (full); 12. Tank, 1,700 yards, 10 feet deep, 6 feet water (full); 13. Tank, 3,470 yards, 12 feet deep, 12 feet water; 14. Tank, 18,275 yards, 13 feet deep, 13 feet water. All catchments good.

If from dams, state the depth of the river, creek, or water-course; the height, breadth, and length of embankment; and, as near as you can judge, the present water supply, together with any other information, such as favourable water catchments, retentive soil, hard drainage surface, or otherwise, &c.? "A" dam, 4,200 yards excavation, formed to throw Darling waters out back.

Is the present artificial supply sufficient to keep the land permanently and fully stocked in ordinary seasons? Yes.

Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial? If so, state particulars? Both Darling River and billabong (natural); tanks and wells (artificial).

Ascertain where practicable, from station records, the rainfall for the preceding twelve months, two years, or more? 1884, 8 inches 67 points; 1885, 16 inches 47 points; 1886, 5 inches 70 points to 31st July.

State whether any extraordinary or special facilities for obtaining or securing water appear to exist on the land? Numerous good catchments.

What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, limestone, trap, &c.? Grey clayey soil on flat country; red loamy ridges and tablelands; isolated sandhills, sandstone, and ironstone.

What is the character of the country;—is it level, hilly, or mountainous; thickly or thinly timbered; rocky, or otherwise? Undulating; rocky in places; thinly timbered.

Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyea, brigalow, &c.;—indicate its position on tracing? A little scrub on sandhills and mulga scrub on rocky hills; but only in sufficient quantity for shelter and food.

State the number of stock the land will carry, if the stock is fully supplied with water? One sheep to each 4¼ acres.

State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Fattening.

Is the country timbered; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered; and what is the kind or kinds of timber;—indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? In parts, but very thinly; belar, yapunia, box.

What is the description of pasturage; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent and fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Silver, mulga, and barley grass; blue, cotton, and salt bush; crowsfoot, carrots, and other kinds of edible herbs.

State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? On Myali Back, Balara, Myali Blocks Nos. 4 and 5, 8,000 sheep per annum unimproved; and on Myali, 4 acres per sheep natural or improved. On the whole resumed area 4¼ acres per sheep improved.

Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c.? Silver barley and mulga grass; blue, cotton, and salt bush; box, yapunia, and belar.

I hereby certify that I have inspected the land shown in accompanying tracing, and described as 103 by office reference, and I have also made inquiry concerning its character and capabilities, and I declare that the statements as to facts contained in this report are correct to the best of my knowledge, and that they are given to the best of my judgment as to other particulars.

Gorimpa, 2nd August, 1886.

To the Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

COLIN C. FRASER,
Inspector.

[Exhibit

[Exhibit "I."]

SCHEDULE showing the nature and value of improvements effected by the pastoral lessee on the resumed area of the Marra Pastoral Holding, as elicited from evidence obtained at the date of appraisalment of the leasehold and resumed areas.

| Improvements situated on Lands alienated to Lessee. | | | Improvements on Crown Lands under Occupation License by Licensee. | | |
|---|--------------|----------|---|--------------|--------------|
| Nature of Improvements. | Value. | Remarks. | Nature of Improvements. | Value. | Remarks. |
| | £ s. d. | | | £ s. d. | |
| House at head station | 500 0 0 | | One-tree hut..... | 75 0 0 | Crown lands. |
| Well | 150 0 0 | | Drafting yards | 250 0 0 | " |
| Store..... | 120 0 0 | | Horse yards | 25 0 0 | " |
| Kitchen | 140 0 0 | | 37 miles six-wire boundary | | |
| Workshops | 50 0 0 | | fence, at £45 per mile; | | |
| Men's hut | 125 0 0 | | half-share | 832 10 0 | " |
| Barracks | 120 0 0 | | 57 miles six-wire division | | |
| Cattle-yards | 250 0 0 | | fence, at £45 | 2,565 0 0 | |
| Fourteen-mile well and fit- | | | 71 miles five-wire division | | |
| tings, tank, trough, &c.... | 500 0 0 | | fence, at £40 | 2,840 0 0 | |
| Wire yard, £20; horse yard, | | | 4,200 yards dams, at 1s. 4d. | 280 0 0 | " |
| £25 | 45 0 0 | | 1,700 yards tanks, at 1s. ... | 85 0 0 | " |
| Hut | 75 0 0 | | 2,000 chains drains, at 7s.... | 700 0 0 | |
| Undilcarra hut | 125 0 0 | | | | |
| Drafting yards | 200 0 0 | | | | |
| Horse yards | 25 0 0 | | | | |
| Three wire yards, at £20 each | 60 0 0 | | | | |
| Drafting yards | 100 0 0 | | | | |
| 129,973 yards tanks, at 1s. ... | 6,498 13 0 | | | | |
| | £ 8,883 13 0 | | | £ 7,652 10 0 | |

COLIN C. FRASER.

No. 5.

Appraisalment by Local Land Board.

Resumed area 103, Western, Marra Holding.

[Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

Appraisalment by Local Land Board of license fee to be paid for occupation license.

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

WHEREAS, by direction of the Minister for Lands, it was ordered that the license fee to be paid in respect of the occupation license, 103, Marra, Land District of Bourke, county of Killara, held by Messrs. Hay and Graves, should be subject to appraisalment by the Local Land Board for the Bourke District: These are, therefore, to certify that the said Local Land Board, having taken evidence and inquired into the matter, hereby appraises the rental payable for the five-year term of lease, commencing on 11th July, 1885, as at the rate of £2 4s. 9½d. per section per annum.

Given under my hand at the office of the Local Land Board at Bourke, this 9th day of February, 1887,—

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

License fee fixed at the rate of £2 4s. 9½d. per section of 640 acres per annum.—THOS. GARRETT, 31/3/87. Gazetted, 30/4/87. License fee called for.—A. HAY and T. GRAVES, 5/5/87.

No. 6.

Office Memorandum.

Marra—Resumed area No. 103—Western Division.

GRAZING capabilities.—Inspector Fraser estimates at 4¼ acres to 1 sheep. A. W. Paxton, one of the owners of the lease, estimates at 6 acres to 1 sheep.

Nature of country.—Darling River frontage—clay soil; timbered with box, belar, &c.; belts of lignum on flooded country. Back country—red soil, with sandstone ridges covered with silver, mulga, and barley grass; blue, cotton, and salt bushes; crowsfoot, carrots, and other fattening herbs.

Attention is specially directed to the letter with leasehold papers (A. W. Paxton, 17th February, 1887). Please see decision of Land Board, 9th February, 1887.

No. 7.

Office Memorandum.

Resumed area No. 103; pastoral holding, Marra; division, Western.

13 April, 1887.

WILL Mr. Gerard show in the enclosed schedule particulars of absorptions made by homestead leases from resumed area above referred to.

It is requested that the actual area absorbed be stated, having regard to the situation of the homestead lease in relation to the resumed area, that is to say, that only the area actually falling within the boundaries of the occupation license be stated.

E.L.
Schedule

SCHEDULE referred to.

No. of resumed area, 103; name of pastoral holding, Marra; rate [per section of 640 acres of occupation license, £2 4s. 9½d.; No. of homestead lease, nil.

Information herewith.—F.G., 13/4/87.

No. 8.

Extract from *Gazette* Supplement of 30th April, 1887.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 30 April, 1887.

It is hereby notified that the fees for the occupation licenses, specified in the following schedule, have been determined at the respective rates and amounts stated therein.

The first period of the licenses commenced from the date of notification of division of the pastoral holdings, and terminated 31st December, 1885, from and after which latter date the licenses will be in force from the 1st January to the 31st December of each year, on payment of the required amounts, and if land should remain available.

The amounts now called for represent the fees for the year 1887, together with any sums required to complete insufficient fees paid for the previous terms; but in any cases in which the amounts paid for such previous terms have been found to be in excess of what were required, only the balances of the fees for 1887 are now called for.

These amounts must be paid to the Colonial Treasurer on or before the 29th June next, subject in default to the penalties imposed by the "Crown Lands Act of 1884." The fees in future must be paid on or before the 31st December of each year for the ensuing year.

THOS. GARRETT.

SCHEDULE.—WESTERN DIVISION.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| No. of resumed area, 103; name of pastoral holding, Marra; names of licensees, Alexr. Hay and Thos. Graves; date of notification of division of pastoral holding, 11th July, 1885; estimated area available on the date of notification of division of pastoral holding, 239,695 acres; estimated area available on 1st January, 1886, 239,695 acres; area charged on for 1887, 239,695 acres; amount determined to 31st December, 1887, and rate per section of 640 acres, £2,077 8s. 1d., at rate of £2 4s. 9½d.; amounts already paid on occupation licenses up to 31st December, 1887, £1,864 6s. 9d.; license fee for 1887, £838 15s. 6d.; amount required for 1887, being license fee less amount overpaid for 1885, 1886, and 1887, or plus amount underpaid for 1885, 1886, and 1887, £213 1s. 4d. | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(RETURN SHOWING RENTS OF PASTORAL AND HOMESTEAD LEASES REDUCED UNDER 100TH SECTION.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 31 October, 1888.

RETURN showing Rents of Pastoral and Homestead Leases and License Fees of Resumed Areas that have been reduced under the 100th Section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884.

RETURN showing Rents and License Fees (where fixed at the minimum) that have been reduced under the 100th Section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884.

| No. and Name of Holding. | Minimum Rent as recommended by the Local Land Board in the first instance. | Rent finally determined on appeal. | Difference caused by reduction. |
|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| EASTERN DIVISION. | | | |
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| 45 Middle Cotter South | 45 8 4 | 11 7 1 | |
| 58 Brindabella | 69 15 8 | 34 17 10 | |
| 154 Long Flat | 179 15 0 | 134 16 3 | |
| 297 Woila Creek | 62 14 10 | 47 1 2 | |
| 309 Newton Boyd | 107 12 11 | 53 16 6 | |
| 417 South Mereumene... .. | 70 6 6 | 35 3 3 | |
| 425 Marengo | 150 0 0 | 93 15 0 | |
| 430 Clybuca | 40 10 9 | 15 4 1 | |
| 432 Bendethera | 70 0 0 | 35 0 0 | |
| 477 Cooplacurripa | 886 16 11 | 221 14 3 | |
| 488 Strathbogie and Rocky Creek | 255 16 8 | 191 17 6 | |
| 517 Cooraldooral | 98 2 11 | 49 1 6 | |
| 534 Guy Faux | 72 15 0 | 58 4 0 | |
| 556 Clybuca | 75 12 5 | 28 7 2 | |
| 564 Cunderang | 205 19 7 | 102 19 10 | |
| | 2,391 7 6 | 1,113 5 5 | 1,278 2 1 |
| CENTRAL DIVISION. | | | |
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | |
| 1 Urombong | 72 17 6 | 38 17 4 | |
| 2 Bothero | 234 12 6 | 117 6 3 | |
| 4 Poon Boon | 323 5 8 | 172 8 4 | |
| 8 Weetaliba | 154 16 5 | 77 8 2 | |
| 19 Coonabarrabran | 23 7 6 | 15 11 8 | |
| 20 Euratha | 116 4 3 | 77 9 6 | |
| 27 Dennykymine | 67 3 9 | 35 16 8 | |
| 37 Upper Wyalong, No. 3 | 124 9 5 | 51 17 3 | |
| 55 East Billabong | 208 9 11 | 83 7 11 | |
| 56 South Balladoran | 54 6 0 | 45 5 0 | |
| 79 Ulimambri | 472 6 3 | 314 17 6 | |
| 82 Merool Creek... .. | 108 17 6 | 72 11 8 | |
| 87 Tugland | 53 12 5 | 35 14 11 | |
| 111 Waragambeal | 79 13 9 | 53 2 6 | |
| 118 Killarney | 254 5 0 | 169 10 0 | |
| 133 Ungaree | 216 11 3 | 202 2 6 | |
| 169 Haddon Riggs | 102 6 0 | 85 5 0 | |
| 175 Panjee... .. | 844 8 0 | 562 18 8 | |

| No. and Name of Holding. | Minimum Rent as recommended by the Local Land Board in the first instance. | Rent finally determined on appeal | Difference caused by reduction. |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>CENTRAL DIVISION—continued.</i> | | | |
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| 180 Milby West | 113 15 0 | 85 6 3 | |
| 187 The Overflow | 954 6 3 | 742 4 11 | |
| 203 Gibbican | 60 0 0 | 20 0 0 | |
| 240 Warraberry and St. Giles | 46 5 0 | 18 10 0 | |
| 265 Blowclear West | 85 2 6 | 56 15 0 | |
| 266 Mowablaa | 205 12 6 | 137 1 8 | |
| 278 Toorawandi | 40 15 8 | 27 3 9 | |
| 290 Kiambir | 86 0 0 | 28 13 4 | |
| 304 Bolaro... .. | 28 8 9 | 18 19 2 | |
| 311 Mickeygunnegal | 51 5 0 | 34 3 4 | |
| 316 New Babin... .. | 163 16 11 | 109 4 7 | |
| 332 Carlisle | 109 7 6 | 72 18 4 | |
| 333 Gidgenboyne | 33 15 0 | 22 10 0 | |
| 348 Bingara | 158 3 9 | 35 3 1 | |
| 355 South Merrowie | 38 3 2 | 19 1 7 | |
| 356 Cobra | 38 15 11 | 25 17 3 | |
| 370 Wangen | 418 0 11 | 167 4 4 | |
| 372 Molly | 135 5 6 | 101 9 1 | |
| 380 Murrumbogie | 114 7 6 | 76 5 0 | |
| 385 Thorndale | 311 15 8 | 207 17 1 | |
| 389 New Breelong | 106 5 0 | 61 19 7 | |
| 397 Bearbong | 140 12 6 | 75 0 0 | |
| 400 Old Harbour... .. | 59 0 0 | 29 10 0 | |
| 402 Ganber Ganber East | 28 4 2 | 16 9 1 | |
| 405 Huntawang | 752 15 0 | 376 7 6 | |
| 410 Upper Wyalong | 318 0 0 | 212 0 0 | |
| 417 Cocopara | 47 12 6 | 23 16 3 | |
| 420 Cowl Cowl | 964 13 0 | 643 2 0 | |
| 439 Back Run | 95 0 0 | 47 10 0 | |
| 441 Bullerawa | 810 15 3 | 540 10 2 | |
| 443 Greenbar Creek | 122 3 3 | 61 1 8 | |
| 444 Geweroo | 199 11 8 | 133 1 1 | |
| 445 Minore | 72 7 9 | 42 4 6 | |
| 449 Youlbung | 143 5 0 | 119 7 6 | |
| 451 Warregal | 70 8 2 | 46 18 9 | |
| 461 Honeybugle | 153 2 6 | 108 9 3 | |
| 474 East Breelong | 72 12 6 | 24 4 2 | |
| 476 Upper Bugaldi | 38 15 0 | 19 7 6 | |
| 486 Gunning East | 27 17 6 | 18 11 8 | |
| 488 Brue Plains | 99 7 6 | 53 0 0 | |
| 503 Sandy Creek | 117 5 0 | 97 14 2 | |
| 514 Bimble | 158 15 0 | 79 7 6 | |
| 531 New Wyregall | 68 15 0 | 45 16 8 | |
| 539 Naradhan | 609 0 0 | 406 0 0 | |
| 553 Rocky Creek... .. | 688 11 6 | 114 15 3 | |
| 564 Binda | 49 8 9 | 32 19 2 | |
| 573 Bald Ridge | 53 15 0 | 26 17 6 | |
| 579 Boranda | 31 5 0 | 20 16 8 | |
| 580 Belar | 209 18 5 | 122 9 1 | |
| 584 Dinby... .. | 56 17 6 | 22 15 0 | |
| 586 Gulgo... .. | 59 4 5 | 44 8 3 | |
| 588 Coghill | 371 5 0 | 185 12 6 | |
| 607 Wallananine | 159 0 0 | 106 0 0 | |
| 618 Curra and Currawinnia | 113 2 6 | 60 6 8 | |
| 650 Cubbo and Dunwerian | 133 15 0 | 66 17 6 | |
| 657 Lindsay | 415 1 9 | 276 14 6 | |
| 666 Mereyula | 15 10 6 | 10 7 0 | |
| 671 Big River | 158 9 3 | 52 16 5 | |
| 677 Hermitage Plains, Block 2A | 194 11 3 | 129 14 2 | |
| 687 Yerrinan | 182 18 0 | 60 19 4 | |
| 698 Budgery | 201 5 0 | 134 3 4 | |
| 702 Wilgar Downs | 956 12 6 | 717 9 4 | |
| 708 Keera... .. | 471 5 0 | 235 12 6 | |
| 712 Upper Wyalong, No. 2 | 133 11 0 | 89 0 8 | |
| 730 Tannabar | 53 15 0 | 26 17 6 | |
| 734 Bundybundally | 97 10 0 | 65 0 0 | |
| 735 Mogong | 33 15 0 | 22 10 0 | |
| | 16,821 6 2 | 10,124 9 11 | 6,696 16 3 |

| No. and Name of Holding. | Minimum Rent as recommended by the Local Land Board in the first instance. | | | Rent finally determined on appeal. | | | Difference caused by reduction. | | |
|--------------------------|--|----|----|------------------------------------|----|----|---------------------------------|----|----|
| | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| WESTERN DIVISION. | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 Tarella | 1,491 | 2 | 10 | 1,118 | 7 | 2 | | | |
| 4 Innesowen | 387 | 10 | 0 | 348 | 15 | 0 | | | |
| 8 Fort Grey | 928 | 15 | 0 | 464 | 7 | 6 | | | |
| 10 Moolah | 397 | 6 | 8 | 158 | 18 | 8 | | | |
| 12 Meadows | 266 | 10 | 0 | 239 | 17 | 0 | | | |
| 14 Turlee... | 491 | 6 | 8 | 122 | 16 | 8 | | | |
| 15 Noonthoorungee | 768 | 8 | 0 | 576 | 6 | 0 | | | |
| 19 Tiltagara | 347 | 15 | 0 | 260 | 16 | 3 | | | |
| 20 Mount Gipps... | 1,743 | 12 | 7 | 1,307 | 14 | 6 | | | |
| 21 Cobham Lake... | 938 | 16 | 8 | 704 | 2 | 6 | | | |
| 23 Mallara | 229 | 7 | 0 | 114 | 13 | 6 | | | |
| 25 Kilfera | 1,714 | 3 | 2 | 857 | 1 | 7 | | | |
| 26 Tarcoola | 753 | 3 | 1 | 376 | 11 | 7 | | | |
| 28 Pan Ban | 227 | 6 | 8 | 173 | 6 | 8 | | | |
| 30 Nymagee | 256 | 14 | 5 | 154 | 0 | 8 | | | |
| 37 Restdown | 207 | 18 | 4 | 103 | 19 | 2 | | | |
| 40 Frome's Creek | 459 | 3 | 4 | 306 | 2 | 3 | | | |
| 42 Magenta | 728 | 8 | 4 | 364 | 4 | 2 | | | |
| 43 Elsinora | 524 | 11 | 8 | 262 | 5 | 10 | | | |
| 45 Mootwingee | 161 | 1 | 8 | 120 | 16 | 3 | | | |
| 47 Lachlan Downs | 353 | 13 | 4 | 265 | 5 | 0 | | | |
| 48 Delalah Downs | 459 | 11 | 8 | 183 | 16 | 8 | | | |
| 49 Cuthowarra | 230 | 16 | 8 | 184 | 13 | 4 | | | |
| 57 Pulpulla | 268 | 15 | 0 | 201 | 11 | 3 | | | |
| 59 Gunniguldrie... | 151 | 16 | 8 | 38 | 14 | 2 | | | |
| 60 Boomicaricool | 135 | 16 | 0 | 67 | 18 | 0 | | | |
| 61 Marma | 186 | 13 | 4 | 93 | 6 | 8 | | | |
| 64 Tinapagee | 1,683 | 16 | 8 | 1,515 | 9 | 0 | | | |
| 65 Conuulpie Downs | 867 | 15 | 0 | 578 | 10 | 0 | | | |
| 67 Buckalow | 830 | 8 | 4 | 622 | 16 | 3 | | | |
| 68 Neckarboo | 505 | 4 | 2 | 378 | 18 | 2 | | | |
| 74 The Priory | 267 | 16 | 8 | 200 | 17 | 6 | | | |
| 79 Keewong | 511 | 8 | 4 | 127 | 17 | 1 | | | |
| 81 Springfield | 266 | 10 | 0 | 239 | 17 | 0 | | | |
| 82 Bulla ... | 266 | 13 | 4 | 160 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 85 Gidgee | 405 | 16 | 8 | 324 | 13 | 4 | | | |
| 86 Bulgoo | 259 | 16 | 8 | 207 | 17 | 4 | | | |
| 87 Mokeley | 399 | 16 | 8 | 199 | 18 | 4 | | | |
| 91 Mallee Cliffs | 597 | 13 | 4 | 298 | 16 | 8 | | | |
| 92 Salisbury Downs | 2,075 | 0 | 0 | 1,245 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 93 Yantara | 963 | 10 | 10 | 642 | 7 | 3 | | | |
| 95 Mundi Mundi | 723 | 5 | 0 | 482 | 3 | 4 | | | |
| 96 Paddington | 1,254 | 6 | 8 | 1,003 | 9 | 4 | | | |
| 102 Tapio ... | 1,112 | 9 | 2 | 556 | 4 | 7 | | | |
| 106 Tapalin | 1,040 | 11 | 11 | 520 | 6 | 0 | | | |
| 108 Marooba | 125 | 9 | 3 | 94 | 2 | 0 | | | |
| 113 Glenlyon | 480 | 16 | 8 | 432 | 15 | 0 | | | |
| 114 Bootra | 396 | 11 | 8 | 297 | 8 | 9 | | | |
| 115 Roto ... | 636 | 13 | 4 | 477 | 10 | 0 | | | |
| 126 Boulka | 524 | 3 | 4 | 393 | 2 | 6 | | | |
| 127 Delalah | 673 | 19 | 2 | 269 | 11 | 8 | | | |
| 130 Burta ... | 447 | 18 | 4 | 358 | 6 | 8 | | | |
| 131 Grasmere | 450 | 10 | 0 | 337 | 17 | 6 | | | |
| 133 Rookery | 135 | 10 | 0 | 81 | 6 | 0 | | | |
| 136 Arumpo | 356 | 1 | 8 | 284 | 17 | 4 | | | |
| 139 Waverly Downs | 267 | 1 | 8 | 200 | 6 | 3 | | | |
| 141 Shirt's Meadows | 457 | 18 | 4 | 366 | 6 | 8 | | | |
| 142 Wangaron | 64 | 11 | 8 | 32 | 5 | 10 | | | |
| 145 Yallock | 534 | 10 | 0 | 133 | 12 | 6 | | | |
| 146 Roto, North East | 136 | 16 | 8 | 34 | 4 | 2 | | | |
| 150 Tibora... | 185 | 4 | 2 | 46 | 6 | 1 | | | |
| 151 Mount Arrowsmith | 513 | 16 | 8 | 385 | 7 | 6 | | | |
| 155 Goonalгаа | 110 | 7 | 0 | 66 | 4 | 3 | | | |
| 157 Garnpung | 416 | 0 | 0 | 203 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 158 Central Block G | 124 | 1 | 8 | 74 | 9 | 0 | | | |
| 159 Mount Wood... | 815 | 0 | 0 | 563 | 6 | 8 | | | |
| 160 Urisino | 1,322 | 18 | 4 | 992 | 3 | 9 | | | |
| 161 Packsaddle | 666 | 11 | 6 | 499 | 18 | 8 | | | |
| 163 Coombie | 267 | 6 | 8 | 200 | 10 | 0 | | | |
| 164 Yandama | 266 | 9 | 2 | 133 | 4 | 7 | | | |

| No. and Name of Holding. | Minimum Rent as recommended by the Local Land Board in the first instance. | Rent finally determined on appeal. | Difference caused by reduction. |
|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>WESTERN DIVISION—continued.</i> | | | |
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| 167 Kalena | 268 6 8 | 214 13 4 | |
| 170 Lake Victoria | 2,917 7 11 | 2,333 18 4 | |
| 172 Tongo | 434 3 4 | 325 12 6 | |
| 173 Poolamacca | 726 5 0 | 363 2 6 | |
| 176 Teltagoonah | 277 6 8 | 249 12 0 | |
| 181 Belford | 253 10 0 | 177 9 0 | |
| 185 Nocoloche | 1,441 5 0 | 1,297 2 6 | |
| 186 Gnalta... .. | 938 17 5 | 704 3 1 | |
| 191 Topar | 654 3 4 | 523 6 8 | |
| 192 Fulham | 409 18 4 | 307 8 9 | |
| 193 Amphitheatre... .. | 365 6 8 | 324 14 10 | |
| 194 Moorara | 2,133 4 0 | 533 6 0 | |
| 195 Corona | 3,457 11 8 | 2,593 3 9 | |
| 200 Nundoroe | 910 8 4 | 682 16 3 | |
| 202 Moorna | 263 4 4 | 210 11 6 | |
| 203 Netley... .. | 1,890 19 8 | 1,418 4 9 | |
| 204 Monolon No. 5 | 150 0 0 | 112 10 0 | |
| 205 Meruyla | 1,029 19 0 | 823 19 3 | |
| 207 Thurloo Downs | 837 10 0 | 502 10 0 | |
| 213 Morden | 643 7 6 | 482 10 8 | |
| 220 Olive Downs | 192 18 4 | 96 9 2 | |
| 221 Euston | 73 6 9 | 36 13 5 | |
| 223 Onepar | 236 11 8 | 157 14 5 | |
| 225 Berrawinnia Downs | 654 3 4 | 392 10 0 | |
| 230 Wirlong | 392 2 6 | 294 1 11 | |
| 233 Yathong | 505 2 6 | 126 5 8 | |
| 235 Lerida... .. | 326 6 8 | 293 14 0 | |
| 237 Manfred | 1,163 5 6 | 581 12 9 | |
| 238 Hartwood | 129 12 6 | 77 15 6 | |
| 239 Mount Poole... .. | 861 13 4 | 430 16 8 | |
| 243 Thule | 189 11 3 | 75 16 5 | |
| 249 Boulka Lake | 1,537 1 8 | 1,152 16 3 | |
| 259 Waratta | 133 6 8 | 100 0 0 | |
| 262 Whittabranah | 220 8 4 | 110 4 2 | |
| 263 Canally | 1,272 16 1 | 636 8 1 | |
| 265 Coolabah | 266 13 4 | 213 6 8 | |
| 268 Mogil Mogil | 89 1 8 | 44 10 10 | |
| 276 Mulga Downs | 267 7 4 | 213 17 10 | |
| 278 Berawinnia Downs, No. 3 | 170 0 0 | 102 0 0 | |
| 283 Mount Stuart | 266 13 4 | 200 0 0 | |
| 284 Caryapundi Swamp, No. 1 | 225 16 8 | 112 18 4 | |
| 285 North Euabalong | 106 1 8 | 35 7 3 | |
| 288 Osaca | 267 17 6 | 200 3 2 | |
| 298 Turkey Creek... .. | 179 15 11 | 143 16 9 | |
| 305 Oberwells | 122 16 10 | 24 11 5 | |
| 307 Mount Boorithumble | 112 7 4 | 56 3 8 | |
| 309 Mount Sturt | 266 10 0 | 133 5 0 | |
| 310 Muburulu | 305 11 8 | 61 2 4 | |
| 312 North Peak | 124 12 0 | 74 15 3 | |
| | 9,109 9 9 | 5,201 8 1 | 24,164 12 1 |

OCCUPATION LICENSES.

| No. and Name of Holding. | Minimum License Fee recommended by the Board in the first instance. | License Fee finally determined on appeal. | Difference caused by reduction. |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------|
| EASTERN DIVISION. | | | |
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| 58 Brindabella | 62 13 9 | 41 15 10 | |
| 295 Willingrove | 49 7 3 | 32 18 2 | |
| 300 King's Plains... .. | 61 15 2 | 41 3 6 | |
| 309 Newton Boyd... .. | 78 12 0 | 34 7 9 | |
| 324 Towal Creek | 184 11 6 | 92 5 9 | |
| 430 Clybucca | 23 16 4 | 11 18 2 | |
| 432 Bendethera | 51 14 5 | 25 17 2 | |
| 477 Cooplacurripa | 607 10 0 | 227 16 3 | |
| 537 Serpentine River and Lower Styx | 48 0 0 | 24 0 0 | |
| 564 Cunderang | 153 12 6 | 76 16 3 | |
| | 1,321 12 11 | 608 18 10 | 712 14 1 |
| CENTRAL DIVISION. | | | |
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| 2 Botheroe | 108 10 5 | 90 8 8 | |
| 8 Weetaliba | 88 3 5 | 73 9 6 | |
| 20 Euratha | 56 0 8 | 28 0 4 | |
| 27 Dennykymine | 36 5 0 | 18 2 6 | |
| 55 East Billabong | 91 4 2 | 36 9 8 | |
| 79 Ulimambri | 229 13 1 | 114 16 7 | |
| 97 Therribri | 125 12 6 | 78 10 4 | |
| 111 Wargambegal | 40 12 6 | 20 6 3 | |
| 175 Panjee | 431 9 10 | 359 11 6 | |
| 180 Milby West | 53 2 6 | 30 19 10 | |
| 196 Conapaira | 421 3 9 | 210 11 11 | |
| 220 Bygoo | 82 3 9 | 27 7 11 | |
| 240 Warraberry and St. Giles | 22 10 0 | 6 15 0 | |
| 266 Mowablaa | 95 18 9 | 44 7 5 | |
| 278 Toorawandi | 20 0 3 | 16 13 6 | |
| 281 Derra Derra | 39 16 7 | 19 18 4 | |
| 311 Mickeygunnegal | 21 17 6 | 14 11 8 | |
| 316 New Babinda... .. | 69 16 8 | 60 16 0 | |
| 332 Carlisle | 41 5 0 | 18 0 11 | |
| 380 Murrumbogie... .. | 64 16 3 | 35 12 11 | |
| 402 Ganber Ganber East | 12 15 11 | 9 11 11 | |
| 410 Upper Wyalong | 157 16 3 | 86 15 11 | |
| 417 Cocopara | 18 2 6 | 9 1 3 | |
| 441 Bullerawa | 393 17 6 | 262 11 8 | |
| 444 Geweroo | 100 0 0 | 75 0 0 | |
| 445 Minore | 36 11 4 | 22 17 1 | |
| 451 Warregal | 34 1 3 | 22 14 2 | |
| 461 Honeybugle | 79 1 3 | 39 10 8 | |
| 474 East Breeelong | 35 19 7 | 17 19 10 | |
| 476 Upper Bugaldi | 23 15 0 | 19 15 10 | |
| 488 Brue Plains | 47 3 9 | 23 11 11 | |
| 503 Sandy Creek | 59 15 2 | 48 11 1 | |
| 553 Rocky Creek | 277 15 8 | 69 8 11 | |
| 560 Tucka Tucka | 76 10 8 | 38 5 4 | |
| 586 Gulgo... .. | 30 12 6 | 22 19 5 | |
| 671 Big River | 97 17 2 | 36 13 11 | |
| 677 Hermitage Plains, Block A 2 | 97 10 0 | 81 5 0 | |
| 687 Yerrinan | 62 3 6 | 51 16 3 | |
| 698 Budgery | 96 8 2 | 80 6 9 | |
| 712 Upper Wyalong, No. 2 | 65 12 6 | 38 5 8 | |
| 715 Elong Elong | 5 18 9 | 5 3 11 | |
| | 2,007 3 10 | 1,191 8 0 | 1,581 13 9 |
| WESTERN DIVISION. | | | |
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| 2 Tarella | 1,102 16 3 | 735 4 2 | |
| 4 Innesown | 252 0 0 | 189 0 0 | |
| 8 Fort Grey | 705 0 0 | 411 5 0 | |
| 10 Moolah | 300 7 6 | 100 2 6 | |
| 12 Meadows | 199 5 0 | 159 8 0 | |
| 13 Nelyambo | 1,280 8 10 | 960 6 7 | |
| 14 Turlee... .. | 368 14 5 | 92 3 7 | |
| 15 Noonthoorungee | 578 10 0 | 385 13 4 | |

| No. and Name of Holding. | Minimum License Fee recommended by the Local Land Board in the first instance. | License Fee finally determined on appeal. | Difference caused by reduction. |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|
| <i>WESTERN DIVISION—continued.</i> | | | |
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| 19 Tiltagara | 243 2 6 | 162 1 8 | |
| 20 Mount Gipps... .. | 1,308 4 3 | 872 2 10 | |
| 22 Kallara | 1,568 6 3 | 1,372 5 6 | |
| 23 Mallara | 171 0 8 | 85 10 4 | |
| 25 Kilfera | 1,288 17 4 | 322 4 4 | |
| 26 Tarcoola | 595 10 7 | 148 17 8 | |
| 28 Pan Ban | 204 18 9 | 68 6 3 | |
| 30 Nymagee | 150 8 0 | 84 12 1 | |
| 34 Langavirra | 740 12 6 | 617 3 9 | |
| 37 Restdown | 153 8 9 | 76 14 5 | |
| 40 Frome's Creek | 351 5 0 | 234 3 4 | |
| 42 Magenta | 567 3 9 | 141 16 0 | |
| 43 Elsinora | 400 0 0 | 325 0 0 | |
| 45 Mootwingee | 124 17 6 | 83 5 0 | |
| 47 Lachlan Downs | 249 12 6 | 78 0 2 | |
| 49 Cuthowarra | 172 10 0 | 143 15 0 | |
| 51 Clare | 678 13 9 | 226 4 7 | |
| 57 Pulpulla | 199 11 3 | 149 13 5 | |
| 58 Talarno | 1,523 16 6 | 1,015 17 8 | |
| 60 Poomiaricool | 109 6 3 | 54 13 2 | |
| 61 Marma | 141 0 0 | 70 10 0 | |
| 62 Maranoa | 868 3 9 | 759 13 3 | |
| 64 Tinapagee | 1,201 17 6 | 901 8 2 | |
| 65 Connulpie Downs | 634 1 3 | 118 17 9 | |
| 67 Buckalow | 632 10 0 | 210 16 8 | |
| 68 Neckarboo | 386 1 11 | 257 7 11 | |
| 69 Molten Plains | 378 15 0 | 260 7 10 | |
| 72 Willara | 292 13 9 | 248 15 8 | |
| 74 The Priory | 196 9 9 | 130 19 10 | |
| 78 Moothumbil | 184 1 3 | 115 0 9 | |
| 80 Brindingabba... .. | 431 18 9 | 410 6 10 | |
| 81 Springfield | 201 14 9 | 191 12 11 | |
| 82 Bulla | 200 0 0 | 100 0 0 | |
| 85 Gidgee | 299 1 3 | 224 5 11 | |
| 86 Bulgoo | 190 18 9 | 119 6 9 | |
| 87 Mokely | 300 0 0 | 150 0 0 | |
| 88 Talyeale | 401 0 2 | 340 17 1 | |
| 90 Lissington | 493 2 10 | 328 15 3 | |
| 91 Mallee Cliffs | 452 10 0 | 226 5 0 | |
| 92 Salisbury Downs | 1,592 10 0 | 928 19 2 | |
| 93 Yantara | 719 3 9 | 479 9 2 | |
| 95 Mundi Mundi | 515 11 11 | 343 14 7 | |
| 96 Paddington | 908 19 9 | 340 17 5 | |
| 102 Tapio | 925 12 8 | 308 10 11 | |
| 106 Tapalin | 916 18 11 | 305 13 0 | |
| 113 Glenlyon | 349 7 6 | 305 14 1 | |
| 114 Bootra | 300 0 0 | 175 0 0 | |
| 129 Wilgaroon | 176 5 0 | 167 8 9 | |
| 130 Burta | 341 18 9 | 284 19 0 | |
| 131 Grasmere | 326 12 6 | 272 3 9 | |
| 132 Nillera or Canyonboon | 192 3 9 | 160 3 2 | |
| 133 Rookery | 96 16 3 | 48 8 2 | |
| 136 Arumpo | 266 11 3 | 173 5 4 | |
| 139 Waverley Downs | 205 6 3 | 136 17 6 | |
| 141 Sturt's Meadows | 357 3 9 | 257 13 2 | |
| 146 Roto North-East | 95 18 9 | 23 19 8 | |
| 148 Golgol... .. | 542 10 0 | 135 12 6 | |
| 151 Mount Arrowsmith | 378 15 0 | 252 10 0 | |
| 153 Booroondarra Downs | 185 17 3 | 139 7 11 | |
| 154 Marfield | 742 10 0 | 495 0 0 | |
| 155 Goonalgaa | 85 18 9 | 42 19 5 | |
| 156 Yancannia | 1,726 6 3 | 1,381 1 0 | |
| 157 Garnpung | 315 0 0 | 105 0 0 | |
| 158 Central Block C | 93 15 0 | 70 6 3 | |
| 159 Mount Wood... .. | 614 12 6 | 322 13 7 | |
| 160 Urisino | 1,005 6 3 | 753 19 8 | |
| 161 Packsaddle | 496 17 6 | 331 5 0 | |
| 163 Coombie | 199 16 3 | 66 12 1 | |
| 164 Yandama | 200 0 0 | 133 6 8 | |
| 167 Kaleno | 192 7 6 | 160 6 3 | |

| No. and Name of Holding. | Minimum License Fee recommended by the Local Land Board in the first instance. | License Fee finally determined on appeal. | Difference caused by reduction. |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|
| WESTERN DIVISION— <i>continued.</i> | | | |
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| 168 Outer Netallie | 163 2 6 | 142 14 8 | |
| 170 Lake Victoria... .. | 2,198 6 7 | 732 16 6 | |
| 172 Tongo... .. | 239 15 0 | 159 16 8 | |
| 173 Poolomacca | 554 13 9 | 369 15 10 | |
| 176 Tiltagoonah | 210 12 6 | 157 19 5 | |
| 181 Belford | 152 16 3 | 95 10 2 | |
| 183 Wanga Mana... .. | 250 0 0 | 212 10 0 | |
| 185 Nocolche | 1,122 15 8 | 1,038 11 5 | |
| 186 Gnalta | 721 11 3 | 577 5 0 | |
| 189 Kerribree | 511 10 0 | 447 11 3 | |
| 190 Thackaringa | 209 14 2 | 139 16 2 | |
| 191 Topar | 509 1 3 | 407 5 0 | |
| 192 Fulham | 297 16 3 | 238 5 0 | |
| 193 Amphitheatre | 271 9 0 | 203 11 8 | |
| 194 Moorara | 1,590 15 0 | 265 2 6 | |
| 195 Corona | 2,575 6 3 | 1,418 12 3 | |
| 200 Nundoro | 678 2 6 | 452 1 8 | |
| 201 Tindayrey | 526 17 11 | 461 0 8 | |
| 202 Moorna | 114 7 9 | 95 6 6 | |
| 203 Netley | 1,373 3 9 | 1,201 10 9 | |
| 204 Monolon, No. 5 | 105 0 0 | 70 0 0 | |
| 205 Meryula | 750 13 5 | 516 1 9 | |
| 213 Morden | 479 13 9 | 319 15 10 | |
| 221 Euston | 63 10 0 | 31 15 0 | |
| 225 Berawinnia Downs | 475 12 6 | 277 9 0 | |
| 229 Billilla | 699 17 5 | 583 4 6 | |
| 230 Wirlong | 295 19 5 | 147 19 8 | |
| 232 Bedooba | 185 15 0 | 123 1 3 | |
| 235 Lerida... .. | 238 1 3 | 178 10 11 | |
| 237 Manfred | 899 6 3 | 224 16 7 | |
| 238 Hartwood | 100 1 11 | 56 6 1 | |
| 239 Mount Poole | 649 1 3 | 324 10 8 | |
| 241 Paika | 528 15 7 | 484 14 3 | |
| 249 Boulka Lake | 1,167 3 9 | 778 2 6 | |
| 250 Wanaaring | 562 17 6 | 478 8 11 | |
| 259 Waratta | 100 0 0 | 66 13 4 | |
| 262 Whittabranah | 163 15 0 | 81 17 6 | |
| 263 Canally | 981 5 0 | 367 19 4 | |
| 309 Mount Sturt | 199 17 6 | 99 18 9 | |
| 310 Mulurulu | 233 8 9 | 58 7 2 | |
| Total | £ 156,139 12 2 | 97,733 7 9 | 58,406 4 5 |

RETURN showing the Rent of a Homestead Lease that has been reduced under the 100th Section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884.

| No. of Homestead Lease. | Land District. | Minimum Rent as recommended by Local Land Board in first instance. | Rent finally determined on appeal. | Difference caused by reduction. |
|-------------------------|------------------|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| 303 | Wilcannia | 28 0 0 | 19 12 0 | 8 8 0 |

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

APPRAISEMENTS OF CONDITIONAL PURCHASES, AT
MOREE.

(RETURN SHOWING.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 12 December, 1888.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 22nd June, 1888, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“A Return of all appraisements of conditional leases up to 31st July, 1886, at Moree, distinguishing the sections under which those leases “were held.”

(Mr. Kelly.)

MOREE DISTRICT.

| No. of Lease. | Section. | Land District. | Applicant. | Area. | Date of Appraisalment. | Rent appraised by Board. |
|---------------|----------|----------------|--------------------|--------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | acres. | | |
| C.L. 85- | 1 | 54th ... Moree | Wm. Woods | 1,881 | 23 Mar., 1886 | 6d. per acre. |
| | 2 | ” ... ” | Thos. Hickey | 1,920 | 23 ” 1886 | 5d. ” |
| | 6 | ” ... ” | G. R. E. Fergusson | 1,920 | 23 ” 1886 | 6d. ” |
| | 15 | ” ... ” | J. G. Wilmot | 1,920 | 23 ” 1886 | 4d. ” |
| | 16 | ” ... ” | W. Druce | 960 | 23 ” 1886 | 6d. ” |
| | 19 | ” ... ” | R. Parry | 1,920 | 23 ” 1886 | 6d. ” |
| | 32 | ” ... ” | J. Power | 1,920 | 23 ” 1886 | 5d. ” |
| | 33 | ” ... ” | J. Young | 960 | 23 ” 1886 | 5d. ” |
| | 71 | ” ... ” | A. Byrnes | 1,620 | 23 ” 1886 | 6d. ” |
| | 75 | ” ... ” | F. Carmody | 1,920 | 23 ” 1886 | 4½d. ” |
| | 87 | 48th ... ” | W. M. Kennedy | 1,920 | 23 ” 1886 | 6d. ” |
| | 88 | ” ... ” | J. Kennedy | 1,920 | 23 ” 1886 | 6d. ” |
| | 105 | ” ... ” | F. Wilmot | 1,800 | 23 ” 1886 | 6d. ” |
| | 103 | ” ... ” | W. Jones | 960 | 24 ” 1886 | 5d. ” |
| | 126 | ” ... ” | T. Barrett | 1,920 | 24 ” 1886 | 5d. ” |
| C.P.L. 85- | 80 | 52nd ... ” | C. B. Crawley | 1,920 | 24 ” 1886 | 4½d. ” |
| | 87 | ” ... ” | J. Keen | 1,362 | 24 ” 1886 | 4d. ” |
| | 90 | ” ... ” | J. M'Naughton | 297 | 24 ” 1886 | 4½d. ” |
| | 91 | ” ... ” | do | 590 | 24 ” 1886 | 4½d. ” |
| | 102 | ” ... ” | A. Skuthorpe | 1,920 | 24 ” 1886 | 4½d. ” |
| | 108 | ” ... ” | W. Williams | 610 | 24 ” 1886 | 3d. ” |
| | 123 | ” ... ” | J. P. Boland | 1,500 | 24 ” 1886 | 4½d. ” |
| | 126 | ” ... ” | P. Donovan | 1,200 | 24 ” 1886 | 4½d. ” |
| | 291 | ” ... ” | J. R. Skuthorpe | 535 | 24 ” 1886 | 4½d. ” |
| | 293 | ” ... ” | J. Campbell | 1,920 | 24 ” 1886 | 4½d. ” |
| | 419 | ” ... ” | J. M'Naughton | 1,920 | 24 ” 1886 | 4½d. ” |
| | 420 | ” ... ” | T. Parnell | 1,470 | 24 ” 1886 | 4d. ” |
| | 422 | ” ... ” | W. Scott & Co. | 1,620 | 24 ” 1886 | 4½d. ” |
| | 425 | ” ... ” | W. Williams | 300 | 24 ” 1886 | 3d. ” |

303—

[830 copies—Approximate Cost of Printing (labour and material), £2 15s. 0d.]

| No. of Lease. | Section. | Land District. | Applicant. | Area. | Date of Appraisement. | Rent appraised by Board. |
|---------------|----------|----------------|------------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | acres. | | |
| C.P.L. 85-497 | 52nd ... | Moree | W. Scott & Co..... | 300 | 24 Mar., 1886 | 4½d. per acre. |
| 92 | " ... | " | W. M'Intosh | 1,757 | 24 " 1886 | 4d. " |
| C.L. 85- 29 | 54th ... | " | A. J. Yorsten | 1,920 | 25 " 1886 | 6d. " |
| 37 | " ... | " | J. R. Dixon | 1,920 | 25 " 1886 | 5d. " |
| 41 | " ... | " | J. Jurd | 479 | 25 " 1886 | 6d. " |
| 52 | " ... | " | J. Fingleton | 1,920 | 25 " 1886 | 6d. " |
| 62 | " ... | " | S. Gall, junior | 1,920 | 25 " 1886 | 5½d. " |
| 92 | 48th ... | " | A. S. Conroy..... | 300 | 25 " 1886 | 6d. " |
| 96 | " ... | " | J. Jurd | 1,080 | 25 " 1886 | 6d. " |
| 97 | " ... | " | H. J. Gilmartin | 1,920 | 25 " 1886 | 4½d. " |
| 93 | " ... | " | J. Warren..... | 300 | 25 " 1886 | 6d. " |
| 98 | " ... | " | E. J. Delander..... | 120 | 25 " 1886 | 6d. " |
| 101 | " ... | " | T. Maloney | 1,920 | 25 " 1886 | 6d. " |
| 122 | " ... | " | R. Wall | 1,082 | 25 " 1886 | 6d. " |
| 132 | " ... | " | C. Moore | 820 | 25 " 1886 | 6d. " |
| C.P.L. 85- 93 | 52nd ... | " | J. M'Neill..... | 1,882 | 25 " 1886 | 4½d. " |
| 96 | " ... | " | J. Pearse | 1,920 | 25 " 1886 | 4½d. " |
| 106 | " ... | " | G. H. Wall | 601 | 25 " 1886 | 4½d. " |
| 107 | " ... | " | J. Wall | 801 | 25 " 1886 | 4½d. " |
| 127 | " ... | " | W. Flemming | 1,904 | 25 " 1886 | 3½d. " |
| 131 | " ... | " | H. Miller | 1,896 | 25 " 1886 | 4½d. " |
| 408 | " ... | " | A. S. Conroy..... | 1,600 | 25 " 1886 | 4d. " |
| 411 | " ... | " | G. A. Eckford | 1,776 | 25 " 1886 | 4½d. " |
| 412 | " ... | " | R. F. M. Eckford | 1,572 | 25 " 1886 | 4½d. " |
| 1516 | " ... | " | A. G. F. Munro | 458½ | 25 " 1886 | 4½d. " |
| 135 | " ... | " | R. Salter | 1,896 | 25 " 1886 | 3½d. " |

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

BOOROOMUGGA, WILGA, AND SUSSEX RUNS.
(REPORTS, &c., IN CONNECTION WITH).

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 12 December, 1888.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 17th May, 1887, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“ A copy of all the evidence taken at the Land Court at Cobar with reference to the appraisement of the Runs Booroomugga, Wilga, and Sussex; also copies of the appraisers’ reports, and all the documents referring to the fixing of the rents of these runs.”

(*Mr. Waddell.*)

Booroomugga Pastoral Holding.—Leasehold Area, No. 147,
Western Division.

SCHEDULE.

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BOOROOMUGGA, WILGA, AND SUSSEX RUNS.

No. 1.

Office Memorandum.

Land Board District, Bourke; Booroomugga Holding; Western Division; leasehold area No. 147, gazetted 11th July, 1885.

REVISION of areas after division at head office:—

Total estimated area, 64,000 acres; alienated land (a), 81 acres; reserves from lease (b), nil; total unavailable land, 81 acres; total area available, 63,919 acres.

1st March, 1886.

J. T. KEATING.

Final revision at District Survey Office prior to appraisalment:—

Total area available (by head office estimate), 64,000 acres; conditional purchases (c), nil; conditional leases (d), nil; homestead leases (e), nil; converted preleases, nil; reserves from leases, nil; auction leases (f), nil; total unavailable land, nil; total area available for appraisalment, 64,000 acres.

EDWARD M'FARLANE,

District Surveyor.

23rd June, 1886.

(a) Includes only such portions as are shown upon the tracing which has been charted up from the maps in the Surveyor-General's Office.

(b) Includes all reserves from lease on lands exempt from lease, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, as shown on tracing.

(c) Conditional purchases, under Crown Lands Act of 1884, which have been confirmed by the Board.

(d) Conditional leases, under Crown Lands Act of 1884, which have been confirmed by the Board.

(e) Includes only such homestead leases as have been approved.

(f) Auction leases converted into annual leases, under 9th subsection of the 85th clause of Crown Lands Act of 1884.

No. 2.

Office Memorandum.

Land Board District, Bourke; Booroomugga Holding, No. 147; Western Division; leasehold area.

LIST of improvement purchase applications within the above holding which had not been finally completed (*i.e.* purchase money paid) at date of revision of areas for appraisalment at head office, and which have not therefore been treated as alienated land:—

I.P. No. 84-33, Land District of Cobar, area 40 acres, Booroomugga Run; number of portion (if surveyed), 1.

1st March, 1886.

J.T.K.

No. 3.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to The Lessee of Booroomugga Pastoral Holding.

Sir,

Local Land Board Office, Bourke, 9 June, 1886.

With reference to the appraisalment of your holding, Booroomugga, being leasehold area No. 147, Western Division, I have to inform you that the area upon which the rent will be payable, has been computed exclusive only of those improvement purchases applied for by you, which have been duly completed by the payment of the appraised value up to the 1st March, 1886.

In the event of other purchases of a like nature having been completed by you since the date above mentioned, or of it being your intention to complete any such purchases, it will be necessary for you to produce satisfactory evidence of the same at the date of appraisalment, in order that the area may be withdrawn from the total area of Crown land available for pastoral occupation.

I have, &c.,

G. C. TOMPSON,

Chairman.

No. 4.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to The Lessee of Booroomugga Pastoral Holding.

Notice to appear at Local Land Board.

New South Wales, Bourke, }
to wit. }

[Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

You are hereby notified to attend at the Court-house, at Cobar, on the 9th day of July, 1886, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, when the matter or question stated at the foot hereof will be investigated.

On proof of due service of this Notice, the investigation may proceed whether you appear in Court or not.

Given under my hand, at Bourke, this 9th day of June, 1886,—

G. C. TOMPSON,

Chairman.

Matter for Investigation.

Appraisalment of rent and license fee, Booroomugga Pastoral Holding, No. 147.

No. 5.

3

No. 5.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to The Lessee of Booroomugga Pastoral Holding.

Notice to appeal at Local Land Board.

New South Wales, Bourke, }
to wit.

[Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

You are hereby notified to attend at the Court-house, at Cobar, on the 9th day of July, 1886, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, when the matter or question stated at the foot hereof will be investigated.

On proof of due service of this Notice, the investigation may proceed whether you appear in Court or not.

Given under my hand, at Bourke, this 9th day of June, 1886,—

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

Matter for Investigation.

Appraisalment of rent and license fee, Booroomugga Pastoral Holding, No. 147.

No. 6.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to The Lessee of Booroomugga Pastoral Holding.

Gentlemen,

Land Board Office, Bourke, 15 June, 1886.

I have the honor to inform you that I have just received a telegram from Inspector Wright, stating that he cannot possibly complete inspection of Booroomugga Pastoral Holding in time for the Cobar Court, consequently your case cannot come on for consideration on 9th July, as previously intimated to you.

I have, &c.,

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

P.S.—You will receive usual fourteen days' notice when Court is fixed.

No. 7.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to The Lessee of Booroomugga Pastoral Holding.

Sir,

Land Board Office, Bourke, 15 June, 1886.

I have the honor to inform you that I have just received a telegram from Inspector Wright, stating that he cannot possibly complete inspection of Booroomugga Pastoral Holding in time for the Cobar Court, consequently your case cannot come on for consideration on 9th July, as previously intimated to you.

I have, &c.,

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

No. 8.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to The Lessee of Booroomugga Pastoral Holding.

Notice to appear at Local Land Board.

New South Wales, Bourke, }
to wit.

[Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

You are hereby notified to attend at "Mr. Werner's Hotel," at Coolabah Railway Station, on the 11th day of November, 1886, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, when the matter or question stated at the foot hereof will be investigated.

On proof of due service of this Notice, the investigation may proceed whether you appear in Court or not.

Given under my hand, at Bourke, this 18th day of October, 1886,—

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

Matter for Investigation.

Appraisalment of rent and license fee, Booroomugga Pastoral Holding, No. 147.

No. 9.

Report for Appraisalment of Rent or License Fee.

Name of lessee or licensee, R. Goldsbrough & Co.; name of holding, Booroomugga, Booroomugga, No. 2, East; date of inspection, 22nd October, 1886; division, Western, No. 147; leasehold area.

Is water supply natural and permanent? No.

Give the names of rivers, creeks, lakes, or lagoons affording this natural supply? Not any.

Is this supply sufficient to keep the land fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.

If not, state for how many months of the year, and for what number of stock the supply is available? In favourable winters, for three months, 20,000 sheep.

Is water supply artificial? Yes.

Is

- Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? From rain waters conserved in tanks and dams.
- If from underground sources, state the depth and interior size of the shaft or well; its capacity to water a given number of stock every twenty-four hours; the quality of water, whether pure and wholesome, or of the kind called "stock-water"? No wells.
- If from tanks, state the original depth, the number of cubic yards, and, as near as you can tell, the present water supply; also as to catchments? No. 1 tank, 400 cubic yards, 4 feet deep, 67,200 gallons, £25; No. 2 tank, 3,000 cubic yards, 12 feet deep, 504,000 gallons, £211; No. 3 tank, 8,000 cubic yards, 16 feet deep, 1,344,000 gallons, £549; No. 4 tank, 11,000 cubic yards, 16 feet deep, 1,848,000 gallons, £752; No. 6 tank, 1,000 cubic yards, 5 feet deep, 168,000 gallons, £70. The above values include drains. Good catchments.
- If from dams, state the depth of the river, creek, or water-course; the height, breadth, and length of embankment; and, as near as you can judge, the present water supply, together with any other information, such as favourable water catchments, retentive soil, hard drainage surface, or otherwise, &c.? No. 5 dam on Mulga Creek—Depth of creek, 8 feet; height of embankment, 12 feet; breadth top, 10 feet, bottom, 30 feet; length, 70 yards; excavation, 3,000 cubic yards, 7 feet deep, with drains, £261.
- Is the present artificial supply sufficient to keep the land permanently and fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.
- If not, state for how many months, and for what number of stock the supply is sufficient? Twelve months, for 9,000 sheep.
- Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial—if so, state particulars? Wholly artificial.
- If lakes, lagoons, creeks, or water-courses are supplied with water raised from adjacent rivers by pumping or otherwise, state the facts? No.
- If any improvements in the shape of tanks, dams, wells, &c., are situated on freeholds or leaseholds, state the facts? No. 1 tank on C.P., parish Yarran, 40 acres; No. 2 tank on A.C.P., parish Yarran, 40 acres; No. 3 tank on freehold, parish Yarran, 40 acres; No. 4 tank on I.P. 84-33, portion 1, parish Tooram, 40 acres; No. 6 tank on Crown lands; No. 5 dam on Crown lands.
- Ascertain where practicable, from station records, the rainfall for the preceding twelve months, two years, or more? 1881, 19.19 inches; 1882, 20.43 inches; 1883, 9.4 inches; 1884, 8.9 inches; 1885, 16.50 inches; 1886, to 30th September, 12.80 inches.
- State whether any extraordinary or special facilities for obtaining or securing water appear to exist on the land? Good catches obtainable.
- What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, lime-stone, trap, &c.? Red soil, rocky formation.
- What is the character of the country—Is it level, hilly, or mountainous; thickly or thinly timbered; rocky, or otherwise? Principally level country, with a few gravelly ridges on the east side, and on the west side, gravelly ridges and stony hills, covered with mallee and scrubs. The level country is thinly timbered and partly covered with scrubs.
- Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyea, brigalow, &c. Indicate its position on tracing? About three-quarters scrub country. Open and thick emu-bush, currant-bush, rose-bush, mulga, quondong, and currawong; mallee, yarran, pine, sandalwood, wattle, hop-bush, and other scrubs.
- State the number of stock the land will carry, if the stock is fully supplied with water? As improved by fencing and conservation of water, 10,000 sheep.
- State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Both.
- Is the country timbered; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered; and what is the kind or kinds of timber—Indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? Thinly covered with box timber; also some gum, pine, ironwood, and beefwood.
- What is the description of pasturage; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent and fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Grasses of each division, with herbage.
- State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? As unimproved, for three months, in favourable winters, $3\frac{1}{4}$ acres per sheep. As improved by fencing and conservation of water, all the year round, $6\frac{3}{4}$ acres per sheep.
- Within the Snowbelt, gather from records on the stations where practicable, the months of the year the country is wholly unavailable? Not affected thereby.
- Where available certain months of the year, or all the year round, give the acreage required for a sheep or horned cattle? As improved, by fencing and conservation of water, all the year round, $6\frac{3}{4}$ acres per sheep.
- Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c.? Kangaroo, blue, mulga, umbrella, seedy, and other grasses; sandalwood, yarran, and other scrubs; box, pine, gum, and ironwood timber.
- State nature and value of any improvements which have become forfeited to the Crown, and are situated upon Crown lands? Not any.

Remarks.

Stock on the holding.—18,000 sheep, 8,000 lambs, 33 cattle, and 30 horses.

Road from Cobar to Coolabah runs along north-west boundary.

Booroomugga, 22nd October, 1886.

W. C. WRIGHT,
Inspector.

The Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

No. 10.

Office Memorandum.

SCHEDULE showing the nature and value of improvements effected by the pastoral lessee on the leasehold area of the Booroomugga Pastoral Holding, as elicited from evidence obtained at the date of appraisal of the leasehold and resumed areas.

Leasehold area, No. 147, Western Division ; R. Goldsbrough & Co., Pastoral Lessee.

| Improvements situated on lands alienated to Pastoral Lessee. | | | Improvements on Crown lands under Pastoral Lease. | | |
|--|-----------|----------|---|-----------|----------|
| Nature of improvements. | Value. | Remarks. | Nature of improvements. | Value. | Remarks. |
| On freehold— | £ s. d. | | On Crown lands— | £ s. d. | |
| Tanks | 544 0 0 | | Fencing half boundary | 665 0 0 | |
| Drains | 5 0 0 | | Fencing half between resumed area | 180 0 0 | |
| | 549 0 0 | | Fencing subdivision | 720 0 0 | |
| On conditional purchases— | | | Drafting-yards | 35 0 0 | |
| Tanks | 212 0 0 | | Tanks | 70 0 0 | |
| Drains | 5 0 0 | | Drains | 125 0 0 | |
| | £ 217 0 0 | | Dam | 261 0 0 | |
| | | | | 2,056 0 0 | |
| | | | On complete improvement purchases— | | |
| | | | Tanks | 641 0 0 | |
| | | | Drains | 5 0 0 | |
| | | | Hut | 25 0 0 | |
| | | | | £ 671 0 0 | |

11th November, 1886.

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

No. 11.

Caption to Depositions of Witnesses.

Leasehold area, 147—Western Booroomugga Holding.

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

[Crown Lands Act of 1884—Part II, section 14, subsection 1.]

The examination of William Coulthurst Wright, of Coolabah, in the Colony of New South Wales, Inspector of Runs, and Patrick John Kelly, of Booroomugga, in the said Colony.

WHEREAS it hath been necessary to appraise the fair annual rental of leasehold area, 147, Western Division, Booroomugga Holding, and it hath been found necessary to investigate the said matter on oath, the depositions of the several witnesses are appended hereto.

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

[Enclosures.]

THIS deponent, *William Coulthurst Wright*, of Coolabah, in the Colony of New South Wales, Inspector of Runs, Bourke District, being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows:—On 22nd October, I inspected leasehold area, Booroomugga Holding; report produced, marked Exhibit A, is mine, and is true to the best of my knowledge; tracing produced, marked Exhibit B, shows the area in question in its natural state; it is a waterless area, and consists principally of level country, thinly timbered and partly covered with scrubs; on the east side some gravelly ridges, on the west side gravelly ridges and stony hills, covered with mallee and scrubs; the edible scrubs are emu-bush, currant-bush, mulga, quondong, rose-bush, and currawong, with mallee, pine, yarran, sandalwood, wattle, hop-bush, and other useless scrubs; the water supply is wholly artificial, and consists of rain water conserved in tanks and dam. No 1 tank, 400 yards, 4 feet deep; No. 2 tank, 3,000 yards, 12 feet deep; No. 3, 8,000 yards, 16 feet deep; No. 4, 11,000 yards, 16 feet deep; No. 6, 1,000 yards, 5 feet deep; No. 5, dam on Mulga Creek, depth of creek 8 feet, height of embankment 12 feet, breadth at top 12 feet, bottom 30 feet, length 70 yards, excavation 3,000 cubic yards, 7 feet deep. No. 1 tank is on conditional purchase, parish Yarran, 40 acres; No. 2 tank on additional conditional purchase, parish Yarran, 40 acres; No. 3 tank is on freehold, 40 acres; No. 4 tank is on improvement purchase, 84-33, portion 1, parish Tooram, 40 acres; No 6 tank on Crown lands; and No. 5 dam on Crown lands; the fencing on Crown lands consists of boundary, 10 miles of 6 wires, £43 a mile; 20 miles of 6 wires, £45 a mile; lessee claims half; between the resumed area half, 5 miles of 5 wires, at £36 a mile, and subdivision fencing, 20 miles of 5 wires, £36 a mile; I estimate value of improvements on Crown lands—fencing half boundary, £665; half between resumed area, £180; subdivision, £720; drafting-yards, £35; tank, £70; drains, £125; dam, £261; total on Crown lands, £2,056; on freehold—tanks, £544; drains, £5; total, £549; on incomplete improvement purchases—hut, £25; tank, £641; drains, £5; total, £671; on conditional purchases—drains, £5; tanks, £212; total, £217; travelling stock route, Cobar to Coolabah, runs along north-west boundary of this area; rainfall in 1881, 19 inches 19 points; 1882, 20 inches 43 points; 1883, 9 inches 4 points; 1884, 8 inches 9 points; 1885, 16 inches 50 points; 1886, up to 30th September, 12 inches 80 points; stock at the holding at time of inspection, 18,000 sheep, 8,000 lambs, 33 cattle, and 30 sheep; I estimate the carrying capability in favourable winters for three months, 20,000 sheep, being 3¼ acres per sheep, and as improved by fencing and conservation of water all the year round, 10,000 sheep, being 6¾ acres per sheep; from printed returns I give the number of stock depastured in 1882, 14,000 sheep; 1883, 33,928 sheep, 26 cattle, and 20 horses; and in 1884, 6,000 sheep, 10 cattle, and 4 horses.

Sworn by this deponent, William Coulthurst Wright, this }
11th November, 1886, at Coolabah, before us,—

G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
A. K. MACKENZIE, } Members.
E. B. BARTON, }

W. C. WRIGHT,
Inspector of Runs.

THIS

THIS deponent, *Patrick John Kelly*, of Booroomugga, in the Colony of New South Wales, owner of Booroomugga Station, being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows:—I heard Mr. Wright's evidence as regards improvements; it is correct; I first bought the station in 1882; I had 60 per cent. of lambs in 1882; the sheep that year cut about 4 lb. of greasy wool; 1883, a lambing of 25 per cent., but they died within a month or two after they were marked; no lambing in 1884; weight of fleece in 1883, about 4½ lb.; in 1884 the fleece weighed about 2½ lb., this was caused by the very severe drought; it took 250 fleeces to make a bale; last year we had 70 per cent. of lambs; weight of fleece 4¾ lb. in the grease; this year the wool was full of grass seed; 5½d. was the highest price I got and the lowest one farthing per lb.; since I have been on the station I have sent two lots of fat sheep, about 1,100; first lot of about 550 netted 7s. 3d. each; the balance 5s. 3d. each; distance from railway, 30 miles, and carriage from station to Sydney, £5 16s.; I estimate 8 acres to a sheep on leasehold area; the pine scrub this last two years has increased to a wonderful extent; the area in its natural state is waterless; sheep require salt; it cost about £100 a year for salt; allow ½ ton to 1,000 sheep.

Sworn by this deponent Patrick John Kelly, this }
11th November, 1886, at Coolabah, before us,—

P. J. KELLY.

G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
A. K. MACKENZIE, } Members.
E. B. BARTON, }

Booroomugga Pastoral Holding; Western Division, No. 157; leasehold area.

Exhibit A.

Report for Appraisalment of Rent or License Fee.

Name of lessee or licensee, R. Goldsbrough & Co.; name of holding, Booroomugga; date of inspection, 22nd October, 1886; division, Western, No. 147; leasehold area.

Is water supply natural and permanent? No.

Give the names of rivers, creeks, lakes, or lagoons affording this natural supply? Not any.

Is this supply sufficient to keep the land fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.

If not, state for how many months of the year, and for what number of stock the supply is available? In favourable winters for three months; 20,000 sheep.

Is water supply artificial? Yes.

Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? From rain waters conserved in tanks and dam.

If from underground sources, state the depth and interior size of the shaft or well; its capacity to water a given number of stock every twenty-four hours; the quality of water, whether pure and wholesome, or of the kind called "stock-water"? No wells.

If from tanks, state the original depth, the number of cubic yards, and, as near as you can tell, the present water supply; also as to catchments? No. 1 tank, 400 cubic yards, 4 feet deep, 67,200 gallons, £25; No. 2 tank, 3,000 cubic yards, 12 feet deep, 504,000 gallons, £211; No. 3 tank, 8,000 cubic yards, 16 feet deep, 1,344,000 gallons, £549; No. 4 tank, 11,000 cubic yards, 16 feet deep, 1,848,000 gallons, £752; No. 6 tank, 1,000 cubic yards, 5 feet deep, 168,000 gallons, £70; the above values include drains; good catchments.

If from dams, state the depth of the river, creek, or water-course; the height, breadth, and length of embankment; and, as near as you can judge, the present water supply, together with any other information, such as favourable water catchments, retentive soil, hard drainage surface, or otherwise, &c.? No. 5 dam.—On Mulga Creek; depth of creek, 8 feet; height of embankment, 12 feet; breadth top, 10 feet; bottom, 30 feet; length, 70 yards; excavation, 3,000 cubic yards, 7 feet deep, with drains, £261.

Is the present artificial supply sufficient to keep the land permanently and fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.

If not, state for how many months, and for what number of stock the supply is sufficient? Twelve months for 9,000 sheep.

Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial; if so, state particulars? Wholly artificial.

If lakes, lagoons, creeks, or water-courses are supplied with water raised from adjacent rivers by pumping or otherwise, state the facts? No.

If any improvements in the shape of tanks, dams, wells, &c., are situated on freeholds or leaseholds, state the facts? No. 1 tank, on C.P., parish Yarran, 40 acres; No. 2 tank, on A.C.P., parish Yarran, 40 acres; No. 3 tank, on freehold, parish Yarran, 40 acres; No. 4 tank, on I.P. 84-33, portion 1, parish Tooram, 40 acres; No. 6 tank, on Crown lands; No. 5 dam, on Crown lands.

Ascertain where practicable, from station records, the rainfall for the preceding twelve months, two years, or more? 1881, 19.19 inches; 1882, 20.43 inches; 1883, 9.4 inches; 1884, 8.9 inches; 1885, 16.50 inches; 1886, to September 30th, 12.80 inches.

State whether any extraordinary or special facilities for obtaining or securing water appear to exist on the land? Good catches obtainable.

What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, lime-stone, trap, &c.? Red soil, rocky formation.

What is the character of the country—Is it level, hilly, or mountainous; thickly or thinly timbered; rocky, or otherwise? Principally level country, thinly timbered, and partly covered with scrubs. On east side some gravelly ridges, and on the west side gravelly ridges and stony hills, covered with mallee and scrubs.

Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyea, brigalow, &c. Indicate its position on tracing? About three-quarter scrub country—open and thick Emu-bush, currant-bush, rose-bush, mulga, quondong, and currawong; mallee, pine, yarran, sandalwood, wattle, hop-bush, and other scrubs.

State the number of stock the land will carry, if the stock is fully supplied with water? As improved by fencing and the conservation of water, 10,000 sheep.

State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Both.

Is the country timbered; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered; and what is the kind or kinds of timber; indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? Thinly covered with box timber; also some gum, pine, ironwood, and beefwood.

What is the description of pasturage; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent and fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Grasses of each Division, with herbage.

State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? As unimproved for three months in favourable winters, 3¼ acres per sheep. As improved by fencing and the conservation of water all the year round, 6¾ acres to a sheep.

Within the Snowbelt, gather from records on the stations where practicable, the months of the year the country is wholly unavailable? Not affected thereby.

Where available certain months of the year, or all the year round, give the acreage required for a sheep or horned cattle? As improved by fencing and the conservation of water all the year round, 6¾ acres to a sheep.

Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c.? Kangaroo, blue, mulga, umbrella, seedy and other grasses; sandalwood, yarran, and other scrubs; box, pine, gum, and ironwood timber.

State nature and value of any improvements which have become forfeited to the Crown, and are situated upon Crown lands? Not any.

Remarks.

Fencing on Crown lands—Boundary 10 miles, 6 wires, at £43 per mile; 20 miles, 6 wires, at £45 per mile; lessee claims half. Between resumed area, ½ mile, 5 miles, 5 wires, at £36 per mile; subdivision, 20 miles, 5 wires, at £36 per mile; 2 drafting-yards on Crown lands, £35; hut on I.P. 84-33, parish Tooram, £25.

Value

Value of improvements.

| | On Crown lands. | On freehold. | On incomplete improvement purchases. | On conditional purchases. |
|---|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fencing— $\frac{1}{2}$ boundary | 665 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ —between resumed area | 180 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Subdivision | 720 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| 2 drafting-yards | 35 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Hut ..... | ..... | ..... | 25 | ..... |
| Drains | 125 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Tanks..... | 70 | 544 | 641 | 212 |
| Dam | 261 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| | 2,056 | 549 | 671 | 217 |

Road from Cobar to Coolabah runs along north-west boundary. Stock on Holding, 18,000 sheep, 8,000 lambs, 33 cattle, 30 horses.

Booroomugga, 22nd October, 1886.
The Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

W. C. WRIGHT,
Inspector.

No. 12.

Appraisement by Local Land Board.

Leasehold area, 147; Western Division; Booroomugga Holding.

[Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

Appraisement by Local Land Board of rent to be paid for next period of five years of pastoral lease.

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

WHEREAS by direction of the Minister of Lands, it was ordered that the rent to be paid in respect of the next period of five years of lease of pastoral lease 147, Western Division, Land District of Cobar, county of Canbelego, held by R. Goldsbrough & Co., should be subject to appraisement by the Local Land Board for the Cobar District. These are, therefore, to certify that the said Local Land Board having taken evidence, and inquired into the matter, hereby appraises the rental payable for the five years term of lease commencing on 11th July, 1885, as at the rate of 1d. per acre per annum.

Given under my hand at the office of the Local Land Board at Coolabah, this 11th day of November, 1886.

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

Rent determined at 1⁰/₁₀₀d. per acre, commencing at the notification of the division of the pastoral holding, and to apply to the unexpired period of the pre-existing leases (if any), and thenceforth for a further period of five years.—H.C., 31/12/86.

Gazetted, 9/2/87. Rent called for R. Goldsbrough & Co., 15/2/87.

No. 13.

Memo. by The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke.

THE enclosed three reports on the undermentioned blocks may remain with leasehold papers, 147, Western Division:—Booroomugga, No. 2, East; Back Booroomugga, No. 2, East; Back Booroomugga, No. 2, East Division.

EGG:ZZ

G.C.T., 11/11/86.

No. 14.

Mr. P. J. Kelly to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke.

Sir,

Booroomugga, 13 November, 1886.

With reference to yours of the 4th instant, I have the honor to state the number of acres intended to be purchased on leasehold area of this holding, is one conditional purchase of 40 acres, one additional conditional purchase of 40 acres, two improvement purchases of 40 acres each, and on resumed area, eight improvement purchases of 40 acres each.

Will you please send me some appeal forms, and state when the appeal should be lodged?

I have, &c.,

P. J. KELLY.

P. J. Kelly (m.), sending forms 51, 23/11/86. May be transmitted to the Under Secretary for Lands, with a view of being placed with the Booroomugga papers posted yesterday.—M. LACKY (for Chairman), B.C., 23/11/86. The Under Secretary for Lands.

No. 15.

No. 15.

Gazette Notice.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 8 December, 1886.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of Regulations Nos. 33 and 134, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, published on the 2nd January, 1885, being amended as hereunder.

HENRY COPELAND.

AMENDMENT OF REGULATION 134.

134. Every application under section 100 of the Act by the holder of a Pastoral or Homestead Lease or Occupation License for a reduction of the minimum rent or license fee fixed in respect thereof shall be made in the Form 51 and tendered to the Local Land Board within sixty days of the notification in the *Government Gazette* of the determination of such rent or license fee, and all inquiries into such applications shall be conducted by the Board in the manner prescribed in Regulation 21.

Every such application shall be accompanied by a receipt from the Colonial Treasurer, showing that the rent or license fee for the current year, with any arrears, in respect of such lease or license shall have first been duly paid.

And if any reduction of rent or license fee be allowed, such reduction shall be notified in the *Gazette*, and should such rent or license fee thereafter be restored to the minimum rate, notification thereof shall be similarly given.

No. 16.

Extract from Supplement to *Government Gazette*, 9 February, 1887.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 9 February, 1887.

NOTICE is hereby given, that in pursuance of the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, the Minister has determined the Annual Rentals of the Pastoral Leases specified in the annexed Schedule, at the respective rates per acre therein mentioned; such rentals to apply from the date of notification of the division of the pastoral holding in each case until the expiration of the first period of the lease. For the second period the annual rentals will be increased by one-fourth, and for the residue of the term by one-half of those now determined.

The first period of the leases will be for the term hereunder specified, and is inclusive of the unexpired term or mean term of the lease or leases in existence on the 31st December, 1884. The second period will be for five years, commencing at the expiration of the first period; and the third period will be for five years, commencing at the expiration of the second period.

The leases may be terminated subject to the provisions of The Crown Lands Act of 1884. The amounts now demanded must be paid to the Colonial Treasurer on or before the 12th April, 1887, subject in default to the penalties imposed by the 96th section of the Act hereinbefore mentioned.

THOMAS GARRETT.

SCHEDULE.—WESTERN DIVISION.

* * * * *
Booroomugga Pastoral Holding, 64,000 acres; No. of leasehold area, 147; lessees, R. Goldsbrough & Co. (Limited); notified in *Gazette*, 11th July, 1885; date of determination or mean determination of leases of runs included in pastoral holding, 31st December, 1885; annual rental, £272 at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per acre, determined to 10th July, 1887; amount now demanded, £408 3s. 1d.; first period of lease commencing on 11th July, 1885, and ending 31st December, 1890; rent due in each year on 10th July.
* * * * *

No.

APPENDIX—

| Name of Pastoral Holding and No. of Leasehold Area. | Estimated acreage of Leasehold Area and date of notification in <i>Government Gazette</i> . | | Names of Registered Lessees on the 1st January, 1885, and 1st January, 1886, respectively. | | Names of Runs included in Pastoral Holding, showing Old expiration of each Lease, amount of rental paid from mean term of such Leases, and mean date of | | | |
|---|---|------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| | | | 1885. | 1886. | Run. | Old Pastoral District. | Date of expiration of each Lease. | Amount of Rent paid. |
| Booroomugga No. 147. | acres. 64,000 | 1885. 11 July... | R. Goldsbrough & Co. (Limited). | R. Goldsbrough & Co. (Limited). | Booroomugga, No. 2, East. | Warrego.. | 1885. 31 Dec. | £ 51 |
| | | | Do | ..... | Back Booroomugga, No. 2, East. | do ... | do ... | 10 |
| | | | Do | ..... | Division | do ... | do ... | 10 |
| | | | | | Booroomugga Leasehold Area, No. 147..... | | | 51 Cr. |
| | | | | | Do | | | 31 Dec., 1885. £51 Cr. |
| | | | | | | 31 Dec., 1885. | £173 | |

No. 17.

Notification to Lessee.

Notification to Lessee of Determination of Rent, &c.

New South Wales, }
to wit.

[Crown Lands Act of 1884—Part IV, section 78.]

To Messrs R. Goldsbrough & Co. (Limited), of Sydney.

You are hereby notified, as the holder of the pastoral lease hereunder specified, that the Minister, in pursuance of the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, has determined the rental payable for the first period of five years of the said lease, and for the mean unexpired term of the previous leases commencing from date of notification of division of pastoral holding at the rate of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per acre per annum, and you are hereby requested to pay to the Colonial Treasurer on or before the 12th day of April, 1887, the sum of £408 3s. 1d., being the difference between the rent paid and that determined up to the 10th July, 1887. The rental of your pastoral lease shall thereafter be paid yearly in advance on or before the 10th day of July in each year, and should the amount of such rent be not paid on the due date thereof, the right to such lease shall be liable to forfeiture.

SCHEDULE.

Leasehold area, Booroomugga, No. 147; date of notification, 11th July, 1885; area, 64,000 acres; annual rental, £272.

CHARLES OLIVER,
Under Secretary.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 15th February, 1887.

No. 18.

The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Pastoral Lease.

Sir,

The Treasury, New South Wales, 15 April, 1887.

With reference to the *Government Gazette*, dated 9th February, 1887, notifying that the Minister of Lands had determined the annual rent to be paid upon the undermentioned pastoral lease under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, and calling for payment of the adjusted rental thereon to 10th July, 1887, I am directed to inform you that the amount in question, viz., £408 3s. 1d., was paid into this office on 7th April, 1887.

Division—Western; lessee, R. Goldsbrough & Co. (Limited); No. of lease, 147; name of leasehold area, Booroomugga.

I have, &c.,

W. NEWCOMBE,
(*Pro* Under Secretary).

19.

SCHEDULE.

| Pastoral District, date of 1st January, 1885; also determination thereof. | | | Annual Rental determined for Leasehold Area. | | Apportionment of amounts paid as Rent from 1st January, 1885. | | Date up to which Rent is now demanded. | Amount now demanded. | Date of commencement of first period of Lease. | Date of expiration of first period of Lease. | Date upon which payment of Rent is due in each year. |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------|--|---|--|----------------------|--|--|--|
| Year for which Rent paid. | Mean term of such Leases. | Mean date of determination. | Rate per acre. | Amount. | Amount to be retained as rent from 1st January, 1885, to date of notification of Leasehold area. | Balance to credit of Lessee to be applied as part payment of rent determined up to date shown in next column. | | | | | |
| 1885 | 174 days. | 1885. 31 Dec. | d. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | £ s. d. 272 0 0 | £ s. d. 37 3 1 | £ s. d. 135 16 11 | 1887. 10 July | £ s. d. 408 3 1 | 1885. 11 July..... | 1890. 31 Dec. | 10 July |
| 1885 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1885 | | | | | | | | | | | |

Booroomugga Pastoral Holding.—Resumed Area, No. 147, Western Division.

SCHEDULE.

| NO. | PAGE. |
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No. 1.

Application by R. Goldsbrough.

Form 47.

[Crown Lands Act of 1884—Part IV, section 81.]
Sydney, 21 April, 1885.

IN accordance with the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, we, R. Goldsbrough & Co. (Limited), being a runholder in the Western Division, and this day having made application for a pastoral lease, hereby apply for a license to occupy for the term of one year for grazing purposes which-ever portion of my pastoral holding, known as Booroomugga Station, may be converted into a resumed area under the said Act.

Annexed hereto is a receipt, showing that the sum of £200, on account of the first year's license fee, at the rate of £2 per section of 640 acres of the estimated area of 64,000 acres I now apply for, has been deposited with the Colonial Treasurer, and I also agree to pay any further sum that may be demanded being the difference between the sum paid into the Treasury and the said license fee, as appraised hereafter.

R. GOLDSBROUGH & CO. (LIMITED)
(By their Attorney, G. MAIDEN),
Local Manager at Sydney.

The Minister for Lands.

Received the sum of £200, being the deposit required on this application.

The Treasury, New South Wales, 21st April, 1885.

P. J. HOLDSWORTH,
(*Pro* Treasurer).

No. 2.

Office Memorandum.

Land Board District, Bourke; Booroomugga Holding, Western Division; resumed area No. 147;
gazetted 11th July, 1885.

RETURN of areas at date of division at head office (revised) :—

Total estimated area, 64,200 acres; alienated land (*a*), nil; reserves from lease (*b*), nil; total unavailable land, nil; total area available, 64,200 acres.

1st March, 1886.

J. T. KEATING.

Extension of above at District Survey Office for appraisalment of occupation license for year 1885 :—
Area available (by head office estimates), 64,200 acres. Withdrawals.—Convertible preleases (52nd clause) as approved or recommended, nil; conditional leases (54th clause) as confirmed, nil; auction leases (*d*), nil; miscellaneous, including any alienation under repealed Acts not already shown upon tracing, nil; total unavailable land, nil; total area available for occupation license at date of notification of resumed area (*e*), 64,200 acres.

EDWARD M'FARLANE,
District Surveyor.

Final

Final revision at District Survey Office for appraisalment for 1886 :—

Total area available to 31st December, 1885, 64,200 acres. Withdrawals.—Conditional purchases (*f*), nil; conditional leases (*g*), nil; homestead leases (*h*), nil; reserves from lease, nil; improvement purchases paid for since date of division, nil; total unavailable land, nil; total area available for appraisalment on 1st January, 1886, 64,200 acres.

EDWARD M'FARLANE,
District Surveyor.

23rd June, 1886.

(*a*) Includes only such portions as are shown upon the tracing which has been charted up from the maps in the Surveyor-General's Office.

(*b*) Includes all reserves from lease or lands exempt from lease, under Crown Lands Act of 1884, as shown on tracing.

(*c*) As far as ascertainable in head office.

(*d*) Auction leases converted into annual leases under 9th subsection of 85th clause of Crown Lands Act of 1884.

(*e*) Represents area chargeable for occupation from date of division to 31st December, 1885.

(*f*) Conditional purchases, under Crown Lands Act of 1884, which have been confirmed by the Board.

(*g*) Conditional leases, under Crown Lands Act of 1884, which have been confirmed by the Board.

(*h*) Includes only such homestead leases as have been approved.

No. 3.

Office Memorandum.

Land Board District, Bourke; Booroomugga Holding, No. 147, Western Division; resumed area.

List of improvement purchase applications within the above holding which had not been finally completed (*i.e.* purchase money paid) at date of revision of areas for appraisalment at head office, and which have not therefore been treated as alienated land.

| Improvement Purchase Number. | Land District. | Area. | Run. | No. of portion (if surveyed). | Remarks. |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| | | Acres. | | | |
| 84-208 | Cobar | 40 | Booroomugga | 2 | |
| 84-211 | " | 40 | " | 4 | |
| 84-213 | " | 40 | " | 5 | |
| 84-212 | " | 40 | " | 1 | |
| 84-210 | " | 40 | " | 3 | |
| 84-209 | " | 40 | " | 4 | |
| 84-183 | " | 40 | " | 5 | |
| 84-207 | " | 40 | " | 2 | |
| 84-214 | " | 40 | " | 3 | |

1st March, 1886.

J. T. KEATING.

No. 4.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to The Lessee of Booroomugga Pastoral Holding.

Sir,

Local Land Board Office, Bourke, 9 June, 1886.

With reference to the appraisalment of your holding, Booroomugga, being resumed area No. 147, Western Division, I have to inform you that the area upon which the license fee will be payable, has been computed, exclusive only of those improvement purchases applied for by you, which have been duly completed by the payment of the appraised value up to the 11th July, 1885.

In the event of other purchases of a like nature having been completed by you since the date above mentioned, or of it being your intention to complete any such purchases, it will be necessary for you to produce satisfactory evidence of the same at the date of appraisalment, in order that the area may be withdrawn from the total area of Crown land available for pastoral occupation.

I have, &c.,

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

No. 5.

Report for Appraisalment of Rent or License Fee.

Name of lessee or licensee, R. Goldsbrough & Co.; name of holding, Booroomugga, Back Booroomugga, No. 2, East; dates of inspection, 21st and 22nd October, 1886; division, Western, No. 147; resumed area.

Is water supply natural and permanent? No.

Give the names of rivers, creeks, lakes, or lagoons affording this natural supply? Not any.

Is this supply sufficient to keep the land fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.

If not, state for how many months of the year, and for what number of stock the supply is available? In favourable winters, for three months; 10,000 sheep.

Is water supply artificial? Yes.

Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? From rain waters conserved in tanks.

If from underground sources, state the depth and interior size of the shaft or well; its capacity to water a given number of stock every twenty-four hours; the quality of water, whether pure and wholesome, or of the kind called "stock-water"? No wells.

If

- If from tanks, state the original depth, the number of cubic yards, and, as near as you can tell, the present water supply; also as to catchments? No. 1 tank, 7,500 cubic yards, 12 feet deep, 1,260,000 gallons, £492; No. 2 tank, 7,000 cubic yards, 12 feet deep, 1,176,000 gallons, £461; No. 3 tank, 4,000 cubic yards, 10 feet deep, 672,000 gallons, £286; No. 4 tank, 1,200 cubic yards, 10 feet deep, 201,600 gallons, £62; No. 5 tank, 2,500 cubic yards, 12 feet deep, 420,000 gallons, £180. The above values include drains. Good catchments.
- If from dams, state the depth of the river, creek, or water-course; the height, breadth, and length of embankment; and, as near as you can judge, the present water supply, together with any other information, such as favourable water catchments, retentive soil, hard drainage surface, or otherwise, &c.? No dams.
- Is the present artificial supply sufficient to keep the land permanently and fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.
- If not, state for how many months, and for what number of stock the supply is sufficient? Twelve months; for 3,500 sheep.
- Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial? If so, state particulars? Wholly artificial.
- If lakes, lagoons, creeks, or water-courses are supplied with water raised from adjacent rivers by pumping or otherwise, state the facts? No.
- If any improvements in the shape of tanks, dams, and wells, &c., are situated on freeholds or leaseholds, state the facts? No. 1 tank, on I.P. 84-210, portion 2, parish Kelly; No. 2 tank, on I.P. 84-208, portion 2, parish Eton; No. 4 tank, on I.P. 84-214, portion 2, parish Nullawarra; No. 5 tank, on I.P. 84-207, portion 2, parish Goyder; No. 3 tank, on Crown lands.
- Ascertain where practicable, from station records, the rainfall for the preceding twelve months, two years, or more? 1881, 19.19 inches; 1882, 20.43 inches; 1883, 9.4 inches; 1884, 8.9 inches; 1885, 16.50 inches; 1886 to 30th September, 12.80 inches.
- State whether any extraordinary or special facilities for obtaining or securing water appear to exist on the land? Good catches obtainable.
- What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, lime-stone, trap, &c.? Red soil; rocky formation.
- What is the character of the country—Is it level, hilly, or mountainous; thickly or thinly timbered; rocky or otherwise? Principally level country, with a few gravelly ridges; partly covered with scrubs, and thickly timbered.
- Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyea, brigalow, &c. Indicate its position on tracing? About half "scrub" country, open and thick; emu-bush, currant-bush, rose-bush, quondong; pine, yarran, sandalwood, hop-bush, and other scrubs.
- State the number of stock the land will carry, if the stock is fully supplied with water? As improved by fencing and conservation of water, 5,000 sheep.
- State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Both.
- Is the country timbered; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered; and what is the kind or kinds of timber. Indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? Thinly covered with box timber, also some gum, pine, and ironwood.
- What is the description of pasturage; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent and fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Grasses of each Division; with herbage.
- State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? As unimproved, for three months in favourable winters, $3\frac{1}{4}$ acres per sheep; as improved, by fencing and conservation of water all the year round, $6\frac{3}{8}$ acres per sheep.
- Within the Snowbelt, gather from records on the stations where practicable, the months of the year the country is wholly unavailable? Not affected thereby.
- Where available certain months of the year, or all the year round, give the acreage required for a sheep or horned cattle? As improved by fencing and conservation of water, all the year round, $6\frac{3}{8}$ acres per sheep.
- Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c.? Kangaroo, blue, mulga, umbrella, and other grasses; sandalwood, yarran, and other scrubs; box, gum, pine, and ironwood timber.
- State nature and value of any improvements which have become forfeited to the Crown, and are situated upon Crown lands? Not any.

Remarks.

The homestead and woolshed are on this block.

Booroomugga, 22nd October, 1886.
The Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

W. C. WRIGHT,
Inspector.

No. 6.

Report for Appraisalment of Rent or License Fee.

Name of lessee or licensee, R. Goldsbrough & Co.; name of holding, Booroomugga, Back Booroomugga, No. 2, East Division; date of inspection, 22nd and 23rd October, 1886; division, Western, No. 147; resumed area.

Is water supply natural and permanent? No.

Give the names of rivers, creeks, lakes, or lagoons affording this natural supply? Not any.

Is

- Is this supply sufficient to keep the land fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.
- If not, state for how many months of the year, and for what number of stock the supply is available? In favourable winters, for three months, 10,000 sheep.
- Is water supply artificial? Yes.
- Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? From rain waters conserved in tanks.
- If from underground sources, state the depth and interior size of the shaft or well; its capacity to water a given number of stock every twenty-four hours; the quality of water, whether pure and wholesome, or of the kind called "stock-water"? No wells.
- If from tanks, state the original depth, the number of cubic yards, and, as near as you can tell, the present water supply; also as to catchments? No. 1 tank, 3,000 cubic yards, 8 feet deep, 504,000 gallons, £217; No. 2 tank, 1,000 cubic yards, 8 feet deep, 168,000 gallons, £94; No. 3 tank, 7,500 cubic yards, 12 feet deep, 1,260,000 gallons, £504; No. 4 tank, 5,000 cubic yards, 12 feet deep, 840,000 gallons, £337. The above values include drains. Good catchments except No. 4.
- If from dams, state the depth of the river, creek, or water-course; the height, breadth, and length of embankment; and, as near as you can judge, the present water supply, together with any other information, such as favourable water catchments, retentive soil, hard drainage surface, or otherwise, &c.? No dams.
- Is the present artificial supply sufficient to keep the land permanently and fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.
- If not, state for how many months, and for what number of stock the supply is sufficient? Twelve months for 3,500 sheep.
- Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial—If so, state particulars? Wholly artificial.
- If lakes, lagoons, creeks, or water-courses are supplied with water raised from adjacent rivers by pumping or otherwise, state the facts? No.
- If any improvements in the shape of tanks, dams, wells, &c., are situated on freeholds or leaseholds, state the facts? No. 1 tank on I.P. 84-211, portion 4, parish Eton; No. 2 tank on I.P. 84-213, portion 5, parish Eton; No. 3 tank on I.P. 84-212, portion 1, parish Harrow; No. 4 tank on I.P. 84-209, portion 4, parish Harrow.
- Ascertain where practicable, from station records, the rainfall for the preceding twelve months, two years, or more? 1881, 19.19 inches; 1882, 20.43 inches; 1883, 9.4 inches; 1884, 8.9 inches; 1885, 16.50 inches; 1886 to 30th September, 12.80 inches.
- State whether any extraordinary or special facilities for obtaining or securing water appear to exist on the land? Good catches obtainable.
- What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, lime-stone, trap, &c.? Red soil; rocky formation.
- What is the character of the country—Is it level, hilly, or mountainous; thickly or thinly timbered; rocky or otherwise? Level country, with some stony hills and gravelly ridges on northern portion of block; thinly timbered and partly covered with scrubs.
- Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyea, brigalow, &c. Indicate its position on tracing? About three-quarters scrub country; open and thick; emu-bush, currant-bush, rose-bush, quondong, and currawong; mallee, pine, yarran, sandalwood, hop-bush, and other scrubs.
- State the number of stock the land will carry, if the stock is fully supplied with water? As improved by fencing and conservation of water, 5,000 sheep.
- State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Both.
- Is the country timbered; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered; and what is the kind or kinds of timber—Indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? Thinly covered with box timber; also some gum, pine, and ironwood.
- What is the description of pasturage; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent and fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Grasses of each division, with herbage.
- State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? As unimproved, for three months; in favourable winters, $3\frac{1}{4}$ acres per sheep; as improved by fencing and conservation of water, $6\frac{1}{2}$ acres per sheep, all the year round.
- Within the Snowbelt, gather from records on the stations where practicable, the months of the year the country is wholly unavailable? Not affected thereby.
- Where available certain months of the year, or all the year round, give the acreage required for a sheep or horned cattle? As improved by fencing and conservation of water, all the year round, $6\frac{1}{2}$ acres per sheep.
- Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c.? Kangaroo, blue, mulga, umbrella, seedy, and other grasses; sandalwood, yarran, and other scrubs; box, pine, gum, and ironwood timber.
- State nature and value of any improvements which have become forfeited to the Crown, and are situated upon Crown lands? Not any.

Booroomugga, 23rd October, 1886.

W. C. WRIGHT,
Inspector.

The Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

No. 7.

Office Memorandum.

SCHEDULE showing the nature and value of Improvements effected by the pastoral lessee on the resumed area of the Booroomugga Pastoral Holding, as elicited from evidence obtained at the date of appraisal of the leasehold and resumed areas.

Resumed area, No. 147 ; Western Division ; Pastoral Lessee.

| Improvements situated on Lands alienated to Pastoral Lessee. | | | Improvements on Crown Lands under Pastoral Lease. | | |
|--|--------|----------|---|---------|----------|
| Nature of Improvements. | Value. | Remarks. | Nature of Improvements. | Value. | Remarks. |
| Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | On Crown lands— | £ | |
| | | | Fencing half boundary..... | 655 | |
| | | | Fencing half between leasehold area | 181 | |
| | | | Fencing subdivision | 813 | |
| | | | Tanks | 234 | |
| | | | Drains | 122 | |
| | | | Huts and drafting-yards | 55 | |
| | | | Total | £ 2,060 | |
| | | | On incomplete improvement purchases— | | |
| | | | Tanks | 2,154 | |
| | | | Drains..... | 100 | |
| | | | Homestead outbuildings, &c. ... | 825 | |
| | | | Woolshed and yards..... | 275 | |
| | | | Total | £ 3,354 | |

11th November, 1886.

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

No. 8.

Caption to Deposition of Witnesses.

Resumed area, 147 ; Western Division ; Booroomugga Holding.

New South Wales, }
to wit. } [Crown Lands Act of 1884—Part II, section 14, subsection 1.]
The examination of William Coulthurst Wright, of Coolabah, in the Colony of New South Wales, Inspector of Runs, and Patrick John Kelly, of Booroomugga, in the said Colony.

WHEREAS it hath been necessary to appraise the license fee for resumed area 147, Western Division, Booroomugga Holding, and it hath been found necessary to investigate the said matter on oath, the depositions of the several witnesses are appended hereto.

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

[Enclosures.]

THIS deponent, *William Coulthurst Wright*, of Coolabah, in the Colony of New South Wales, Inspector of Runs, Bourke District, being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows :—On 21st and 23rd October, I inspected resumed area of Booroomugga Holding. (Report produced marked Exhibit C is mine, and is true to the best of my knowledge. Tracing produced marked Exhibit D shows the area in question.) In its natural state it is dry area, and consists principally of level country and thinly timbered, and on northern portion of area some stony hills and gravelly ridges, covered with scrubs and thinly timbered. The edible scrubs are emu-bush, currant-bush, rose-bush, mulga, quondong, and currawong, with mallee, pine, yarran, sandalwood, hop-bush, and other useless scrubs; the water supply is wholly artificial, and consists of rain water conserved in tanks.—No. 1 tank, on Back Booroomugga East Block, 7,500 yards, 12 feet deep; No. 2, 7,000 yards, 12 feet deep; No. 3, 4,000 yards, 10 feet deep; No. 4, 1,200 yards, 10 feet deep; No. 5, 2,500 yards, 12 feet deep; on Back Booroomugga, No. 2, East Division.—No. 1 tank, 3,000 yards, 8 feet deep; No. 2, 1,000 yards, 8 feet deep; No. 3, 7,500 yards, 12 feet deep; and No. 4, 5,000 yards, 12 feet deep. On Back Booroomugga, No. 2, East.—No. 1 tank is on improvement purchase, 84-210, portion 2, parish Kelly; No. 2, improvement purchase, 84-208, portion 2, parish Eton; No. 4 tank, on improvement purchase, 84-214, portion 2, parish Nullawarra; No. 5, on improvement purchase, 84-207, portion 2, parish Goyder; No. 3 tank on Crown lands. On Back Booroomugga, No. 2, East Division.—No. 1 tank is on improvement purchase, 84-211, portion 4, parish Eton; No. 2 tank, on improvement purchase, 84-213, portion 5, parish Eton; No. 3 tank, on improvement purchase 84-212, portion 1, parish Harrow; No. 4 tank, on improvement purchase, 84-209, portion 4, parish Harrow; homestead and woolshed are on this area. Fencing on Crown lands—boundary, 10 miles, six wires, £45 a mile; 20 miles of six wires, £43 a mile; lessee claims half—half between leasehold area—5 miles of five wires, at £36 a mile; subdivision fencing, 2 miles, six wires, at £45 a mile; 13½ miles of five wires, £36 a mile; 3 miles chock and log, £45 a mile; 1½ mile of brush, £15; and 2 miles of five wires and top rail, £40 a mile. I estimate value of improvements on Crown lands: Fencing, half-boundary, £655; half between leasehold area, £181; subdivision, £813; tanks, £234; drains, £122; huts and drafting-yards, £55; total, £2,060. On incomplete improvement purchases.—Tanks, £2,154; drains, £100; homestead and outbuildings, £825; woolshed and yards, £275; total, £3,354. Rainfall in 1881, 19 inches 19 points; 1882, 20 inches 43 points; 1883, 9 inches 4 points; 1884, 8 inches 9 points; 1885, 16 inches 50 points; 1886, up to September 30th, 12 inches 80 points. I estimate carrying capability, in its natural state, for three months in favourable winters, 20,000 sheep, being 3¼ acres per sheep; and as fully improved by fencing and the conservation of water, all the year round, 10,000 sheep, being 6⅔ acres per sheep. This area requires more water.

Sworn by this deponent, William Coulthurst Wright, this }
11th November, 1886, at Coolabah, before us,—

G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
A. K. MACKENZIE, } Members.
E. B. BARTON, }

W. C. WRIGHT,
Inspector of Runs.

This deponent, Patrick John Kelly, of Booroomugga, in the Colony of New South Wales, owner of Booroomugga Station, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows:—I wish my evidence on leasehold to apply equally to this. In its natural state it is a dry area; Mr. Wright's evidence as regards tanks, &c., is correct; I estimate 8 acres to a sheep; pine and yarran scrub is increasing very fast, and in a few years the carrying capacity of the run will decrease; rabbits have been seen on the run, and traces of them are quite plentiful.

P. J. KELLY.

Sworn by this deponent, Patrick John Kelly, this 11th }
November, 1886, at Coolabah, before us,— }

G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
A. K. MACKENZIE, } Members.
E. B. BARTON, }

Booroomugga Pastoral Holding; Western Division, No. 147; resumed area.

Exhibit C.

Report for Appraisalment of Rent or License Fee.

Name of lessee or licensee, R. Goldsbrough & Co.; name of holding, Booroomugga; date of inspection, 21st to 23rd October, 1886; division, Western, No. 147; resumed area.

- Is water supply natural and permanent? No.
Give the names of rivers, creeks, lakes, or lagoons affording this natural supply? Not any.
Is this supply sufficient to keep the land fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.
If not, state for how many months of the year, and for what number of stock the supply is available? Unfavourable winters for three months; 20,000 sheep.
Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? From rain water conserved in tanks.
If from underground sources, state the depth and interior size of the shaft or well; its capacity to water a given number of stock every twenty-four hours; the quality of water, whether pure and wholesome, or of the kind called "stock-water"? No; wells.
If from tanks, state the original depth, the number of cubic yards, and, as near as you can tell, the present water supply; also as to catchments? Back Booroomugga, No. 2, East.—No. 1 tank, 7,500 cubic yards, 12 feet deep, 1,260,000 gallons, £492; No. 2 tank, 7,000 cubic yards, 12 feet deep, 176,000 gallons, £461; No. 3 tank, 4,000 cubic yards, 10 feet deep, 672,000 gallons, £286; No. 4 tank, 1,200 cubic yards, 10 feet deep, 201,600 gallons, £62; No. 5 tank, 2,500 cubic yards, 12 feet deep, 420,000 gallons, £180. Back Booroomugga, No. 2, East Division.—No. 1 tank, 3,000 cubic yards, 8 feet deep, 504,000 gallons, £217; No. 2 tank, 1,000 cubic yards, 8 feet deep, 168,000 gallons, £74; No. 3 tank, 7,500 cubic yards, 12 feet deep, 1,260,000 gallons, £504; No. 4 tank, 5,000 cubic yards, 12 feet deep, 840,000 gallons, £337. The above values include drains, good catchments, except No. 4.
If from dams, state the depth of the river, creek, or water-course; the height, breadth, and length of embankment; and, as near as you can judge, the present water supply, together with any other information, such as favourable water catchments, retentive soil, hard drainage surface, or otherwise, &c.? No dams.
Is the present artificial supply sufficient to keep the land permanently and fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.
If not, state for how many months, and for what number of stock the supply is sufficient? Twelve months for 7,000 sheep.
Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial; if so, state particulars? Wholly artificial.
If lakes, lagoons, creeks, or water-courses are supplied with water raised from adjacent rivers by pumping or otherwise, state the facts? No.
If any improvements in the shape of tanks, dams, wells, &c., are situated on freeholds or leaseholds, state the facts? Back Booroomugga, No. 2, East.—No. 1 tank, on I.P. 84-210, portion 2, parish Kelly; No. 2 tank, on I.P. 84-208, portion 2, parish Eton; No. 4 tank, on I.P. 84-214, portion 2, parish Nullawarra; No. 5 tank, on I.P. 84-207, portion 2, parish Goyder; No. 3 tank, on Crown lands. Back Booroomugga, No. 2, East Division.—No. 1 tank, on I.P. 84-211, portion 4, parish Eton; No. 2 tank, on I.P. 84-213, portion 5, parish Eton; No. 3 tank, on I.P. 84-212, portion 1, parish Harrow; No. 4 tank, on I.P. 84-209, portion 4, parish Harrow.
Ascertain where practicable, from station records, the rainfall for the preceding twelve months, two years, or more? 1881, 19.19 inches; 1882, 20.43 inches; 1883, 9.4 inches; 1884, 8.9 inches; 1885, 16.50 inches; 1886, to 30th September, 12.80 inches.
State whether any extraordinary or special facilities for obtaining or securing water appear to exist on the land? Good catches obtainable.
What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, limestone, trap, &c.? Red soil; rocky formation.
What is the character of the country—is it level, hilly, or mountainous; thickly or thinly timbered; rocky, or otherwise? Principally level country; thinly timbered—on northern portion of area some stony hills and gravelly ridges covered with scrubs, and thinly timbered.
Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyea, brigalow, &c. Indicate its position on tracing? About five-eighths scrub country, open and thick; emu-bush, currant-bush, rose-bush, mulga, quondong and currawong; mallee, pine, yarran, sandalwood, hop-bush, and other scrubs.
State the number of stock the land will carry, if the stock is fully supplied with water? As improved by fencing and the conservation of water; 10,000 sheep.
State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Both.
Is the country timbered; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered, and what is the kind or kinds of timber. Indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? Thinly covered with box timber, also, some gum, pine, and ironwood.
What is the description of pasturage; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent and fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Grasses of each Division, with herbage.
State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? As unimproved, for three months in favourable winters, $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres per sheep; as improved by fencing and conservation of water, all the year round $6\frac{2}{3}$ acres per sheep.
Within the Snowbelt, gather from records on the stations where practicable, the months of the year the country is wholly unavailable? Not affected thereby.
Where available, certain months of the year or all the year round, give the acreage required for a sheep or horned cattle? As improved by fencing and the conservation of water, all the year round, $6\frac{2}{3}$ acres per sheep.
Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c.? Kangaroo, blue mulga, umbrella, seedy and other grasses; sandalwood, yarra, and other scrubs; box, gum, pine, and ironwood timber.
State nature and value of any improvements which have become forfeited to the Crown, and are situated upon Crown lands? Not any.

Remarks.

The homestead and woolshed are on this area. Fencing on Crown lands.—Boundary, 10 miles, 6 wires, at £45 per mile; 20 miles, 6 wires, at £43 per mile; lessees claim half. Between leasehold area $\frac{1}{2}$ —5 miles, 5 wires, at £36 per mile; subdivision—2 miles, 6 wires, at £45 per mile; $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles, 5 wires, at £36 per mile; 3 miles chock and log, at £45 per mile; $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile brush, at £15 per mile; 2 miles, 5 wires, and top-rail, at £40 per mile; home station, four houses, kitchen, store, stable, huts, and tanks, £800; cottage, £25, on I.P. 84-208, portion 2, parish Eton; woolshed, twenty shearers, and yards, £275, on I.P. 84-208, portion 2, parish Eton; two shearers' huts, £25, on Crown lands; drafting-yards, £30, on Crown lands.

Value

Value of improvements.

| | On Crown lands. | On Freehold. | On Incomplete I.Ps. |
|--|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| Fencing half boundary | 655 0 0 | ..... | ..... |
| Half between leasehold area | 181 0 0 | ..... | ..... |
| Subdivision | 813 0 0 | ..... | ..... |
| Tanks | 234 0 0 | ..... | 2,154 0 0 |
| Drains | 122 0 0 | ..... | 100 0 0 |
| Homestead, houses, and outbuildings, &c..... | ..... | ..... | 825 0 0 |
| Woolshed and yards ..... | ..... | ..... | 275 0 0 |
| Huts and drafting-yards..... | 55 0 0 | ..... | ..... |
| | 2,060 0 0 | ..... | 3,354 0 0 |

Booroomugga, 23rd October, 1886.
The Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke,

W. C. WRIGHT,
Inspector.

No. 9.

Appraisement by Local Land Board.

Resumed area, 147, Western Division ; Booroomugga Holding.

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

[Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

Appraisement by Local Land Board of license fee to be paid for Occupation License.

WHEREAS by direction of the Minister of Lands, it was ordered that the license fee to be paid in respect of the occupation license, 147, Western Division, Booroomugga Holding, land district of Cobar, county of Canbelego, held by R. Goldsbrough & Co., should be subject to appraisement by the Local Land Board for the Cobar District. These are, therefore, to certify that the said Local Land Board having taken evidence, and inquired into the matter, hereby appraises the license fee payable for the term commencing on 11th July, 1885, as at the rate of £2 per section per annum.

Given under my hand, at the office of the Local Land Board, at Coolabah, this 11th day of November, 1886.

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

License fee determined at $\frac{7}{10}$ d. per acre per annum.—H.C., 31/12/86. Gazetted, 9/2/87.
Fee called for.—R. GOLDSBROUGH & Co., 15/2/87.

No. 10.

Gazette Notice.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 8 December, 1886.

It is hereby notified for public information, that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of Regulations Nos. 33 and 134, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, published on the 2nd January, 1885, being amended as hereunder.

HENRY COPELAND.

AMENDMENT OF REGULATION 134.

134. Every application under section 100 of the Act by the holder of a pastoral or homestead lease or occupation license for a reduction of the minimum rent or license fee fixed in respect thereof shall be made in the Form 51, and tendered to the Local Land Board within sixty days of the notification in the *Government Gazette* of the determination of such rent or license fee, and all inquiries into such applications shall be conducted by the Board in the manner prescribed in Regulation 21.

Every such application shall be accompanied by a receipt from the Colonial Treasurer, showing that the rent or license fee for the current year, with any arrears, in respect of such lease or license shall have first been duly paid.

And if any reduction of rent or license fee be allowed, such reduction shall be notified in the *Gazette*, and should such rent or license fee thereafter be restored to the minimum rate, notification thereof shall be similarly given.

No. 11.

Office Memorandum.

Resumed area, No. 147 ; Booroomugga Pastoral Holding ; Western Division.

5 January, 1887.

WILL Mr. Gerard show in the enclosed schedule particulars of absorptions made by homestead leases from resumed area above referred to.

It is requested that the actual area absorbed be stated, having regard to the situation of the homestead lease in relation to the resumed area, that is to say, that only the area actually falling within the boundaries of the occupation license be stated.

F.M.E.

Information given.—J.G., 14/1/87.

SCHEDULE REFERRED TO.

No. of resumed area, 147 ; name of pastoral holding, Booroomugga ; rate per section of 640 acres of occupation license, £2 0s. 6½d.

No. 12.

No. 12.

Extract from Supplement to *Government Gazette*.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 9 February, 1887.

It is hereby notified that the fees for the occupation licenses specified in the following schedule have been determined at the respective rates and amounts stated therein.

The first period of the licenses commenced from the date of notification of division of the pastoral holdings, and terminated 31st December, 1885, from and after which latter date the licenses will be in force from the 1st January to the 31st December of each year, on payment of the required amounts, and if land should remain available.

The amounts now called for represent the fees for the year 1887, together with any sums required to complete insufficient fees paid for the previous terms; but in any cases in which the amounts paid for such previous terms have been found to be in excess of what were required, only the balances of the fees for 1887 are now called for.

These amounts must be paid to the Colonial Treasurer on or before the 12th April next, subject in default to the penalties imposed by the Crown Lands Act of 1884. The fees in future must be paid on or before the 31st December of each year for the ensuing year.

THOMAS GARRETT.

WESTERN DIVISION.

* * * * *
 Booroomugga Pastoral Holding; resumed area, No. 147; R. Goldsbrough & Co. (Limited), licensee; date of notification of division of pastoral holding, 11th July, 1885; estimated area available on the date of notification of division of pastoral holding, 64,200 acres; estimated area available on 1st January, 1886, 64,200 acres; area charged on for 1887, 64,200 acres; rate per section of 640 acres, and amount determined to 31st December, 1887, £503 10s. 4d., at £2 0s. 6½d. per acre; amounts already paid on occupation licenses up to 31st December, 1887, £491 10s.; license fee for 1887, £203 6s.; amount required for 1887, being license fee less amount overpaid for 1885, 1886, and 1887, or plus amount underpaid for 1885, 1886, and 1887, £12 0s. 4d.
 * * * * *

No. 13.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Messrs. R. Goldsbrough & Co. (Limited).

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 15 February, 1887:

I have the honor to invite your attention to a notice in the *Government Gazette* of the 9th February, 1887, a copy of which is enclosed, setting forth the rates and amounts at which the fees for occupation license, No. 147, pastoral holding of Booroomugga, in the Western Division of the Colony, have been determined. The rate has been fixed at £2 0s. 6½d. per section of 640 acres. The amount now required up to the 31st December, 1887, is £12 0s. 4d., which must be paid to the Colonial Treasurer on or before the 12th April, 1887 next, subject, in default, to the penalties imposed by the Crown Lands Act of 1884. The license fee for 1887 is £203 6s., and this amount should be paid in future on or before the 31st December of each year for the ensuing year, unless an official reduction should be made in the fee, or the license be forfeited before such future fee shall become due. The amount now asked for is, it will be understood, less than this, on account of their having been an overpayment for the previous terms; and it may be explained that the amount called for represents the sum which remains due after taking into account the deposit paid with the application for the license, and all sums paid for the license subsequently. The whole of the rent which lay since 31st December, 1884, to the credit of the runs out of which the resumed area was taken, together with any paid on the leasehold area as such, have been placed entirely to the account of the leasehold area, in order to simplify the accounts and keep them distinct.

The license is, in accordance with the 2nd subsection of the 81st clause of the Act, an annual one, commencing from the date of notification of division of the pastoral holding, and terminating 31st December of each year.

Any application for a reduction of the fee (or compensation for improvements) on account of the withdrawal of land by sale or lease, may be made to the Under Secretary for Lands on the form prescribed by the Regulations; but, as already pointed out, pending such adjustment, no reduced fee can be accepted for the then ensuing year.

Any application for the reduction of the rate of the license fee should be made to the Local Land Board, as prescribed by the Regulations.

I have, &c.,
 CHARLES OLIVER,
 Under Secretary.

No. 14.

The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Occupation Licenses.

Sir,

The Treasury, New South Wales, 14 April, 1887.

With reference to the *Government Gazette*, dated 9th February, 1887, notifying that the Minister for Lands had determined the fee to be paid for the undermentioned occupation license under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, and calling for payment of amount due thereon to 31st December, 1887, I am directed to inform you that the amount in question, viz., £12 0s. 4d., was paid into this office on 7th April, 1887:—

Division, Western; licensee, R. Goldsbrough & Co. (Limited); No. of license, 147.

I have, &c.,
 W. NEWCOMBE,
 (Pro Under Secretary).

No. 15.

Appendix.

WESTERN DIVISION.

No. of resumed area, 147; name of pastoral holding, Booroomugga; name of licensee, R. Goldsbrough & Co. (Limited); date of notification of division of pastoral holding, 11th July, 1885; estimated area available on the date of notification of division of pastoral holding, 64,200 acres; estimated area available on 1st January, 1886, 64,200 acres; area charged on for 1887, 64,200 acres; rate per section of 640 acres and amount determined to 31st December, 1887, £503 10s. 4d., at rate of £2 0s. 6½d.; amounts already paid on occupation licenses up to 31st December, 1887, £491 10s.; license fee for 1887, £203 6s.; amount required for 1887, being license fee less amount overpaid for 1885, 1886, and 1887, or plus amount underpaid for 1885, 1886, and 1887, £12 0s. 4d.

Sussex Pastoral Holding.—Resumed Area, No. III, Western Division.

SCHEDULE.

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No. 1.

Application for an Occupation License.

[Crown Lands Act of 1884—Part IV, section 81.]

H. H. Brown & Co., 23 April, 1885.

IN accordance with the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, we, the Trust and Agency Co. of Australasia (Limited), Melbourne, being a runholder in the Western Division, and this day having made application for a pastoral lease, hereby apply for a license to occupy for the term of one year for grazing purposes whichever portion of my pastoral holding, known as Sussex, may be converted into a resumed area under the said Act.

Annexed hereto is a receipt, showing that the sum of £203 5s. on account of the first year's license fee, at the rate of £2 per section of 640 acres of the estimated area of 65,040 acres I now apply for, has been deposited with the Colonial Treasurer, and I also agree to pay any further sum that may be demanded, being the difference between the sum paid into the Treasury and the said license fee, as appraised hereafter.

THE TRUST AND AGENCY CO. OF AUSTRALASIA (LIMITED),
(By their Attorney—RYMOLD WRIGHT).

The Minister for Lands.

Received the sum of £203 5s., being the deposit required on this application.

The Treasury, New South Wales, 27th April, 1885.

P. J. HOLDSWORTH,
(*Pro* Treasurer).

No. 2.

Office Memorandum.

Holding, Sussex.—Memorandum to Mr. De Low, Miscellaneous Branch.

Division of Runs Branch, 17 February, 1886.

PLEASE state if the purchase money has been paid on any of the following improvement purchase applications, and whether payment was made before or since 11th July, 1886.

C. J. SAUNDERS.

No. 81-15; area, 40 acres; $\frac{1}{2}$ Booroomugga, No. 1, East Run; land district of Cobar; Report, 7/12/85.

R.H.D., 23/2/86.

No. 3.

Office Memorandum.

Land Board District, Bourke; Sussex Holding, Western Division; resumed area No. 111; gazetted 11th July, 1885.

RETURN of areas at date of division at head office (revised) :—

Total estimated area, 66,700 acres; alienated land (a), 40 acres; reserves from lease (b), nil; total unavailable land, 40 acres; total area available (c), 66,660 acres.

C. J. SAUNDERS, 18th February, 1886.

Extension of above at District Survey Office for appraisalment of occupation license for 1885 :—
Withdrawn.—Area available (by head office estimate), 66,660 acres; convertible preleases (52nd clause), as approved or recommended, nil; conditional leases (54th clause) as confirmed, nil; auction leases (d), nil; miscellaneous, including any alienation under repealed Acts not already shown upon tracing, nil; total unavailable land, nil; total area available for occupation license at date of notification of resumed area (e), 66,660 acres.

EDWARD M'FARLANE,
District Surveyor.

23rd June, 1886.

Final revision at District Survey Office for appraisalment for 1886 :—

Total area available to 31st December, 1885, 66,660 acres. Withdrawals.—Conditional purchases (f), nil; conditional leases (g), nil; homestead leases (h), nil; reserves from lease, nil; improvement purchases paid for since date of division, 40 acres; total unavailable land, 40 acres; total area available for appraisalment on 1st January, 1886, 66,620 acres.

EDWARD M'FARLANE,
District Surveyor.

23rd June, 1886.

(a) Includes only such portions as are shown upon the tracing which has been charted up from the maps in the Surveyor-General's Office.

(b) Includes all reserves from lease of lands exempt from lease, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, as shown on tracing.

(c) As far as ascertainable in head office.

(d) Auction leases converted into annual leases under 9th subsection of 85th clause of Crown Lands Act of 1884.

(e) Represents area chargeable for occupation from date of division to 31st December, 1885.

(f) Conditional purchases, under Crown Lands Act of 1884, which have been confirmed by the Board.

(g) Conditional leases, under Crown Lands Act of 1884, which have been confirmed by the Board.

(h) Includes only such homestead leases as have been approved.

No. 4.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to the Lessees of Sussex Pastoral Holding.

Sir,

Local Land Board Office, Bourke, 9 June, 1886.

With reference to the appraisalment of your pastoral holding, Sussex, being resumed area No. 111, Western Division, I have to inform you that the area upon which the license fee will be payable, has been computed exclusive only of those improvement purchases applied for by you, which have been duly completed by the payment of the appraised value up to the 11th July, 1885.

In the event of other purchases of a like nature having been completed by you since the date above mentioned, or of it being your intention to complete any such purchases it will be necessary for you to produce satisfactory evidence of the same at the date of appraisalment, in order that the area may be withdrawn from the total area of Crown land available for pastoral occupation.

I have, &c.,

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

No. 5.

Caption to Deposition of Witnesses.

Resumed area, No. 111—Western Division; Sussex Holding.

New South Wales, }
to wit.

[Crown Lands Act of 1884—Part II, section 14, subsection 1.]

The examination of William Coulthurst Wright, of Coolabah, in the Colony of New South Wales, Inspector of Runs, and Matthew John Brown, of Sussex, in the said Colony.

WHEREAS it hath been necessary to appraise the license fee for resumed area 111, Western Division, Sussex holding, and it hath been found necessary to investigate the said matter on oath, the depositions of the several witnesses are appended hereto.

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

[Enclosures.]

THIS deponent, *William Coulthurst Wright*, of Coolabah, in the Colony of New South Wales, Inspector of Runs, Bourke District, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows :—On 16th and 17th October I inspected resumed area, Sussex; report produced, marked Exhibit C, is mine, and is true to the best of my knowledge; and tracing marked Exhibit D shows the area in question in its natural state; it is a waterless area, and consists of low ridges, with undulating and level country, mostly covered with scrub, and thinly timbered; on north end of area some clear, stony, and gravelly hills; the edible scrubs, emu-bush, currant-bush, rose-bush, quondong, mulga, and currawong; with malee, pine, yarran, sandalwood, goomah, and other useless scrubs; the water supply is wholly artificial, and consists of rain waters conserved in tanks; on Booroomugga No. 1 East Run, No. 4 tank, 400 yards, 6 feet deep; No. 5, 371 yards, 11 feet deep; No. 6, 600 yards, 7 feet deep; Back Booroomugga, No. 1, East Run, No. 9 tank, 1,000 yards, 10 feet deep; on Booroomugga, No. 1, East Run, No. 4 tank is on Crown lands; No. 5 on freehold portion 3, parish of Mulga, 40 acres; No. 6 tank, on freehold; Back Booroomugga, No. 1, East Run; No. 9 tank is on Crown land; fencing on Crown lands consists of boundary, 25 miles of six wires, £43 a mile, and 5 miles of five wires, at £40 a mile; lessees claim half subdivision on Crown lands, 10 miles of five

five wires, at £40 a mile. I estimate value of improvements on Crown lands—fencing half boundary, £637; subdivision, £400; tanks, £105; drains, £25; sheep-yard, £20; total, £1,187; on freehold—tanks, £90; drains, £43; total, £133; rainfall in 1883, 7 inches 78 points; 1884, 9 inches 73 points; 1885, 19 inches 32 points. Travelling stock route—Cobar to Coolabah—runs along northeru boundary of this area. I estimate carrying capability in favourable winters, for three months, 22,000 sheep, being 3½ acres per sheep, and as improved by fencing and conservation of water all the year round, 11,000 sheep, being 6½ acres per sheep.

Sworn by this deponent, William Coulthurst Wright, this }
11th November, 1886, at Coolabah, before us,— }
G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
A. K. MACKENZIE, } Members.
E. B. BARTON, }

W. C. WRIGHT,
Inspector of Runs.

THIS deponent, *Matthew John Brown*, of Sussex, in the Colony of New South Wales, station manager, being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows:—I wish my evidence given on the leasehold area to apply equally to the resumed area, with the exception of the carrying capabilities; I estimate 8 acres to a sheep; the area in its natural state is waterless Mr. Inspector Wright's evidence, as regards improvements, is correct.

Sworn by this deponent, Matthew John Brown, this }
11th November, 1886, at Coolabah, before us,— }
G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
E. B. BARTON, } Members.
A. K. MACKENZIE, }

MATTHEW JOHN BROWN,

Sussex Pastoral Holding; Western Division, No. 111; resumed area.

Exhibit C.

Report for Appraisalment of Rent or License Fee.

Name of lessee or licensee, Trust and Agency Company; name of holding, Sussex; date of inspection, 16th and 17th October, 1886; division, Western, No. 111; resumed area.

Is water supply natural and permanent? No.

Give the names of rivers, creeks, lakes, or lagoons affording this natural supply? Not any.

Is this supply sufficient to keep the land fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.

If not, state for how many months of the year, and for what number of stock the supply is available? In favourable winters, for three months, 22,000 sheep.

Is water supply artificial? Yes.

Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? From rain waters conserved in tanks.

If from underground sources, state the depth and interior size of the shaft or well; its capacity to water a given number of stock every twenty-four hours; the quality of water, whether pure and wholesome, or of the kind called "stock-water"? No wells.

If from tanks, state the original depth, the number of cubic yards, and, as near as you can tell, the present water supply; also as to catchments? Booroomugga, No. 1, East Run.—No. 4 tank, 400 cubic yards, 6 feet deep, 67,200 gallons, £40; No. 5 tank, 371 cubic yards, 11 feet deep, 62,388 gallons, £52; No. 6 tank, 600 cubic yards, 7 feet deep, 100,800 gallons, £81. Back Booroomugga, No. 1, East Run.—No. 9 tank, 1,000 cubic yards, 10 feet deep, 168,000 gallons, £90. The above values include drains, &c. Good catchments.

If from dams, state the depth of the river, creek, or water-course; the height, breadth, and length of embankment; and, as near as you can judge, the present water supply, together with any other information, such as favourable water catchments, retentive soil, hard drainage surface, or otherwise, &c.? No dams.

Is the present artificial supply sufficient to keep the land permanently and fully stocked in ordinary seasons? Yes.

Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial—If so, state particulars? Wholly artificial.

If lakes, lagoons, creeks, or water-courses are supplied with water raised from adjacent rivers by pumping or otherwise, state the facts? No.

If any improvements in the shape of tanks, dams, wells, &c., are situated on freeholds or leaseholds, state the facts? Booroomugga, No. 1, East Run.—No. 4 tank on Crown lands; No. 5 tank on freehold portion 3, parish Mulga, 40 acres; No. 6 tank on Back Booroomugga, No. 1, East Run; No. 9 tank on Crown lands.

Ascertain where practicable, from station records, the rainfall for the preceding twelve months, two years, or more? 1883, 7.78 inches; 1884, 9.73 inches; 1885, 19.32 inches.

State whether any extraordinary or special facilities for obtaining or securing water appear to exist on the land? Good catches obtainable.

What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, lime-stone, trap, &c.? Red soil; rocky foundation.

What is the character of the country—Is it level, hilly, or mountainous: thickly or thinly timbered; rocky or otherwise? Low ridges, with undulating and level country, mostly covered with scrubs and thinly timbered. On north end of area, some clear stony and gravelly hills.

Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyea, brigalow, &c. Indicate its position on tracing? About three-quarters scrub country, open and thick ennu-bush, currant-bush, rose-bush, quondong, mulga, and currawong; mallee, pine, yarran, sandalwood, goonah, and other scrubs.

State the number of stock the land will carry, if the stock is fully supplied with water? As improved by fencing and conservation of water, 11,000 sheep.

State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Both.

Is the country timbered; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered; and what is the kind or kinds of timber. Indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? Principally thinly covered with box and gum timber; also a little pine.

What is the description of pasturage; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent and fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Grasses of each division, with herbage.

State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? As unimproved, for three months, in favourable winters, 3½ acres per sheep; as improved by fencing and conservation of water, 6½ acres per sheep, all the year round.

Within the Snowbelt, gather from records on the stations where practicable, the months of the year the country is wholly unavailable? Not affected thereby.

Where available certain months of the year, or all the year round, give the acreage required for a sheep or horned cattle? As improved by fencing and the conservation of water, all the year round, 6½ acres to a sheep.

Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c.? Kangaroo, blue, umbrella, and seedy grasses; sandalwood, yarran, and other scrubs; box, gum, and pine timber.

State nature and value of any improvements which have become forfeited to the Crown, and are situated upon Crown lands? Not any.

Remarks.

21

Remarks.

Fencing on Crown lands.—Boundary, 25 miles, 6 wires, at £43 per mile; 5 miles, 5 wires, at £40 per mile. Lessees claim half; subdivision on Crown lands, 10 miles, 5 wires, at £40 per mile; sheep-yards on Crown lands, £20.
 Value of improvements.—Fencing half boundary on Crown lands, £637; subdivision on Crown lands, £400; tanks on Crown lands, £105; on freehold, £90; drains, on Crown lands, £25; on freehold, £43; sheep-yards on Crown lands, £20; total, on Crown lands, £1,187; on freehold, £133.
 A travelling stock route, Cobar to Coolabah, runs along northern boundary of this area,
 Sussex, 17th October, 1886.
 The Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

W. C. WRIGHT,
 Inspector.

No. 6.

Appraisement of License Fee by Local Land Board.

Resumed area, 111, Western Division, Sussex Holding.

[Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

Appraisement by Local Land Board of License Fee to be paid for Occupation License.

New South Wales, }
 to wit. }

WHEREAS by direction of the Minister of Lands, it was ordered that the license fee to be paid in respect of the occupation license, 111, Western Division, Sussex Holding, Land District of Cobar, county of Canbelego, held by Trust and Agency Company of Australasia, should be subject to appraisement by the Local Land Board for the Cobar District. These are, therefore, to certify that the said Local Land Board having taken evidence, and inquired into the matter, hereby appraises the license fee payable for the term commencing on 11th July, 1885, as at the rate of £2 per section per annum.

Given under my hand, at the office of the Local Land Board at Coolabah, this 11th day of November, 1886.

G. C. TOMPSON,
 Chairman.

License fee determined at 5s. d. per acre per annum.—H.C., 31/12/86.
 Fee called for, Trust and Agency Company of Australasia (Limited), 15/2/87.

Gazetted, 9/2/87.

No. 7.

Office Memorandum.

SCHEDULE showing the nature and value of improvements effected by the pastoral lessee on the resumed area of the Sussex Pastoral Holding, as elicited from evidence obtained at the date of appraisement of the leasehold and resumed areas.

Resumed area, No. 111, Western Division; , Pastoral Lessees.

| Improvements situated on lands alienated to Pastoral Lessee. | | | Improvements on Crown lands under Pastoral Lease. | | |
|--|-----------|----------|---|-------------|----------|
| Nature of Improvements. | Value. | Remarks. | Nature of Improvements. | Value. | Remarks. |
| On Freehold— | £ s. d. | | On Crown lands— | £ s. d. | |
| Tanks | 90 0 0 | | Fencing half boundary | 637 0 0 | |
| Drains | 43 0 0 | | Subdivision fencing..... | 400 0 0 | |
| Total | £ 133 0 0 | | Tanks | 105 0 0 | |
| | | | Drains | 25 0 0 | |
| | | | Sheep-yards | 20 0 0 | |
| | | | Total | £ 1,187 0 0 | |

11th November, 1886.

G. C. TOMPSON,
 Chairman.

No. 8.

Gazette Notice.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 8 December, 1886.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of Regulations Nos. 33 and 134, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, published on the 2nd January, 1885, being amended as hereunder.

HENRY COPELAND.

AMENDMENT OF REGULATION 134.

134. Every application under section 100 of the Act by the holder of a Pastoral or Homestead Lease or Occupation License for a reduction of the minimum rent or license fee fixed in respect thereof shall be made in the Form 51, and tendered to the Local Land Board within sixty days of the notification in the *Government Gazette* of the determination of such rent or license fee, and all inquiries into such applications shall be conducted by the Board in the manner prescribed in Regulation 21.

Every such application shall be accompanied by a receipt from the Colonial Treasurer, showing that the rent or license fee for the current year, with any arrears, in respect of such lease or license shall have first been duly paid.

And if any reduction of rent or license fee be allowed such reduction shall be notified in the *Gazette*, and should such rent or license fee thereafter be restored to the minimum rate, notification thereof shall be similarly given.

No. 9.

No. 9.

Office Memorandum.

Resumed area, No. 111, Pastoral Holding, Sussex ; division, Western.

5 January, 1887.

WILL Mr. Gerard show in the enclosed schedule particulars of absorptions made by homestead leases from resumed area above referred to.

It is requested that the actual area absorbed be stated, having regard to the situation of the homestead lease in relation to the resumed area, that is to say, that only the area actually falling within the boundaries of the occupation license be stated.

F.M.E.

Information given.—F.G., 14/1/87.

Schedule referred to.

No. of resumed area, 111 ; name of pastoral holding, Sussex ; rate per section of 640 acres of occupation license, £2 Os. 6½d. ; area absorbed by homestead lease from resumed area, nil.

No. 10.

Extract from Supplement to *Government Gazette*, 9 February, 1887.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 9 February, 1887.

It is hereby notified that the fees for the occupation licenses specified in the following schedule have been determined at the respective rates and amounts stated therein.

The first period of the licenses commenced from the date of notification of division of the pastoral holdings, and terminated 31st December, 1885, from and after which latter date the licenses will be in force from the 1st January to the 31st December of each year, on payment of the required amounts, and if land should remain available.

The amounts now called for represent the fees for the year 1887, together with any sums required to complete insufficient fees paid for the previous terms ; but in any cases in which the amounts paid for such previous terms have been found to be in excess of what were required, only the balances of the fees for 1887 are now called for.

These amounts must be paid to the Colonial Treasurer on or before the 12th April next, subject in default to the penalties imposed by the Crown Lands Act of 1884. The fees in future must be paid on or before 31st December of each year for the ensuing year.

THOMAS GARRETT.

WESTERN DIVISION.

* * * * *
No. of resumed area, 111 ; pastoral holding, Sussex ; licensee, The Trust and Agency Company of Australasia (Limited) ; date of notification of division of pastoral holding, 11th July, 1885 ; estimated area available on the date of notification of division of pastoral holding, 66,660 acres ; estimated area available on 1st January, 1886, 66,620 acres ; area charged on for 1887, 66,620 acres ; rate per section of 640 acres, and amount determined to 31st December, 1887—rate £2 Os. 6½d., amount, £522 11s. 1d. ; amounts already paid on occupation licenses up to 31st December, 1887, £515 5s. ; license fee for 1887, £210 19s. 3d. ; amount required for 1887, being license fee less amount overpaid for 1885, 1886, and 1887, or plus amount underpaid for 1885, 1886, and 1887, £7 6s. 1d.
* * * * *

No. 11.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Manager, Trust and Agency Co. of Australasia (Limited).

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 15 February, 1887.

I have the honor to invite your attention to a notice in the *Government Gazette* of the 9th February, 1887, a copy of which is enclosed, setting forth the rates and amounts at which the fees for occupation license, No. 111, pastoral holding of Sussex, in the Western Division of the Colony, have been determined. The rate has been fixed at £2 Os. 6½d. per section of 640 acres. The amount now required up to 31st December, 1887, is £7 6s. 1d., which must be paid to the Colonial Treasurer on or before the 12th April next, subject, in default, to the penalties imposed by the Crown Lands Act of 1884. The license fee for 1887 is £210 19s. 3d., and this amount should be paid in future on or before the 31st December of each year for the ensuing year, unless an official reduction should be made in the fee, or the license be forfeited, before such future fee shall become due. The amount now asked for is, it will be understood, less than this, on account of there having been an overpayment for the previous terms ; and it may be explained that the amounts called for represents the sum which remains due after taking into account the deposit paid with the application for the license, and all sums paid for the license subsequently. The whole of the rent which lay since 31st December, 1884, to the credit of the runs out of which the resumed area was taken, together with any paid on the leasehold area as such, have been placed entirely to the account of the leasehold area, in order to simplify the accounts and keep them distinct.

The license is, in accordance with the 2nd subsection of the 81st clause of the Act, an annual one, commencing from the date of notification of the division of the pastoral holding, and terminating 31st December of each year.

Any

Any application for a reduction of the fee (or compensation for improvements) on account of the withdrawal of land by sale or lease, may be made to the Under Secretary for Lands on the form prescribed by the Regulations; but, as already pointed out, pending such adjustment, no reduced fee can be accepted for the then ensuing year.

Any application for the reduction of the rate of the license fee should be made to the Local Land Board, as prescribed by the Regulations.

I have, &c.,
CHARLES OLIVER,
Under Secretary.

No. 12.

The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade to The Under Secretary for Lands. Occupation License.

Sir,

The Treasury, New South Wales, 14 April, 1887.

With reference to the *Government Gazette*, dated 9th February, 1887, notifying that the Minister of Lands had determined the fee to be paid for the undermentioned occupation license, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, and calling for payment of amount due thereon to 31st December, 1887, I am directed to inform you that the amount in question, viz., £7 6s. 1d. was paid into this office on 12th April, 1887.

Division, Western.
Licensee, Trust and Agency Co. of Australasia.
Number of license, 111.

I have, &c.,
W. NEWCOMBE,
(Pro Under Secretary).

No. 13.

Appendix.

WESTERN DIVISION.

No. of resumed area, 111; name of pastoral holding, Sussex; name of licensee, the Trust and Agency Co. of Australasia (Limited); date of notification of division of pastoral holding, 11th July, 1885; estimated area available on the date of notification of division of pastoral holding, 66,660; estimated area available on 1st January, 1886, 66,620; estimated area available on 1st January, 1887, 66,620; rate per section of 640 acres, and amount determined to 31st December, 1887, £522 11s. 1d., at the rate of £2 6s. 2½d.; amounts already paid on occupation licenses up to 31st December, 1887, £515 5s.; license fee for 1887, £210 19s. 3d; amount required for 1887, being license fee less amount overpaid for 1885, 1886, and 1887, or plus amount underpaid for 1885, 1886, and 1887, £7 6s. 1d.

Sussex Pastoral Holding.—Leasehold Area, No. III, Western Division.

SCHEDULE.

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No. 1.

Office Memorandum.

Land Board District, Bourke; Sussex Holding, Western Division; leasehold area, No. 111; gazetted 11th July, 1885.

REVISION of areas after division at head office:—

Total estimated area, 64,400 acres; alienated land (a), 160 acres; reserves from lease (b), nil; total unavailable land, 160 acres; total area available, 64,240 acres.

C. J. SAUNDERS.
Final

18th February, 1886.

Final revision at District Survey Office prior to appraisalment:—

Total area available (by head office estimated), 64,240 acres. Withdrawals—Conditional purchases (c), nil; conditional leases (d), nil; homestead leases (e), nil; converted preleases, nil; reserves from lease, nil; auction leases (f), nil; total unavailable land, nil; total area available for appraisalment, 64,240 acres.

EDWARD M'FARLANE,
District Surveyor.

23rd June, 1886.

(a) Includes only such portions as are shown upon the tracing which has been charted up from the maps in the Surveyor-General's Office.

(b) Includes all reserves from lease or lands exempt from lease under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, as shown on tracing.

(c) Conditional purchases under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, which have been confirmed by the Board.

(d) Conditional leases under Crown Lands Act of 1884, which have been confirmed by the Board.

(e) Includes only such homestead leases as have been approved.

(f) Auction leases converted into annual leases under 9th subsection of 85th clause of Crown Lands Act of 1884.

No. 2.

Office Memorandum.

Sussex Holding, No. 111; Western Division; leasehold area.

LIST of improvement purchase applications within the above holding which had not been finally completed (*i.e.* purchase money paid) at date of revision of areas for appraisalment at head office, and which have not therefore been treated as alienated land.

| Improvement Purchase Number. | Land District. | Area. | Run. | No. of portion (if surveyed). | Remarks. |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| 83-41 | Cobar | Acres. 40 | Booroomugga, No. 1, East ... | Not surveyed | |
| 83-42 | „ | 40 | Back Booroomugga, No. 1, East | No. 3, Ph. Goydcr | |
| 83-48 | „ | 60 | Booroomugga, No. 1, East .. | Not surveyed | |

C.J.S., 18/2/86.

No. 3.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to The Lessees, Sussex Pastoral Holding.

Notice to appear at Local Land Board.

New South Wales, Bourke, }
to wit. }

[Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

You are hereby notified to attend at the Court-house at Cobar, on the 9th day of July, 1886, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, when the matter or question stated at the foot hereof will be investigated.

On proof of due service of this notice, the investigation may proceed whether you appear in Court or not.

Given under my hand, at Bourke, this 9th day of June, 1886,—

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

Matter for Investigation.

Appraisalment of rent and license fee, Sussex Pastoral Holding, No. 111.

No. 4.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to The Manager, Trust and Agency Co. of Australasia.

Notice to appear at Local Land Board.

New South Wales, Bourke, }
to wit. }

[Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

You are hereby notified to attend at the Court-house at Cobar, on the 9th day of July, 1886, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, when the matter or question stated at the foot hereof will be investigated.

On proof of due service of this notice, the investigation may proceed whether you appear in Court or not.

Given under my hand, at Bourke, this 9th day of June, 1886,—

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

Matter for Investigation.

Appraisalment of rent and license fee, Sussex Pastoral Holding, No. 111.

No. 5.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to The Lessee of Sussex Pastoral Holding.

Sir,

Local Land Board Office, Bourke, 9 June, 1886.

With reference to the appraisalment of your pastoral holding, Sussex, being leasehold area No. 111, Western Division, I have to inform you that the area upon which the rent will be payable, has been computed exclusive only of those improvement purchases applied for by you, which have been duly completed by the payment of the appraised value up to the 18th February, 1886. In

In the event of other purchases of a like nature having been completed by you since the date above mentioned, or of it being your intention to complete any such purchases, it will be necessary for you to produce satisfactory evidence of the same at the date of appraisal, in order that the area may be withdrawn from the total area of Crown land available for pastoral occupation.

I have, &c.,
G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

No. 6.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to The Lessee of Sussex Pastoral Holding.

Sir,

Land Board Office, Bourke, 15 June, 1886.

I have the honor to inform you that I have just received a telegram from Inspector Wright, stating that he cannot possibly complete inspection of Sussex Pastoral Holding in time for the Cobarr Court, consequently your case cannot come on for consideration on 9th July as previously intimated to you.

I have, &c.,
G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

P.S.—You will receive the usual fourteen days notice when Court is fixed.

No. 7.

Report for Appraisal of Rent or License Fee.

Name of lessee or licensee, Trust and Agency Company; name of holding, Sussex; Back Booroomugga, No. 1, East Run; date of inspection, 16th and 17th October, 1886; division, Western, No. 111—part leasehold, part resumed.

Is water supply natural and permanent? No; excepting two Gilgie waterholes, lasting in favourable seasons for three months.

Give the names of rivers, creeks, lakes, or lagoons affording this natural supply? Not any.

Is this supply sufficient to keep the land fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.

If not, state for how many months of the year, and for what number of stock the supply is available? In favourable winters for three months, 2,400 sheep.

Is water supply artificial? Yes.

Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? From rain waters conserved in tanks.

If from underground sources, state the depth and interior size of the shaft or well; its capacity to water a given number of stock every twenty-four hours; the quality of water, whether pure and wholesome, or of the kind called "stock-water"? No wells.

If from tanks, state the original depth, the number of cubic yards, and, as near as you can tell, the present water supply; also as to catchments? Leasehold area:—No. 1 tank, 400 cubic yards, 5 feet deep, 67,200 gallons, £30; No. 2 tank, 8,000 cubic yards, 13 feet deep, 1,344,000 gallons, £520; No. 3 tank, 500 cubic yards, 5 feet deep, 84,000 gallons, £60; No. 4 tank, 8,383 cubic yards, 10 feet deep, 1,408,344 gallons, £571; No. 5 tank, 2,636 cubic yards, 10 feet deep, 442,848 gallons, £194; No. 6 tank, 8,500 cubic yards, 16 feet deep, 1,428,000 gallons, £562; No. 7 tank, 1,000 cubic yards, 6 feet deep, 168,000 gallons, £50; No. 8 tank, 4,851 cubic yards, 13 feet deep, 814,968 gallons, £277. Resumed area:—No. 9 tank, 1,000 cubic yards, 10 feet deep, 168,000 gallons, £90. The above values include drains, &c. Good catchments.

If from dams, state the depth of the river, creek, or water-course; the height, breadth, and length of embankment; and, as near as you can judge, the present water supply, together with any other information, such as favourable water catchments, retentive soil, hard drainage surface, or otherwise, &c.? No dams.

Is the present artificial supply sufficient to keep the land permanently and fully stocked in ordinary seasons? Yes.

Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial? If so, state particulars? Wholly artificial.

If lakes, lagoons, creeks, or water-courses are supplied with water raised from adjacent rivers by pumping or otherwise, state the facts? No.

If any improvements in the shape of tanks, dams, wells, &c. are situated on freeholds or leaseholds, state the facts? Leasehold area:—No. 1 tank on Crown lands; No. 3 tank on Crown lands; No. 5 tank on Crown lands; No. 2 tank on freehold, portion 1, parish Narrama, 40 acres; No. 7 tank on freehold, portion 1, parish Goyder, 40 acres; No. 8 tank on freehold, portion 2, parish Mullawarra, 40 acres; No. 6 tank on I.P. 83-42, portion 3, parish Goyder, 40 acres. Resumed area:—No. 9 tank on Crown lands.

Ascertain, where practicable, from station records, the rainfall for the preceding twelve months, two years, or more. 1883, 7.78 inches; 1884, 9.73 inches; 1885, 19.32 inches.

State whether any extraordinary or special facilities for obtaining or securing water appear to exist on the land? Good catches obtainable.

What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, lime-stone, trap, &c.? Red soil; rocky formation.

What is the character of the country—Is it level, hilly, or mountainous; thickly or thinly timbered; rocky, or otherwise? On west side ridges and flats, mostly covered with scrubs and thinly timbered; on east side, level country, mostly covered with scrub and thinly timbered.

Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyea, brigalow, &c. Indicate its position on tracing? About $\frac{2}{3}$ scrub country—open and thick—emu-bush, currant-bush, rose-bush, quondong, mulga, and currawong; mallee, pine, yarran, sandalwood, goonah, and other scrubs.

State the number of stock the land will carry, if the stock is fully supplied with water? As improved by fencing and conservation of water—12,000 sheep. As at present partly improved by ringbarking—12,200 sheep.

State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Both.

Is the country timbered; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered; and what is the kind or kinds of timber. Indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? Thinly covered with box and gum timber.

What is the description of pasturage; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent and fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Grasses of each division with herbage.

State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? As unimproved, for three months in favourable winters, $2\frac{3}{4}$ acres per sheep. As improved, by fencing and conservation of water—all the year round, $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres per sheep.

Within the Snowbelt, gather from records on the stations where practicable, the months of the year the country is wholly unavailable? Not affected thereby.

Where available certain months of the year, or all the year round, give the acreage required for a sheep or horned cattle? As improved by fencing and conservation of water—all the year round, $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres to a sheep.

Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c.? Kangaroo, blue, umbrella, seed, and other grasses; box and gum timber; pine, yarran, sandalwood, and other scrubs.

State nature and value of any improvements which have become forfeited to the Crown, and are situated upon Crown lands? Not any.

Remarks.

The homestead and woolshed are on this block—7,080 acres have been ringbarked on this block. Stock on the holding,—23,000 sheep, 20 cattle, and 8 horses.

Sussex, 17th October, 1886.

The Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

W. C. WRIGHT.

Inspector.

No. 8.

Report for Appraisalment of Rent or License Fee.

Name of lessee or licensee, Trust and Agency Company; name of holding, Sussex; Booroomugga, No. 1, East Run; date of inspection, 16th, 17th, and 18th October, 1886; division, Western, No. 111—part leasehold, part resumed.

Is water supply natural and permanent? No.

Give the names of rivers, creeks, lakes, or lagoons affording this natural supply? Not any.

Is this supply sufficient to keep the land fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.

If not, state for how many months of the year, and for what number of stock the supply is available? In favourable winters for three months—23,000 sheep.

Is water supply artificial? Yes.

Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? From rain waters conserved in tanks.

If from underground sources, state the depth and interior size of the shaft or well; its capacity to water a given number of stock every twenty-four hours; the quality of water, whether pure and wholesome, or of the kind called "stock-water"? No wells; shaft was sunk 100 feet; no water.

If from tanks, state the original depth, the number of cubic yards, and, as near as you can tell, the present water supply; also as to catchments? Leasehold area:—No. 1 tank, 400 cubic yards, 5 feet deep, 67,200 gallons, £40; No. 2 tank, 10,000 cubic yards, 16 feet deep, 1,680,000 gallons, £621; No. 3 tank, 11,000 cubic yards, 10 feet deep, 1,848,000 gallons, £692. Resumed area:—No. 4 tank, 400 cubic yards, 6 feet deep, 67,200 gallons, £40; No. 5 tank, 371 cubic yards, 11 feet deep, 62,388 gallons, £52; No. 6 tank, 600 cubic yards, 7 feet deep, 10,800 gallons, £81. The above values include drains. Good catchments.

If from dams, state the depth of the river, creek, or water-course; the height, breadth, and length of embankment; and, as near as you can judge, the present water supply, together with any other information, such as favourable water catchments, retentive soil, hard drainage surface, or otherwise, &c.? No dams.

Is the present artificial supply sufficient to keep the land permanently and fully stocked in ordinary seasons? Yes.

Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial. If so, state particulars? Wholly artificial.

If lakes, lagoons, creeks, or water-courses are supplied with water raised from adjacent rivers by pumping or otherwise, state the facts? No.

If any improvements in the shape of tanks, dams, wells, &c., are situated on freeholds or leaseholds, state the facts? Leasehold area:—No. 1 tank, on Crown lands; No. 2 tank on freehold, portion 1, parish Quondong, 40 acres; No. 3 tank on improvement purchase 83-41, portion 2, parish Mulga. Resumed area:—No. 4 tank on Crown lands; No. 5 tank on freehold, portion 3, parish Mulga, 40 acres; No. 6 tank on freehold.

Ascertain where practicable, from station records, the rainfall for the preceding twelve months, two years, or more? 1883, 7.78 inches; 1884, 9.73 inches; 1885, 19.32 inches.

State whether any extraordinary or special facilities for obtaining or securing water appear to exist on the land? Good catches obtainable.

What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, limestone, trap, &c.? Red soil rocky formation.

What

- What is the character of the country—Is it level, hilly, or mountainous; thickly or thinly timbered; rocky, or otherwise? Ridges, undulating and level country, mostly covered with scrubs, and thickly timbered in parts; on north end of block, a stony range, and also some clear, stony, and gravelly hills.
- Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyea, brigalow, &c. Indicate its position on tracing? About three-quarters "scrub" country, open, and thick emu-bush, currant-bush, rose-bush, quondong, mulga, and Currawong; mallee, pine, yarran, goomah, hop-bush, sandalwood, and other scrubs.
- State the number of stock the land will carry, if the stock is fully supplied with water? As improved, by fencing and conservation of water, 11,500 sheep; in present partly improved state by ringbarking, 11,678 sheep.
- State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Both.
- Is the country timbered; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered; and what is the kind or kinds of timber. Indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? Principally thinly covered, with box and gum timber; also a little pine.
- What is the description of pasturage; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent and fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Grasses of each division, with herbage.
- State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? As improved, for three months in favourable winters, $2\frac{3}{4}$ acres per sheep; as improved by fencing and conservation of water, all the year round, $5\frac{5}{8}$ acres per sheep; in present partly improved state by ringbarking, $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres per sheep.
- Within the Snowbelt, gather from records on the stations where practicable, the months of the year the country is wholly unavailable? Not affected thereby.
- Where available certain months of the year, or all the year round, give the acreage required for a sheep or horned cattle? As improved by fencing and conservation of water, all the year round, $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres per sheep.
- Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c.? Kangaroo, blue, umbrella, seedy, and other grasses; yarran, sandalwood, and pine scrubs; box, gum, and pine scrubs.
- State nature and value of any improvements which have become forfeited to the Crown, and are situated upon Crown lands? Not any.

Remarks.

Forty acres have been ringbarked on this block. Travelling stock route, Cobar to Coolabah, passes along northern boundary of this block.

Sussex, 18th October, 1886.

The Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

W. C. WRIGHT,

Inspector.

No. 9.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to The Lessee, Sussex Pastoral Holding.

Notice to appear at Local Land Board.

New South Wales, }
Bourke, to wit. }

[Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

You are hereby notified to attend at "Mr. Werner's Hotel," at Coolabah Railway Station, on the 11th day of November, 1886, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, when the matter or question stated at the foot hereof will be investigated.

On proof of due service of this notice, the investigation may proceed whether you appear in Court or not.

Given under my hand, at Bourke, this 18th day of October, 1886,—

G. C. TOMPSON,

Chairman.

Matter for Investigation.

Appraisement of rent and license fee, Sussex Pastoral Holding, No. 111.

No. 10.

Caption to Deposition of Witnesses.

Leasehold area, 111; Western Division; Sussex Holding.

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

[Crown Lands Act of 1884—Part II, section 14, subsection 1.]

The examination of William Coulthurst Wright, of Coolabah, in the Colony of New South Wales, Inspector of Runs, and Matthew John Brown, of Sussex, in the said Colony.

WHEREAS it hath been necessary to appraise the fair annual rental of leasehold area, 111, Western Division, Sussex Holding, and it hath been found necessary to investigate the said matter on oath, the depositions of the several witnesses are appended hereto.

G. C. TOMPSON,

Chairman.

[Enclosures.]

[Enclosures.]

THIS deponent, *William Coulthurst Wright*, of Coolabah, in the Colony of New South Wales, Inspector of runs, Bourke District, being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows :—On 16th to 18th October I inspected leasehold area, Sussex Holding ; report produced, marked Exhibit A, is mine, and is true to the best of my knowledge ; tracing produced, marked Exhibit B, shows the area in question in its natural state ; it is a waterless area, excepting two gilgey's holes, lasting, in favourable seasons, three months ; the country consists of low gravelly ridges and level country, mostly covered with scrubs and thinly timbered ; on the northern end of area a stony range, also some clear stony and gravelly hills ; the edible scrubs consist of emu-bush, currant-bush, rose-bush, quondong, mulga, and currawong ; with mallee, pine, yarran, sandalwood, goomah, and other useless scrubs ; the water supply is wholly artificial, and consists of rain waters conserved in tanks ; on Booroomugga, No. 1, East Run, No. 1 tank, 400 yards, 5 feet deep ; No. 2 tank, 10,000 yards, 16 feet deep ; No. 3, 11,000 yards, 10 feet deep ; on Back Booroomugga, No. 1, East Run, No. 1 tank, 400 yards, 5 feet deep ; No. 2, 8,000 yards, 13 feet deep ; No. 3, 500 yards, 5 feet deep ; No. 4, 8,383 yards, 10 feet deep ; No. 5, 2,636 yards, 10 feet deep ; No. 6, 8,500 yards, 16 feet deep ; No. 7, 1,000 yards, 6 feet deep ; No. 8, 4,851 yards, 13 feet deep ; on Booroomugga, No. 1, East Run, No. 1 tank is on Crown lands ; No. 2 tank is on freehold, portion 1, parish Quondong, 40 acres ; No. 3 tank is on I.P. 83-41, portion 2, parish Mulga ; Back Booroomugga, No. 1, East Run, Nos. 1, 3, and 5 tanks are on Crown lands ; No. 2 tank is on freehold, portion 1, parish Narrama, 40 acres ; No. 7 tank is on freehold, portion 1, parish Goyder, 40 acres ; No. 8 tank is on freehold, portion 2, parish of Nullawarra ; No. 6 tank is on I.P. 83-42, portion 3, parish Goyder, 40 acres. The fencing on Crown lands consists of boundary, 19 miles of 6 wires, £43 a mile ; 11 miles of 5 wires, at £40 a mile. Lessees claim half subdivision fence on Crown lands—11½ miles of 6 wires, at £43 a mile ; and 20½ miles of 5 wires, at £40 a mile ; 1 mile of chock and log at £40 ; ½ mile of brush, at £20 a mile ; one freehold three-quarter of a mile of 6 wires at £43 a mile ; on incomplete I.P., quarter of a mile of drop fence, at £30 a mile ; ringbarking on Crown lands, 7,000 acres ; ringbarking on freehold, 80 acres ; on incomplete I.P.s., 40 acres. I estimate value of improvements—fencing half boundary, £628 ; on Crown lands subdivision—fencing, £1,374 ; tanks, £324 ; woolshed, hut, and yards, £700 ; drafting-yards and cottage, £131 ; ringbarking, £293 ; total on Crown lands, £3,450 ; on freehold subdivision—fencing, £32 ; tanks, £1,448 ; drains, £20 ; homestead and outbuildings, £800 ; cultivation, paddock, and garden, £75 ; ringbarking, £3 ; total, £2,378 ; on incomplete I.P.s. subdivision—fencing, £8 ; tanks, £1,223 ; drains, £31 ; ringbarking, £1 10s. ; total, £1,263 10s. ; rainfall in 1883, 7 inches 78 points ; 1884, 9 inches 73 points ; 1885, 19 inches 32 points ; there is a road from Cobar to Coolabah which runs along the northern portion of this area ; it is used by stock. Stock on holding at time of inspection—23,000 sheep, exclusive of lambs, 20 cattle, and 8 horses. I estimate the carrying capability, in its natural state, in favourable winters, for three months, 25,000 sheep, being 2½ acres per sheep, and, as improved by fencing and conservation of water, all the year round, 12,500 sheep, being 5½ acres per sheep ; as at present partly improved by ringbarking, 12,880 sheep, being 5 acres per sheep. From printed returns I give the number of stock depastured in the holding—in 1882, 72,100 sheep ; 1883, 38,120 sheep, 34 cattle, and 20 horses ; 1884, 12,931 sheep, 3 cattle, and 1 horse.

Sworn by this deponent, William Coulthurst Wright, this }
 11th November, 1886, at Coolabah, before us,— }
 G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
 A. K. MACKENZIE, } Members.
 E. B. BARTON, }

W. C. WRIGHT,
 Inspector of Runs.

THIS deponent, *Matthew John Brown*, of Sussex, in the Colony of New South Wales, manager of Sussex Station, being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows :—I have heard Mr. Wright's evidence as regards fencing and other improvements ; it is correct ; I estimate about 6½ acres per sheep on leasehold area ; in its natural state it is waterless area ; cost of carriage of wool to Sydney, £6 6s. a ton ; average weight of clip, 4½ lb. the greasy wool ; I have been on the station five years ; by printed returns, I see that there were 72,100 sheep returned in 1882 ; in 1883, 38,120 sheep ; no lambing in 1882 ; sold 22,000 sheep in 1883 ; as stores lost by death, about 12,000 sheep ; no lambing in 1883 or 1884 ; did not sell any sheep in 1884 ; the number was reduced by deaths to 12,931 in 1884 ; the 72,000 sheep mentioned were only on the run a short time, they were travelling for sale ; I knew the run would not keep that number ; 40 miles nearest railway station, Girilambone ; in 1885 we had a lambing of 40 per cent. ; owing to a good season in 1885 the wool increased to about 5 lb. to a sheep ; 8,000 lambs this year from 13,000 ewes ; when I came there, five years ago, the country was then more open ; in the flats, pine and yarran scrub is getting very dense, and they stop the grass from growing altogether, and if the scrubs grow as quickly in the next five years as it has in the past, the country will be one mass of scrub.

Sworn by this deponent, Matthew John Brown, this }
 11th November, 1886, at Coolabah, before us,— }
 G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
 A. K. MACKENZIE, } Members.
 E. B. BARTON, }

MATTHEW JOHN BROWN.

Sussex Pastoral Holding ; Western Division, No. 111 ; leasehold area.

Exhibit A.

Report for Appraisalment of Rent or License Fee.

Name of lessee or licensee, Trust and Agency Company ; name of holding, Sussex ; date of inspection, 16th, 17th, and 18th October, 1886 ; division, Western, No. 111.

Is water supply natural and permanent? No ; excepting two gilgey water-holes, lasting, in favourable seasons, three months.

Give the names of rivers, creeks, lakes, or lagoons affording this natural supply? Not any.

Is this supply sufficient to keep the land fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.

If not, state for how many months of the year, and for what number of stock the supply is available? In favourable winters, for three months, 25,000 sheep.

Is water supply artificial? Yes.

Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? From rain waters conserved in tanks.

If from underground sources, state the depth and interior size of the shaft or well ; its capacity to water a given number of stock every twenty-four hours ; the quality of water, whether pure and wholesome, or of the kind called "stock-water"? No wells ; shaft was sunk 100 feet ; no water.

If from tanks, state the original depth, the number of cubic yards, and, as near as you can tell, the present water supply ; also as to catchments? Booroomugga, No. 1, East Run.—No. 1 tank, 400 cubic yards, 5 feet deep, 67,200 gallons, £40 ; No. 2 tank, 10,000 cubic yards, 16 feet deep, 1,680,000 gallons, £621 ; No. 3 tank, 11,000 cubic yards, 10 feet deep, 1,848,000 gallons, £692 ; Back Booroomugga, No. 1, East Run.—No. 1 tank, 400 cubic yards, 5 feet deep, 67,200 gallons, £30 ; No. 2 tank, 8,000 cubic yards, 13 feet deep, 1,344,000 gallons, £520 ; No. 3 tank, 500 cubic yards, 5 feet deep, 84,000 gallons, £60 ; No. 4 tank, 8,383 cubic yards, 10 feet deep, 1,408,344 gallons, £571 ; No. 5 tank, 2,636 cubic yards, 10 feet deep, 442,848 gallons, £194 ; No. 6 tank, 8,500 cubic yards, 16 feet deep, 1,428,000 gallons, £562 ; No. 7 tank, 1,000 cubic yards, 6 feet deep, 168,000 gallons, £50 ; No. 8 tank, 4,851 cubic yards, 13 feet deep, 814,968 gallons, £277. The above values include drains, &c. Good catchments.

If from dams, state the depth of the river, creek, or water-course ; the height, breadth, and length, of embankment ; and, as near as you can judge, the present water supply, together with any other information, such as favourable water catchments, retentive soil, hard drainage surface, or otherwise, &c. ? No dams.

Is the present artificial supply sufficient to keep the land permanently and fully stocked in ordinary seasons? Yes.

Is

- Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial. If so, state particulars? Wholly artificial.
- If lakes, lagoons, creeks, or water-courses are supplied with water raised from adjacent rivers by pumping or otherwise, state the facts? No.
- If any improvements in the shape of tanks, dams, wells, &c., are situated on freeholds or leaseholds, state the facts? Booroomugga No. 1 East Run, No. 1 tank on crown lands; No. 2 tank on freehold, portion 1, parish Quondong, 40 acres; No. 3 tank on I.P. 83-41, portion 2, parish Mulga; Back Booroomugga, No. 1, East Run, No. 1 tank on Crown lands; No. 3 tank on Crown lands; No. 5 tank on Crown lands; No. 2 tank on freehold, portion 1, parish of Narrama, 40 acres; No. 7 tank on freehold, portion 1, parish of Goyder, 40 acres; No. 8 tank on freehold, portion 2, parish of Mulla-warra, 40 acres; No. 6 tank on I.P. 83-42, portion 3, parish of Goyder, 40 acres.
- Ascertain where practicable, from station records, the rainfall for the preceding twelve months, two years, or more? 1883, 7.78 inches; 1884, 9.73 inches; 1885, 19.32 inches.
- State whether any extraordinary or special facilities for obtaining or securing water appear to exist on the land? Good catches obtainable.
- What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, lime-stone, trap, &c.? Red soil; rocky formation.
- What is the character of the country—Is it level, hilly, or mountainous; thickly or thinly timbered; rocky or otherwise? Low gravelly ridges, and level country mostly covered with scrubs, and thinly timbered; on northern end of area a stony range, also some clear stony and gravelly hills.
- Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyea, brigalow, &c. Indicate the position on tracing? About three-quarters scrub country, open and thick; emu-bush, currant-bush, rose-bush, quondong, mulga, and currawong; mallee, pine, yarran, sandalwood, goomah, and other scrubs.
- State the number of stock the land will carry, if the stock is fully supplied with water? As improved by fencing and conservation of water, 12,500 sheep; as at present, partly improved by ringbarking, 12,880 sheep.
- State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Both.
- Is the country timbered; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered; and what is the kind or kinds of timber. Indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? Thinly covered with box and gum timber.
- What is the description of pasturage; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent and fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Grasses of each division, with herbage.
- State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? As unimproved, for three months, in favourable winters, 2½ acres per sheep; as improved by fencing and conservation of water, all the year round, 5½ acres per sheep; as improved at present by ringbarking, 5 acres per sheep.
- Within the Snowbelt, gather from records from the stations where practicable, the months of the year the country is wholly unavailable? Not affected thereby.
- Where available certain months of the year, or all the year round, give the acreage required for a sheep or horned cattle? As improved by fencing and conservation of water, all the year round, 5½ acres to a sheep.
- Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c.? Kangaroo, blue, umbrella, seedy, and other grasses; yarran, pine, sandalwood, and other scrubs; box and gum timber.
- State nature and value of any improvements which have become forfeited to the Crown, and are situated upon Crown lands? Not any.

Remarks.

Fencing on Crown lands.—Boundary—19 miles, 6 wires, at £43 per mile; 11 miles, 5 wires, at £40 per mile. Lessees claim half. Subdivision—11½ miles, 6 wires, at £43 per mile; 20½ miles, 5 wires, at £40 per mile; 1 mile, chock and log, at £40 per mile; 1½ mile, brush, at £20 per mile. On freehold—¾ mile, 6 wires, at £43 per mile. On incomplete I.P.—¼ mile, drop fence, at £30 per mile.

Homestead, house, store, sheds, &c., on freehold, £800. Cultivation paddock, garden, &c., on freehold, £75.

Wool-shed for fourteen shearers, huts, and yards, on Crown lands, £700.

Cottage and drafting-yards, on Crown lands, £131.

Ringbarking.—On Crown lands, 700 acres, £292; on freehold, 80 acres, £3; on incomplete I.P., 40 acres, £1 10s.

Value of Improvements.

| | On Crown lands. | On freehold. | On incomplete improvement purchases. |
|--|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Fencing half boundary | 628 | ..... | ..... |
| Subdivision | 1,374 | 32 | 8 |
| Tanks | 324 | 1,448 | 1,223 |
| Drains ..... | ..... | 20 | 31 |
| Homestead, house, and outbuildings ..... | ..... | 800 | ..... |
| Cultivation paddock and garden ..... | ..... | 75 | ..... |
| Wool-shed, hut, and yards | 700 | ..... | ..... |
| Drafting-yards and cottage | 131 | ..... | ..... |
| Ringbarking | 293 | 3 | 1 10/- |
| | 3,450 | 2,378 | 1,263 10/- |

Stock on the holding—8,000 lambs, 23,000 sheep, 20 cattle, and 8 horses.

W. C. WRIGHT,
Inspector.

Sussex, 18th October, 1886.
The Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

No. 11.
Memorandum.

SCHEDULE showing the nature and value of improvements effected by the pastoral lessee, on the leasehold area of the Sussex Pastoral Holding, as elicited from evidence obtained at the date of appraisalment of the leasehold and resumed areas.

Leasehold area, No. 111 ; Western Division ; Trust and Agency Company of Australasia, pastoral lessee.

| Improvements situated on lands alienated to Pastoral Lessee. | | | Improvements on Crown lands under Pastoral Lease. | | |
|--|-------------|----------|---|--------------|----------|
| Nature of Improvements. | Value. | Remarks. | Nature of Improvements. | Value. | Remarks. |
| Freehold— | £ s. d. | | On Crown lands— | £ s. d. | |
| Fencing subdivision | 32 0 0 | | Fencing half boundary | 628 0 0 | |
| Tanks | 1,448 0 0 | | Fencing subdivision | 1,374 0 0 | |
| Drains | 20 0 0 | | Tanks | 324 0 0 | |
| Homestead and outbuildings ... | 800 0 0 | | Wool-shed, hut, and yards | 700 0 0 | |
| Cultivation paddock and garden | 75 0 0 | | Drafting-yards and cottage ... | 131 0 0 | |
| Ringbarking | 3 0 0 | | Ringbarking | 293 0 0 | |
| Total | £ 2,378 0 0 | | Total | £ 3,450 0 0 | |
| | | | On incomplete Improvement | | |
| | | | Purchases— | | |
| | | | Fencing subdivision | 8 0 0 | |
| | | | Tanks | 1,223 0 0 | |
| | | | Drains | 31 0 0 | |
| | | | Ringbarking | 1 10 0 | |
| | | | Total | £ 1,263 10 0 | |

11th November, 1886.

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

No. 12.

Appraisalment by Local Land Board.

Leasehold area, 111 ; Western Division ; Sussex Holding.

[Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

Appraisalment by Local Land Board of rent to be paid for next period of five years of pastoral lease.

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

WHEREAS, by direction of the Minister of Lands, it was ordered that the rent to be paid in respect of the next period of five years of lease of pastoral lease, 111, Western Division, land district of Cobar, county of Canbelego, held by the Trust and Agency Co. of Australasia, should be subject to appraisalment by the Local Land Board for the Cobar District. These are, therefore, to certify that the said Local Land Board having taken evidence, and inquired into the matter, hereby appraises the rental payable for the five years term of lease, commencing on 11th July, 1885, as at the rate of 1d. per acre per annum.

Given under my hand, at the office of the Local Land Board at Coolabah, this 11th day of November, 1886,—

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

Rent determined at 1⁰/₁₀d. per acre, commencing at the notification of the division of the pastoral holding, and to apply to the unexpired period of the pre-existing leases (if any), and thenceforth for a further period of five years.—H.C., 31/12/86.

Gazetted, 9/2/87. Rent called for, Trust and Agency Co. of Australasia (Limited), 15/2/87.

No. 13.

Memo. by The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke.

11 November, 1886.

THE two enclosed reports on the undermentioned blocks may remain with leasehold papers, 111, Sussex Holding, viz. :—Booroomugga, No. 1, East Run ; Back Booroomugga, No. 1, East Run.

G.C.T.

No. 14.

Gazette Notice.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 8 December, 1886.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of Regulations Nos. 33 and 134, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, published on the 2nd January, 1885, being amended as hereunder.

HENRY COPELAND.

AMENDMENT OF REGULATION 134.

134. Every application under section 100 of the Act by the holder of a pastoral or homestead lease or occupation license for a reduction of the minimum rent or license fee fixed in respect thereof shall be made in the form 51 and tendered to the Local Land Board within sixty days of the notification in the *Government Gazette* of the determination of such rent or license fee, and all inquiries into such applications shall be conducted by the Board in the manner prescribed in Regulation 21. Every

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Every such application shall be accompanied by a receipt from the Colonial Treasurer, showing that the rent or license fee for the current year, with any arrears, in respect of such lease or license shall have first been duly paid.

And if any reduction of rent or license fee be allowed such reduction shall be notified in the *Gazette*, and should such rent or license fee thereafter be restored to the minimum rate, notification thereof shall be similarly given.

No. 15.

Extract from Supplement to *Government Gazette*, 9 February, 1887.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 9 February, 1887.

NOTICE is hereby given, that in pursuance of the provisions of The Crown Lands Act of 1884, the Minister has determined the Annual Rentals of the Pastoral Leases specified in the annexed Schedule, at the respective rates per acre therein mentioned; such rentals to apply from the date of notification of the division of the pastoral holding in each case until the expiration of the first period of the lease. For the second period the annual rentals will be increased by one-fourth, and for the residue of the term by one-half of those now determined.

The first period of the leases will be for the term hereunder specified, and is inclusive of the unexpired term or mean term of the lease or leases in existence on the 31st December, 1884. The second period will be for five years, commencing at the expiration of the first period; and the third period will be for five years, commencing at the expiration of the second period.

The leases may be terminated subject to the provisions of The Crown Lands Act of 1884. The amounts now demanded must be paid to the Colonial Treasurer on or before the 12th April, 1887, subject, in default, to the penalties imposed by the 96th section of the Act hereinbefore mentioned.

THOMAS GARRETT.

SCHEDULE.—WESTERN DIVISION.

* * * * *
Sussex pastoral holding; leasehold area, No. 111; lessees, Trust and Agency Company of Australasia (Limited), 64,240 acres; notified in *Government Gazette*, 11th July, 1885; date of determination or mean determination of leases of runs included in pastoral holding, 31st December, 1885; annual rental, £294 8s. 8d., at 1½d. per acre; rent demanded to 10th July, 1887; amount now demanded, £490 12s. 10d.; lease commencing on 11th July, 1885, and terminating on 31st December, 1890; rent due on 10th July in each year.
* * * * *

No. 16.

Notification to Lessee.

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

[Crown Lands Act of 1884—Part IV, section 78.]

To the Trust and Agency Company of Australasia (Limited), care of H. H. Brown and Company, Exchange.

You are hereby notified, as the holder of the pastoral lease hereunder specified, that the Minister, in pursuance of the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, has determined the rental payable for the first period of five years of the said lease, and for the mean unexpired term of the previous leases, commencing from date of notification of division of pastoral holding, at the rate of 1½d. per acre per annum; and you are hereby requested to pay to the Colonial Treasurer on or before the 12th day of April, 1887, the sum of £490 12s. 10d., being the difference between the rent paid and that determined up to the 10th July, 1887.

The rental of your pastoral lease shall thereafter be paid yearly in advance on or before the 10th day of July in each year, and should the amount of such rent be not paid on the due date thereof, the right to such lease shall be liable to forfeiture.

SCHEDULE.

Leasehold area, Sussex, No. 111; Date of notification, 11th July, 1885; 64,240 acres; annual rental, £294 8s. 8d.
Department of Lands, Sydney,
15th February, 1887.

CHARLES OLIVER,
Under Secretary.

No. 17.

The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Pastoral Lease.

Sir,

The Treasury, New South Wales, 15 April, 1887.

With reference to the *Government Gazette*, dated 9th February, 1887, notifying that the Minister of Lands had determined the annual rent to be paid upon the undermentioned pastoral lease, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, and calling for payment of the adjusted rental thereon to 10th July, 1887, I am directed to inform you that the amount in question, viz., £490 12s. 10d. was paid into this office on 12th April, 1887:—

Division, Western; lessee, Trust and Agency Company of Australasia; number of lease, 111; name of leasehold area, Sussex.

I have, &c.,

W. NEWCOMBE,
(Pro Under Secretary).

No. 18.

| Name of Pastoral Holding and No. of Leasehold Area. | Estimated acreage of Leasehold Area and date of notification in <i>Government Gazette</i> . | | Names of Registered Lessees. on the 1st January, 1885, and 1st January, 1886, respectively. | | Names of Runs included in Pastoral Holding, showing Old expiration of each Lease, amount of rental paid from mean term of such Leases, and mean date of | | | |
|---|---|------------------|---|--|---|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| | | | 1885. | 1886. | Run. | Old Pastoral District. | Date of expiration of each Lease. | Amount of Rent paid. |
| Sussex, No. 111. | Acres. 64,240 | 1885. 11 July... | The Trust and Agency Company of Australasia (Limited). Do ... | The Trust and Agency Company of Australasia (Limited). Do ... | Booroomugga, No. 1, East. Back Booroomugga, No. 1, East. Sussex Leasehold, Area No. 111 | Warrego.. do ... | 1885. 31 Dec. do ... | £ 52 20 £31 19s. Cr. 28 Jan., 1886. £31 19s. Cr. 28 Dec., 1886. £135 18s. |

Wilga Pastoral Holding.—Leasehold Area, No. 7, Western Division.

SCHEDULE.

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No. 1.

Office Memorandum.

Land Board District, Bourke; Wilga Holding, Western Division; leasehold area, No. 7; gazetted 11th July, 1885.

REVISION of areas after division at head office:—

Total estimated area, 64,700 acres; alienated land (a), nil; reserves from lease (b), nil; total unavailable land, nil; total area available, 64,700 acres.

24th February, 1886.

J. T. KEATING.

Final Revision at District Survey Office, prior to appraisement:—

Total area available (by Head Office estimate), 64,700 acres. Withdrawals.—Conditional purchases (c), nil; conditional leases (d), nil; homestead leases (e), nil; converted preleases, nil; reserves from lease, nil; auction leases (f), nil; total unavailable land, nil; total area available for appraisement, 64,700 acres.

EDWARD M'FARLANE,

District Surveyor.

3rd November, 1886.

(a) Includes only such portions as are shown upon tracing, which has been chartered up from the maps in the Surveyor-General's Office.

(b) Includes all reserves from lease or lands exempt from lease under the Crown Lands Act of 1834, as shown on the tracing.

(c) Conditional purchases, under Crown Lands Act of 1834, which have been confirmed by the Board.

(d) Conditional leases under Crown Lands Act of 1884, which have been confirmed by the Board.

(e) Includes only such homestead leases as have been approved.

(f) Auction leases converted into annual leases, under 9th subsection of 85th clause of Crown Lands Act of 1834.

18.

SCHEDULE

| Pastoral District, date of 1st January, 1885; also determination thereof. | | | Annual Rental determined for Leasehold Area. | | Apportionment of amounts paid as Rent from 1st January, 1885. | | Date up to which Rent is now demanded. | Amount now demanded. | Date of commencement of first period of Lease. | Date of expiration of first period of Lease. | Date upon which payment of Rent is due in each year. |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------|--|---|--|----------------------|--|--|--|
| Year for which Rent paid. | Mean term of such Leases. | Mean date of determination. | Rate per acre. | Amount. | Amount to be retained as rent from 1st January, 1885, to date of notification of Leasehold Area. | Balance to credit of Lessee to be applied as part payment of rent determined up to date shown in next column. | | | | | |
| 1885 | 174 days.. | 1885. 31 Dec.. | d. 1 1/2 | £ s. d. 294 8 8 | £ s. d. 37 13 6 | £ s. d. 98 4 6 | 1887. 10 July | £ s. d. 490 12 10 | 1885. 11 July | 1890. 31 Dec. | 10 July |
| 1885 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1886 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1887 | | | | | | | | | | | |

No. 2.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to Messrs. Rothery & Genneys.

Notice to appear at Local Land Board.

[Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

New South Wales, Bourke, }
to wit.

You are hereby notified to attend at "Mr. Werner's Hotel," at Coolabah Railway Station, on the 10th day of November, 1886, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, when the matter or question, stated at the foot hereof, will be investigated.

On proof of due service of this notice, the investigation may proceed, whether you appear in Court or not.

Given under my hand, at Bourke, this 18th day of October, 1886,—

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

Matter for investigation.

Appraisement of rent and license fee, Wilga Pastoral Holding, No. 7.

No. 3.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to the Lessees of Wilga Pastoral Holding.

Sir,

Local Land Board Office, Bourke, 22 October, 1886.

With reference to the appraisement of your holding, Wilga, being leasehold area, No. 7, Western Division, I have to inform you that the area upon which the rent will be payable, has been computed exclusive only of those improvement purchases applied for by you, which have been duly completed by the payment of the appraised value up to the 24th February, 1886.

In the event of other purchases of a like nature having been completed by you since the date above mentioned, or of it being your intention to complete any such purchases, it will be necessary for you to produce satisfactory evidence of the same at the date of appraisement, in order that the area may be withdrawn from the total area of Crown land available for pastoral occupation.

I have, &c.,
G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

No. 4.

Report for Appraisement of Rent or License Fee.

Name of lessee or licensee, Bank of New South Wales; name of holding, Wilga—Outer Glenariff A; date of inspection, 23rd and 24th October, 1886; division, Western, No. 7; resumed area.

Is water supply natural and permanent? No.

Give the names of river, creeks, lakes, or lagoons affording this natural supply? Not any.

Is this supply sufficient to keep the land fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.

If

- If not, state for how many months of the year, and for what number of stock the supply is available? In favourable winters for three months, 16,750 sheep.
- Is water supply artificial? Yes.
- Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? From rain water conserved in tanks.
- If from underground sources, state the depth and interior size of the shaft or well; its capacity to water a given number of stock every twenty-four hours; the quality of water, whether pure and wholesome, or of the kind called "stock-water"? No wells.
- If from tanks, state the original depth, the number of cubic yards, and, as near as you can tell, the present water supply; also as to catchments? No. 1 tank, 800 cubic yards, 6 feet deep, 34 400 gallons; 700 cubic yards, 3 feet deep, 117,600 gallons, £100; No. 2 tank, 4,600 cubic yards, 12 feet deep, 772,800 gallons, £265; fair catchments; the above values includes drains.
- If from dams, state the depth of the river, creek, or water-course; the height, breadth, and length of embankment; and, as near as you can judge, the present water supply, together with any other information, such as favourable water catchments, retentive soil, hard drainage surface, or otherwise, &c.? No dams.
- Is the present artificial supply sufficient to keep the land permanently and fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.
- If not, state for how many months, and for what number of stock the supply is sufficient? Twelve months, for 5,000 sheep.
- Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial. If so, state particulars? Wholly artificial.
- If lakes, lagoons, creeks, or water-courses are supplied with water raised from adjacent rivers by pumping or otherwise, state the facts? No.
- If any improvements in the shape of tanks, dams, wells, &c., are situated on freeholds or leaseholds, state the facts? No. 1 tank, on I.P., 84-258, portion 1, parish Meeson, 40 acres; No. 2 tank, on I.P., 84-257, portion 2, parish Meeson, 40 acres.
- Ascertain where practicable, from station records, the rainfall for the preceding twelve months, two years, or more? No record.
- State whether any extraordinary or special facilities for obtaining or securing water appear to exist on the land? Fair catches, but difficulty in getting good sinking ground on account of rock.
- What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, lime-stone, trap, &c.? Red soil; rocky formation.
- What is the character of the country—Is it level, hilly, or mountainous; thickly or thinly timbered; rocky or otherwise? On western side—level country, thinly timbered, and partly covered with scrubs; on eastern side—undulating country, with gravelly ridges; thinly timbered, and covered with scrubs.
- Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyea, brigalow, &c. Indicate its position on tracing? About three-quarter scrub country, open and thick emu-bush, currant-bush, mulga, and currawong; mallee, pine, yarran, sandalwood, hop-bush, wattle, and other scrubs.
- State the number of stock the land will carry, if the stock is fully supplied with water? 8,375 sheep.
- State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Both.
- Is the country timbered; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered; and what is the kind or kinds of timber. Indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? Thinly covered with box, pine, gum, and ironwood timber.
- What is the description of pasturage; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent and fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Grasses of each division, with herbage.
- State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? As unimproved, for three months in favourable winters, 3 acres per sheep; as improved, by fencing and the conservation of water all the year round, 6½ acres per sheep.
- Within the Snowbelt, gather from records on the stations where practicable, the months of the year the country is wholly unavailable? Not affected thereby.
- Where available certain months of the year, or all the year round, give the acreage required for a sheep or horned cattle? As improved by fencing and conservation of water, 6½ acres per sheep, all the year round.
- Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c.? Kangaroo, blue, mulga, silver, umbrella, seedy and other grasses; emu-bush, sandalwood, and other scrubs; box, gum, pine, and ironwood timber.
- State nature and value of any improvements which have become forfeited to the Crown, and are situated upon Crown lands? Not any.

Wilga, 24th October, 1886.

W. C. WRIGHT,
Inspector.

The Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

No. 5.

Report for Appraisalment of Rent or License Fee.

Name of lessee or licensee, Bank of New South Wales; name of holding, Wilga—Outer Glenariff B; date of inspection, 23rd, 24th, and 25th October, 1886; division, Western, No. 7; leasehold area.

Is water supply natural and permanent? No.

Give the names of rivers, creeks, lakes, or lagoons affording this natural supply? Not any.

Is this supply sufficient to keep the land fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.

If

- If not, state for how many months of the year, and for what number of stock the supply is available? In favourable winters, for three months—21,250 sheep.
- Is water supply artificial? Yes.
- Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? From rain waters conserved in tanks.
- If from underground sources, state the depth and interior size of the shaft or well; its capacity to water a given number of stock every twenty-four hours; the quality of water, whether pure and wholesome, or of the kind called "stock-water"? No wells.
- If from tanks, state the original depth, the number of cubic yards, and, as near as you can tell, the present water supply; also as to catchments. No. 1 tank, 1,000 cubic yards, 9 feet deep, 163,000 gallons; 2,000 cubic yards, 8 feet deep, 336,000 gallons, £225; No. 2 tank, 300 cubic yards, 3 feet deep, 50,400 gallons; No. 3 tank, 500 cubic yards, 2½ feet deep, 84,000 gallons, £60; No. 4 tank, 6,000 cubic yards, 11½ feet deep, 1,008,000 gallons, £310; No. 5 tank, 1,200 cubic yards, 11 feet deep, 201,600 gallons, £30; No. 6 tank, 600 cubic yards, 6 feet deep, 100,800 gallons, £35; No. 7 tank, 4,000 cubic yards, 13 feet deep, 672,000 gallons, £325; No. 8 tank, 700 cubic yards, 8 feet deep, 117,600 gallons, £56; No. 9 tank, 800 cubic yards, 8 feet deep, 134,400 gallons, £49; No. 10 tank, 1,000 cubic yards, 10 feet deep, 168,000 gallons; 3,000 cubic yards, 12 feet deep, 504,000 gallons, £370; fair catchments. The above values include drains and fencing.
- If from dams, state the depth of the river, creek, or water-course; the height, breadth, and length of embankment; and, as near as you can judge, the present water supply, together with any other information, such as favourable water catchments, retentive soil, hard drainage surface, or otherwise, &c.? No dams.
- Is the present artificial supply sufficient to keep the land permanently and fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.
- If not, state for how many months, and for what number of stock the supply is sufficient? Twelve months for 3,000 sheep.
- Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial. If so, state particulars? Wholly artificial.
- If lakes, lagoons, creeks, or water-courses are supplied with water raised from adjacent rivers by pumping or otherwise, state the facts? No.
- If any improvements in the shape of tanks, dams, wells, &c., are situated on freeholds or leaseholds, state the facts? Tanks Nos. 1 to 10 are on Crown lands.
- Ascertain where practicable, from station records, the rainfall for the preceding twelve months, two years, or more? No record.
- State whether any extraordinary or special facilities for obtaining or securing water appear to exist on the land? Fair catches; but difficulty in getting good sinking ground on account of rock.
- What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, lime-stone, trap, &c.? Red soil; rocky formation.
- What is the character of the country—Is it level, hilly, or mountainous; thickly or thinly timbered; rocky, or otherwise? On western side of block, level country, thinly timbered, and partly covered with scrubs; on eastern side, undulating country, with gravelly ridges, thinly timbered, and mostly covered with scrubs.
- Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyea, brigalow, &c. Indicate its position on tracing? About three-quarter scrub country, open and thick; emu-bush, currant-bush, rose-bush, mulga, and currawong; yarran, pine, sandalwood, hop-bush, broom, wattle, wilga, and other scrubs.
- State the number of stock the land will carry, if the stock is fully supplied with water? 10,625 sheep.
- State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Both.
- Is the country timbered; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered; and what is the kind or kinds of timber. Indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? Thinly covered with box, gum, pine, and ironwood timber.
- What is the description of pasturage; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent and fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Grasses of each division, with herbage.
- State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? As unimproved, for three months in favourable winters, 3 acres per sheep; as improved, by fencing and the conservation of water, all the year round, 6½ acres per sheep.
- Within the Snowbelt, gather from records on the stations where practicable, the months of the year the country is wholly unavailable? Not affected thereby.
- Where available certain months of the year, or all the year round, give the acreage required for a sheep or horned cattle? As improved by fencing and conservation of water, all the year round, 6½ acres per sheep.
- Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c? Kangaroo, mulga, blue, silver, seedy, umbrella, and other grasses; emu-bush, yarran, and other scrubs; box, pine, gum, and ironwood timber.
- State nature and value of any improvements which have become forfeited to the Crown, and are situated upon Crown lands? Not any.

Remarks.

The homestead and woolshed are on this block. Stock on the holding—15,300 sheep, 3,000 lambs. 7 cattle, 4 horses. A road, Cobar to Coolabah, runs through this block.

W. C. WRIGHT,
Inspector.

Wilga, 25th October, 1886.
The Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

No. 6.

Memo. by The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke.

THE two reports on the undermentioned blocks may remain with leasehold papers, No. 7, Western Division, Wilga Holding; Outer Glenariff, A.; Do., B.

G.C.T., 10/11/86.

No. 7.

Caption to depositions of Witnesses.

Leasehold area, No. 7; Western Division; Wilga Holding.

New South Wales, }
to wit. } [Crown Lands Act of 1884—Part II., section 14, subsection 1.]
The examination of William Coulthurst Wright, of Coolabah, in the Colony of New South Wales, Inspector of Runs, and Albert Rothery of Wilga, in the said Colony.

WHEREAS it hath been necessary to appraise the fair annual rental of leasehold area, No. 7, Western Division, Wilga Holding, and it hath been found necessary to investigate the said matter on oath, the depositions of the several witnesses are appended hereto.

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

[Enclosures.]

THIS deponent, *William Coulthurst Wright*, of Coolabah, in the Colony of New South Wales, Inspector of Runs (Bourke District), being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows:—From 23rd to 25th October I inspected leasehold area, Wilga Holding; report produced, marked Exhibit A is mine, and is true to the best of my knowledge; tracing, marked Exhibit B shows the area in question in its natural state; it is a dry area, consisting on the western side of level country thinly timbered, and partly covered with scrubs; on the eastern side, undulating country with gravelly ridges, thinly timbered, and mostly covered with scrubs; the edible scrub are emu-bush, mulga, currant-bush, rose-bush, and Currawong; other scrubs, yarran, pine, sandalwood, hop-bush, broom, wattle, wilga, and other useless scrubs; the water supply is wholly artificial, and consists of rain waters conserved in tanks. No. 1 tank, 1,000 yards, 9 feet deep; another excavation, 2,000 yards, 8 feet deep; No. 2 tank, 300 yards, 3 feet deep; No. 3, 500 yards, 2½ feet deep; No. 4, 6,000 yards, 11½ feet deep; No. 5, 1,200 yards, 11 feet deep; No. 6, 600 yards, 6 feet deep; No. 7, 4,000 yards, 13 feet deep; No. 8, 700 yards, 8 feet deep; No. 9, 800 yards, 8 feet deep; No. 10, 1,000 yards, 10 feet deep, and 3,000 yards, 12 feet deep. These tanks are all on Crown lands; the fencing consists of boundary 30½ miles of six wires, at £45 per mile; lessees claim half subdivision 22 miles, five wires, at £40 per mile, and 2¼ miles of six wires, at £45 a mile, and three quarters of a mile, two rails, at £60 a mile. I estimate the value of improvements as follows on Crown lands—fencing, half boundary fencing, £686; subdivision fencing, £1,066; ten tanks, £1,510; homestead, kitchen and outbuildings, and two underground tanks, £470; woolshed, hut, and yards, £335; horse yards, £12; total, £4,079; road, Cobar to Coolabah, runs through this area; stock on the holding at time of inspection, 15,800 sheep, 3,000 lambs, 7 cattle, and 4 horses; from the printed returns I give the number of stock depastured in this holding in 1882, 11,750 sheep, in 1884 14,000 sheep, 10 cattle and 9 horses; in its natural state in favourable winters for three months I estimate 21,250 sheep, being 3 acres per sheep, and in its present improved state, by fencing and conservation of water, all the year round 10,625 sheep, being 6½ acres per sheep; return for 1883, 14,000 sheep, 11 cattle, and 10 horses.

By Mr. Bloxham: I have lately inspected this holding since the recent heavy rains; I have seen the run under most exceptional circumstances as regards the seasons; it is a difficult country for tank-sinking; it is rocky country; tanks in the red country silt up more quickly than in the plain country; some of the best gilgeys would be 3 or 4 feet of water; the country could be used in favourable winters; it would be attended with risk; the gravelly ridges spoken of would not be good for grass growing; large quantity of now edible scrubs—yarran and sandalwood—predominate, also vast quantities of emu-bush; the yarran is a bad scrub, and increases very fast; whip-stick pine is increasing in the flats; the road spoken of is detrimental to the run, particularly if stock have a right to use it; the expenditure between £4,000 or £5,000; the quantity of stock could not be kept without this expenditure; a good deal of corkscrew grass seed all over the run; it is good wool-growing country; sheep require salt in this country; the quantity of stock given as at present on the run is for the whole holding.

W. C. WRIGHT,
Inspector of Runs.

Sworn by this deponent, William Coulthurst Wright, this }
10th November, 1886, at Coolabah, before us,— }

G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
A. K. MACKENZIE, } Members.
E. B. BARTON, }

THIS deponent, *Albert Rothery*, of Wilga, in the Colony of New South Wales, one lessee of Wilga Station, being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows:—

By Mr. Bloxham: I have known this station since September, 1879, when I bought the station with 6,200 mixed sheep; it is not a good country for increase; our average cuttings for the seven years has been 52 per cent.; there is a loss of between 15 to 20 per cent. marking and weaning in 1884; we had no lambs; sheep fatten readily if we get fair rains; they require salt; the present is far above an average season; during the seven years I have been there we have not had one like it; we sold about 3,240 fat sheep during the years; since first occupying the country we purchased 4,000 sheep, half of them ewes, making in all over 10,000 sheep put upon the country; during the seven years we have had over 19,000 lambs, notwithstanding which, the total sheep on the run now is only about 18,000; the losses therefore have been very heavy; it is necessary to give sheep salt to keep them in good health; it adds to the cost; some seasons sheep suffer from grass seed; the fleeces average about 5 lb.; greasy wool last year produced 4½d. for the fleeces; low price caused by the red soil and grass seeds; it is difficult country to sink tanks, rock being so near the surface; cost of trial shafts are very heavy; the tanks silt up very readily, entailing heavy cost for clearing out; the tanks have cost from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per yard; great deal of yarran, and it is increasing fast; whip-stick pine is increasing in some of the flats and destroys the grass; rabbits are said to be on the adjoining runs, and the rabbit fence own erecting; will fence one out into the infected country; I estimate in average seasons about 7 acres to a sheep; nearest railway station, Coolabah, distant 16 miles; it costs about £5 a ton to Sydney carriage.

Sworn by this deponent, Albert Rothery, this 10th }
November, 1886, at Coolabah, before us,— }

G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
A. K. MACKENZIE, } Members.
E. B. BARTON, }

ALBERT ROTHERY.

Wilga Pastoral Holding ; Western Division, No. 7 ; leasehold area.

Exhibit A.

Report for Appraisalment of Rent or License Fee.

Name of lessee or licensee, Bank of New South Wales ; name of holding, Wilga ; date of inspection, 23rd, 24th, and 25th October, 1886 ; division, Western, No. 7 ; leasehold area.

- Is water supply natural and permanent? No.
 Give the names of rivers, creeks, lakes, or lagoons affording this natural supply? Not any.
 Is this supply sufficient to keep the land fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.
 If not, state for how many months of the year, and for what number of stock the supply is available? In favourable winters, for three months—21,250 sheep.
 Is water supply artificial? Yes.
 Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? From rain waters conserved in tanks.
 If from underground sources, state the depth and interior size of the shaft or well ; its capacity to water a given number of stock every twenty-four hours ; the quality of water, whether pure and wholesome, or of the kind called "stock water"? No wells.
 If from tanks, state the original depth, the number of cubic yards, and, as near as you can tell, the present water supply ; also as to catchments? No. 1 tank, 1,000 cubic yards, 9 feet deep, 168,000 gallons ; 2,000 cubic yards, 8 feet deep, 336,000 gallons, £225 ; No. 2 tank, 300 cubic yards, 3 feet deep, 50,400 gallons, £60 ; No. 3 tank, 500 cubic yards, 2½ feet deep, 84,000 gallons, £60 ; No. 4 tank, 6,000 cubic yards, 11½ feet deep, 1,008,000 gallons, £310 ; No. 5 tank, 1,200 cubic yards, 11 feet deep, 201,600 gallons, £80 ; No. 6 tank, 600 cubic yards, 6 feet deep, 100,800 gallons, £35 ; No. 7 tank, 4,000 cubic yards, 13 feet deep, 672,000 gallons, £325 ; No. 8 tank, 700 cubic yards, 8 feet deep, 117,600 gallons, £56 ; No. 9 tank, 800 cubic yards, 8 feet deep, 134,400 gallons, £49 ; No. 10 tank, 1,000 cubic yards, 10 feet deep, 168,000 gallons ; 3,000 cubic yards, 12 feet deep, 504,000 gallons, £370 ; the above values include drains and fencing ; fair catchments.
 If from dams, state the depth of the river, creek, or water-course ; the height, breadth, and length of embankment ; and, as near as you can judge, the present water supply, together with any other information, such as favourable water catchments, retentive soil, hard drainage surface, or otherwise, &c.? No dams.
 Is the present artificial supply sufficient to keep the land permanently and fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.
 If not, state for how many months, and for what number of stock the supply is sufficient? 8,000 sheep for twelve months.
 Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial. If so, state particulars? Wholly artificial.
 If lakes, lagoons, creeks, or water-courses are supplied with water raised from adjacent rivers by pumping or otherwise, state the facts? No.
 If any improvement in the shape of tanks, dams, wells, &c., are situated on freeholds or leaseholds, state the facts? Tanks Nos. 1 to 10 are on Crown lands.
 Ascertain where practicable, from station records, the rainfall for the preceding twelve months, two years, or more? No record.
 State whether any extraordinary or special facilities for obtaining or securing water appear to exist on the land? Fair catches, but difficulty in getting good sinking ground on account of rock.
 What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, lime-stone, trap, &c.? Red soil ; rocky formation.
 What is the character of the country—Is it level, hilly, or mountainous ; thickly or thinly timbered ; rocky, or otherwise? On western side of area, level country, thinly timbered, and partly covered with scrubs ; on eastern side, undulating country with gravelly ridges, thinly timbered, and mostly covered with scrubs.
 Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyca, brigalow, &c. Indicate its position on tracing? About three-quarter scrub country, open and thick, emu-bush, mulga, currant-bush, rose-bush, and currawong ; yarran, pine, sandalwood, hop-bush, broom, wattle, wilga, and other scrubs.
 State the number of stock the land will carry, if the stock is fully supplied with water? 10,625 sheep.
 State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Both.
 Is the country timbered ; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered ; and what is the kind or kinds of timber. Indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? Thinly covered with box, gum, pine, and ironwood timber.
 What is the description of pasturage ; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent and fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Grasses of each division, with herbage.
 State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? As unimproved for three months in favourable winters, 3 acres per sheep ; as improved by fencing and the conservation of water, all the year round, 6½ acres per sheep.
 Within the Snowbelt, gather from records on the stations where practicable, the months of the year the country is wholly unavailable? Not affected thereby.
 Where available certain months of the year, or all the year round, give the acreage required for a sheep or horned cattle? As improved by fencing and the conservation of water all the year round, 6½ acres to a sheep.
 Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c.? Kangaroo, blue, silver, mulga, umbrella, seedy and other grasses ; emu-bush, yarran, and other scrubs ; box, pine, gum, and ironwood timber
 State nature and value of any improvements which have become forfeited to the Crown, and are situated upon Crown lands? Not any.

Remarks.

Fencing on Crown lands—Boundary 30½ miles, 6 wires, £45 ; lessees claim half. Subdivision—22 miles, 5 wires, at £40 per mile ; 2½ miles, 6 wires, at £45 per mile ; ¾ mile, 2 rails, at £60 per mile. On Crown lands.—Homestead—house, six rooms, sawn pine, iron roof and verandah, detached kitchen, three rooms ; slabs—iron roof, £390. Men's hut, sheds, and two underground tanks, £80 ; woolshed—16 shearers, Horth. pine, bark roof ; hut and drafting-yards ; underground tank, £395 ; horse yards, £12.

Value of improvements on Crown lands.—Fencing half boundary, £686 ; subdivision, £1,066 ; 10 tanks, £1,510 ; homestead—house, kitchen, and outbuildings, two underground tanks, £470 ; woolshed, hut, and yards, £335 ; horse-yards, £12 ; total, £4,079 ; stock on the holding—15,800 sheep, 3,000 lambs, 7 cattle and 4 horses ; a road, Cobar to Coolabah, runs through this area.

Wilga, 25th October, 1886.
 The Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

W. C. WRIGHT,
 Inspector.

No. 8.

Appraisement by Local Land Board.

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

Leasehold area No. 7; Western Division; Wilga Holding.

[Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

Appraisement by Local Land Board of rent to be paid for next period of five years of pastoral lease. WHEREAS by direction of the Minister of Lands, it was ordered that the rent to be paid in respect of the next period of five years of lease of pastoral lease No. 7, Western Division, Wilga Pastoral Holding, Land District of Cobar, counties of Cowper and Canbelego, held by the Bank of New South Wales, should be subject to appraisement by the Local Land Board for the Cobar District.

These are, therefore, to certify that the said Local Land Board having taken evidence, and inquired into the matter, hereby appraises the rental payable for the five years term of lease commencing on 11th July, 1885, as at the rate of 1d. per acre per annum.

Given under my hand at the Office of the Local Land Board at Coolabah, this 10th day of November, 1886,—

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

Rent determined at 1½d. per acre, commencing at the notification of the division of the pastoral holding, and to apply to the unexpired period of the pre-existing leases (if any), and thenceforth for a further period of five years.—H.C., 29/12/86.

Gazetted, 9/2/87. Rent called for, Bank of New South Wales, 15/2/87.

No. 9.

Office Memorandum.

SCHEDULE showing the nature and value of improvements effected by the Pastoral Lessee on the Leasehold area of the Wilga Pastoral Holding, as elicited from evidence obtained at the date of appraisement of the leasehold and resumed areas.

Leasehold area, No. 7; Western Division; Bank of New South Wales, Pastoral Lessee.

| Improvements situated on lands alienated to pastoral lessee. | | | Improvements on Crown lands under pastoral lease. | | |
|--|----------|----------|--|--------|----------|
| Nature of improvements. | Value. | Remarks. | Nature of improvements. | Value. | Remarks. |
| Nil | Nil..... | Nil..... | Fencing half boundary | £ 686 | |
| | | | Fencing subdivision | 1,066 | |
| | | | Tanks | 1,510 | |
| | | | Homestead and outbuildings and two underground tanks | 470 | |
| | | | Woolshed, hut, and yards | 335 | |
| | | | Horse-yards | 12 | |
| | | | Total..... | 4,079 | |

10th November, 1886.

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

No. 10.

Gazette Notice.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 8 December, 1886.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of Regulations Nos. 33 and 134, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, published on the 2nd January, 1885, being amended as hereunder.

HENRY COPELAND.

Amendment of Regulation 134.

134. Every application under section 100 of the Act by the holder of a pastoral or homestead lease or occupation license for a reduction of the minimum rent or license fee fixed in respect thereof shall be made in the form 51 and tendered to the Local Land Board within sixty days of the notification in the *Government Gazette* of the determination of such rent or licensee fee, and all inquiries into such applications shall be conducted by the Board in the manner prescribed in Regulation 21.

Every such application shall be accompanied by a receipt from the Colonial Treasurer, showing that the rent or license fee for the current year, with any arrears, in respect of such lease or license shall have first been duly paid.

And if any reduction of rent or license fee be allowed such reduction shall be notified in the *Gazette*, and should such rent or license fee thereafter be restored to the minimum rate, notification thereof shall be similarly given.

No. 11.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir, Land Board Office, Bourke, 22 December, 1886.

I have the honor to forward, under separate cover 32, reports of appraisement of the pastoral holdings, noted in the margin, leasehold and resumed areas.

Wilga, &c.

I have, &c.,

M. LACKEY,

(For the Chairman).

No. 12.

Extract from Supplement to *Government Gazette* of Wednesday, 9 February, 1887.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 9 February, 1887.

NOTICE is hereby given that, in pursuance of the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, the Minister has determined the annual rentals of the pastoral leases specified in the annexed Schedule, at the respective rates per acre therein mentioned; such rentals to apply from the date of notification of the division of the pastoral holding in each case until the expiration of the first period of the lease. For the second period the annual rentals will be increased by one-fourth, and for the residue of the term by one-half of those now determined.

The first period of the leases will be for the term hereunder specified, and is inclusive of the unexpired term or mean term of the lease or leases in existence on the 31st December, 1884. The second period will be for five years, commencing at the expiration of the first period; and the third period will be for five years, commencing at the expiration of the second period.

The leases may be terminated subject to the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1884. The amounts now demanded must be paid to the Colonial Treasurer on or before the 12th April, 1887, subject in default to the penalties imposed by the 96th section of the Act hereinbefore mentioned.

THOMAS GARRETT.

SCHEDULE—WESTERN DIVISION.

* * * * *
Sussex Pastoral Holding; leasehold area, No. 111; lessees, Trust and Agency Company of Australasia (Limited), 64,240 acres, notified in *Government Gazette*, 11th July, 1885; date of determination or mean determination of leases of runs included in pastoral holding, 31st December, 1885; annual rental determined, £294 8s. 8d., at 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per acre; rent determined to 10th July, 1887, £490 12s. 10d.; lease commencing on 11th July, 1885, and terminating on 31st December, 1890; rent due on 10th July in each year.
* * * * *

No. 13.

Notification to Lessee.

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

[Crown Lands Act of 1884—Part IV, section 78.]

To Bank of New South Wales, of Sydney.—

You are hereby notified, as the holder of the pastoral lease hereunder specified, that the Minister, in pursuance of the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, has determined the rental payable for the first period of five years of the said lease, and for the mean unexpired term of the previous leases, commencing from date of notification of division of pastoral holding, at the rate of 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per acre per annum; and you are hereby requested to pay to the Colonial Treasurer, on or before the 12th day of April, 1887, the sum of £498 1s. 10d., being the difference between the rent paid and that determined up to 10th July, 1887.

The rental of your pastoral lease shall thereafter be paid yearly in advance on or before the 10th day of July in each year, and should the amount of such rent be not paid on the due date thereof, the right to such lease shall be liable to forfeiture.

SCHEDULE.

Leasehold area, Wilga, No. 7; date of notification, 11th July, 1885; 64,700 acres; annual rental, £278 0s. 2d.

CHARLES OLIVER,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 15th February, 1887.

Under Secretary.

No. 14.

The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Pastoral Lease.

Sir,

The Treasury, New South Wales, 15 April, 1887.

With reference to the *Government Gazette*, dated 9th February, 1887, notifying that the Minister of Lands had determined the annual rent to be paid upon the undermentioned pastoral lease, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, and calling for payment of the adjusted rental thereon, to 10th July, 1887, I am directed to inform you that the amount in question, viz., £498 1s. 10d., was paid into this office on 7th April, 1887.

Division, Western; lessee, Bank of New South Wales; No. of lease, 7; name of leasehold area, Wilga.

I have, &c.,

W. NEWCOMBE,

(Pro Under Secretary).

No. 15.

| Name of Pastoral Holding and No. of Leasehold Area. | Estimated acreage of Leasehold Area and date of notification in <i>Government Gazette</i> . | | Names of Registered Lessees on the 1st January, 1885, and 1st January, 1886, respectively. | | Names of Runs included in Pastoral Holding, showing Old expiration of each Lease, amount of rental paid from mean term of such Leases, and mean date of | | | |
|---|---|---------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| | | | 1885. | 1886. | Run. | Old Pastoral District. | Date of expiration of each Lease. | Amount of Rent paid. |
| Wilga, No. 7 | 64,700 | 1885. 11 July... | R. H. Gennys and Albert Rothery. Do ... | Bank of New South Wales. | Outer Glenariff A..... do B..... Wilga Leasehold Area, No. 7 | Warrego.. do ... do | 1885. 31 Dec.. do ... do ... | £ s. d. 17 10 0 20 0 0 20 1 0 Credit 31 Dec., 1885. £20 Credit 22 Dec., 1886. 77 11 0 |

Wilga Pastoral Holding.—Resumed Area.—No. 7, Western Division.

SCHEDULE.

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No. 1.

Application by Gennys & Rothery for an Occupation License.

[Crown Lands Act of 1884—Part IV, section 81.]

Care of H. H. Brown & Co.

31 January, 1885.

In accordance with the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, we, Richard Henn Gennys and Albert Rothery, being a runholder in the Western Division, and this day having made application for a pastoral lease, hereby apply for a license to occupy for the term of one year for grazing purposes whichever portion of my pastoral holding, known as Wilga, may be converted into a resumed area under the said Act.

Annexed hereto is a receipt, showing that the sum of £178 2s. 6d. on account of the first year's license fee, at the rate of £2 per section of 640 acres of the estimated area of 57,000 acres, I now apply for, has been deposited with the Colonial Treasurer, and I also agree to pay any further sum that may be demanded, being the difference between the sum paid into the Treasury and the said license fee, as appraised hereafter.

GENNYS & ROTHERY,
(Per R. H. GENNYS).

The Minister for Lands.

Received the sum of £178 2s. 6d., being the deposit required on this application.

W. H. BARRACLOUGH,
(Pro Treasurer).

The Treasury, New South Wales, 29th April, 1885.

15.

SCHEDULE.

| Pastoral District, date of 1st January, 1885; also determination thereof. | | | Annual Rental determined for Leasehold Area. | | Apportionment of amounts paid as Rent from 1st January, 1885. | | Date up to which Rent is now demanded. | Amount now demanded. | Date of commencement of first period of Lease. | Date of expiration of first period of Lease. | Date upon which payment of Rent is due in each year. |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------|--|---|--|----------------------|--|--|--|
| Year for which Rent paid. | Mean term of such Leases. | Mean date of determination. | Rate per acre. | Amount. | Amount to be retained as rent from 1st January, 1885, to date of notification of Leasehold Area. | Balance to credit of Lessee to be applied as part payment of rent determined up to date shown in next column. | | | | | |
| 1885. | 174 days... | 1885. 31 Dec. | d. 1 $\frac{1}{3}$ | £ s. d. 278 0 2 | £ s. d. 19 12 6 | £ s. d. 57 18 6 | 1887. 10 July | £ s. d. 498 1 10 | 1885. 11 July..... | 1890. 31 Dec. | 10 July |
| 1885 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1886 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1887 | | | | | | | | | | | |

No. 2.

Office Memorandum.

Land Board District, Bourke; Wilga Holding, Western Division; resumed area No. 7; gazetted 11th July, 1885.

RETURN of areas at date of division at head office (revised):—

Total estimated area, 51,100 acres; alienated land (a), nil; reserves from lease (b), nil; total unavailable land, nil; total area available (c), 51,100 acres.

24th February, 1886.

J. T. KEATING.

Extension of above at District Office for appraisalment of occupation license for year 1885:—

Withdrawals.—Area available by head office estimate, 51,100 acres; convertible preleases (52nd clause), as approved or recommended, nil; conditional leases (54th clause), as confirmed, nil; auction leases (d), nil; miscellaneous, including any alienation under repealed Acts not already shown upon tracing, nil. Total unavailable land, nil; total area available for occupation license at date of notification of resumed area (e), 51,100 acres.

EDWARD M'FARLANE,
District Surveyor.

3rd November, 1886.

Final revision at District Survey Office for appraisalment for 1886:—

Total area available to 31st December, 1885, 51,100 acres. Withdrawals.—Conditional purchases (f), nil; conditional leases (g), nil; homestead leases (h), nil; reserves from lease, nil; improvement purchases paid since date of division, 80 acres; total unavailable land, 80 acres; total area available for appraisalment on 1st January, 1886, 51,020 acres.

EDWARD M'FARLANE,
District Surveyor.

3rd November, 1886.

(a) Includes only such portions as are shown upon the tracing which has been charted up from the maps in the Surveyor-General's Office.

(b) Includes all reserves from lease or lands exempt from lease, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, as shown on tracing.

(c) As far as ascertainable in head office.

(d) Auction leases converted into annual leases, under 9th subsection of 85th clause of the Crown Lands Act of 1884.

(e) Represents area chargeable for occupation from date of division to 31st December, 1885.

(f) Conditional purchases, under Crown Lands Act of 1884, which have been confirmed by the Board.

(g) Conditional leases, under Crown Lands Act of 1884, which have been confirmed by the Board.

(h) Includes only such homestead leases as have been approved.

Memorandum.

Land Board District, Bourke; Wilga Holding No. 7, Western Division; resumed area.

LIST of improvement purchase applications within the above holding, which had not been finally completed (i.e. purchase money paid) at date of division of areas at head office, and which have not therefore been treated as alienated land.

| Improvement Purchase Number. | Land District. | Area. | Parish. | * Number of portion (if surveyed). | Remarks. |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 84-257 | Cobar | Acres. 40 | Meeson..... | 2 | Paid for 29th October, 1885 |
| 84-258 | " | 40 | " | 1 | " " |

No. 3.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to The Lessee of Wilga Pastoral Holding.

Sir,

Local Land Board Office, Bourke, 22 October, 1886.

With reference to the appraisalment of your holding, Wilga, being resumed area, No. 7, Western Division, I have to inform you that the area upon which the license fee will be payable, has been computed exclusive only of those improvement purchases applied for by you, which have been duly completed by the payment of the appraised value up to the 11th July, 1885.

In the event of other purchases of a like nature having been completed by you since the date above mentioned, or of it being your intention to complete any such purchases, it will be necessary for you to produce satisfactory evidence of the same at the date of appraisalment, in order that the area may be withdrawn from the total area of Crown land available for pastoral occupation.

I have, &c.,

G. C. TOMPSON,

Chairman.

No. 4.

Caption to Deposition of Witnesses.

Resumed area, 7; Western Division; Wilga Holding.

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

[Crown Lands Act of 1884—Part II, section 14, subsection 1.]

The examination of William Coulthurst Wright, of Coolabah, in the Colony of New South Wales, Inspector of Runs, and Albert Rothery, of Wilga, in the said Colony.

WHEREAS it hath been necessary to appraise the license fee for resumed area, 7, Western Division, Wilga Holding, and it hath been found necessary to investigate the said matter on oath, the depositions of the several witnesses are appended hereto.

G. C. TOMPSON,

Chairman.

[Enclosures.]

THIS deponent, *William Coulthurst Wright*, of Coolabah, in the Colony of New South Wales, Inspector of Runs (Bourke District), being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows:—On the 23rd and 24th October I inspected resumed area, Wilga Holding; report produced, marked Exhibit C, is mine, and is true to the best of my knowledge; tracing, marked Exhibit D, shows the area in question in its natural state; it is a dry area, and consists on the western side of level country, thinly timbered, and partly covered with scrubs; on the eastern side, undulating country with gravelly ridges, thinly timbered and covered with scrubs, the edible scrubs being emu-bush, currant-bush, mulga, and currawong; with mallee, pine, yarran, sandalwood, hop-bush, wattle, and other useless scrubs; the water supply is wholly artificial, and consists of rain waters conserved in tanks.—No. 1 tank, 800 yards, 6 feet deep, 700 yards, 3 feet deep; No. 2 tank, 4,600 yards, 12 feet deep; both these tanks, I am informed, are on incomplete improvement purchases; the fencing on Crown lands consists of boundary, 26½ miles of 6 wires, at £45 a mile; lessees claim half subdivision, 12½ miles 5 wires, at £40 a mile. I estimate the value of improvements on Crown lands—fencing half boundary, £596; subdivision fencing, £486; and tanks on incomplete improvement purchases £365; no record of rainfall. I estimate the carrying capability in favourable winters for three months, 16,750 sheep, being 3 acres per sheep, and as fully improved by fencing and conservation of water, 8,375 sheep, being 6½ acres per sheep.

W. C. WRIGHT,

Inspector of Runs.

Sworn by this deponent, William Coulthurst Wright, this }
10th November, 1886, at Coolabah, before us,— }

G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.

A. K. MACKENZIE, } Members.
E. B. BARTON, }

THIS deponent, *Albert Rothery*, of Wilga, in the Colony of New South Wales, one lessee of Wilga Station, being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows:—The two 40-acre portions have been paid, we hold the receipts. I wish my evidence on leasehold area to apply to this.

ALBERT ROTHERY.

Sworn by this deponent, Albert Rothery, this 10th November, }
1886, at Coolabah, before us,— }

G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.

A. K. MACKENZIE, } Members.
E. B. BARTON, }

Wilga Pastoral Holding; Western Division, No. 7; resumed area.

Exhibit C.

Report for Appraisalment of Rent or License Fee.

Name of lessee and licensee, Bank of New South Wales; name of holding, Wilga; date of inspection, 23rd and 24th October, 1886; division, Western, No. 7; resumed area.

Is water supply natural and permanent? No.

Give the names of rivers, creeks, lakes, or lagoons affording this natural supply? Not any.

Is this supply sufficient to keep the land fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.

If not, state for how many months of the year, and for what number of stock the supply is available? In favourable winters, for three months, 16,750 sheep.

Is water supply artificial? Yes.

Is this supply derived from underground sources, or from rain or flood waters conserved in tanks and dams, or from a combination of all? From rain water conserved in tanks.

If from underground sources, state the depth and interior size of the shaft or well; its capacity to water a given number of stock every twenty-four hours; the quality of water, whether pure and wholesome, or of the kind called "stock-water"? No wells.

If

- If from tanks, state the original depth, the number of cubic yards, and, as near as you can tell, the present water supply; also as to catchments? No. 1 tank, 800 cubic yards, 6 feet deep, 134,400 gallons; 700 cubic yards, 3 feet deep, 117,600 gallons, £100; No. 2 tank, 4,600 cubic yards, 12 feet deep, 772,800 gallons, £265. The above values include drains. Fair catchments.
- If from dams, state the depth of the river, creek, or water-course; the height, breadth, and length, of embankment; and, as near as you can judge, the present water supply, together with any other information, such as favourable water catchments, retentive soil, hard drainage surface, or otherwise, &c.? No dams.
- Is the present artificial supply sufficient to keep the land permanently and fully stocked in ordinary seasons? No.
- If not, state for how many months, and for what number of stock the supply is sufficient? 5,000 sheep for twelve months.
- Is the supply partly natural, partly artificial. If so, state particulars? Wholly artificial.
- If lakes, lagoons, creeks, or water-courses are supplied with water raised from adjacent rivers by pumping or otherwise, state the facts? No.
- If any improvements in the shape of tanks, dams, wells, &c., are situated on freeholds or leaseholds, state the facts? No.
- 1 tank on I.P. 84-25S, portion 1, parish of Meeson, 40 acres; No. 2 tank on I.P. 84-257, portion 2, parish of Meeson, 40 acres.
- Ascertain where practicable, from station records, the rainfall for the preceding twelve months, two years, or more? No record.
- State whether any extraordinary or special facilities for obtaining or securing water appear to exist on the land? Fair catches, but difficulty in getting good sinking ground on account of rock.
- What is the nature of the soil and rock formation—such as granite, lime-stone, trap, &c.? Red soil; rocky formation.
- What is the character of the country—Is it level, hilly, or mountainous; thickly or thinly timbered; rocky, or otherwise? On western side of area, level country, thinly timbered, and partly covered with scrubs; on eastern side, undulating country, with gravelly ridges, thinly timbered, and covered with scrubs.
- Give the proportion of "scrub" country, stating its kind—whether mallee, pine, oak, wattle, belar, mulga, gidyea, brigalow, &c. Indicate its position on tracing? About three-quarter scrub country, open and thick, emu-bush, currant-bush, mulga, and currawong; mallee, pine, yarran, sandalwood, hop-bush, wattle, and other scrubs.
- State the number of stock the land will carry, if the stock is fully supplied with water? 8,375 sheep.
- State whether the land can be classed as fattening or breeding country? Both.
- Is the country timbered; if so, is it heavily or thinly covered; and what is the kind or kinds of timber. Indicate position of different classes of timber on tracing? Thinly covered with box, gum, pine, and ironwood timber.
- What is the description of pasturage; is it the stronger grasses of the Eastern Division, or the more succulent and fattening grasses, salt or other bush, and herbs of the Central and Western Divisions? Grasses of each division, with herbage.
- State the number of acres required per sheep unimproved, and the number of acres per sheep of the same land improved? As unimproved, for three months, in favourable winters, 3 acres per sheep; as improved by fencing and the conservation of water, all the year round, $6\frac{1}{4}$ acres per sheep.
- Within the Snowbelt, gather from records on the stations where practicable, the months of the year the country is wholly unavailable? Not affected thereby.
- Where available certain months of the year, or all the year round, give the acreage required for a sheep or horned cattle? As improved by fencing and conservation of water, all the year round, $6\frac{1}{4}$ acres per sheep.
- Describe in general terms the kind of grasses, shrubs, timber, &c.? Kangaroo, mulga, blue, umbrella, seedy, and other grasses; yarran, emu-bush, and other scrubs; box, pine, gum, and ironwood timber.
- State nature and value of any improvements which have become forfeited to the Crown, and are situated upon Crown lands? Not any.

Remarks.

Fencing on Crown lands.—Boundary, $26\frac{1}{2}$ miles, 6 wires, at £45. Lessees claim half. Subdivision, $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles, 5 wires, at £40 per mile.

Value of improvements.—Fencing half boundary, on Crown lands, £596; subdivision on Crown lands, £486; two tanks, on incomplete improvement purchases, £365.

Wilga, 24th October, 1886.

W. C. WRIGHT,
Inspector.

The Chairman of the Local Land Board, Bourke.

No. 5.

Memorandum.

SCHEDULE showing the nature and value of improvements effected by the pastoral lessee on the resumed area of the Wilga Pastoral Holding, as elicited from evidence obtained at the date of appraisal of the leasehold and resumed areas. Resumed area, No. 7; Western Division; Bank of New South Wales, pastoral lessees.

| Improvements situated on lands alienated to pastoral lessee. | | | Improvements of Crown lands under pastoral lease. | | |
|--|--------|----------|---|--------|----------|
| Nature of improvements. | Value. | Remarks. | Nature of improvements. | Value. | Remarks. |
| Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | On Crown lands— | £ | |
| | | | Fencing half boundary | 596 | |
| | | | Fencing subdivision | 486 | |
| | | | Total | 1,082 | |
| | | | On incomplete I.Ps., tanks | 365 | |
| | | | Total | 365 | |

10th November, 1886.

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

No. 6.

Appraisement by Local Land Board.

Resumed area, No. 7; Western Division; Wilga Holding.

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

[Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

Appraisement by Local Land Board of Licensee Fee to be paid for Occupation License.

WHEREAS by direction of the Minister of Lands, it was ordered that the license fee to be paid in respect of occupation license, No. 7, Western Division, Wilga Holding, Land District of Cobar, county of Canbelego, held by the Bank of New South Wales, should be subject to appraisement by the Local Land Board for the Cobar District.

These are, therefore, to certify that the said Local Land Board having taken evidence, and inquired into the matter, hereby appraises the license fee payable for the term commencing on 11th July, 1885, as at the rate of £2 per section per annum.

Given under my hand at the office of the Local Land Board at Coolabah, this 10th day of November, 1886.

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

License fee determined at $\frac{7}{10}$ d. per acre per annum.—H.C., 29/12/86. Gazetted, 9/2/87.
Fee called for. Bank of New South Wales, 15/2/87.

No. 7.

Gazette Notice.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 8 December, 1886.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that His Excellency the Governor, with the advise of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of Regulations Nos. 33 and 134, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, published on the 2nd January, 1885, being amended as hereunder.

HENRY COPELAND.

AMENDMENT OF REGULATION 134.

134. Every application under section 100 of the Act by the holder of a pastoral or homestead lease or occupation license for a reduction of the minimum rent or license fee fixed in respect thereof shall be made in the form 51 and tendered to the Local Land Board within sixty days of the notification in the *Government Gazette* of the determination of such rent or license fee, and all inquiries into such applications shall be conducted by the Board in the manner prescribed in Regulation 21.

Every such application shall be accompanied by a receipt from the Colonial Treasurer, showing that the rent or license fee for the current year, with any arrears, in respect of such lease or license shall have first been duly paid.

And if any reduction of rent or license fee be allowed such reduction shall be notified in the *Gazette*, and should such rent or license fee thereafter be restored to the minimum rate, notification thereof shall be similarly given.

No. 8.

Office Memorandum.

Resumed area, No. 7; Pastoral Holding, Wilga; division, Western.

5 January, 1887.

WILL Mr. Gerard show in the enclosed Schedule particulars of absorptions made by homestead leases from resumed area above referred to.

It is requested that the actual area absorbed be stated, having regard to the situation of the homestead lease in relation to the resumed area, that is to say, that only the area actually falling within the boundaries of the occupation license be stated.

F.M.E.

SCHEDULE REFERRED TO.

No. of resumed area, 7; name of pastoral holding, Wilga; rate per section of 640 acres of occupation license, £2 0s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Information given.—J.G., 14/1/87.

No. 9.

Extract from Supplement to *Government Gazette*, 9 February, 1887.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 9 February, 1887.

It is hereby notified that the fees for the occupation licenses specified in the following Schedule have been determined at the respective rates and amounts stated therein.

The first period of the licenses commenced from the date of notification of division of the pastoral holdings, and terminated 31st December, 1885, from and after which latter date the licenses will be in force from the 1st January to 31st December of each year, on payment of the required amounts, and if land should remain available.

The

The amounts now called for represent the fees for the year 1887, together with any sums required to complete insufficient fees paid for the previous terms; but in any cases in which the amounts paid for such previous terms have been found to be in excess of what were required, only the balances of the fees for 1887 are now called for.

These amounts must be paid to the Colonial Treasurer on or before the 12th April next, subject in default to the penalties imposed by the Crown Lands Act of 1884. The fees in future must be paid on or before 31st the December of each year for the ensuing year.

THOMAS GARRETT.

* * * * *
WESTERN DIVISION.

No. of resumed area, 7; Wilga Pastoral Holding; Bank of New South Wales, licensee; date of notification of division of pastoral holding, 11th July, 1885; estimated area available on the date of notification of division of pastoral holding, 51,100 acres; estimated area available on 1st January, 1886, 51,020 acres; area charged on for 1887, 51,020 acres; rate per section of 640 acres, and amount determined to 31st December, 1887, £400,5s. 3d.; amounts already paid on occupation licenses up to 31st December, 1887, £404 12s. 6d.; license fee for 1887, £161 11s. 3d.; amount required for 1887, being license fee, less amount overpaid for 1885, 1886, and 1887, or plus amount underpaid for 1885, 1886, and 1887, £4 7s. 3d.

No. 10.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Manager, Bank of New South Wales.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 15 February, 1887.

I have the honor to invite your attention to a notice in the *Government Gazette*, of the 9th February, 1887, a copy of which is enclosed, setting forth the rates and amounts at which the fees for occupation license, No. 7, pastoral holding of Wilga, in the Western Division of the Colony, have been determined. The rate has been fixed at £2 0s. 6½d. per section of 640 acres. The license fee for 1887 is £161 11s. 3d., and this amount should be paid in future on or before the 31st December of each year for the ensuing year, unless an official reduction should be made in the fee, or the license be forfeited, before such future fee shall become due. The whole of the rent which lay since 31st December, 1884, to the credit of the runs out of which the resumed area was taken, together with any paid on the leasehold area as such, have been placed entirely to the account of the leasehold area, in order to simplify the accounts and keep them distinct.

The license is, in accordance with the 2nd subsection of the 81st clause of the Act, an annual one, commencing from the date of notification of division of the pastoral holding, and terminating 31st December of each year.

Any application for a reduction of the fee (or compensation for improvements) on account of the withdrawal of land by sale or lease, may be made to the Under Secretary for Lands on the form prescribed by the Regulations; but, as already pointed out, pending such adjustment, no reduced fee can be accepted for the then ensuing year.

Any application for the reduction of the rate of the license fee should be made to the Local Land Board, as prescribed by the Regulations.

I have, &c.,
CHARLES OLIVER.

The sum of £4 7s. 3d. is lying at your credit at the Treasury which will be applied towards payment of license fee for the ensuing year or refunded on application to the Department.

No. 11.

Appendix.

WESTERN DIVISION.

No. of resumed area, 7; name of pastoral holding, Wilga; name of licensee, Bank of New South Wales; date of notification of division of pastoral holding, 11th January, 1885; estimated area available on the date of notification of division of pastoral holding, 51,100 acres; estimated area available on 1st January, 1886, 51,020 acres; estimated area available on 1st January, 1887, 51,020 acres; rate per section of 640 acres, and amount determined to 31st December, 1887, £400 5s. 3d., at £2 0s. 6½d. per acre; amounts already paid on occupation licenses up to 31st December, 1887, £404 12s. 6d.; license fee for 1887, £161 11s. 3d.; amount required for 1887, being license fee less amount overpaid for 1885, 1886, and 1887, or plus amount underpaid for 1885, 1886, and 1887, nil. Credit to lessee, £4 7s. 3d.

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(ILLEGAL REMOVAL OF TIMBER FROM, IN THE VICINITY OF CLARENCETOWN.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 6 November, 1888.

FURTHER RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 14th March, 1888, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“Copies of letters and documents sent by William Croaker, J.P., to the Secretary for Mines, *re* the illegal removal of timber from Crown Lands in the vicinity of Clarencetown, on the Williams River, and copies of all letters and correspondence from the Forest Ranger; also, copies of all letters from the Secretary for Mines on the same subject.”

(*Mr. Creer.*)

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No. 1.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Bullahdelah, 30 August, 1883.

I have the honor to inform you that I have seized, on behalf of the Government, this week on Crown Lands, a quantity of ironbark and gum piles, which have now been cut the last nine months and not removed. The numbers are as follows:—

16 ironbark and gum piles, averaging from 56 to 70 feet lengths.

69 ironbark and gum piles, averaging 50 feet lengths.

Total, 85.

All these piles are within 10 miles of Stroud. Will you please inform me if by posting a notice of fourteen days at the Court-house, Stroud, will be sufficient prior to sale, and if I can act legally as auctioneer for the Government?

I have, &c.,

P. CULLEN,

Forest Ranger.

Mr. Cullen should report whether the licenses have been held continuously by the parties who cut the timber. If they have, the timber should not have been seized. He should have reported the estimated contents of the logs in superficial feet, or the average diameter, and its value as the timber lies.—W.F.P., 3/9/83. P. Cullen, 7 Sept., 1883.

No. 2.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 7 September, 1883.

Referring to your letter of 30th ultimo, reporting seizure of ironbark and gum piles, I have the honor to inform you that you should report whether the licenses have been held continuously. If they have, the timber should not have been seized.

You should also report the estimated contents of the logs in superficial feet, or the average diameter, and its value as the timber lies.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 3.

Mr. J. C. Ellis to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Newcastle, 13 September, 1883.

My men, John Johnson, John Yeark, Jas. Norris, Dominick Carlish, and Julius Cunzy, cut some timber for me in the district of Port Stephens, on land known as Renwick's.

I have been delayed getting it removed owing to having to arrange with the Australian Agricultural Company to draw it through their land.

Your ranger has seized it, and advertised it for sale next Tuesday.

I beg to apply for extra time to remove it, on paying additional license fees for the cutters, which I beg to hand forthwith.

I remain, &c.,

J. C. ELLIS.

£2 10s. lodged by Mr. Ellis.—T.C.B., 13/9/83. H.W., 13/9/83. The timber under the circumstances may be restored, and a reasonable time allowed for its removal.—J. P. ABBOTT, 14/9/83. Urgent. Mr. Piper will please send telegram to ranger, and have letter written to Mr. Ellis.—H.W., 14/9/83. J. C. Ellis, 14/9/83. Forest-Ranger Cullen Telegram, 14/9/83. The Registrar for issue of the hardwood licenses applied for.—W.F.P., 15/. Five licenses herewith.—T.C.B., 15/9/83. Five licenses, Nos. 98 to 102, forwarded to J. C. Ellis, 17/9/83.

No. 4.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Bullahdelah, 13 September, 1883.

In reply to yours of the 7th September, in reference to the ironbark and gum piles, I have the honor to state that at the time those piles were cut I am informed the men who cut them held licenses. These piles have now been cut over nine months and not removed up to the present, neither have the parties any intention of removing the same. There

There are in all eighty-five piles, averaging 50 feet long, 2 feet 6 inches in diameter, containing in all about 86,700 feet of timber.

I herewith enclose copy of timber regulation No. 37, of the 24th September, 1878, under which I have seized this timber, as no application has been made for extension of time for removal, and no cause can be shown for non-removal.

I have, &c.,

P. CULLEN,

Forest Ranger.

[Enclosure.]

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 13 July, 1883.

ADDITIONAL TIMBER REGULATION.

WHEREAS by the Crown Lands Alienation and Occupation Acts of 1861 and the Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875, power was given to the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, to make Regulations as therein provided: And it is expedient that Regulations should be made for the purpose of providing for the removal of timber felled on Crown lands, or bark stripped from trees growing on such lands; therefore His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to make the following Regulation.

JOSEPH P. ABBOTT.

Removal of Timber.

No. 46. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Timber Regulations, No. 37, of 24th September, 1878, all timber felled on Crown lands, or bark stripped from trees thereon, shall be removed from Crown lands during the currency of the license under which it was felled or stripped respectively: Provided that if the Minister is satisfied that difficulties exist to the removal of the same within the prescribed period, he may extend such time for removal upon such terms and conditions as he shall think proper; and all such timber felled, or bark stripped, which shall not be removed during the currency of such license, or during the further period allowed for that purpose by the Minister, shall be liable to be seized by and on behalf of the Government, and sold by auction or by private contract upon such terms and conditions and in such manner as the Minister may from time to time direct; and the proceeds of such sale, after the deduction of all expenses, shall be paid into the Consolidated Revenue.

Inform Mr. Cullen that licenses have been issued. Request him to report whether he is aware of any impediment to removal of the timber by the end of the year. Point out error of date of regulation, as quoted by Mr. Cullen, and request that greater care be exercised in such matters. It is necessary in all cases that the instructions should be strictly adhered to, and that all original papers forwarded to him under blank cover shall be returned. His failure to observe this rule has led to considerable delay and inconvenience.—W.F.P., 20. P. Cullen, 24/9/83.

No. 5.

The Under Secretary for Mines to J. C. Ellis, Esq., M.P.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 14 September, 1883.

With reference to your personal inquiry, I am directed to inform you that the Forest Ranger at Bullahdelah (by telegram) has been instructed to restore the eighty-five ironbark and gum piles, and to allow a reasonable time for their removal.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 6.

Telegram from Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Bullahdelah, 14 September, 1883.

SEND me an authority to sell seized timber next Monday.

P. CULLEN.

No. 6½.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Bullahdelah, 14 September, 1883.

THE timber seized, eighty-five ironbark and gum piles, may be restored and a reasonable time allowed for its removal.

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 7.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 20 September, 1883.

Referring to my telegraphic communication of the 14th instant, I have to inform you that licenses having been taken out by the persons named in the margin, the Secretary for Mines has approved of the timber seized at Stroud being restored and a reasonable time allowed for its removal, and to request that you will be good enough to report whether you are aware of any impediment to the removal of the timber by the end of the present year.

John Johnson,
John Park,
James Norris,
Dominick Carlish,
Julius Cunzy.

I have to point out that the date of Additional Timber Regulations, No. 46, is 13th July, 1883, not 24th September, 1878, as quoted by you, and to request that greater care be exercised in such matters.

It is necessary in all cases that the instructions should be strictly adhered to, and that all original papers forwarded to you under blank cover should be returned. Your failure to observe this rule has led to considerable delay and inconvenience.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 8.

No. 8.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Bulahdelah, 28 September, 1883.

In reply to yours of the 24th September, with reference to eighty-five gum and ironbark piles, seized by me on behalf of the Government, I have the honor to state that on receipt of telegram to restore the piles to owners I did so. Now I wish to state why I seized on those piles: They have now been cut above 15 months, and previous to my arrival here, and the owner never made application for the extension of time to remove, or could show cause why such should not be removed. It appears he has now until the end of next quarter to remove them. I beg to suggest that you would limit a certain time to remove their timber, as in many cases here timber has been felled and laid in the bush until destroyed by fire and other causes, because the parties who felled this timber could not obtain the price wanted.

There are parties here who have been getting timber all the winter and have not removed any, and will not sell to mill-owners unless they get their price, and some steps must be taken to prevent this levying blackmail from Crown lands.

I think all timber should be removed during the currency of the license under which it is cut, unless they can assign to the forest ranger a reasonable cause.

I have, &c.,

P. CULLEN,
Forest Ranger.

Seen. Mr. Cullen communicated with in report of same date.

No. 9.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 8 April, 1885.

I have the honor to bring under your notice a matter which requires your serious consideration.

First, there are cut and felled on Crown lands, between the Australian Agricultural Company's land and Myall River, a great quantity of piles and girders or logs intended for girders. Some of this timber has been felled above twelve months, and although cut under license has never been removed. Among these are a number of piles which I seized on some eighteen months, since the property of Mr. Croaker, for he (Mr. Croaker) received extension of time to remove, but has not done so.

Another matter: I have just returned from assisting Mr. Rudder in his tour of inspection of the Myall and Wallace Lake reserves, and find a great quantity of logs felled all through the different brushes, many of them cut several years, and a great quantity cut within the last six months. When I complain and ask to whom those logs belong there appear to be no owners. If I could receive your authority to seize, brand, and dispose of this timber it would be a means of stopping this wilful destruction of valuable timber.

I leave here to-morrow for Dungog to assist the police in case of prosecution of persons cutting cedar without license. On my return will report particulars, and request that you will give me particulars with reference to the timber now cut in the bush.

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN,
Forest Ranger.

The 53rd, 55th, and 59th Regulations were made to meet such cases. As new license forms have not been issued a recommendation that they be not enforced for the present was approved.—W.F.P., 15/4/85. Forest Branch.

Inform.—G.E.H. (for Under Secretary), 20/4/85. Forest-Ranger Cullen, 14/5/85.

No. 10.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 11 May, 1885.

I have the honor to report a quantity of logs cut (intended for girders), but the tops not cut from them; also a quantity of piles now lying on Crown lands between the Australian Agricultural Company's land and Myall River. This timber has been cut the last nine months, and the persons who felled them have left, consequently the licenses have not been renewed. A timber-getter named Allan (who holds a license) took one of these logs and squared the same into a girder. The timber is now claimed by Mr. Croaker as his property. The said Mr. Croaker does not hold a license, or has he held one. Will you please to say what action I should take in the matter?

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN.

Is this timber lying where it was felled, or has it been removed to a road?—W.F.P., 6. Mr. Ranger Cullen to report.—W.F.P. (for Under Secretary), 6/5/85. B.C. Mines. This timber is still lying where it was felled.—P.C., Booral, 11/5/85. Under the circumstances reported, this timber should be seized and dealt with in the usual way.—W.F.P., 12/5/85. Forest Branch, 12/5/85. Approved.—H.W., 18/5/85. Forest-Ranger Cullen, 19/5/85.

No. 11.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 14 May, 1885.

In reply to your letter of 8th ultimo, bringing under notice that a large number of piles, girders, &c., have been felled, and have been lying untouched for years, and also asking for instructions to seize them, I have to inform you that the 53rd, 55th, and 59th Regulations were made to meet such cases, but as new license forms have not been issued, a recommendation that such regulations be not enforced for the present was approved.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 12.

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No. 12.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 19 May, 1885.

In reply to your letter of the 4th instant, I have to inform you that you should seize the timber referred to lying on Crown lands between the Australian Agricultural Company's land and the Myall River.

A report, furnishing particulars as to quality, quantity, value, &c., should be forwarded.

I have, &c.,

W. F. PIPER

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 13.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 1 June, 1885.

I have the honor to report, in accordance with your instructions of the 19th of May, I have made a seizure and branded on behalf of Government, on Crown lands between the Australian Agricultural Company's land and the Myall River, 435 logs and piles, as follows, viz., 371 piles, measuring 20,625 cubic feet, and 64 logs, intended for girders, measuring 30,720 superficial feet. These logs have neither been barked nor the heads cut off. This is the result of three days' works. Where piles and logs have been drawn to the roadside I have not interfered with, and I can find persons to prove this timber has been felled over twelve months. I have posted a notice at the Police Office at Stroud to persons interested, to show cause, within fourteen days, why such timber should not be confiscated to the Crown. This timber has been branded, all broad-arrow, within a radius of 5 miles, besides a number of piles and logs I have missed, added to which, from information I have received, I have no doubt that in a fortnight I can find 1,000 more of the same description, but will wait your instructions.

I cannot give an estimate of the value of this timber, only that the price paid for felling piles is 5s. each, and cartage to wharves 7d. per foot, and the trees felled for girders 2s. 6d. each, and for squaring the same 8d. per foot is paid, the haulage is also 7d. per foot. The distance from water carriage is about 8 miles. The quality of timber is all grey gum and ironbark, and for piles and girders must be sound, without pipe or flaw, all the best young timber.

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN,

Forest Ranger.

Send in copy of letter referred to.—W.F.P., 3/. Attached, 4/.

Mr. Ranger Cullen is in the best position to estimate the value of the timber as it lies, and should report it. He should also report whether he has reason to believe the timber was cut without a license.—W.F.P., 6/.

Forest-Ranger Cullen, 8/6/88.

[Enclosure.]

Mr. P. Cullen, Forest Ranger, Booral,—

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 19 May, 1885.

In reply to your letter of 4th instant, I have to inform you that you should seize the timber referred to lying on Crown lands between the Australian Agricultural Company's land and the Myall River.

A report, furnishing particulars as to quality, quantity, value, &c., should be forwarded.

I have, &c.,

W. F. PIPER

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 14.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 3 June, 1885.

In reference to the timber seized last week, viz., the 435 logs and piles, I have posted a notice to any person to prove a claim, within fourteen days, to the Bench of Magistrates at Stroud, and if such claim is not proved the timber will be confiscated. If it is necessary for me to have legal assistance will you please to instruct me how to act in the matter. The case will be tried at Stroud, on Monday, the 15th instant.

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN.

No. 15.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, 8 June, 1885.

Referring to your letter of 1st instant, reporting seizure of 435 logs and piles between the Australian Agricultural Company's land and the Myall River, I have to point out that you are in the best position to estimate the value of the timber as it lies, and should report it.

You should also report whether you have reason to believe the timber was cut without license.

I have, &c.,

W. F. PIPER

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 16.

No. 16.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 12 June, 1885.

I have the honor to report that since my last seizure of 435 logs and piles on the 27th of May, I have again visited the same locality, and made a further seizure of 410 logs and piles, viz., twenty logs, intended for girders, and 390 piles. These logs and piles I have branded, and posted the usual notice at the Police Office, Stroud.

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN,
Forest Ranger.

No. 17.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 12 June, 1885.

In reply to yours of the 8th instant, with reference to the timber seized on Crown lands between the Australian Agricultural Company's land and the Myall River, viz., 435 logs and piles, requesting that I should place an estimate of the value on the said timber, I now do myself the honor to submit my estimate, viz., for the piles. I consider they are worth 10s. each where they now lay; and the logs intended for girders are worth 5s. each; in the seizure of the first lot there are 371 piles and 64 logs, value as they lay—total value, £201 10s. And those seized on the 11th instant, viz., 20 logs and 390 piles, estimated value, £200. I have witness to prove that this timber has been felled over twelve months; some I have known myself to have been two years.

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN,
Forest Ranger.

[Telegram.]—As instructed, you should report whether you have reason to believe that the timber seized near the Myall River was cut by unlicensed persons. Reply.—W.F.P., 16. Forest-Ranger Cullen. Mr. Ranger Cullen, 16/6/85.

No. 18.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 16 June, 1885.

I have the honor to report in accordance with a notice of seizure of 435 logs and piles, posted at Stroud Police Office on the 1st of June, I attended the Court yesterday, the 15th instant, and proved to seizure, and as to time the timber was felled, but no person appeared to claim such timber. The Magistrate postponed the case until the 14th of July.

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN,
Forest Ranger.

No. 19.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 16 June, 1885.

I have the honor to apply to you for the legal opinion of the Minister, whether the Magistrates acted legally or not in postponing the case of seized timber brought before the Court yesterday, the 15th instant, as the person who claimed the timber called on me on the 3rd instant, and I then stated to him that a Court of Inquiry would be held on the 15th, when and where he must establish his claim. I am prepared to prove that the supposed claimant (Mr. Croaker) was in attendance at the Police Office at Stroud on the 10th instant, but never put in any claim to such timber.

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN.

No. 20.

Cancelled Pay Voucher.

Claimant—Patrick Cullen, Booral.

| Date. | | Amount. |
|---------------|--|---------|
| 1885. | For the undermentioned services— | £ s. d. |
| | Paid Phillip Reynolds the sum of 30s. for two days' assistance measuring and branding timber on Crown lands. Also paid John Horning the sum of 10s., as a witness at Court of Inquiry at Stroud. | |
| June 11 | Paid P. Reynolds | 0 15 0 |
| „ 12 | „ „ | 0 15 0 |
| „ 15 | Paid Horning, as witness | 0 10 0 |
| | Total | £ 2 0 0 |

PATRICK CULLEN.

I certify that the amount charged in this voucher as to computations, castings, and rates is correct; that the service has been faithfully performed; and that the expenditure is duly authorized in terms of the Audit Act.

PATRICK CULLEN.

I hereby authorize the amount of the above certificate in my favour to be paid on my behalf to the Bank of New South Wales, Bathurst-street, Sydney.

PATRICK CULLEN.
[Enclosure.]

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[Enclosure.]

RECEIVED from P. Cullen the sum of £1 10s. sterling, for two days' labour, self and horse, searching for timber felled. Sandy Creek, 12 June, 1885.
 PHILLIP REYNOLDS.
 Stroud, 15 June, 1885.

RECEIVED from Mr. P. Cullen the sum of 10s., for attending Court as witness.

JOHN HORNING.

No. 21.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

As instructed, you should report whether you have reason to believe that the timber seized near the Myall River was cut by unlicensed persons. Reply. Bullahdelah, 17 June, 1885.

HARRIE WOOD,
 Under Secretary.

No. 22.

Telegram from Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

No license held for any of the timber the last six months; the greater portion felled previous to my coming here. Stroud, 17 June, 1885.
 PATRICK CULLEN,
 Forest Ranger, Booral.

No. 23.

Cancelled Pay Voucher.
 Claimant—Patrick Cullen, Booral.

| Date. | | Amount. |
|--------------|--|---------|
| 1885. | For the undermentioned services— | |
| May 29 | Paid Phillip Reynolds, for labour, searching for timber felled on Crown lands— | £ s. d. |
| | three days' wages, at 15s. per day..... | 2 5 0 |
| „ 27 | Wednesday. | |
| „ 28 | Thursday. | |
| „ 29 | Friday. | |
| | Total | £ 2 5 0 |

PATRICK CULLEN.

I certify that the amount charged in this voucher as to computations, castings, and rates is correct; that the service has been faithfully performed, and that the expenditure is duly authorized in terms of the Audit Act.

PATRICK CULLEN.

I hereby authorize the amount of the above certificate in my favour to be paid on my behalf to Bank of New South Wales, Bathurst-street, Sydney.

PATRICK CULLEN.

The Ranger should report whether the searching was in connection with the seizure cases, and to which.—The particular days charged for should be specified.—W.F.P., for the Under Secretary, 24/6/85. B.C., Mines, Forest Branch. Those days specified were during my search for the seized timber.—P.C. Mr. Ranger Cullen will be good enough to report whether the searching was in connection with the seizure cases, and to which.—W.F.P., for Under Secretary, B.C., 30/6/85. To be returned. Yes, those are the dates referred to.—P.C., 13/7/85.

No. 24.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 17 June, 1885.

I hastily replied to your telegram yesterday with reference to the seized timber on Crown lands. I now have the honor to report the matter more fully and explain all the circumstances in full. I think in the month of August, 1883, I seized and branded a quantity of piles, supposed to belong to Mr. Croaker, which had been felled over twelve months. After the seizure, Mr. Croaker received six months' extension of time to remove. Some of this timber remains still where it was felled, which was previous to my coming to this district; the remainder was cut since, but there has been none cut the last six months, and the men who felled the timber have not held licenses continuously—it bears various brands, and the party now claiming the timber does not hold a license, consequently I consider the timber abandoned, as no person has made application for extension of time to remove the same.

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN,
 Forest Ranger.

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No. 25.

No. 25.

Office Memorandum.

Seizure of Piles and Logs for Girders by Ranger Cullen.

85-4,233 F.—On 27th May, Ranger Cullen reported seizure of gray gum and ironbark timber, consisting of 371 piles, valued at 10s. each, £185 10s. (felling cost 5s. each); 64 logs, valued at 5s. each, £16 (felling cost 2s. 6d. each); total, £201 10s.

85-4,767 F.—And on the 12th June he made a further seizure of 390 piles, value £195; 20 logs, £5; total, £200.

85-4,839 F, 85-4,823 F.—In August, 1883, 85 piles were seized; the timber was released upon application of Mr. J. C. Ellis (83-7,179 F), upon his taking out licenses, the Ranger being instructed to allow reasonable time for removal. Ranger Cullen reports six months were allowed, and that some of these 85 piles form part of the timber now seized. Most of the timber has been felled over two years; none within the last six months. The timber fellers have not held licenses continuously, the party claiming does not hold a license, and there has been no application for extension of time.

85-4,803, 85-4,802.—It is reported the Bench postponed the first case of seizure from 15th June to 14th July, though it is stated there was no appearance of a claimant. Apparently the Ranger applied for an order of confiscation.

85-4,803 F, 85-4,802 F.—Mr. J. C. Ellis has made some verbal representations respecting the timber, and it is understood he will make a written application regarding it.

W.F.P.

Forest Branch, 24th June, 1885.

No. 26.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 26 June, 1885.

In accordance with a notice posted by me at the Police Office, Stroud, on the 13th instant, of having made a seizure of 410 hardwood logs, in the neighbourhood of Sandy Creek, requesting any parties claiming the same to appear on or before the 26th instant, I have the honor to state that I attended the Court this day, and no person appeared to claim the timber, but the Magistrates have postponed the hearing of the case until the 14th of July, for a full Bench.

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN,
Forest Ranger.

No. 27.

J. C. Ellis, Esq., to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Newcastle, 1 July, 1885.

I beg to request that you will grant me an extension of time to remove some 400 logs and piles cut on Crown lands in the district of Port Stephens.

The said timber has been branded by your Forest Ranger.

The reasons said timber has not been removed are:—

- 1st. Difficulties with the Australian Agricultural Co., who hold the land between the timber and water frontage I require to draw to, there being no public road through the Australian Agricultural estate, and require from me a very heavy royalty on all timber I draw through their estate.
- 2nd. The timber was cut for purposes of supply to contractors for public wharves in Newcastle, which work was delayed, but is now proceeding.
- 3rd. The difficulty in procuring teams owing to the drought.

I beg to apply for licenses for the following men, who will at once prepare and remove said timber during the currency of the licenses, if this application is granted by you, (say) Peter Gray, William Gray, John Johnson, Richard Doss, Richard Ewen, James Elliott.

In addition to the above, the following men in my employ, driving my teams, were engaged in removing this timber up to the time of its seizure, and who hold licenses:—T. Pearson, Jno. Muddle, W. Shergs, R. Shergs.

I have, &c.,

J. C. ELLIS.

845 piles and logs are under seizure (see memo. attached).—W.F.P., 2/7/85. Forest Branch. Submitted.—H.W., 10/7/85. Upon the payment of any costs the Department has been put to in connection with this seizure, and upon the licenses applied for, the timber may be given up.—J. P. ABBOTT, 11/7/85. The expenses incurred amount to £4 15s. Mr. Ellis may be requested to pay this amount, as agreed, 85-5,617 F. It is asked whether Mr. Cullen's voucher should be paid from this amount or from the contingent vote.—W.F.P., 16/7/85. Ranger Cullen's expenses should be included in the amount to be claimed from Mr. Ellis.—H.W., 27/7/85.

No. 28.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 13 July, 1885.

I have the honor to state that the amount of £2 5s. is for wages paid for three days' searching for timber now under seizure in my report of 1st June, 1885.

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN,
Forest Ranger.

Copy

Copy of receipt for payment of above.

Sandy Creek, 29 May, 1885.

RECEIVED from P. Cullen the sum of £2 5s., for three days' labour, searching for timber felled on Crown lands.

PHILLIP REYNOLDS.

No. 29.

J. C. Ellis, Esq., to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Sydney, 14 July, 1885.

I guarantee to pay any expenses that may have been incurred in seizure of timber in Port Stephens belonging to me.

J. C. ELLIS.

Licenses applied for and issued, 14/7/85.

[Telegram.]—The Minister directs that the timber seized by you, and claimed by Mr. Croaker, should be released. Report whether the voucher for £2 5s., paid to Reynolds, is for expenses incurred in this case, and also the total amount of expenses incurred in these cases.—W.F.P., 14/7/85. Mr. Ranger Cullen, 14/7/85.

No. 30.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Bullahdelah, 11 July, 1885.

THE Minister directs that the timber seized by you, and claimed by Mr. Croaker, should be released. Report whether the voucher for £2 5s., paid to Reynolds, is for expenses incurred in this case, and also the total amount of expenses incurred in these cases.

GERARD E. HERRING,
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 31.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 15 July, 1885.

I have the honor to report, the decision of the full Bench of Magistrates in the cases of seizure of timber made by me on Crown lands, on the 28th of May and 9th of June, and which I reported. The case was heard at the police office, Stroud, yesterday (14th). I beg to enclose a copy of the decision.

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN,
Forest Ranger.

[Enclosure.]

Decision.

THE timber in question was legally seized under the 58th section of the Regulations of 2nd January, 1885; and in accordance with the provisions of that section is to be disposed of as directed by these Regulations.

We therefore consider the matter is to be referred to the Minister to decide upon respecting its disposal, as stated in the 81st section of the Regulations.

CHARLES H. FAUCETT, P.M.
JOHN GRAY, J.P.
THOS. LAMAN, J.P.

No. 32.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 16 July, 1885.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram in reference to seized timber, and that such timber be handed over to Mr. Croaker. I now do myself the honor to report that I seized and branded as abandoned timber, 845 logs and piles, after posting at the Police Office the usual notice. No persons appeared to claim the same. A Court of Inquiry was held on the 14th instant. The decision of the Bench I have sent you. A quantity of this timber bears Mr. Croaker's brand. There is a number of the logs not branded at all. Will you kindly instruct me if I am to hand over all the seized timber to Mr. Croaker.

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN.

The timber is released, as instructed by telegram of 14th instant. It is represented that the timber seized on the 12th June was drawn to, and is lying upon selected land. If this be the case, Mr. Ranger Cullen should report why he seized it.—W.F.P., 17/7/85. Telegram, Forest-Ranger Cullen, 20/7/85.

No. 33.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 16 July, 1885.

I have the honor to report an account of the expenses incurred by me on account of the Government in reference to the seizure of the 845 logs and piles, viz., paid P. Reynolds for three days' self and horse, searching and branding logs on the 27th, 28th, and 29th of May, £2 5s. Also paid P. Reynolds two days' wages, 10th and 11th of June, the same duties, £1 10s. Also paid John Horning 10s. as witness, one day's labour on the 15th of June, and the 16th of July paid 10s. to John Allen as witness, as to the date the timber was felled. This makes a total of £4 15s.

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN,
Forest Ranger.

No. 34.

No. 34.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Bullahdelah, 20 July, 1885.

With reference to your letter of 16th instant, it is pointed out that the timber is released, as instructed by telegram of 14th. It is represented that timber sized on 12th June was drawn to, and is lying upon selected land. If this be the case you should report why you seized it.

GERARD E. HERRING,
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 35.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Bullahdelah, 23 July, 1885.

In reply to your telegram, stating the timber seized on the 12th June was drawn on to selected land, I have the honor to state such is not the case; all the timber seized and branded by me is now, and has been lying on Crown lands the last twelve months. There are now lying on Mr. Croaker's selected land 500 piles. These, or piles or logs drawn to the roadside, I have not interfered with.

I have, &c.,
PATRICK CULLEN,
Forest Ranger.

No. 36.

Telegram from J. C. Ellis, Esq., to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Newcastle, 22 July, 1885.

TIMBER is advertised for sale at Stroud to-morrow. Have you wired them it is not to be sold?

J. C. ELLIS.

Telegram J. C. Ellis that Ranger was instructed on 14th instant to release timber. Forest-Ranger Cullen to report what timber is for sale at Stroud on 21st. See telegram of 14th. 20/7/85.

No. 37.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Bullahdelah, 22 July, 1885.

In reply to your telegram, requesting to know what timber was advertised for sale at Stroud, I have the honor to state I am not aware of any timber being so advertised, after the decision of the Magistrates, which I forwarded.

I received your telegram to release to Mr. Croaker all the seized timber, and as there is a quantity of this timber which does not bear Mr. Croaker's brand, am I justified in handing all to Mr. Croaker.

I have, &c.,
PATRICK CULLEN,
Forest Ranger.

Under the decision the timber claimed by Mr. Croaker is released from seizure, but it is not necessary for the Department to give delivery to any person.—W.F.P., Forest Branch, 4/8/85. Approved.—H.W., 13/8/85. Inform.—W.F.P., 14/8/85.

No. 38.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Bullahdelah, 22 July, 1885.

No timber advertised for sale at Stroud that I am aware of.

P. CULLEN.

No. 39.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 10 August, 1885.

I have the honor to call your attention to a question I asked (after I received your telegram to release all seized timber to Mr. Croaker) whether I should release to Mr. Croaker all timber not bearing his brand, as another person has now called on me and claims a portion of such timber as his. Will you please instruct me how to act in the matter?

I have, &c.,
PATRICK CULLEN,
Forest Ranger.

Inform as on 85-5,851.—W.F.P., 14. Forest-Ranger Cullen, 31/8/85. See 85-5,107. Ask Ranger Cullen to report the amount of travelling expenses incurred.—A.A.D., 3/9/85. Forest Ranger Cullen, 11/9/85.

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No. 40.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 11 August, 1885.
I have the honor to report that it is currently reported here that the land selected by Mr. Croaker at Sandy Creek, in my district, has been cancelled for non-residence. I wish to be informed if such is the case, as at the present time there are about 500 piles now lying on the land which, by your authority, might be seized on behalf of the Government.

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN,
Forest Ranger.

No. 41.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 31 August, 1885.
Referring to your letter of 10th instant and to previous correspondence, I have to point out that my telegram of 14th ultimo instructed you to release from seizure the timber claimed by Mr. Croaker; but it is not necessary for the Department to give delivery to any person.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 42.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 11 September, 1885.
In reply to yours of the 31st of August, with reference to your telegram of the 14th ultimo, requesting me to release the seized timber claimed by Mr. Croaker, I have the honor to report that no person appeared at the Court of Inquiry to claim the seized timber, neither has Mr. Croaker applied to me for it, neither does he claim any of it; but it is being removed by the order of Mr. Ellis, of Newcastle. Instruct me am I to interfere with its removal or not.

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN.

It is understood that Mr. Croaker was the representative of Mr. Ellis. Mr. Ellis applied for an extension of time for removal of some 400 logs and piles seized by the Ranger. The timber was given up on certain conditions, one of which was that licenses should be held. Ten licenses are now current, 85-5,107 F. The quantity of timber lying on Crown lands appears to be much larger than that represented by Mr. Ellis. There are also about 500 piles lying on a conditional purchase now cancelled. As this at the time of drawing was not Crown lands the timber could hardly be seized. It is suggested that Mr. Ellis should be required within one month to supply particulars of the quantity and brands of the timber claimed by him in the Port Stephens District, and specify the localities where it lies, in order that the matter may be dealt with.—W.F.P., 9/85. Forest Branch.

May await action on 85-7,504 F.

No. 43.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Franch, Sydney, 11 September, 1885.
With reference to the seizure of timber claimed by Mr. Croaker and released upon condition that all expenses incurred in connection therewith should be paid, I have to request that you will be good enough to state what travelling expenses you actually incurred while engaged on this case.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 44.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 15 September, 1885.
In reply to your request of the 11th instant, I have the honor to state that the time I was employed in measuring and branding timber seized and released to Mr. Croaker was, in all, ten days, viz., on the first occasion left Booral on the 26th of May and returned on 30th; and on the second occasion, left Booral on the 8th of June and returned on the 12th. Total, £7, added to which I paid Phillip Reynolds on the first occasion the sum of £2 5s., three days' assistance; and on the second occasion £1 10s. for two days' assistance; and on the 14th of July paid a witness 10s. for attending as a witness at the Court of Inquiry; the total amount of expense in this case was £11 5s.

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN,
Forest Ranger.

The amount is £11 15s. See voucher furnished. Ask Mr. Ellis to pay it, as directed.—W.F.P., 16/9/85. J. C. ELLIS, M.P., 17/9/85.

No. 45.

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No. 45.

The Under Secretary for Mines to F. Abigail, Esq., M.P.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 15 September, 1885.

With reference to your recent personal interview with the Minister for Mines, respecting the timber said to be cut on and being removed from Crown lands, in violation of the Timber Regulations, by Mr. J. C. Ellis, M.P., of Newcastle, I am directed to inform you that Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins, Muswellbrook, has been instructed to report.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 46.

F. Abigail, Esq., to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Legislative Assembly, New South Wales, 15 September, 1885.

I desire to call your attention to the fact that no man has been sent by your Department to stop the taking of timber from the Government reserves near Clarencetown. Mr. Croaker, of that town, will point out the timber and also the amount of timber, and also where it is being taken to. I would respectfully ask that this may be at once attended to and a man sent up to inspect and report upon the transaction.

I have, &c.,
F. ABIGAIL.

Herewith is a letter from Mr. Abigail, M.P., who personally interviewed me in reference to timber said to be cut on, and being removed from Crown lands, in violation of the Timber Regulations, by Mr. J. C. Ellis, M.P., of Newcastle. As there is no ranger at present available for the service, Mr. Higgins, of Muswellbrook may be sent to Clarencetown, and place himself in communication with Mr. Croaker, who says he will point out the timber.—J. P. ABBOTT, 15/9/85.

In view of this direction the recommendation on 85-7,440 F. should perhaps stand over.—W.F.P., 16/9/85. Yes.—H.W., 17/9/85. Mr. Ranger Higgins for action as directed. Papers 85-7,440 F. are forwarded for his information, to be returned with report.—W.F.P., for Under Secretary. Forest Branch, Department of Mines, 17/9/85. Inform Mr. Abigail, M.P.—W.F.P., 17. F. Abigail, M.P., 17/9/85.

No. 47.

The Under Secretary for Mines to J. C. Ellis, Esq., M.P.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 16 September, 1885.

With reference to previous correspondence respecting the timber seized by Mr. Ranger Cullen, and released to you upon condition that the expenses incurred in the case were paid, I have now the honor to inform you that the expenditure incurred amounts to £11 15s. and to request that you will be good enough to remit the amount.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 48.

F. Abigail, Esq., M.P., to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir, 19 September, 1885.

I have just received a telegram from Clarencetown, stating eight teams drawing timber; man not yet arrived; signed William Croaker.

May I request that the man instructed to go will request Mr. Croaker to point out, as he states he can, all the timber improperly taken off Government land, and I would respectfully ask that I may be informed as soon as you receive his report. I do not desire to move in the matter until this is received.

I am, &c.,
F. ABIGAIL.

This refers to timber said to be unlawfully taken by Mr. Ellis, M.P., by Mr. Croaker.—J.P. ABBOTT, 21/9/85. Ascertain by telegram whether Mr. Higgins has gone yet to Clarencetown. If not, when he will go, and inform as to the alleged removal of timber.—H.W., 22/9/85. F. R. Higgins, 22/9/85.

No. 49.

J. C. Ellis, Esq., to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Dear Sir, Newcastle, 21 September, 1885.

I am in receipt of your letter of the 17th September, and now enclose cheque for £11 15s., as requested.

I am, &c.,
J. C. ELLIS.

| | | |
|----|----|----|
| £ | s. | d. |
| 4 | 15 | 0 |
| 7 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | 15 | 0 |

Cheque for £11 15s.—G.E.H., 22/9/85. See 85-7,594 F. Perhaps the voucher 85-5,700 may be paid out of this amount, and the balance (£7) be treated as a fine for release of the timber.—W.F.P., Forest Branch, 22/9/85. Yes.—H.W., 22/9/85. The Registrar. See voucher attached, 85-5,701, for £4 15s.—W.F.P., 22/9/85. Amount to Treasury; receipt acknowledged; voucher 85-5,700 paid, 29/9/85. Seen.—G.E.H. (for Under Secretary), 29/9/85.

[Enclosure.]

[Enclosure.]

Claimant—Patrick Cullen.

| Date. | | Amount. |
|---------------|---|---------|
| 1885. | For the undermentioned services— | £ s. d. |
| July 16 | Expenses incurred in <i>re</i> seized timber, paid Phillip Reynolds (May 27, 28, and 29) three days | 2 5 0 |
| | Expenses incurred in <i>re</i> seized timber, paid Phillip Reynolds (June 10 and 11) two days | 1 10 0 |
| June 15 | Paid John Horning (witness) | 0 10 0 |
| July 16 | Paid John Allan, as witness | 0 10 0 |
| | Total | 4 15 0 |

I certify that the amount charged in this voucher as to computations, castings, and rates is correct; that the service has been faithfully performed, and that the expenditure is duly authorized in terms of the Audit Act.

PATRICK CULLEN.

I hereby authorize the amount of the above certificate in my favour to be paid on my behalf to the Bank of New South Wales, Bathurst-street, Sydney.

PATRICK CULLEN.

Received, on the 29th day of September, 1885, the sum of £4 15s. sterling.

Witness—
J. J. CLARK.

J. B. DENNIS.

RECEIVED from Mr. P. Cullen the sum of 10s. for attending Court as witness respecting seized timber.

14 July, 1885.

JOHN ALLAN.

No. 50.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

Muswellbrook, 22 September, 1885.

WHEN do you intend to proceed to Clarencetown *re* timber claimed by Mr. Ellis? It is reported now that the timber is being removed. Reply.

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 51.

The Under Secretary for Mines to F. Abigail, Esq., M.P.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 23 September, 1885.

In acknowledging receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, I have the honor to inform you that Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins has gone to Clarencetown with a view of reporting as to the timber stated to have been cut by Mr. Ellis, M.P., and he has been further advised in terms of your communication above quoted.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 52.

Telegram from Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Muswellbrook, 23 September, 1885.

MR. HIGGINS left for Clarencetown on Monday.

A. M. HIGGINS.

Inform Ranger Higgins by telegram in terms of Mr. Abigail's letter, and inform Mr. Abigail that Ranger Higgins has gone to Clarencetown.—H.W., 23/9/85. Telegram, Forest-Ranger Higgins, 23/9/85. F. Abigail, M.P., 23/9/85. Await report.

No. 53.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

23 September, 1885.

RE previous instructions, it is reported that eight teams are engaged removing timber, stated to have been illegally cut by Mr. Ellis. Mr. Croaker will point out all timber. Expedite report.

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No 54.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Clarencetown, 25 September, 1885.

Your telegram received. Will report as early as possible.

EDWD. HIGGINS,

Forest Ranger,

Pumpkin Point.

No. 55.

No. 55.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Dear Sir,

Sandy Creek, 28 September, 1885.

Thanks for your courteous message received from my man this evening. I go to Bullahdelah to-morrow, thence on to the head of the Myall Lakes at Bungwall, and hope to be here on Thursday on the way back. If I reach this early I will push on to you at Booral. If late, I shall not be with you till Friday morning. In the meantime would you kindly ascertain how many piles, &c., there are lying at Pumpkin Point, and, if possible, how many belonging to the lot you seized? Also keep a watch on the teams employed by Mr. Ellis. Warn the men not to move a stick of timber from either Croaker's selection or Crown lands, except that which has recently been felled, and for which the licenses under which it was cut are still current. If they disregard your warning, catch them on the main road, seize their timber, and make them leave it on the road.

If you have time would you kindly get my man to help you and measure some of the piles lying about; there is a tape here. If possible, I would like to have the mean girth, the length, and the girth at 4 feet from the butt end. I should like to have them of all sizes, so as to get an idea of the average quantity contained in each log.

I am, &c.,

EDWD. HIGGINS,
Forest Ranger.

No. 56.

Telegram from Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Clarencetown, 28 September, 1885.

SHALL be till end of week investigating this matter. Wholesale monopoly and destruction been carried on. Eight teams were drawing on Friday and Saturday. Expect to be at Bullahdelah Tuesday. Now camped on forfeited selection.

EDWARD HIGGINS,
Forest Ranger,
Sandy Creek, Booral, *via* Clarencetown.

Probably intended for the Under Secretary for Mines.—C.O., B.C., 28/9/81.

No. 57.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 29 September, 1885.

I have the honor to report that on the 14th July I received from you a telegram to release all seized timber then in question to Mr. Croaker; but that gentleman never applied to me for it. Some ten days after I found teams belonging to Mr. Ellis drawing the said timber. I requested their authority to take the timber, which was not produced.

I then wrote Mr. Croaker to know if he had consented to Mr. Ellis removing the said timber. Mr. Croaker informs me he has not given his permission to any person to remove timber. I have stopped Mr. Ellis from removing any more. Please say am I justified in doing so.

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN,
Forest Ranger.

Instructed to release the timber, and also informed that it is not necessary for the Department to give delivery, 30/9/85.

I do not think Mr. Ranger Cullen had any right to interfere as between Mr. Croaker and Mr. Ellis. The Ranger's instructions were to release the timber, and having done so he had no further concern with it. If the timber in question forms the subject of inquiry by Mr. Ranger Higgins he might perhaps seize it, if it appears to him necessary to do so.—H.W., 30/9/85. Submitted.

Approved.—J. P. ABBOTT, 1/10/85. Inform Rangers Higgins and Cullen. Telegram.—W.F.P., Rangers Higgins and Cullen, 2/10/85.

The instructions of the Minister respecting the timber were forwarded with all papers to Forest-Ranger Higgins, under B.C., on 17 September, 85-7,504 F. On 2 October the following telegram was sent to Mr. Higgins:—"Ranger Cullen reports that Mr. Ellis is removing timber. If you consider it necessary to do so you should seize it, if it forms the subject of present inquiry, 85-7,771 F." On 29 September, Ranger Cullen reported that about ten days previously he had stopped removal of the old seized timber which had been released. He was informed he had no right to interfere as between Mr. Croaker and Mr. Ellis. The action of Mr. Higgins in stopping the removal before the act of seizure (See 85-8,314 F.) by warning the men may be open to question. At the same time he could have seized the timber when in course of removal, and prosecuted the men if he had reason to believe it had been wrongfully obtained.—W.F.P., Forest Branch, 11/11/85.

No. 58.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

Dear Sir,

Booral, 29 September, 1885.

Yesterday met Ellis' trucks. Cautioned the drivers not to remove any timber, and they returned. I go to-day to Pumpkin Point Wharf to make a note of what timber has been drawn there bearing the Government brand since the seizure, and forbid the removal of such timber until authority is granted. If you require my assistance at once let me know. After to-morrow I shall be at liberty to leave home at once. You know how difficult it is for strangers to get information, and I know all the whereabouts.

Yours, &c.,

P. CULLEN.

P.S.—Received your note. Will attend all your requests.

No. 59.

S. Campbell, Esq., to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 29 September, 1885.

About eight months ago I was engaged to cut piles for Mr. Croaker, of Clarencetown, and Mr. Croaker objected to pay me for what I had felled. I beg to make application for extension of time to remove the same.

I have, &c.,
SAMUEL CAMPBELL.

Mr. Ranger Higgins for report.—W.F.P. (for Under Secretary). B.C., Mines, 2/10/85.

No particulars are given as to quantity. This may be a hard case, but it would be extremely inadvisable at this juncture to make any concessions to any one; might lead to other similar applications, perhaps only as a ruse to obtain the timber for others.—E.H., Muswellbrook, 8/10/85.

Returned, 10/10/85. Under this report an extension of time cannot be recommended.—W.F.P., Forest reserve, 3/11/85. Approved.—H.W., 10/11/85. Forest Ranger Cullen. S. Campbell. 21/11/85.

No. 60.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 2 October, 1885.

In pursuance of instruction contained in your B.C. 85-7,504 F., dated 17th September, I proceeded to Clarencetown, thence to the locality where the timber referred to is situated, and have the honor to make the following preliminary report.

I have spent four days traversing the bush between the Australian Agricultural Company's eastern boundary and the Myall River, and have no hesitation in stating that in my opinion Mr. Ellis has not a shadow of a claim to a single stick of timber in this locality that has not been felled within the last three months, nor the slightest excuse for an extension of time to remove any. From my own observation, and from the statements of several of the men employed, as well as of some who were not (all of which I have carefully taken down in writing), I estimate there are now over 5,000 piles and girder sticks lying wasting in the bush. Some of these have been felled three years, and none within the last six months. Nearly all are branded C. This brand is Mr. Croaker's, and was used by him when acting as agent for Mr. Ellis. This wholesale destruction was carried on for the purpose of blocking others, and monopolising the whole of the pile and girder trade. The instructions given to the men were to go and fall every pile and girder stick you can find, and thirty to forty men were sometimes employed in felling alone at one time. Thus, the cream of what was one of the finest ironbark forests in Australia has been ruthlessly destroyed before the trees had reached maturity. They are now lying all over the bush; in some places one over another, and many partly destroyed by fire.

I have also spent two days between Bullahdelah and Bungwall, at the head of the Myall Lakes, and find that the same course has been pursued, only in a minor degree.

Mr. Ranger Cullen, who has rendered me all the assistance in his power, has warned the teamsters employed by Mr. Ellis not to continue drawing, and they have all knocked off.

I will furnish a full and detailed report, with the men's statements attached, as soon as I reach Muswellbrook.

I have, &c.,
EDWD. HIGGINS,
Forest Ranger.

Further action should perhaps await until the full report is received.—W.F.P., Forest Branch; 6/10/85.

No. 61.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 2 October, 1885.

I have considered it advisable to defer furnishing my full report till I reach Muswellbrook. I have more facilities for doing so there. In addition to this I require fresh horses, and wish to send my journals and vouchers in for the past month.

My horses have had a very hard time, but I expect they will hold out till I reach Maitland, which I hope to do to-morrow night; and so as to lose no time I will take the train from there to Muswellbrook.

I have, &c.,
EDWD. HIGGINS,
Forest Ranger.

No. 62.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

2 October, 1885.

You have no right to interfere with matter between Mr. Croaker and Mr. Ellis. Your instructions were to release the timber. Mr. Ranger Higgins, who is investigating, has been instructed.

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 63.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

2 October, 1885.

RANGER Cullen reports that Mr. Ellis is removing timber. If you consider it necessary to do so you should seize it, if it forms the subject of present inquiry.

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 64.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

2 October, 1885.

RANGER Cullen reports that Mr. Ellis is removing timber. If you consider it necessary to do so you should seize it, if it forms the subject of present inquiry.

GERARD E. HERRING

(For the Under Secretary for Mines).

This message, received on my return to head quarters, must have been sent here by mistake; not likely any attempt to remove timber will be made. Teams knocked off.—E.H., 5/10/85.

No. 65.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 4 October, 1885.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram not to interfere with timber, Croaker and Ellis. After the seizure of timber my instructions were to release, which I supposed to be, Mr. Croaker. I afterwards found Mr. Ellis's teams removing the timber. I wrote Mr. Croaker if he gave permission to Mr. Ellis to remove, which he has not; and Mr. Ellis did not produce his authority from you. After the arrival of Mr. Higgins here, he requested me to allow no timber to be removed without your especial authority in this matter. I have only been assisting another officer to carry out his duties.

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN,

Forest Ranger.

No. 66.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Muswellbrook, 5 October, 1885.

In compliance with instructions contained in your B.C. S5-7,504 F., dated 17th September, referring to the removal of timber from Crown Lands in violation of the Timber Regulations, by Mr. J. C. Ellis, M.P., of Newcastle, I have the honor to report the following:—

I reached Clarencetown on 24th September, and called upon Mr. Croaker, as directed, and was informed he was at Sandy Creek, near where the timber is lying. On 25th I proceeded to Sandy Creek, *via* Pumpkin Point, which is Mr. Ellis's shipping place, where I saw a number of logs lying, and have since ascertained from Mr. Ranger Cullen that there are 265 piles and 75 girders, of these there are only about three marked with A, and forming a portion of those originally seized by him.

On my way to Sandy Creek I met eight teams, but only two of them were loaded with piles; these Mr. Croaker's son and a man named Johnson saw loading on the forfeited conditional purchase. Mr. Ranger Cullen has since warned all the teamsters to cease drawing (*see* copies of letters attached, marked A), and they have now all ceased work.

On reaching Sandy Creek, on which the forfeited conditional purchases referred to in paper 85-7,440 F. are situated, I found Mr. Croaker had returned to Clarencetown. The following day (26th) met him near Booral; returned with him to the forfeited conditional purchases, and commenced my inspection of the timber lying on the cancelled selections, which were taken up by Mr. Croaker and his son.

I find that to some extent the said conditional purchases have been used as a depôt, and a number of piles and girder sticks have been drawn on to them from the adjoining Crown Lands; in addition to these the greater part of the timber of the same description which was growing on the conditional purchases has also been felled. I counted 420 logs lying on these forfeited selections, and there are indications of numbers having been removed recently.

On 27th, 28th, and 29th I traversed a large area of the Crown Lands lying between the Myall River and the Australian Agricultural Company's eastern boundary. Timber felled suitable for piles and girders is lying in every direction decaying, and in many instances more or less injured by bush fires; many of these trees have not been barked, or the tops cut off. The men were paid 5s. for felling, cutting tops off, and barking, and 2s. 6d. for felling only. I counted over 1,000 logs, some lying one over the another. Some hundreds of these logs I examined the butts of, and in almost every instance found them branded C, which was the brand used by Mr. Croaker when acting as agent for Mr. Ellis. All the timber has the appearance of having laid long on the ground, and is overgrown by grass and brush, except where it has been drawn out on to clear places. It is stated by Mr. Croaker and others that some of it has been felled over three years, and that felling was carried on to about the end of the first quarter of the present year. This being the case, I do not consider that during the four days I was occupied riding through the bush, I saw 20 per cent. of the trees that have been felled, especially as large quantities are situated in thick brushes.

Attached are the statements of men who were employed by Mr. Croaker from about the middle of 1882 to the 1st March, 1885.

I also attach statements of men living in the district, and who were not employed by either Mr. Croaker or Mr. Ellis. To these statements the men are willing to attach their signatures if necessary. All these statements prove that wholesale destruction was carried on for the purpose of blocking others, and monopolizing the whole of the trade in wharf timber between this part of the country and New Zealand and other places. At times all available men were put on to fell, their instructions being, as stated in my preliminary report of 2nd instant, to go and fall every pile and girder stick they could find. Attached is a list of names of men employed during the time referred to above, but many of these have now left the district. These names I took down in writing, as recollected by Mr. Croaker and Walter Murrell, who was one of them. It is said that several of these men held no licenses for a part of the time they were employed, and some of them for the whole of the time.

The

The timber that has been felled is chiefly ironbark. Grey gum has also been felled to a considerable extent, and a few trees of other species.

The same system of blocking and destruction has been carried on to a minor extent between Bullahdelah and Bungwall (where I was occupied two days), particularly about Myers' Flat, where a large number of piles are lying. There are also about 170 near the Myall River, above Bullahdelah, but only fifteen of these were branded and paid for.

A man can fell, cut off, and bark an average of eight piles a day, and sometimes thirty to forty men were employed in felling alone; and I have been informed that as many as 1,000 piles and girder sticks have been branded at one branding, and frequently a branding of some hundreds took place. I estimate that there are upwards of 5,000 logs now lying in the bush, nearly all of which bear the brand C. These logs contain an average of about 600 superficial feet. Thus there is now 3,000,000 feet of valuable timber lying felled by men employed by Mr. Croaker, when acting as agent for Mr. Ellis. I consider that no time should be lost in seizing and branding the whole of this timber for the Crown. It could be put up for sale in lots on particular ridges and creeks, and could probably all be disposed of. In addition to this, not an hour should be lost in temporarily proclaiming the whole of the Crown Lands lying between the Myall River and the Australian Agricultural Company's eastern boundary, and between that company's northern boundary and a line running parallel to it, but 7 miles further north, a timber reserve under Class B. It would be easy afterwards to throw out such portions as might be suitable for settlement or inadvisable from any other cause to include within the boundaries of the reserve. Royalty would be a question for future consideration, except on piles, for which it cannot be too heavy. With regard to this matter I will furnish full report and tracing as early as possible. When proclaimed not a permit should be granted to cut piles. This would help to strengthen the demand, which is already large, and would have the effect of making persons buy the piles now lying in the bush. The logs that have been cut off and barked, and not injured by fire, are worth about 10s.

The most serious thing about the waste and destruction referred to in this report is that the damage done is not only present, but prospective, from the trees having been felled before they had reached maturity, and the damage cannot be assessed until it is seen what the felled timber will realize. Long piles and girders, I am informed, are in great demand in New Zealand, and the Crown Lands referred to in this report were specially prolific in ironbark of this description, and it is now difficult to find such timber standing.

The average girth of felled logs, exclusive of bark, at 4 feet from the butt end, allowing 1 foot for the cut and stump (piles are cut close to the ground, so as to get the greatest length) is about 4 feet 6 inches, which, allowing 6 inches for shrinkage and bark, would have equalled 5 feet in girth, at 5 feet from the ground, when standing.

From the men's statements it will be seen that all say the same thing in the main, but their statements are made in different words.

I have, &c.,

EDWD. HIGGINS,

Forest Ranger.

[Enclosure.]

List of names of men employed by Mr. Croaker, when acting as Mr. Ellis's agent, from May, 1882, to March, 1885:—

John Johnson, Walter Murrell, Dominic Castle, James Norris, Thomas Priest, John Yerk, Harry Smith, Richard Hewens, Thomas Casey, William Lulle, John Lulle, Richard Doss, Lachlan M'Pherson, Augustus Doss, Frank M'Pherson, Archie M'Pherson, James Elliott, Peter Grey, William Grey, John Boyd, Mick Burke, Richard Isaac, Thomas Burke, — Mossman, — Mossman, George Allen, — M'Mahon, John Allen, James Allen, William Hendy, James Fleming, William Cogan, Thomas Howard, William Galvin, John Finn, William M'Knalty, William Parker, James Renwick, Ernest Kerrs, — Kerr, senr., John Kemp, James Pearson, John Horning, Henry O'Dowd, Martin O'Dowd, William O'Dowd, Philip Reynolds, William Penfold, Robert Dawson, Thomas O'Brien, James Madden, Pat. Madden, John Keys, Thomas M'Grath, Pat. M'Grath, Edward Devine, John Naylor, Sam. Woods, Thomas Pearson, William Shergold, John Muddle, John Quirk.

JOHN JOHNSON'S Statement.

Sandy Creek, 28 September, 1885.

I LIVE on Sandy Creek, Myall Road; I know the bush well from Clarencetown to Bungwall; I was employed by Mr. Croaker, for Mr. Ellis, to cut piles and square timber; it is five years ago last May since I started to work, and I knocked off about two months ago; with the exception of about two months, I was in the same employ the whole time; for the first two years I was working between Clarencetown and the Karuah River; the last three years I have been employed between the Company's line this side Booral and the Crawford River; half the time I was felling wharf stuff, viz., piles and girders; there were a great number of men employed felling in all directions from Bungwall, at the head of the Myall Lakes, to the Company's boundary this side of Booral; there was a great destruction of timber; more was felled than could be taken away; most of it is now lying rotting and getting destroyed by fire; I knew that I and others were destroying valuable timber and cutting piles that would have grown half as big again; the reason of this was to keep other people from getting the timber; I know this, because Mr. Ellis and Mr. Croaker both told me to fall everything that would make a pile or girder, and stop Flanery from getting it; there are now some thousands of logs lying in the bush, cut by the men employed by Mr. Croaker; nearly all are branded C; on one occasion over 1,000 trees were branded at one time, and there were other brandings where hundreds were branded at a time; the trees are not worth more than half what they were at the time they were felled, and some would, had they been left till they were full grown, have turned out double as much timber; whenever any person not connected with Mr. Ellis came out for timber all available men were forced on to cut the timber before them; I thought I was doing wrong felling such a quantity of timber to go to waste, and have told Mr. Ellis so; but if I had not done it he could have got lots of men who would; on one occasion I saw Mr. Ellis at the office in Clarencetown, and he asked me to take an order to fall 500 piles and as many more as I could get, but I refused; Mr. Croaker was in the office at the time.

WALTER MURRELL'S Statement.

Sandy Creek, 26 September, 1885.

I LIVE near Sandy Creek; I came out to Sandy Creek to work for Mr. Ellis about three years ago last May; I was put on by Mr. Ellis's manager, Mr. Croaker, to cut piles, and was paid 5s. per tree for felling, barking, and cutting tops off, and 2s. 6d. for felling alone; I have been at this work for Mr. Ellis up to about the end of February, 1885; I had no license for several quarters, amounting to about one-third of the time I was working for Mr. Ellis; a man named Fleming, to the best of my belief (who was also working for Mr. Ellis), never had a timber license all the time he was here; he was working over six months; I don't think that Sam. Woods, John Yerk, John Boyd (this man's name is, I believe, Armstrong), William Penfold, and Robt. Dawson ever had a license; two men named Mossman, M'Mahon, George Allen, Thom. Howard, and Wm. Cogan, for one Flanery; the timber cut by them was seized by Ranger Cullen and sold to W. Croaker, Mr. Ellis's manager; their timber was seized on account of their holding no licenses; all these men were afterwards employed by Mr. Ellis to fell timber, and, I believe, they had no licenses during the time they were working for him, which

which was about four weeks ; I have seen Mr. Ellis at his pay-office in Clarencetown ; during the time I was working for Mr. Ellis there were often as many as thirty men felling timber for him at one time ; they were working from the Australian Agricultural Company's line, near Booral, to Bungwall, at the head of Myall Lakes, a distance of about 30 miles ; the men who were felling knocked off about twelve months ago ; myself, Richard Hewens, James Elliott, John Horning, Peter Grey, John Johnson, James Allen, John Allen, William Hendy, Richard Doss, Harry Smith, James Pearson, and John Kemp remained on squaring till about the end of February, 1885 ; the last-named four only remained till about Christmas, 1884 ; when felling the men were instructed to fell the largest and best timber ; the men objected to the falling in such large quantities, and considered they were destroying the timber, as it spoils from lying so long on the ground, and many valuable logs have been burnt ; I consider that the greater portion of the best trees for miles round have been felled by men employed by Mr. Ellis ; such timber it is now hard to find standing ; Dominic Castle, who was working for about nine months, and now lives at the Manning, never held a license all the time he was here.

RICHARD HEWENS' Statement.

Sandy Creek, 27 September, 1885.

I NOW live on Nuggrawidgeree, and am employed by Charles Dee, squaring wharf stuff. I was employed by Mr. Croaker to fell piles and girder sticks ; I commenced about twelve months ago last March, and knocked off about four months ago ; there were sometimes near about forty men working for Mr. Croaker at one time ; myself and others were scattered all over the country, from the Company's boundary on the Booral Road to the head of the Myall Lakes ; Mr. Croaker set us to fall wherever there was a good patch of timber ; we were paid 5s. for felling, barking, and cutting off the piles, and 2s. 6d. for felling the girder sticks ; some of the timber was shipped, the rest is spoiling in the bush ; there was an awful lot felled ; I did not think it possible that such a lot of timber could be removed in a reasonable time ; it was felled, in my opinion, to stop others from getting it, and some, near where a man named Flanery was working, to block him ; some of the trees felled by myself and others were afterwards squared by us, and 2s. 6d. deducted until we struck ; this was deducted because the trees were already felled ; plenty of the men had no licenses to the best of my belief.

JAMES ELLIOTT'S Statement.

Sandy Creek, 27 September, 1885.

I LIVE at Nuggrawidgeree, and am now cutting timber for Charles Dee, and am squaring wharf stuff ; I was working for Mr. Croaker, who was managing for Mr. Ellis ; I commenced work about two years ago last July and knocked off about four months ago ; during that time I was employed felling piles and squaring ; there were sometimes as many as forty men on at one time felling piles ; I was instructed to fall everything over 40 feet long that was suitable for a pile, or would make a girder ; the greater part of the timber I and others felled is now lying wasting in the bush ; a lot has been burnt ; at the time we were felling, I knew such a quantity of timber could not be taken away or used by Mr. Croaker ; I knew at the time that the timber was being felled to block others, but it was no business of mine ; I got paid for what I did ; I know that several of the men employed had not got licenses.

THOMAS O'BRIEN'S Statement.

Sandy Creek, 28 September, 1885.

I LIVE on the Crawford River ; the timber about here is the best I ever saw, but have not had much experience ; I refer to the country from Booral to Bullahdelah, but the best of the ironbark has been felled, and is now lying in the bush where it was cut ; I was employed cutting piles by Mr. Croaker ; Mr. Croaker was not on his own hook, but was acting for Mr. Ellis ; I was working up the Crawford River, about 5 miles from Mr. Croaker's selections ; I commenced to work about twelve months ago and worked for about a month ; a bit before I started men were working for Mr. Croaker all over the bush—by Jove ! there was an awful lot of men scattered all about, felling piles ; some of the piles must have been cut three years or more ; I know of none being cut since last Christmas ; I held a license while I was working ; it struck me there was a great lot of piles being cut, and I think the timber was felled to prevent other contractors from getting it ; all the timber I felled was marked at the edge of the butt with a scollop cut with a shingling hammer ; Mr. Croaker, junr., took delivery of what I felled ; my mate and I cut about 70 piles ; his name is Thomas Dorney.

JOHN HORNING'S Statement.

Nuggrawidgeree, 27 September, 1885.

I LIVE on Nuggrawidgeree Creek ; I was working for Mr. Croaker for about eight months ; I started in July, 1884, and knocked off about the end of February, 1885 ; I was squaring timber for girders ; during the time I was working, there were a large number of men employed by Mr. Croaker, and then and since I saw quantities of timber lying in the bush going to waste ; it was all branded with C, and had been cut for Mr. Croaker ; I know the bush between Bullahdelah and the Australian Agricultural Company's boundary this side of Booral, and I know the longest, straightest, and best timber is now lying felled and going to waste ; it is about 14 miles from that boundary to Bullahdelah ; it was common talk among the men that this wholesale felling was not fairplay, and was to block other folks from getting timber ; it is about 6 miles from here to the timber loading place on Dirty Creek ; timber is punted from there down to the ships at the Tea Gardens.

ALFRED SIMMONDS' Statement.

Nuggrawidgeree, 27 September, 1885.

I WAS working for Mr. Croaker just before last Christmas, drawing timber to Bullahdelah ; I was at this for about a month ; I have seen fully 2,000 logs lying in the bush going to waste ; they had been felled over twelve months ; I supposed them to be Mr. Croaker's, because any I looked close at had the C on, and Mr. Croaker paid me for what I drew.

PATRICK MADDEN'S Statement.

Bullahdelah, 30 September, 1885.

I LIVE near Bullahdelah ; I was drawing timber about 18 months ago ; the timber I drew was ironbark and gray gum piles ; I was drawing from about the Crawford River ; all the timber I drew was branded C ; there was a lot of timber of the same description left lying in the bush ; that is there yet ; I consider it a shame the way the timber has been left to waste and be burnt ; it deprived others from getting a living.

WILLIAM LULLEM'S Statement.

Bullahdelah, 30 September, 1885.

I LIVE on the Williams River, Brookfield, and am now camped near Bullahdelah ; I was falling and squaring for Mr. Croaker ; timber was felled wholesale all over the bush between the Company's line this side Booral and the Big Hill (the Big Hill is the division between Sandy Creek and the Crawford River) ; most of it is still lying there ; nearly all is branded C, which, of course, prevented others from working it, and it would now be double the labour to work it ; some has been felled about 3 years ; I commenced work in January, 1884, and knocked off about the middle of April of the same year ; there were between thirty and forty men employed during the time I was working.

THOMAS M'GRATH'S Statement.

Bungwall Road, 30 September, 1885.

I LIVE at Swan Point, on the Myall Lakes ; I know the bush thoroughly from Bullahdelah to Bungwall ; about 12 months ago I was drawing piles for Flanery, when Mr. Croaker came out to me and asked me to draw piles for him, which I did ; I was employed cutting and drawing ; he reckoned he wanted piles wherever he could get them ; about the same time there were other men employed ; the job lasted about 6 weeks ; a lot of the timber felled is still lying in the bush, going to waste ; it is nearly all branded with C.

HENRY

HENRY BERRIMAN'S Statement.

Bungwall Road, 1 October, 1885.

I LIVE at Bungwall; I am a timber-getter; I was employed by Croaker to cut and draw piles; about half the time I was cutting, the other half drawing; I started to work for Mr. Croaker about July, 1884, and knocked off about the middle of September; there had been previous to my going to work seven or eight men employed by Mr. Croaker felling piles; there was a lot of timber felled, and I believe half is still lying in the bush getting spoilt; the timber was felled principally about Myers' Flat, which is a village reserve; I thought it was a great lot to be felling at one time, but did not trouble as to why it was done; I got paid, and that was enough; I had a license, but don't know anything about the other men who were working; all the timber felled was cut before it had reached its prime; nearly all the timber was branded, I think with C.

FRANCIS WILLIAM TOM'S Statement.

Crawford River, 29 September, 1885.

I LIVE on Crawford River; I am a farmer and log-drawer; I consider it a cursed shame the way in which the timber has been destroyed by Croaker's men; his brand can be seen on piles all over the bush; I consider they destroyed some thousands of pounds' worth; the men felled piles which, had they been left a few years, would have made girders; they also felled trees fit for girders; it was the talk of the river; most of the timber is now lying rotting and being destroyed by fire.

SAMUEL TOM'S Statement.

Crawford River, 29 September, 1885.

I SAY the same as my brother; this wholesale monopoly plays hell with the poor man, who now has trouble in getting timber not felled by Croaker's men near home; the timber felled would have made saw-mill logs in a few years; neither my brother nor myself were employed by Mr. Croaker.

J. P. KEY'S Statement.

Ballyanna, 29 September, 1885.

I LIVE at Ballyanna, on the Crawford River; I have lived here for eleven years, and know that during the last three years enormous numbers of trees have been felled by Mr. Croaker's men; they are now mostly rotting and getting burnt in the bush; a great many were drawn away, but the largest number are in the bush still; I thought the felling was for the purpose of monopoly, because Croaker sent out every man he could get with instructions to fall every pile and girder they came across; I was never employed by Mr. Croaker.

No. 67.

Office Memorandum.

Re timber claimed by Mr. Ellis and Mr. Croaker.

IN August, 1883, Mr. Ranger Cullen reported the seizure of eighty-five piles. Upon representations being made by Mr. Ellis, that he had been unable to remove them, an extension of time was granted and the timber released, a reasonable time being allowed for its removal. Mr. Ellis took out five licenses.—83-7,181 F.

Mr. Cullen on 8th April, 1885, reported that a great quantity of piles and girders, or logs intended for girders, were lying on Crown Lands between the Australian Agricultural Company's land and Myall River, some having been cut over twelve months, and portion includes that for which the extension of time had been previously given—and further, that while inspecting with Mr. Rudder, the Myall and Wallis Lake reserves, he saw a quantity of logs felled all through the different brushes, many cut several years—some within the last six months he requested permission to seize.

On May 11th following, Mr. Cullen reported a quantity of timber cut and lying on Crown Lands between Myall River and Australian Agricultural Company's land, cut about nine months before, but the licenses of the persons who felled it had not been renewed. The timber was claimed by Mr. Croaker, who had no license, but held one.—83-3,578 F.

The Ranger was instructed to seize.—83-3,578 F.

On 1st June, Mr. Cullen reported the seizure of 435 piles and logs, and stated that within a fortnight he could find 1,000 more of the same description.—85-4,233 F.

On 12th June, a further seizure of 410 logs and piles was made.—83-4,767 F.

Mr. Cullen reported that no licenses were held for this timber for the last six months.—83-4,823 F, and also on 85-4,839 F.

After a postponement of the case (85-4,802 F.) the Magistrates on 14th July gave their decision, which was as follows:—

“The timber in question was legally seized under the 58th section of the Regulations of 2nd January, and in accordance with the provision of that section is to be disposed of as directed by those Regulations. We therefore consider the matter is to be left to the Minister to decide upon, respecting its disposal as stated in the 81st section of the Regulations.”—85-5,671 F.

On 1st July, Mr. Ellis applied for an extension of time to remove some 400 logs and piles, forming portion of the lot seized. The Minister directed that the timber was to be given up upon payment of the costs incurred, and on licenses being taken out.—85-5,107 F. Ten licenses taken out by Mr. Ellis. The Ranger was therefore directed to release the timber claimed by Mr. Croaker.—85-5,617 F.

Mr. Cullen subsequently reported that no person appeared to claim the timber, and that it was not claimed by Mr. Croaker, but was being removed by Mr. Ellis.—85-7,440 F.

Representations having been made by Mr. Abigail that timber was being cut, and removed by Mr. Ellis from Crown Lands in violation of the Regulations, Mr. Ranger Higgins (Muswellbrook) was instructed to make a special report and inquiry into the matter.—85-7,504 F.

Mr. Cullen reported that he found teams removing the timber, for which no authority was produced, and Mr. Croaker informed him that he had given no permission to any person; the Ranger thereupon stopped Mr. Ellis's men.—85-7,771 F. Mr. Cullen was informed that he had no right to interfere between Mr. Croaker and Mr. Ellis, and Ranger Higgins was directed to seize the timber, if it formed the subject of inquiry, and if it appeared necessary to do so.—85-7,771 F. (Instructions not received till he returned to his station.) 500 piles were also reported to be lying on forfeited conditional purchases.

Mr. Ranger Higgins now reports that he proceeded to Sandy Creek *via* Pumpkin Point (Mr. Ellis's shipping place) and saw a number of logs, which he afterwards ascertained from Mr. Cullen amounted to 265 piles and seventy-five girders; of these there are only three marked broad-arrow, and forming portion of those originally seized; he also met eight teams—two only loaded with piles, taken off the forfeited conditional purchase. All the teamsters were afterwards warned by Mr. Cullen to cease drawing.

Upon

Upon inspecting the forfeited conditional purchases taken up by Croaker and his son, Mr. Higgins reports that they have been used as a depôt, and a number of piles and sticks have been drawn on to them from the adjoining Crown Lands, and in addition the greater part of the timber growing on the conditional purchases has been felled—420 logs were counted, and there are indications of numbers having been recently removed.

In traversing the Crown Lands lying between the Myall River and the Australian Agricultural Company's boundary, Mr. Higgins found piles and girders lying in every direction decaying, and in many instances injured by bush fires. He counted over 1,000 logs lying one on another, and examined hundreds of them which all had the brand C, which was the brand used by Mr. Croaker when acting as agent for Mr. Ellis. The timber has laid long on the ground and is overgrown by grass and brush, except where it is removed to clear ground.

Mr. Croaker and others stated that some had been felled three years, and that felling was carried on up to 31st March last. Such being the case, Mr. Higgins states that he could not have seen 20 per cent. of the trees that had been cut.

Statements are forwarded of the men who had been employed either by Mr. Croaker or Mr. Ellis, which tend to prove that wholesale destruction was carried on for the purpose of blocking others and monopolizing the whole of the trade between this part of the country, New Zealand, and other places. All available men at times were put on to fell, their instructions being to fell every pile and girder they could find. (A list of the men employed, furnished by Mr. Croaker and W. Murrell, is forwarded, but many of them have left the district.) Many of them held no licenses for a part of the time and some of them for the whole time.

The timber felled is ironbark, grey gum, and a few trees of other species.

Between Bullahdelah and Bungwall a large number of piles are lying, and there are also 170 near the Myall River, above Bullahdelah, but only fifteen are branded and paid for.

There were from thirty to forty men employed in felling alone, and as many as 1,000 piles have been branded at one branding, and frequently a branding of some hundreds took place.

Mr. Higgins estimates that there are upwards of 5,000 logs now lying in the bush, nearly all branded C. These logs contain an average of 600 feet, making in all 3,000,000 feet of valuable timber lying felled by men employed by Mr. Croaker, when agent for Mr. Ellis.

Mr. Higgins considers that no time should be lost in seizing, branding the whole of the timber for the Crown, and then putting it up in lots for sale on particular ridges and creeks, when it would probably all be disposed of.

The damage done is stated to be not only present, but also prospective, the trees having been felled before they reached maturity, and the damage cannot be assessed until it is seen what the timber will realize. The land was specially prolific in ironbark, and it is difficult to find such timber now standing.

In the opinion of Ranger Higgins, Mr. Ellis has not a shadow of a claim to a single stick of timber that has not been felled within the last three months, nor the slightest excuse for an extension of time to remove it.—85-8,000 F.

Mr. Higgins makes a further report as to the course required in the event of the timber being seized.—85-8,382 F.

It is understood that Mr. Croaker was the representative of Mr. Ellis, and the quantity of timber felled appears to be very much greater than that represented by Mr. Ellis.

Under the Regulations of September, 1878; no application was necessary for an extension of time to remove timber felled and not removed during the currency of the license, but a continuous license had to be held; but, under the 46th Regulation of 13th July, 1883, it was necessary for persons to obtain an extension of time for the removal of timber, if not removed within the currency of the license under which it was felled, and if the terms of the Regulation were not complied with the timber could be seized and sold.

From the Ranger's report and the statements of the men employed, there can be no doubt that much of the timber in question has been cut by unauthorised persons or by persons who have not held a continuous license, and that no extension of time has either been applied for and granted with reference to a greater portion of it.

Mr. Higgins reports that, besides the timber felled by direction of Mr. Croaker and Mr. Ellis, there are probably 3,000 logs for which no licenses are current. (See 85-8,381 F, separate.)

A.A.D. (for Chief Clerk.)

Forest Branch, 10th October, 1885.

The information supplied as to the result of the special inquiry indicates that timber has been cut in a most reckless, improper, and wasteful manner, and with a total disregard of the public interest. It is also rendered highly probable that the greater part of it was cut without license, and was not removed in terms of the Regulations. In view of all these facts, I see no course open but to seize the timber, leaving Mr. Ellis to establish his claim to it if he can do so.—H.W., 13/10/85. Submitted.

Approved.—F.A.W., 14/10/85.

No. 68.

Office Memorandum.

Particulars from John Johnson's statement.

28 September, 1885.

EMPLOYED by Mr. Croaker, for Mr. Ellis, to cut piles and square timber five years ago; knocked off two months ago; there was a great destruction of timber; more was felled than could be taken away; most of it now lying rotting and getting destroyed by fire; knew that he was destroying valuable timber and cutting piles that would have grown half as big again; the reason was to keep other people from getting the timber; was told to fell everything that would make a pile or girder, and stop Flannery from getting it.

There are thousands of logs cut by men employed by Croaker. The timber is not worth more than half what they were at the time of felling; all available men were put on to cut timber; was offered by Mr. Ellis an order to fell 500, or as many more piles as he could get, which he refused to do.

W.

W. Murrell, 26 September, 1885.

Employed by Mr. Croaker three and-a-half years ago to cut piles; paid 5s. per tree for felling, barking, &c.; 2s. 6d. for felling alone; ceased work February, 1885; had no license for several quarters, amounting to one-third of time; a man named Fleming, to the best of his belief, never had a license, working over six months; do not think John York, Sam. Woods, John Boyd or Armstrong, William Penfold, or Robert Dawson ever held a license.

Timber sold to Mr. Ellis, had been cut by five men employed by Flannery; none of them held a license; men afterwards employed by Mr. Ellis; believes they had no license during the time; they were working about four weeks.

As many as thirty men were felling timber; they knocked off twelve months ago; himself and twelve men remained squaring till end of February; four remained only till end of 1884.

All the best timber was felled; difficult to find good timber standing.

D. Clarke was working for nine months without a license.

Richard Hewens, 27 September, 1885.

Commenced twelve months ago; knocked off four months ago; timber felled to prevent others from getting it; forty men were working at one time; timber could not possibly be removed in a reasonable time; to the best of his belief plenty of the men were unlicensed.

Jas. Elliott, 27 September, 1885.

Commenced work two years ago in July; knocked off four months ago; over forty men employed; timber felled is lying wasting, and knew that it could not be used or taken away by Mr. Croaker; knew that the timber was being cut to block others; several of the men employed had no licenses.

Thomas O'Brien, 28 September, 1885.

Commenced to work twelve months ago; worked for a month; men were employed all over the bush felling piles, &c.; some piles have been cut over three years; held a license; consider timber was felled to prevent other contractors from getting it.

John Horning, 27 September, 1885.

Commenced work in July, 1884; knocked off February, 1885 (about eight months); have seen large quantities of timber lying in the bush cut by Mr. Croaker, and is now going to waste; the straightest and best timber has been cut; common talk among the men that the cutting was not fairplay, but done to prevent others from getting it.

A. Simmonds, 27 September, 1885.

Employed for a month at the end of 1884; have seen 2,000 logs lying in the bush going to waste; felled over twelve months.

R. Madden, 30 September, 1885.

Employed drawing timber for about eighteen months; quantity of timber left lying in the bush; considered it shame the way in which timber has been left to waste, merely to deprive others of its use.

Wm. Sullens, 30 September, 1885.

Commenced working in January, 1884; left off middle of April; thirty or forty men were employed; timber felled wholesale all over the bush; most of it is still lying there; some felled three years ago.

Thos. M'Grath, 30 September, 1885.

Employed for six weeks cutting and drawing piles obtained wherever Croaker could get them; other men were employed; a lot of the timber is still lying where it was felled.

H. Berriman, 1 October, 1885.

Employed cutting and drawing timber from July to September, 1884; lot of timber felled, half of which is still lying in the bush; had a license, but do not know anything about the other men who were working; all the timber felled was cut before reaching its prime.

STATEMENT OF MEN NOT EMPLOYED BY MR. CROAKER.—EPITOME.

F. W. Toms, 29 September, 1885.

Considered it cursed shame the way in which timber has been destroyed; Croaker's brand on piles can be seen all over the bush; consider thousands of pounds' worth have been destroyed; most of the timber is now lying rotting and been destroyed by fire.

Saml. Toms, 29 September, 1885.

Same as above; and that no timber can be got near home.

J. P. Keys, 29 September, 1885.

During last three years enormous numbers of trees have been felled by Croaker's men, now lying rotting and getting burnt in the bush; thought felling was done for the sake of monopoly; Croaker sent out every man he could to fell every pile or girder they came across.

• No. 69.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

22 October, 1885.

PROCEED at once and report promptly *re* instructions of 17th instant, to seize timber felled by order of Mr. Ellis, Port Stephens District. Report when you leave your station. Inform Mr. Ellis when you will be at Maitland, so that he may meet you.

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 70.

No. 70.

Telegram from Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Muswellbrook, 24 October, 1885.

LEAVE Monday. Will wire Ellis when and where to meet me at Maitland. Please send two branding hammers to Ranger Cullen, Booral.

EDWD. HIGGINS,

Forest Ranger.

Send branding hammers, letters \uparrow H and \uparrow I.—W.F.P., 26/10/85. Informed. Two hammers forwarded to Mr. Ranger Cullen.—26/10/85.

No. 71.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 26 October, 1885.

In reply to your telegram of the 24th instant, I have to inform you that two branding hammers, \uparrow H \uparrow I, have this day been forwarded, per Messrs. Wright, Heaton & Co., to Mr. Forest Ranger Cullen.

I have, &c.,

F. W. PIPER

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 72.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Muswellbrook, 28 October, 1885.

TERRIBLE accident to one of my horses, and lad who was to accompany me hurt, has delayed my starting for Port Stephens. Please let Ranger Cullen go on branding. Will leave as early as possible.

EDWARD HIGGINS,

Forest Ranger.

Ranger Cullen should perhaps be instructed to continue branding.—W.F.P. Forest Branch, 28/10/85. Yes.—H.W., 31/10/85.

No. 73.

Telegram from Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

Booral, Stroud, 30 October, 1885.

ELLIS's men commenced to remove piles to-day. Come soon, or instruct me.

PATRICK CULLEN.

No. 74.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Muswellbrook, 31 October, 1885.

With reference to my telegram of 28th instant, stating that I had been delayed by an accident, I have the honor to inform you that I leave for the Port Stephens' District on Monday morning, 2nd November. I regret that so much delay has occurred.

I was first delayed on account of Mrs. Higgins' ill-health, and have had to make arrangements for her leaving home for change of air. I had also, on receipt of your instructions S5-8,382 F., dated 17th instant, to procure horses for the trip; then the accident referred to, which occurred on the eve of my departure, caused still further delay. I received the enclosed telegram late last night from Ranger Cullen, and sent the following reply:—"Be with you Tuesday; seize timber if they remove it."

I will leave a telegram at the office here informing Mr. Ellis that I will meet him at Maitland on Monday afternoon.

My address for the present will be Booral.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD HIGGINS.

Forwarded.—W.F.P., 3/11/85. Seen.—H.W., 3/11/85.

No. 75.

Mr. J. C. Ellis to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Sydney, 2 November, 1885.

Referring to the seizure of 800 piles, seized at Booral, Port Stephens, and which were released in July last on certain conditions, I beg to apply for a further extension of time to take delivery of them.

I have been prevented from drawing them earlier from causes over which I have had no control; besides which your Department stopped my teams drawing them six weeks since, and my teams and men have been idle there ever since at serious loss and inconvenience to me.

I have, &c.,

J. C. ELLIS.

It is stated that the timber referred to was drawn on to land conditionally purchased, but since forfeited. (See S5-9,008 F, Forest Branch).—W.F.P., 4/11/85.

In view of all these facts, the 800 logs, if seized again, may be released, and Mr. Ellis may be allowed three months within which to remove them. The same number of licenses to be held as on the previous occasion.—H.W., 4/11/85. Submitted. Approved.—F.A.W., 4/11/85. J. C. Ellis, 4/11/85. Inform Rangers Cullen and Higgins by telegram.—W.F.P., 5/11/85. Forest-Ranger Cullen, Forest-Ranger Higgins.—5/11/85.

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No. 76.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

West Maitland, 3 November, 1885.

I have the honor to inform you that Mr. Ellis met me here last night. He informs me that the 800 logs seized and branded A by Mr. Ranger Cullen were released to him (Mr. Ellis) on payment of expenses. I was under the impression that these logs were released to Mr. Croaker, who denies all claim to them, and says he will not have them. The greater part of this timber is lying on the selections taken up by Mr. Croaker and his son, one or both of which have since been forfeited. Of the 800 logs referred to, there were at the time of my last visit only two or three at Mr. Ellis's depôt at Pumpkin Point; but the whole, with the exception of these two or three, and those that have been removed since the seizure, are included in those mentioned in my general report. An extension of time was allowed to remove, but that time had elapsed before I visited the district, and this being the case the timber must again revert to the Crown; hence it appears to me that it cannot be removed either by Mr. Ellis or Mr. Croaker, and on these grounds I instructed Mr. Ranger Cullen to stop the removal of all timber branded A or otherwise, for which the licenses were not current.

Mr. Ellis informs me that he will call upon you to-morrow; and I beg to request that you will wire me at once to Booral, Stroud, and instruct me as to whether I am to allow the timber seized by Mr. Cullen to be removed. Perhaps the better plan would be for me to see you personally before any steps are taken in the matter. Should you consider this advisable, wire me to Clarencetown early to-morrow, Wednesday, morning, and I can be in Sydney on Thursday morning.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD HIGGINS.

Mr. Ellis, in applying for extension of time, said that the men would at once prepare and remove the timber during the currency of licenses then applied for (1st July), 85-5,307 F. He was subsequently informed that the timber was released upon conditions that the expenses incurred were paid.—W.F.P., 4/11/85.

No. 77.

The Under Secretary for Mines to J. C. Ellis, Esq.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 4 November, 1885.

Having submitted for consideration your letter of 2nd instant, applying for an extension of time to remove 800 piles lying on a forfeited conditional purchase near Booral, I have the honor to inform you that the Minister for Mines has approved of your being allowed three months within which to remove the timber.

The same number of licenses to be held as on the previous occasion.

The Forest Ranger will be instructed to release the logs if they have been again seized.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD.

Inform Mr. Ellis that this letter was intended to refer to the 800 logs previously seized and released to him, and it now appears that such logs are not on the conditional purchase.—H.W., 5/11/85. J. C. Ellis, 5/11/85.

Inform Mr. Ellis that he will be allowed three months from date to remove the 800 piles seized by Ranger Cullen on the 1st and 12th June last, and released by order of the Minister, but six licenses are to be held. That the Forest Ranger has been instructed to release these piles, if they have been again seized. This letter to be in lieu of the one of yesterday's date (4).—W.F.P., 5/11/85. J. C. Ellis, 5/11/85.

No. 78.

Telegram from Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Clarencetown, 4 November, 1885.

Re my letter of yesterday, shall I come to Sydney? Would simplify matter and save time.

EDWD. HIGGINS.

Forest Ranger.

Inform no need to come to Sydney.—H.W., 4/11/85. Ranger Higgins, telegram, 4/11/85.

No. 79.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins,

4 November, 1885.

You need not come to Sydney.

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 80.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

5 November, 1885.

THE 800 logs claimed by Mr. Ellis, if seized again, may be released, and three months will be allowed for removal; the same number of licenses to be held as on the previous occasion.

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 81.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

5 November, 1885.

THE 800 logs seized by Ranger Cullen, claimed by Mr. Croaker or Mr. Ellis, and released by order of the Minister, may be moved by Mr. Ellis within three months from this date, provided Ellis holds six licenses. Ranger Cullen should point out where the 800 logs are.

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 82.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

5 November, 1885.

How do you reconcile statement made in your telegram of this date with that made in your report of the 3rd instant respecting the 800 logs lying on forfeited selections?

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 83.

The Under Secretary for Mines to J. C. Ellis, Esq.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 5 November, 1885.

With reference to previous correspondence, I have now the honor to inform you that you will be allowed three months from this date to remove the 800 piles seized by Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen on the 1st and 12th June last, and released by order of the Minister, but six licenses are to be held.

The Forest Rangers (Messrs. Higgins and Cullen) have been instructed to release these piles if they have again been seized.

This letter to be in lieu of the one of yesterday's date.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 84.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Booral, 5 November, 1885.

In my letter of 3rd instant, written from Maitland, I inadvertently stated that the timber on Croaker's selections formed part of that seized by Mr. Cullen. This is not the case; the timber seized by Mr. Cullen is in the neighbourhood of the selections, but not on them.

I wrote hurriedly, and had not the particulars with me, but hastened to rectify this mistake by telegram of this date.

As regards the timber lying on Wm. Croaker, junr's., selection, I beg to inform you that that selection is not yet forfeited. Most of the timber was drawn on to it eight months ago, and a good deal was also cut upon it.

Mr. Ellis is putting men on to draw the timber from this selection, and Wm. Croaker, junr., is the only person who can stop them from removing it until the selection is forfeited. Mr. Croaker, senr., informed me that he and his son were only dummies for Mr. Ellis, and that Mr. Ellis paid for the land and improvements; yet it appears to me that so long as the selection stands in young Croaker's name the ownership of the timber rests entirely between him and Mr. Ellis.

I have, &c.,
EDWD. HIGGINS,
Forest Ranger.

Attention is drawn to Mr. Ranger Higgins's explanation. Mr. Ranger Cullen may perhaps be asked whether he at any time stopped the removal of timber which had been drawn on to the conditional purchases.—W.F.P., 10/11/85. Yes.—H.W., 18/11/85. Forest-Ranger Cullen.—19/11/85.

No. 85.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

5 November, 1885.

THE 800 logs seized by Ranger Cullen, claimed by Mr. Croaker or Mr. Ellis, and released by order of the Minister, may be removed by Mr. Ellis within three months from date, provided Ellis holds six licenses. Ranger Cullen should point out where the 800 logs are, as on the previous occasion.

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary for Mines.

No. 86.

Telegram from Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Stroud, 5 November, 1885.

TIMBER on selection was not branded by Cullen, and did not form part of seizure.

EDWARD HIGGINS,
Forest Ranger, Booral.

Ask Ranger Higgins how he reconciles this statement with that made in his report of the 3rd instant, respecting the 800 logs.—H.W., 5/11/85. Telegram, Forest-Ranger Higgins, 5/11/85.

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No. 87.

Telegram from Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

West Maitland, 16 November, 1885.

Must return to Muswellbrook for a few days. Will report to-morrow.

EDWD. HIGGINS.

No. 88.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Muswellbrook, 17 November, 1885.

With reference to your instructions, 85-8,382 F., dated 17th October, 1885, I have the honor to inform you that I have seized and branded the attached list of timber in the parish of Nerong, Port Stephens District, particulars of which are given in said list. I also forward the lithograph of the parish of Nerong, illustrating the position of the timber seized, and that previously seized (800 logs) by Mr. Ranger Cullen. The timber, as per list, is exclusive of the 800 logs originally seized and branded by Mr. Cullen; also exclusive of about 500 piles lying in William Croaker, junior's, conditional purchase, which I find is not forfeited.

I have not yet branded or seized any timber east of the Myall River, where a number of piles and the greater number of the saw-mill logs referred to in my report of 5th October are situated. It will be seen by the enclosed lithograph, and explanation referring thereto, that in that part of the bush where the timber forming Mr. Cullen's original seizure of 800 logs is situated, all now seized has been branded with a distinguishing letter, in addition to broad-arrow. Four hammers were used, and the letter H, or I, or N, or P has been added to the \blacktriangle brand. This plan I resorted to, having been informed that Mr. Ellis's men had received orders to draw indiscriminately, the impression, perhaps, being that the 800 logs given up could not be distinguished from those lately branded, through which they are mixed.

I left the notice of this seizure with Mr. Ranger Cullen, on Sunday, 15th instant, with instructions to post it at the Stroud Court-house the next day. There are still a few outlying odd lots of timber of all descriptions to be branded west of the Myall River, which I have not yet been able to find, but hope to do so on my return. There are also, no doubt, some logs that have been missed on the ground I have gone over, owing to the thickness of the undergrowth, which rendered it impossible to find all.

I will return as soon as possible, and complete my instructions on the east side of the Myall River.

I have, &c.,

EDWD. HIGGINS.

[Enclosure.]

EXPLANATION of Lithograph—Brands and Situation of Timber.

- A.—120 piles, 64 girder logs, 3 squared pieces. Situated east of the Australian Agricultural Company's eastern boundary, north of the road from Booral to Bullahdelah, and north and west of W. Renwick's conditional purchase of 40 acres, Wm. Croaker, senior's, forfeited conditional purchase, and west of Wm. Croaker, junior's, conditional purchase. The position of this timber is shown by red dotted line, and is branded \blacktriangle only.
- B.—213 piles, 29 girder logs, and 2 squared pieces, branded \blacktriangle . Situated on Wm. Croaker, senior's, forfeited conditional purchase of 640 acres.
- C.—271 piles, 110 girder logs, 4 squared pieces. Situated north of road from Booral to Bullahdelah, north of reserve No. 84, and north and east of Wm. Croaker, junior's, conditional purchase of 640 acres, between the said boundaries the main range. The position of this timber is shown on lithograph by blue dotted lines, and is branded \blacktriangle , with the letter H, or I, or N, or P, and is interspersed with logs belonging to Mr. Cullen's original seizure of 800 logs, which are branded \blacktriangle only.
- D.—970 piles, 243 girder logs, 361 saw-mill logs, 31 squared pieces. Situated south of road from Booral to Bullahdelah, north of Australian Agricultural Company's northern boundary, west of main range, and east of Australian Agricultural Company's eastern boundary. This timber is shown on lithograph by blue dotted lines, and is branded \blacktriangle , with the letter H, or I, or N, or P, and is interspersed with the logs belonging to Mr. Cullen's original seizure of 800 logs, which are branded \blacktriangle only.
- E.—101 piles, and 25 saw-mill logs. Situated north of road, east of main range, and in the vicinity of the Crawford River. The position of this timber is shown on lithograph by red dotted line, and is branded \blacktriangle only.
- F.—158 piles, 25 girder logs, 309 saw-mill logs. Situated south of road, about 2½ miles north of Australian Agricultural Company's boundary, west of Myall River, east of main range. Is shown on lithograph by red dotted line, and branded \blacktriangle only.

List of seized timber and particulars branded from 6th November to 14th, inclusive.

1,833 piles, containing at least 600 feet superficial per pile. Value, 7s. 6d. per pile.
 471 girder logs, containing about 650 feet superficial per log. Value, 3s. 6d. per log.
 695 saw-mill logs, containing about 1,000 feet superficial per log. Value, 6d. per 100 superficial feet.

Make inquiry whether William Croaker, senior's, conditional purchase of 640 acres has been dealt with; and if it has, the date of forfeiture.—W.F.P., 18/11/85. William Croaker, senior's, conditional purchase, 640 acres, 84-23, Port Stephens, stands good in Lands conditional purchase register.—19/11/85.

1,833 piles, 471 girder logs, 695 saw-mill logs. Seized lot of these. 213 piles, 29 girders, besides 2 squared pieces, are lying upon the conditional purchase alleged to be forfeited. As, however, the conditional purchase stands good upon the conditional purchase register, the Rangers should perhaps be instructed not to interfere with the timber lying upon it.—W.F.P., 19/11/85.

Yes.—H.W., 20/11/85. Telegram to Higgins and Cullen, the latter *via* Stroud.—W.F.P., 20/11/85. Forest-Ranger Cullen, Forest-Ranger Higgins.—20/11/85.

No. 89.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Muswellbrook, 18 November, 1885.

With reference to the enclosed list of squared stuff (which I had not ready to send with other particulars yesterday), seized in the Port Stephens District, the greater part of which was paid for by and belonged to Mr. Ellis, I have the honor to point out that as it was decided to give Mr. Ellis three months' extension of time to draw the 800 logs originally seized by Mr. Ranger Cullen, it appears to me that it would

would be advisable to allow the same time for the removal of the squared timber, for if Mr. Ellis has a claim to the 800 logs which have not been worked, the claim should certainly be equally strong for timber that has been squared and prepared for market. I would therefore suggest that the squared timber be withdrawn from the present seizure, and that Mr. Ellis be allowed to remove it, although it has been many months in the bush and might be looked upon as abandoned.

I have, &c.,
EDWD. HIGGINS.

[Enclosure.]

LIST of squared timber seized in Port Stephens District, Parish of Nerong.

| | Ft. | In. | In. | Ft. | In. | Pn. | Solid Feet. | | Ft. | In. | In. | Ft. | In. | Pn. | Solid Feet. | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|---|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|--------|-------------|---|----|---|-----|---|---|---|-----|
| 1 piece | 33 | length | 14 | × | 14 | = | 44 | 11 | 0 | = | 45 | 1 piece | 36 | length | 10 | × | 10 | = | 18 | 0 | 8 | = | 18 |
| 1 " | 30 | " | 12 | × | 6 | = | 15 | 0 | 7 | = | 15 | 1 " | 16 | " | 16 | × | 12 | = | 21 | 0 | 1 | = | 21 |
| 1 " | 30 | " | 10 | × | 10 | = | 20 | 10 | 0 | = | 21 | 2 " | 32 | " | 18 | × | 6 | = | 49 | 0 | 0 | = | 49 |
| 1 " | 35 | " | 12 | × | 6 | = | 17 | 6 | 8 | = | 18 | 8 " | 50 | " | 14 | × | 14 | = | 544 | 5 | 4 | = | 544 |
| 1 " | 35 | " | 10 | × | 6 | = | 14 | 7 | 2 | = | 15 | 8 " | 50 | " | 12 | × | 12 | = | 400 | 0 | 0 | = | 400 |
| 1 " | 20 | " | 12 | × | 12 | = | 20 | 0 | 0 | = | 20 | 5 " | 42 | " | 14 | × | 12 | = | 246 | 5 | 6 | = | 246 |
| 1 " | 20 | " | 10 | × | 10 | = | 13 | 10 | 8 | = | 14 | 3 " | 22 | " | 14 | × | 12 | = | 77 | 5 | 6 | = | 77 |
| 3 " | 30 | " | 12 | × | 12 | = | 90 | 0 | 0 | = | 90 | 1 " | 26 | " | 12 | × | 12 | = | 26 | 0 | 0 | = | 26 |
| 1 " | 20 | " | 12 | × | 6 | = | 10 | 0 | 5 | = | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 " | 30 | " | 10 | × | 5 | = | 10 | 2 | 6 | = | 10 | 41 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1,639 cubic feet, worth 9 per foot. | | | | | | | 19,668 superficial feet, worth about 6s. 3d. per 100. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

See decision as to removing timber worked and prepared ready for use.—W.F.P., 23/11/85. Ask Ranger Higgins whether the squared logs were cut under license.—H.W., 23/11/85. Telegram—Forest-Ranger Higgins, 23/11/85.

No. 90.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Sir,
Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 19 November, 1885.
With reference to previous correspondence respecting the cutting and removing of timber by persons employed by Mr. Ellis, I have to request that you will be good enough to report whether you at any time stopped the removal of timber which had been drawn on to the conditional purchases.

I have, &c.,
W. F. PIPER
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 91.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

Sydney, 20 November, 1885.
WILLIAM CROAKER, senior's conditional purchase has not yet been dealt with. You should not interfere with the piles, girders, and squared pieces lying upon it.

GERARD E. HERRING
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 92.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Sydney, 20 November, 1885.
WILLIAM CROAKER, senior's conditional purchase has not yet been dealt with. You should not interfere with the piles, girders, and squared pieces lying upon it.

GERARD E. HERRING
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 93.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Sir,
Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 21 November, 1885.
Mr. Samuel Campbell having applied for an extension of time to remove certain timber cut by him for Mr. Croaker, for which he had not been paid, I have to inform you that no extension will be allowed.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD.

No. 94.

The Under Secretary for Mines to S. Campbell, Esq.

Sir,
Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 21 November, 1885.
In reply to your letter of 29th September last, I have to inform you that the extension of time applied for for the removal of certain timber cut near Clarencetown cannot be granted.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 95.

No. 95.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 21 November, 1885.

In reply to yours of the 19th instant, No. 85-9,230, I have the honor to report that I have not interfered with the removal of any timber drawn on to the selected lands of Mr. Croaker, jun.; but the land selected by Mr. Croaker, sen., has been recommended by the Land Board for forfeiture, and since the arrival of Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins the timber has been branded. Mr. Croaker, sen., has stated to me, in the presence of Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins, that neither himself nor son were *bona-fide* selectors, but only dummies for Mr. Ellis; this matter I have reported to the Land Board of the district. Mr. Ellis's teams are now drawing from the selected land of Mr. Croaker, jun., where there are over 500 piles, none of which have been branded.

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN,
Forest Ranger.

Ask Mr. Cullen whether he interfered with removal of timber on Mr. Croaker's, sen., conditional purchase, and if he did he should furnish full particulars of date, &c. His report is not clear.—W.F.P., 2/12/85.

Mr. Ranger Cullen, 2/12/85.

No. 96.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

Sydney, 23 November, 1885.

STATE whether the squared logs reported in your letter of 18th instant as having been seized were cut under license.

GERARD E. HERRING
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 97.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Muswellbrook, 23 November, 1885.

With reference to your telegram (85-957) of this date, requiring me to state whether the squared logs reported in my letter of 18th instant as having been seized were cut under license, I have the honor to inform you that I cannot answer this question. The squared timber has the appearance of having laid a long time in the bush, some of it for years, and this will make it difficult to ascertain if it was cut under license; probably some was and some was not. I am leaving my station for the Port Stephens district to-day, and on arrival will do my best to furnish the required information.

I have, &c.,

EDWD. HIGGINS.

No. 98.

Telegram from Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Stroud, 30 November, 1885.

FOURTEEN days expired. Attended at Court-house to-day. No claim made to seized timber. Instruct me at Bullahdelah.

EDWD. HIGGINS,
Forest Ranger.

Mr. Higgins has not furnished any further information respecting the squared timber. See 85-9,642.—W.F.P. Forest Branch, 1/12/85. Having offered for sale all but the squared timber, respecting which he should supply the information asked for.—H.W., 1/12/85. Inform at upset prices named in letter of 17th November. Sale to be advertised. This, of course, does not refer to the timber lying upon the conditional purchases.—W.F.P., 1. Mr. Ranger Higgins, 1/12/85.

[Telegram.]—You report 217 piles, 110 girders branded H, I, W, or P, are interspersed with the logs of original seizure, branded A only, which have been released. It is represented the timber now under seizure includes all the 60-feet or longest piles. Ascertain if this is the fact, and why the original seizure of 800 included only the shorter logs, the long and more valuable piles lying interspersed with them being left unseized. How were the 800 originally seized identified? Also report whether Mr. Croaker has been drawing timber, and under what circumstances. Urgent.—W.F.P. Forest-Ranger Higgins, 2/12/85.

No. 99.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

1 December, 1885.

You may offer for sale, at upset price named in letter of 17th November, all but the squared timber, respecting which you should supply the information asked for; sale to be advertised. This, of course, does not refer to the timber lying upon the conditional purchases.

GERARD E. HERRING
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 100,

No. 100.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

2 December, 1885.

You report 217 piles, 110 girders, branded H, I, W, or P, are interspersed with the logs of original seizure, branded A only, which have been released. It is represented the timber now under seizures includes all the 60-foot or longest piles. Ascertain if this is the fact, and why the original seizure of 800 included only the shorter logs, the longer and more valuable piles lying interspersed with them being left unseized. How were the 800 originally seized identified; also report whether Mr. Croaker has been drawing timber, and under what circumstances? Urgent.

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 101.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 3 December, 1885.

With reference to your letter of the 21st ultimo, I have to request that you will be good enough to state whether you interfered with removal of timber on Mr. Croaker, senr's., conditional purchase; and if you did, you should furnish full particulars of date, as your report is not clear.

I have, &c.,

W. F. PIPER

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 102.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Bulladelah, 4 December, 1885.

With reference to your telegram of 20th ultimo, requesting me to state whether the squared timber seized in the Port Stephens district was cut under license or not, I have the honor to inform you that as far as I can learn the men who cut that which was for Mr. Ellis held licenses. There is, however, other square timber besides Mr. Ellis's, and I have no means of ascertaining whether it was cut under license or not, nor can I be certain what belonged to Mr. Ellis and what did not. It is unfortunate Mr. Ellis did not make a claim before the Stroud Bench, which would, at any rate, have made me aware of the number of pieces, description, &c., of the timber claimed by him, and would have enabled me to identify it.

I have, &c.,

EDWD. HIGGINS,

Forest Ranger.

Request Ranger to expedite report directed in telegram of 2nd instant, respecting the 60-foot piles.—W.F.P., 7. Telegram, Mr. Ranger Higgins, 7/12/85. It would appear advisable, under the circumstances now reported, to release the 41 squared pieces of timber.—W.F.P. Forest Branch, 7/12/85. Submitted for approval.—H.W., 9/12/85. Approved.—G.F., 10/12/85. Inform. Telegram sent to Rangers Higgins and Cullen, 10/12/85. J. C. Ellis, 10/12/85.

No. 103.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Bullahdelah, 6 December, 1885.

With reference to your telegram of 2nd instant, I have the honor to inform you:—

1. That the representation made to the effect that the timber now under seizure includes all the 60-foot or longest piles is incorrect. It is, however, certain that the seizure made by Mr. Cullen originally does not contain so large a proportion of the long lengths, for the following reasons:—Mr. Cullen branded and seized the timber that came handiest, was easiest found, and easiest to get at. Now, long lengths are scarcer than short ones, and are in greater demand. For years past piles have been drawn, and the best drawn first, from the locality where this seizure took place. The men employed in drawing drew those easiest to get at first, and consequently removed most of the longest piles from the most accessible places, previous to Mr. Cullen's seizure, and from among the very logs he afterwards branded; but they have not got them all, and there are long lengths still lying in the bush, which are part of the original seizure, branded broad-arrow only, and if the men look carefully they can find them. Mr. Cullen informs me that he can point out long lengths among the logs of his original seizure; but I beg respectfully to state that it appears to me it would be absurd to ask Mr. Cullen to dance attendance on Mr. Ellis's employees, when, by paying the men who helped to cut the timber, Mr. Ellis can have all the piles in the bush found, long or short.

I organized a regular system of branding the timber of the present seizure, and, with the assistance of two men, Mr. Cullen, and occasionally the lad I brought from my head-quarters, crossed the bush at as regular intervals as the broken nature of the country would permit, but I did not notice that any piles were left unbranded in places where Mr. Cullen could find them easily, without going into rough places. He has branded them in patches where they were thickest, as they came in, irrespective of lengths.

2. The 800 originally seized were identified by the broad-arrow Mr. Cullen branded them with, whereas those belonging to the present seizure had no brand except C, which was the brand used by Mr. Croaker, when agent for Mr. Ellis, until they were branded broad-arrow, H, I, N, or P by myself and those with me.

3. Mr. Croaker is not carrying on the timber trade in his own name. His son is, however, engaged in it. Some timber has been drawn for him, but it was squared stuff. I have seen some of his timber in the bush, but it was recently felled, and was also squared.

During

During the time Mr. Croaker, senior, was acting as agent for Mr. Ellis, and previous to Mr. Cullen's seizure, a large number of piles were drawn on to the selection taken up by Croaker, junior, from the adjoining Crown lands, and many of these are long lengths, and of the very best quality. Whether Mr. Croaker, senior, had any ulterior motive in drawing a large quantity of valuable timber on to the selection held by his son I am not prepared to say. Mr. Croaker's conduct has, however, been rather extraordinary, to say the least of it, as the following will show:—On my first visit to Sandy Creek Mr. Croaker informed Mr. Cullen and myself, in the presence of each other, that he and his son were merely dummies for Mr. Ellis, whose money had paid for the selections, improvements, and felled timber. In the face of this I am informed that Croaker, junior, applied some time ago for a conditional lease, which looks as if he intended to hold the selection he dummied for Mr. Ellis, and by so doing he will be able to hold the timber drawn on to it, as well as that originally felled upon it.

I have, &c.,
EDWD. HIGGINS,
Forest Ranger.

Under this report it appears the 800 logs, &c., originally seized were branded broad-arrow by Ranger Cullen. The explanation given respecting his missing some of the longer lengths appears reasonable.—W.F.P.

Forest Branch, 9/12/85.

The leading points in this report may be conveyed to Mr. Ellis, and he may be informed that his complaints concerning the action of the Rangers in regard to the seized timber appear to be without foundation.—H.W., 9/12/85.

Submitted. Approved.—G.F., 10/12/85. J. C. Ellis, 12/85.

No. 104.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Bullahdelah, 6 December, 1885.

I have the honor to inform you that I have advertised the seized timber for sale at Stroud Court-house, on 18th instant, noon. In compliance, with your instructions the timber on the conditional purchase or that squared has not been advertised.

Herewith I enclose copy of advertisement, which was sent to the *Maitland Mercury*, *The Newcastle Herald*, and *Gloucester Gazette*.

I have, &c.,

EDWD. HIGGINS.

[Enclosure.]

O.H.M.S.

Notice.—To timber shippers, contractors, timber getters, and others.

It is hereby notified for general information that the confiscated timber specified hereunder will be offered for sale in lots at Stroud Court-house on Friday, the 18th December instant, on behalf of the Crown.

The timber is chiefly ironbark with grey gum, and other species.

1,620 piles; estimated to contain an average of about 50 cubic feet each.

442 girder logs; estimated to contain 650 superficial feet, more or less, per log.

695 saw-mill logs; estimated to contain 1,000 superficial feet, more or less, per log.

Particulars of the timber may be obtained from this Department, Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen, Stroud, and Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins, Muswellbrook.

Department of Mines, 10 December, 1885.

[Advertisement inserted in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Sydney Daily Telegraph*.]

[Advertisement inserted in the *Maitland Mercury*, *Newcastle Herald*, and *Gloucester Gazette*.]

To timber shippers, contractors, and others.

At Stroud Court-house, Friday, 18th December, noon, to be sold by auction on behalf of the Crown—

1,620 piles.

442 girder logs.

695 saw-mill logs.

Particulars of same can be obtained from Department of Mines, Sydney; Patrick Cullen, Forest-Ranger, Booral; and Edward Higgins, Forest-Ranger, Muswellbrook.

EDWD. HIGGINS,

Forest Ranger.

In reports 85-S,314 and 8,332 F, Mr. Higgins said it would be advisable to divide the timber into lots; this it is thought should be done. The upset price may be fixed at the rates suggested by him, 85-9,554 F, viz., piles, 7s. 6d. each; girders, 3s. 6d.; saw-mill logs (1,000 feet each), 6d. per 100 superficial feet. The description of the timber should have been given in the advertisement.—W.F.P., Forest Branch, 9/12/85.

Submitted for approval, and the notice may be amended and inserted in the Sydney papers.—H.W., 9/12/85. Approved.—G.T., 10/12/85. Forest-Ranger Higgins with fresh notice, 10/12/85. Inform that Mr. Ellis having agreed to the conditions, the 200 piles may be released. Inform Mr. Cullen also of postponement of sale. Telegram.—W.F.P., 15/12/85. Forest-Ranger Higgins, Forest-Ranger Cullen, 15/12/85.

No. 104½.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

7 December, 1885.

EXPEDITE report directed in telegram of 2nd instant respecting the sixty 60-foot piles.

G. E. HERRING
(For Under Secretary for Mines).

No. 105.

No. 105.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to W. Sydney, Esq.

Dear Sydney,

I wish you would let any of the timber merchants at Newcastle know I have a large sale of confiscated timber at Stroud on the 18th December, 1885, consisting of—1,883 piles, from 56 to 70 feet, 471 girder logs, 41 squared girders, and 695 saw-mill logs.

Any gentleman wanting timber for exportation can be suited, as most of the timber is within 6 miles of water carriage.

Booral, 7 December, 1885.

Yours, &c.,
P. CULLEN.

No. 106.

Telegram from Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Bullahdelah, 7 December, 1885.

LETTER in reply to telegram of 2nd will reach you Wednesday. Representation *re* long piles incorrect.EDW. HIGGINS,
Forest Ranger.

No. 107.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Bullahdelah, 8 December, 1885.

In reply to yours of the 2nd instant, No. 85-9,632, requesting me to state whether I interfered with the removal of timber from Mr. Croaker, senior's, selection, and, if so, when, I have the honor to state that in the first week in November, 1885, in company with Mr. Ranger Higgins, I branded a quantity of piles and logs on the selection, previous to which Mr. Croaker stated to Mr. Higgins and myself that he was only a dummy for Mr. Ellis. In addition to which, the gentlemen composing the Land Board had informed me had recommended the forfeiture of the said selection. I also received an authority from the Under Secretary for Lands not to allow anything to be removed from the selection.

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN,
Forest Ranger.

There are two conditional purchases. The timber upon Mr. Croaker, junior's, conditional purchase was not interfered with. Removal of timber branded upon Mr. Croaker, senior's, conditional purchase was stopped.—W.F.P. Forest Branch, 9/12/85. If Ranger Cullen acted under instructions from the Lands Department this Department will not, I presume, interfere, and Mr. Ellis may be informed. Submitted.—H.W., 9/12/85. Approved.—G.T., 10/12/85. Communication sent to Mr. Cullen as stated. Papers 85-2,039 Occ. with Occupation Branch.—10/12/85. Inform as directed.—W.F.P., 10/12/85. J. C. Ellis, 11/12/85. Forest-Ranger Cullen, 12/12/85.

No. 108.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

10 December, 1885.

THE forty-one square pieces of timber should be released to Mr. Ellis.

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 109.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

10 December, 1885.

THE forty-one square pieces of timber should be released to Mr. Ellis.

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 110.

The Under Secretary for Mines to J. C. Ellis, Esq.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 10 December, 1885.

Referring to previous correspondence respecting the squared timber seized in the Port Stephens district, I have the honor to inform you that the Forest Rangers have been instructed to release the forty-one squared pieces of timber.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 111.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 10 December, 1885.

With reference to the copy of the advertisement forwarded by you respecting the timber to be offered for sale on the 18th instant, I have to enclose an amended notice, and to request that you will be good enough to have it inserted in the papers named in lieu of the previous one.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 112.

No. 112.

Telegram from Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Stroud, 11 December, 1885.

AM on my way to Muswellbrook; communicate with me there.

EDWARD HIGGINS.

Letter, *re* fresh advertisement, timber seizure, forwarded yesterday, to care of Ranger Cullen, Stroud, 11/12/85.

Fresh instructions will now require to be sent, *re* release of 200 piles, and informing piles in lots C and D should be withdrawn for the present, and asking whether he considers the remaining lots should be offered or the whole withdrawn, pending removal of the 200.—W.F.P., 11/12/85.

Forest-Ranger Higgins, Forest-Ranger Cullen, 12/12/85.

No. 113.

Office Memorandum.

MR. CULLEN improperly stopped removal of part of the 800 logs seized and released, about twelve days before the time allowed for removal had expired.

Ranger Higgins, by warning the men, also stopped removal of the other timber, about which he was instructed to inquire. There were eight teams engaged—85-8,000 F.

Certain squared pieces which were seized have since been released.

Mr. Ellis contends that stopping his men before the timber was actually seized was illegal. This may, however, be considered questionable.

He represents personally that he has suffered heavy loss, partly through the wrongful acts of his former agent, and partly through the action of the Ranger; that if his men had not been stopped he would have had a large number of piles shipped on board a vessel which is now detained at a cost of £10 per diem.

He asks that he may be permitted to take 50 piles from lot C of 271, and 150 piles from lot D of 970. He requires the long piles for the purpose of fulfilling a contract. If his request be granted, it is suggested that it should be upon the understanding that they are taken in full satisfaction of any claims he considers he may have against the Department, and that the piles be removed within, say, one month.

It would be necessary to postpone the sale of the two lots of piles, if not the whole of the timber.

W.F.P., 11/12/85.

Forest Branch.

Submitted. The selection to be limited to log branded C, and not exceeding 60 feet each.—H.W., 11/12/85. Approved.—G.T., 11/12/85. J. C. Ellis, 12/12/85. Reply, 85-10,440. Forest-Ranger Higgins, Forest-Ranger Cullen on 85-10,389 F.

No. 114.

The Under Secretary for Mines to J. C. Ellis, Esq.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 11 December, 1885.

With reference to your personal representations respecting the course taken in preventing the removal of timber from Mr. Croaker, senr.'s, conditional purchase in the Port Stephens District, I am directed to inform you that as Mr. Ranger Cullen acted under instructions from the Department of Lands, this Department will not interfere.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 115.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 12 December, 1885.

With reference to previous correspondence respecting the seizure of timber in the Port Stephens District, I am directed to inform you that the Minister for Mines has approved, upon certain conditions, of 200 piles being released to Mr. J. C. Ellis, the selection to be limited to the logs branded C, and not to exceed 60 feet each; the timber to be removed within one month. The piles in lots C and D should therefore be withdrawn from sale.

You will be good enough to report at once by telegram whether you consider the remaining lots should be offered for sale or the whole withdrawn, pending removal of the 200.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 116.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 12 December, 1885.

With reference to previous correspondence respecting the seizure of timber in the Port Stephens District, I am directed to inform you that the Minister for Mines has, upon certain conditions, approved of 200 piles being released to Mr. Ellis, the selection to be limited to the logs branded C, and not exceeding 60 feet long, the timber to be removed within one month.

Mr. Ranger Higgins has been so advised, and instructed to withdraw the piles in lots C and D from sale.

You will be further advised.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 117.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Sir, Department of Lands, Forest Branch, Sydney, 12 December, 1885.

With reference to your letter of 8th instant, explaining that it was upon the authority of a letter from the Under Secretary for Lands, that you refused to allow the removal of timber from Mr. Croaker's selection, I am directed to inform you that, as you acted under the instructions from the Department of Lands, this Department will not interfere. Mr. Ellis has been so advised.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 118.

The Under Secretary for Mines to J. C. Ellis, Esq.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 12 December, 1885.

With reference to previous correspondence, and to your personal representations, I am directed to inform you that the Minister for Mines has approved of 200 of the piles seized in the Port Stephens District being released to you, the selection to be limited to logs branded C, and not exceeding 60 feet each, 50 of the piles to be removed from the lot of 271, lying north-east of Wm. Croaker, junr.'s conditional purchase of 640 acres, west and south of the main range; 150 to be removed from the lot of 970 piles, lying south of the road from Booral to Bullahdelah, and west of the main range.

The timber is released upon the understanding that the piles are taken in full satisfaction of any claim you consider you may have against the Department, and that the piles are removed within one month.

The Forest Ranger will be directed to withdraw the logs from sale, upon receipt of your letter agreeing to these terms.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No 119.

J. C. Ellis, Esq., to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Newcastle, New South Wales, 14 December, 1885.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, 85-10,391.

I agree to the terms set out therein; at the same time, I beg to state that the value of the piles released are not worth one-quarter the amount of loss I have sustained, owing to the illegal action of your Forest Ranger in stopping all my work, preventing my men from working, and teams from drawing, for a period of two months.

This loss is now aggravated by it having led to the detention of my vessel, the "Speedwell," of 600 tons capacity, now in Port Stephens, waiting for the piles now released, and which would have been drawn in before now had I not been illegally interfered with.

The time you give me to get the 200 piles drawn in is, owing to the holidays now approaching, too short, and I respectfully request you will extend the time to so remove them to (say) two months from date, for bushmen always take practically three weeks' holiday at Christmas and New Year. I beg, further, to ask you to allow me to take said piles up to 65 feet long. I only require them 60 feet, but they cannot be picked the exact length, and besides, the piles are sometimes split at the ends, or otherwise damaged, and thus have to be reduced in length, by cutting off that portion split or otherwise damaged in the falling.

I have, &c.,

J. C. ELLIS.

Mr. Ellis asks that the time for removal may be extended to two months, on account of the holidays, and that the length of the piles may be extended to 65 feet.—W.F.P., Forest Branch, 15/12/85. Submitted.—H.W., 15/12/85. Approved.—G.T., 15/12/85. Inform by letter Rangers and Mr. Ellis.—W.F.P. Forest Rangers Cullen and Higgins and J. C. Ellis, 16/12/85.

Mr. Ellis requested also to arrange for marking the 200 piles within the time originally named. Await for a few days, until date of sale is finally decided. Advertisement to be inserted two or three times in the Sydney papers.—W.F.P., 17/12/85.

No. 120.

Telegram from Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Muswellbrook, 14 December, 1885.

ALL descriptions of timber should be withdrawn for the present and sale postponed till 15th January; postponement should be advertised at once; new advertisement should be telegraphed to papers this day; no time to write them. Instruct me by wire.

EDWARD HIGGINS,

Forest Ranger.

Recommended that the sale be postponed. Mr. Higgins to inform papers.—W.F.P., 14/12/85. Forest-Ranger Higgins, 14/12/85.

No. 120½.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

Sydney, 14 December, 1885.

THE sale should be postponed; you should telegraph to papers as suggested.

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary for Mines.

No. 121.

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No. 121.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

15 December, 1885.

MR. ELLIS having agreed to the conditions, the 200 piles may be released.

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 122.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

15 December, 1885.

SALE of seized timber postponed ; Mr. Ellis having agreed to the conditions, the 200 piles may be released ; Mr. Higgins has been informed.

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 123.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 16 December, 1885.

With reference to my letter of 12th instant, respecting the timber released to Mr. Ellis upon certain conditions, I am directed to inform you that the time for removal of the 200 piles has been extended to two months, and that the maximum length of the piles has been fixed at 65 feet, instead of 60.

Mr. Ranger Cullen has been informed.

You should report whether the remaining piles, &c., are worth the upset price fixed, describing the quantities in the different lots to be offered ; state whether you consider the sale should now be fixed for the 15th January, and prepare a fresh advertisement affording particulars of the kind of timber and approximate quantity.

Mr. Ellis has been requested to arrange for marking the 200 piles within the time originally named.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 124.

The Under Secretary for Mines to J. C. Ellis, Esq.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 16 December, 1885.

Having submitted for consideration your letter of 14th instant, I am directed to inform you that the time allowed for the removal of the 200 piles released to you has been extended to two months, and that the maximum length of the piles has been fixed at 65 feet.

Forest-Rangers Higgins and Cullen have been so advised.

You should arrange with the Rangers for marking the piles within the time originally allowed.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 125.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 16 December, 1885.

With reference to your letter of 12th instant, respecting the timber released to Mr. Ellis upon certain conditions, I am directed to inform you that the time for removal of the 200 piles has been extended to two months, and that the maximum length of the piles has been fixed at 65 feet, instead of 60. Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins has been so informed.

Mr. Ellis has been requested to arrange for marking the 200 piles within the time originally named.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 126.

Mr. C. Dee, jun., to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Nerong Saw-mills, Bullahdelah, 18 December, 1885.

I beg to make application for an extension of time to remove some saw-mill logs now lying on Crown lands, the same having been felled under authorized licenses, and which are now branded by the Forest-Rangers. I also beg to state that the timber named was felled for saw-mill purposes, but could only be removed during the summer months of the year, as the locality they abound is completely rotten. I beg further to ask for an extension of six months to remove the same.

I have, &c.,
CHARLES DEE, JUN.

Mr. Ranger Cullen for report. Particulars of the brands, quantity, &c., should be furnished.—
W.F.P. (for U.S.), B.C., 21/12/85. Department of Mines. Inform.—W.F.P., 21/12/85.
C. Dee, jun., 21/12/85.

No. 127.

No. 127.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. C. Dee, jun.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 21 December, 1885.
I have to inform you that your application for an extension of time to remove certain timber from Crown lands has been referred for the report of Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen, Stroud.

I have, &c.,
W. F. PIPER,
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 128.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Bullahdelah, 21 December, 1885.

On no account allow Mr. Ellis to mark piles unless a Ranger be present; letter will reach you Wednesday; I shall be at Booral Tuesday, and Wednesday at Muswellbrook.

EDWD. HIGGINS,
Forest Ranger.

As the particular lots from which the 200 piles are to be taken have been defined and the maximum length fixed at 65 feet, it is not apparent what objection there would be, excepting, perhaps, that the Ranger would have some difficulty in finding the logs.—W.F.P.

Forest Branch, 22/12/85. A Ranger should, perhaps, be present when the logs are being selected by Mr. Ellis. Could not Mr. Cullen attend to this?—H.W., 23/12/85. Mr. Ranger Cullen could attend; he will, however, be absent on leave for a period of ten days from 21st instant.—A.A.D. (for Chief Clerk). Forest Branch. Ask when he proposes to select the 200 logs released to him.—H.W., 23/12/85. J. C. Ellis, 23/12/85.

No. 129.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Booral, 22 December, 1885.

With reference to your letter 85-19,440 F., dated 22nd instant, and my telegram sent from Bullahdelah yesterday, which ran as follows:—"On no account allow Mr. Ellis to mark piles unless in the presence of a Ranger," I have the honor to point out that if the marking be left to Mr. Ellis, there is nothing to prevent his marking 400 piles in place of 200. Give Mr. Ellis an inch he will take an ell; for instance, on his receiving an extension of time to remove 800 piles seized by Mr. Ranger Cullen, he gave instructions to his men to draw whatever piles they liked, and from wherever they could find them. Again, on a further concession being made to him to draw 200 more from those comprising the present seizure, viz., 50 from the lot of 271, and 150 from the lot of 970, the men received the same orders as before. Two of them, whom I met on the road with their teams, told me they had been instructed to draw from where they liked, and that, but for meeting me, they would have drawn from the lot of 120 piles branded broad-arrow only, situated between Australian Agricultural Company's boundary and Renwick's selection. Under these circumstances I would suggest that Mr. Cullen or myself be instructed to brand the piles which Mr. Ellis desires to remove; the letter X in addition to the broad-arrow might be used as a brand, and placed on the side of the piles, or on the opposite end to that on which they are now branded. Whatever letter is used the broad-arrow should be used with it, and Mr. Ellis should be requested to keep a record of what timber he removes, from whence, and what brands it bears.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD HIGGINS,
Forest Ranger.

Mr. Ellis was informed that he would be allowed to remove 200 piles from the lots of 50-271 and 150-970, piles seized respectively, 16/12/85. 85-10,391 F. Timber to be marked within a month. He has been asked to inform the Department when he proposes to select the piles on 23/12/85-10,609 F. Forwarded with reference to the Ranger's suggestion herein.—A.A.D. (for Chief Clerk). Forest Branch, 24/12/85.

Ranger Higgins or Ranger Cullen should see the timber branded by Mr. Ellis, and should see that none but that bearing his brand, be removed by him. Any distinctive brand may be used.—H.W., 24/12/85. Submitted. Approved.—R.M.V., 24/12/85. Inform Rangers.—A.A.D., 30/12/85. Forest-Rangers Higgins and Cullen, 30/12/85. Telegram, Forest-Ranger Higgins, 30/12/85. Refer Ranger Higgins to instructions of 16th instant, and ask for report.—A.A.D., 30/12/85.

No. 130.

The Under Secretary for Mines to J. C. Ellis, Esq.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 23 December, 1885.

With reference to my letter of 16th instant, releasing 200 of the piles seized in the Port Stephens District, and requesting you to arrange for marking them, I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to inform me when you propose to select the piles.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

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No. 131.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 30 December, 1885.
I am directed to inform you that you or Forest-Ranger Higgins should see the 200 piles released to Mr. J. C. Ellis, branded by him, and should see that none but those bearing his brand are removed by him.

Any distinctive brand may be used.

I have, &c.,

GERARD E. HERRING

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 132.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 30 December, 1885.
Referring to your letter of 22nd instant, respecting the 200 piles released to Mr. J. C. Ellis, I am directed to inform you that you or Ranger Cullen should see the timber branded by Mr. Ellis, and should see that none but that bearing his brand is removed by him.

Any distinctive brand may be used.

I have, &c.,

GERARD E. HERRING,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 133.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

30 December, 1885.

You or Ranger Cullen should see Ellis brand his timber, and allow none to be removed unless branded.
Any distinctive brand may be used.

GERARD E. HERRING,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 134.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 2 January, 1886.

In reply to yours of the 30th of December, No. 85-10,655, I have the honor to report that Mr. Ellis received permission to remove 200 piles, 65 feet long, viz., 50 from the northern side and 150 from the southern side of road which runs from Booral to Bullahdelah. Up to the present time Mr. Ellis has not branded any of the piles with a distinctive brand, but the whole of them were seized and branded by Ranger Higgins and myself previously with the Government brand, broad-arrow. I will attend to your instructions and see the number is not exceeded without a further extension is granted.

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN.

No. 135.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Muswellbrook, 4 January, 1886.

With further reference to your letter, 85-10,440 F., dated 16th December, I have the honor to state that I consider the sale of all piles seized by myself and Mr. Ranger Cullen should be postponed until the expiration of the two months' extension of time allowed to Mr. Ellis for removal of 200. The three months allowed for the removal of the 800 piles originally seized by Mr. Cullen will also have expired, and probably Mr. Croaker, junior's, selection will have been dealt with by the Land Board; and as there is no doubt that the same will be forfeited, I beg to suggest that the piles remaining upon it and the 213 on the selection held by William Croaker, senior, as well as all those remaining on Crown lands and comprising Mr. Cullen's original seizure and the seizure more recently made by Mr. Cullen and myself, be offered in lots for sale on the same day. A fresh advertisement could then be framed. In the meantime a preliminary notice, with approximate number of piles, might be inserted in the papers, the day of sale being fixed fourteen days after the expiration of extension of time granted to Mr. Ellis. After which, the number of those remaining could be correctly estimated, the upset price also fixed, and should Mr. Ellis' employes have kept a record of what they draw, as suggested in my letter of 22nd December, matters will be much simplified.

As regards the three months' extension of time allowed to Mr. Ellis for the removal of the 800 piles, he has not made the most of it, and nearly the whole of his teams have been employed in removing piles from Croaker, junior's, selection. It is stated by his men that it is only a matter of form, and that he will get a further extension if he requires it. And he must be of that opinion also, or he would surely have availed himself of the concessions made to him. I state the foregoing, so that the Department may be advised should Mr. Ellis apply for a further extension of time. So far there has not been one single circumstance that I am aware of to give him any claim to any further extension for the removal of any timber belonging to either the first or second seizure. And for the sake of the future administration of the Timber Regulations in the Port Stephens District, I beg respectfully to express a hope that no further concessions whatsoever may be made. Neither would it be advisable to insert any preliminary notice in the papers unless it is finally decided that the whole of the timber will be offered for sale on the date stated in such notice. The withdrawal of any portion is only calculated to make buyers hold off. Mr. Ellis already has it in his power to say he has removed the longest and best piles, and it will be to his interest to damage the sale as much as possible.

Should

Should it be considered advisable to insert a preliminary notice of sale in the papers, to take place fourteen days after the expiration of the two months' extension of time, I beg to request that I may be advised as to the date on which that time expires. I have been advised of the extension, but not of the day on which it commenced, and therefore am ignorant of the date on which it would expire.

The last advertisement that appeared in the papers fixed the date of sale for the 15th instant. Some notice must therefore appear before that date.

I shall await your reply before taking any further steps in the matter.

With reference to the saw-mill and girder logs, I think it would be advisable to offer them for sale on the same day as the piles. The larger the quantity of timber offered the more likely is it to attract the attention of buyers.

I have, &c.,
EDWD. HIGGINS,
Forest Ranger.

The time allowed for removal of the 800 logs expires on the 5th February, and that for the 200 on 15 February next. The Ranger should, perhaps, be instructed to furnish particulars in schedule of all timber now lying under seizure, as to its value, quantity, quality, where lying, and upset price recommended. Forwarded also with reference to the notice proposed to be inserted in the paper.—A.A.D. (for Chief Clerk). Forest Branch, 6/1/86.

The sale of the seized timber may be postponed till an early day in March, to be fixed by Ranger Higgins. The present notice of sale to be withdrawn and another inserted as suggested. Mr. Ellis may be notified that unless the 800 and 200 logs be removed within the time allowed they will be re-seized and sold with the other timber early in March.—H.W., 7/1/86.

Submitted. Approved.—R.M.V., 9/1/86. Ranger Higgins, by telegram; J. C. Ellis, by letter, 9/1/86.

No. 136.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

11 January, 1886.

SALE of the seized timber may be postponed to an early day in March, to be fixed by you. Present notice of sale should be withdrawn, and another inserted as suggested, copy of which should be furnished. Forward also particulars in schedule of all timber now lying under seizure, as to its value, quantity, quality, where lying, and upset price recommended. Urgent.

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 137.

The Under Secretary for Mines to J. C. Ellis, Esq.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 11 January, 1886.

With reference to the extension of time allowed you for the removal of 800 logs, and to the time allowed for the removal of the 200 seized, but released to you—Port Stephens District—I am directed to inform you that unless the logs are removed within the time allowed, they will be re-seized, and sold with the other timber early in March.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD.

No. 138.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Muswellbrook, 13 January, 1886.

With reference to the enclosed schedules, and your letter, 86-155 F., dated 11th instant, I have the honor to inform you that I see no reason for a reduction in the upset price of the piles, or alteration of that of the other timber from the price originally given in my letter, of November 17th, reporting the seizure, viz., 7s. 6d. for the piles, 8s. 6d. (or 6d. per 100 superficial feet) for the girder logs, and 6d. per 100 superficial feet for the saw-mill logs.

Mr. Ellis will no doubt have removed many of the best of the piles, but if it is understood that no more permits for piles will be issued, the value of those already felled will be much enhanced.

I have, &c.,
EDWD. HIGGINS,
Forest Ranger.

[Enclosure.]

SCHEDULE of timber now under seizure, west side of Myall River, District of Port Stephens.

Piles, girder logs, saw-mill logs.

- 120 piles; 64 girder logs—
Situating east of the Australian Agricultural Company's eastern boundary, north of the road from Booral to Bullahdelah, and north and west of W. Renwick's conditional purchase of 40 acres, William Croaker, senr.'s, forfeited conditional purchase, and west of William Croaker, junr.'s, conditional purchase. This lot is branded broad-arrow only.
- 213 piles; 29 girder logs—
Situating on William Croaker, senr.'s, forfeited conditional purchase of 640 acres. This lot is branded broad-arrow only.
- 221 piles; 110 girder logs—
Situating north of road from Booral to Bullahdelah, north of reserve No. 84, and north and east of William Croaker, junr.'s, conditional purchase of 640 acres, between the said boundaries and the main range. This lot is branded broad-arrow with letter H or I, or N or P.
- 820 piles; 243 girder logs; 361 saw-mill logs—
Situating south of road from Booral to Bullahdelah, north of Australian Agricultural Company's northern boundary, west of main range, and east of Australian Agricultural Company's eastern boundary. This lot is branded broad-arrow with the letters H or N, or I or P.
- 101 piles; 25 saw-mill logs.
Situating north of road east of main range, and in the vicinity of the Crawford River. This lot is branded broad-arrow only.

158 piles ; 25 girder logs ; 309 saw-mill logs—

Situated south of road, about 2½ miles north of Australian Agricultural Company's boundary, west of Myall River, east of main range. This lot is branded broad-arrow only.

Total :—1,633 piles ; 471 girder logs ; 695 saw-mill logs.

All the above is in the parish of Nerong, county of Gloucester, and is exclusive of 800 piles, seized by Mr. Ranger Cullen, and given up to Mr. Ellis, also of 200 piles seized by myself and Mr. Ranger Cullen, and given up to Mr. Ellis. Forest Conservancy, Muswellbrook.—E.H., 13/1/86.

SCHEDULE of value, &c., of timber now under seizure in District of Port Stephens.

2,043 piles, containing an average of 50 cubic feet, straight and sound, being chiefly the best young ironbark ; value, 7s. 6d. 471 girder logs, containing an average of 650 feet superficial, thoroughly sound, and being almost entirely the best of ironbark ; value 6d. per 100 superficial feet.

1,463 saw-mill logs, containing an average of 1,000 feet superficial, of fair quality, chiefly ironbark, tallow-wood, gray gum, and blue gum ; value 6d. per 100 superficial feet.

Forest Conservancy, Muswellbrook.—E.H., 13/1/86.

O.H.M.S.

Preliminary notice to timber shippers, contractors, timber getters, and others.

It is hereby notified for general information, that the confiscated timber specified hereunder (the sale of which was fixed for the 15th instant), will be offered for sale in lots at the Stroud Court-house, on behalf of the Crown early in March.

Date of sale will be definitely fixed and advertised the latter end of February.

The timber is chiefly ironbark, with gray gum and other species. About 2,000 piles, estimated to contain an average of about 50 cubic feet ; 442 girder logs, estimated to contain 650 superficial feet, more or less, per log ; 695 saw-mill logs, estimated to contain 1,000 superficial feet, more or less, per log.

Particulars of the timber may be obtained from this Department, Mr. Forest Ranger Cullen, Booral, and Mr. Forest Ranger Higgins, Muswellbrook.

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

Department of Mines, 12th January, 1886.

The upset price has been approved on 85-10,250 F. Notice may be inserted in the local and Sydney papers.—H.W., 14/1/86. Notice to *Herald* and *Sydney Daily Telegraph*, one insertion weekly up to 20 February, 16/1/86.

No. 139.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 14 January, 1886.

I have the honor to report that I have applied to Mr. Ellis' overseer to go with me and brand all the 60-foot piles for which he received two months' extension of time to remove, but I find instead of 60-foot piles, they are removing all lengths, and from any portion of the forest. They state that they received extension of time to remove the first 800 I had seized, and since the 200 extra. They intend to take them where they can get them, consequently, having to look after more teams removing this timber, I have to neglect my other duties. I would suggest that if Mr. Ellis does not comply with his instructions the concessions granted should be withdrawn.

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN,
Forest Ranger.

Mr. Ellis was informed that 200 piles were released (to be limited to logs branded C) to him ; 50 to be removed from the lot of 71 lying north-east of Wm. Croaker, junr.'s, conditional purchase of 640 acres, and west and south of the main range ; 150 to be removed from the lot of 970 piles, lying south of the road from Booral to Bulladelah, and west of the main range, length of piles limited to 65 feet ; time allowed for removal, two months ; piles to be marked within one month from 16 December last—85-10,391 and 10,440 F. On 11th instant Mr. Ellis was informed that unless 200 and 800 logs were removed within the time allowed they would be seized and sold with the other timber early in March.—A.A.D. (for Chief Clerk), 15/1/86.

Mr. Ellis may be informed that unless he complies with the conditions the concessions made to him will have to be withdrawn.—H.W., 15/1/86. Submitted. Approved.—R.M.V., 18/1/86. Inform.—A.A.D., 18/1/86. J. C. Ellis, Forest-Ranger Cullen, 19/1/86. Forest-Ranger Higgins, 21/1/86. Lithograph plan now forwarded, 27/1/86. Remind Mr. Ellis.—W.F.P., 4/2/86. J. C. Ellis, 5/2/86.

No. 140.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 17 January, 1886.

In accordance with instructions, I visited the locality where the timber is now lying, and measured the timber and counted the number. The locality is Nuggarawidgee Creek. There are in all 100 logs, and the average measurement is 6 feet 8 inches in girth, and length 50 feet. Total, 166,650 feet. A quantity of this timber is branded DEE, and from the appearance I would say these logs have been felled over three years. In the beginning of November, 1885, Mr. Ranger Higgins and myself branded all this timber on behalf of the Government as disbanded timber ; and on the 16th of the same month I duly posted fourteen days' notice at the Court-house, Stroud, also at the Court-house, Bullahdelah, that a Court of Inquiry would be held at Stroud ; that all parties having any claim, should do so ; and on the 30th November Mr. Ranger Higgins and myself attended the Court, but no person appeared to claim any of the timber, and the decision of the Magistrates was that all the timber should be confiscated. This is portion of the timber now advertised for sale. I am strongly opposed that any extension of time should be granted, as this timber has been felled a number of years. Another reason, all our best timber is being felled and left to be burnt by fires, and this wilful destruction should be put a stop to.

I have, &c.,

PATRICK CULLEN,
Forest Ranger.

Ask whether the timber was felled prior to 13 July, 1883, and if continuous licenses have been held.—A.A.D., 19/1/86. P. Cullen, 19/1/86.

No. 141.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 19 January, 1886.
Referring to your letter of 17th instant, respecting Mr. Dce's application for an extension of time for the removal of certain timber, I have to request that you will report whether the timber was felled prior to 13th July, 1883, and whether continuous licenses have been held.

I have, &c.,
GERARD E. HERRING,
(For the Under Secretary.)

No. 142.

The Under Secretary for Mines to J. C. Ellis, Esq.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 19 January, 1886.
With reference to the 200 piles released to you, 50 to be selected from the lot of 71, lying north-east of Wm. Croaker, junr.'s, conditional purchase of 640 acres, and west and south of the main range, and 150 to be removed from the lot of 970, lying south of the road from Booral to Bullahdelah, and west of the main range, the length to be limited to 65 feet of piles branded C, I have now to inform you that the Ranger reports that you are removing piles of all lengths, and from any part of the forest.

The Minister for Mines directs me to inform you, that unless you comply with the conditions, the concession made to you will have to be withdrawn.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD.

No. 143.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 19 January, 1886.
Referring to your letter of 14th instant, reporting that Mr. J. C. Ellis was not complying with the conditions under which he was permitted to remove confiscated timber released to him, I have to inform you that Mr. Ellis has been informed that unless he complies with the conditions the concession made will have to be withdrawn.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 144.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Booral, 1 February, 1886.
In reply to yours of the 19th of January, requesting me to report if the timber for which Mr. Dce has made application for extension of time to remove was felled previous to the 13th of July, 1883, I have the honor to state that this timber in question has been felled over four years, and the persons who felled it have left the district. There are a number of men employed in getting timber in the immediate neighbourhood, but no especial permit for the timber, which contains about 170,000 feet. I would have the same disbanded.

I have, &c.,
PATRICK CULLEN,
Forest Ranger.

The timber appears to have been seized. Where are previous papers?—W.F.P., 4/2/86. The only seizure reported about this time (November), '69, Rangers Cullen and Higgins, is 85-9,554 (Mr. Higgins' report of 17 November, 1885), 5/2/86. Mr. Ranger Higgins will be good enough to report respecting this case. See Mr. Cullen's report, 86-649 F.—W.F.P., B.C., Mines, 5/2/86.

No. 145.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Muswellbrook, 3 February, 1886.
With reference to previous correspondence *re* seizure of timber in the Port Stephens District and concessions made to Mr. J. C. Ellis, of Newcastle, I have the honor to state that I have reason to suppose that Mr. Ellis' men have removed some piles from Crown lands, in the parish of Nerong, not originally belonging to Mr. Ellis, or bearing the C brand, and that the same have been shipped on board a vessel called the "Speedwell," now lying at Port Stephens. Mr. Ranger Cullen has been prepared at any time to brand the 200 piles, which Mr. Ellis received extension of time to remove, but no steps have been taken on Mr. Ellis' part to have those he wished to remove pointed out. I visited Pumpkin Point in company with Mr. Cullen on 29th ultimo, and found that altogether about 50 piles had been removed since 16th December, 1885; most of these were branded at Pumpkin Point wharf by Mr. Cullen, after they were brought in; some of them belong to Mr. Cullen's original seizure, some to the seizure made by Mr. Cullen and myself, some probably came from Croaker, senior's, selection, and the remainder from Croaker, junior's, unforfeited selection; these last, of course, do not form part of any seizure.

On this visit I made an appointment with Mr. Devine, Mr. Ellis' foreman at Pumpkin Point, to meet Mr. Cullen and myself at Sandy Creek on 1st instant. I was unable to keep this appointment, being detained on a Coroner's inquest at Bullahdelah. Mr. Cullen and my lad however met Devine, and proceeding

proceeded with the branding. I saw Mr. Cullen in the evening at Sandy Creek, and he informed me that he would brand all the piles required to be removed between then and 16th instant, on which date Mr. Ellis's extension of time expires.

With regard to any piles that did not originally belong to Mr. Ellis, and which may have been shipped on board the "Speedwell," I do not think there can be many; but should the Department consider it advisable to provide me with the necessary authority, I could board the vessel and examine the timber she contains. I do not think the "Speedwell" will be ready for sea for a week.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD HIGGINS,
Forest Ranger.

Ranger Cullen should have seen that only the timber on Crown Lands for which authority was given was removed. Mr. Ellis has been requested to explain this; see 86-857 F. It would not seem expedient to give authority to search the "Speedwell."—W.F.P., Forest Branch, 8/2/86.

Submitted for approval.—H.W., 8/2/86. Approved.—R.M.V., 10/2/86. Inform.—W.F.P., 9. Forest-Ranger Higgins, 11/2/86.

No. 146.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Muswellbrook, 3 February, 1886.

I have the honor to inform you that on Saturday, 30th ultimo, I found two of Mr. Ellis's teams removing piles from Croaker, senior's, selection. The men informed me they had not taken many from it, which is an admission that they have been illegally removing piles from the said selection. At my request they dropped the two they were then moving off the trucks, and informed me that they were not aware they were committing a felony.

With reference to this selection, I beg to call your attention to the fact that Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen received instructions from the Under Secretary for Lands to the effect that he was not to allow any improvements to be removed from it. The only means of ascertaining how many piles have been removed would be by counting those that are left and deducting that number from the original 213 branded by Mr. Ranger Cullen and myself, and I would suggest that Mr. Ellis be called upon to pay for any short of that number.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD HIGGINS,
Forest Ranger.

It is suggested that the report be forwarded to the Department of Lands with reference to the instructions issued by that Department to Ranger Cullen not to permit any improvements to be removed from the conditional purchase taken up by Wm. Croaker, senior, parish of Nerong, county of Gloucester. It is reported that many of these piles were drawn on the ground.—W.F.P., Forest Branch, 8/2/86.

Maybe forwarded as suggested, but I doubt whether the piles can be regarded as improvements.—H.W., 8/2/86. The Under Secretary for Lands. B.C., Mines.—G.E.H. (for U.S.), 9/2/8. Submitted, with reference to memorandum of Under Secretary for Mines.—E.L., 10/2/86.

The letter sent to Mr. Cullen was in reply to one from him of a somewhat general character. The question of the disposal of the piles rests with the Department of Mines.—C.O., B.C., 12/2/86. The Under Secretary for Mines.

In view of this minute, Ranger Cullen may be instructed not to interfere with the removal of piles from the conditional purchase of Wm. Croaker, senior, unless specifically instructed by the Lands Department, or unless the piles were illegally cut upon and removed from Crown Lands to the conditional purchase.—H.W., 15/2/86.

Submitted. Approved.—R.M.V., 18/2/86. Inform.—W.F.P. Forest-Ranger Cullen, 20/2/86. Forest-Ranger Higgins, 22/2/86.

No. 147.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Muswellbrook, 8 February, 1886.

Referring to your B.C. 86-1,185 F., of 5th instant, respecting Mr. Chas. Dee's application for extension of time to remove certain logs, and Mr. Cullen's report on the same, I beg to inform you that I know of no extenuating circumstances or any reason whatsoever to justify an extension of time being granted to Mr. Dee to remove the logs in question.

At the time Mr. Ranger Cullen and myself seized and branded the timber we looked upon it as abandoned, and whether abandoned or not it was certain that no continuous licenses had been held. It has been felled four years or more, and I am not aware what has become of the men who felled it. Mr. Dee has had men working for him since this timber was felled, but they have been employed in felling, drawing, and working new timber, and have had no connection with the logs that have been lying in the bush for years. If not cut for monopoly, these logs were cut for protection against monopoly, which amounts to about the same thing. After making the seizure, Mr. Cullen and myself conformed to Regulation No. 78, Mr. Cullen having posted a clear and comprehensive notice prepared by me, both at Stroud and Bullahdelah; this notice set forth the number of saw-mill logs and other description of timber seized. Mr. Dee in no way conformed to the said regulation; he neither made nor substantiated a claim; and if he was not aware of the seizure or posting of the notice referring to the same, he is about the only man in the district who was not.

As regards Mr. Dee's statement that the timber could only be removed during the summer months of the year on account of the locality being rotten, I beg to point out that since 25th September last (the date on which I first visited the locality) there has not been one week in which timber could not have been drawn, and during the last four dry years there has probably not been three months in each

during which the country was so unsound as to prevent timber from being removed. It is proverbial that all persons connected with the business of obtaining timber from Crown Lands waste and fall more timber than they can possibly remove in a reasonable time, and nothing but a rigid enforcement of the Timber Regulations will ever put a stop to it.

I have, &c.,

EDWD. HIGGINS.

86-649 F. The timber has been branded, seized, and confiscated. Under this report it is recommended that Mr. Dee's application for extension of time be refused.—W.F.P., Forest Branch, 11/2/86. Submitted.—H.W., 1/3/86. Approved.—J.F., 7/3/86. Inform, 18. Ranger Cullen and Mr. C. Dee, jun., informed, 23/3/86. May be placed with seizure case. Yes.—W.F.P.

No. 148.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 11 February, 1886.

With reference to your report of 3rd instant, respecting the piles removed by Mr. Ellis, I am directed to inform you that Mr. Ranger Cullen should have seen that only the timber on Crown Lands for which authority was given was removed.

It is not expedient to search the "Speedwell."

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD.

No. 149.

J. C. Ellis, Esq., to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Sydney, 17 February, 1886.

Referring to our several communications with reference to piles in the Port Stephens district, I beg to state that owing to the Christmas holidays, at which period bush teamsters generally give their teams a full month's spell before resuming work, added to the fact that when they did resume work I was unable to obtain the services of as many teamsters as I required, I have been unable to get the piles removed in the time you gave me to do so. I have, however, given instructions to have the balance of the 200 drawn out of the bush on to the road, which will have the effect of course of completely separating them from the remainder left in the bush.

With reference to the 800, I beg to state that I think it would be exceedingly unfair that these should again be re-seized, because I was, as a matter of fact, debarred from removing them by your Forest Ranger, which kept my own teams idle for a period of over two months, and which, in turn, caused the delay of my large vessel, the "Speedwell," in Port Stephens. This vessel was in port loading very nearly three months; whereas, if I had not been stopped on the occasion referred to, and which stoppage was an illegal act, the vessel would have been loaded in three weeks. Thus my loss by stoppage of teams and delay of vessel has been an actual one of fully £300 in hard cash.

As these piles are specially branded, I refer to the 800 originally seized, I respectfully submit that the remainder can be sold without these, and additional time given me to remove them.

I have, &c.,

J. C. ELLIS.

Mr. Ellis states he is drawing the balance of the 200 logs released on to the road; this will, perhaps, be sufficient removal. He asks for additional time for the removal of the 800 logs released on certain conditions on 5th November last; three months have been allowed upon the ground that the ranger stopped removal for two months; this, however, was previous to the timber being released, and that he lost a month at Christmas. For reasons set forth in letter of 4th January last, Mr. Ranger Higgins strongly recommends that no further concession be made. Mr. Ellis was accordingly informed of the decision that unless the timber was removed within the time allowed it would be seized and sold (11/1/86, 155 F.)—W.F.P., Forest Branch, 22/2/86.

As the sale of the seized timber is delayed by the non-removal of the 800 logs, I cannot recommend that the extension asked for be granted.—H.W., 22/2/86. Approved.—R.M.V., 22/2/86. Inform.—W.F.P., 23/2/86. J. C. Ellis, 23/2/86. Inform Ranger of what has been done in regard to the piles and the 800 logs.—W.F.P., 26/2/86. Forest-Ranger Higgins, 27/2/86.

No. 150.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Muswellbrook, 20 February, 1886.

With reference to the seized timber in the Port Stephens district, and previous correspondence referring thereto, I have to point out that, to facilitate the sale of the same, a road is necessary down Sandy Creek to the Branch or Serpent River for this purpose. I would suggest that a road be resumed through the Australian Agricultural Company's grant, and also a wharf at the Branch. This wharf and road are not only necessary for the removal of a great portion of the seized timber, but is also required to enable persons getting timber in the greater part of the parish of Nerong to convey the same to the water-frontage. The Australian Agricultural Company at present charge a royalty for all timber conveyed through their land. Mr. Ellis has a lease of Pumpkin Point wharf and right of road to it. This is the only road that I am aware of through the Company's land to the water-frontage, with the exception of the main road to Booral, which is a considerable round, and meets the Karuah River at the head of navigation, which is shallower and more difficult than lower down. The road suggested (and shown on accompanying sketch) is therefore of great importance to the district. The Australian Agricultural Company at present can make their own terms and charge what royalty they like on all material brought through

through their land; whereas, if the road be resumed and the royalty be imposed, as suggested in my letter of this date referring to the matter, the Crown will derive the benefit instead of the Australian Agricultural Company.

I have, &c.,
EDWD. HIGGINS,
Forest Ranger.

It would take some months to carry out the proposal to resume land for a road, and as it is advisable to dispose of the timber as soon as practicable, it is thought that the sale should not await.—
W.F.P., Forest Branch, 25/2/86. Approved.—H.W., 25/2/86. Inform, 25/2/86. Forest-Ranger Higgins, 27/2/86.

No. 151.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 20 February, 1886.

With reference to previous correspondence respecting the removal of the piles by Mr. Ellis from the conditional purchase taken up by Wm. Croaker, senior, parish of Nerong, county of Gloucester, and to the instruction issued to you from the Department of Lands, I am directed to inform you that you should not interfere with the removal of piles from the conditional purchase unless specifically instructed by the Department of Lands, or unless the piles were illegally cut upon and removed from Crown Lands to the conditional purchase.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 152.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 22 February, 1886.

With reference to your report of 3rd instant, respecting the removal of piles from Mr. Croaker, senior's, conditional purchase, county of Gloucester, by Mr. Ellis, I have now to inform you that Mr. Ranger Cullen has been instructed not to interfere with the removal of the piles from the conditional purchase unless specifically instructed by the Department of Lands, or unless the piles were illegally cut upon and removed from Crown Lands to the conditional purchase.

I have, &c.,
W. F. PIPER
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 153.

The Under Secretary for Mines to J. C. Ellis, Esq.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 23 February, 1886.

Having submitted for consideration your letter of 17th instant, applying for a further extension of time for the removal of the 800 logs released to you in the Port Stephens district, I am directed to inform you that, as the sale of the seized timber is delayed by the non-removal of these logs, the extension asked for will not be granted.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 154.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 27 February, 1886.

With reference to previous correspondence respecting the two lots of piles and logs released to Mr. Ellis, in the Port Stephens district, I am directed to inform you that, as Mr. Ellis states that he has removed the 200 piles on to a road, this is considered a sufficient removal.

In regard to the lot of 800, Mr. Ellis has been advised that, as the sale of the seized timber is delayed by the non-removal of these logs, an extension of the time allowed for removal, which expired on 15th instant, cannot be recommended.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 155.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Booral, 27 February, 1886.

With reference to the piles seized in the parish of Nerong, county of Gloucester, and certain conditions under which Mr. Ellis was granted an extension of time to remove 200 of the same, I have to inform you that in no way has Mr. Ellis conformed to the said conditions, but has treated Mr. Ranger Cullen, myself, and your instructions with contempt.

By my instructions Mr. Cullen ordered Mr. Ellis's men to cease removing piles from the Crown Lands after 16th instant, the date on which the extension of time expired; they, however, would not obey Mr. Cullen, and persisted in removing the piles.

On my last visit to this district I also warned Mr. Ellis's managers, both at Pumpkin Point and at Clarencetown, as well as the teamsters, not to remove any piles from Crown Lands after 16th instant, and informed them I would prosecute them for stealing if they did so. On my arrival here Mr. Cullen informed me that on 17th instant he met the teamsters near Sandy Creek, asked them where they were going, and told them that the time for removing the piles from Crown Lands had expired. In reply they stated they were going to draw from the selection (meaning Croaker, junr's.); instead of which, on the following

following day, they went on to Crown Lands and drew confiscated piles on to the roadside. On 22nd Mr. Cullen again saw them, in company with James Devine, Mr. Ellis's manager from Pumpkin Point, going to the Crown Lands, and warned them not to remove the piles. Devine said his instructions were to go where he liked and draw what he liked. On 23rd Mr. Cullen found the teamsters drawing from Crown Lands, and marked the piles that were on the trucks. They were then taken on to Pumpkin Point. On the 25th I went with Mr. Cullen to Pumpkin Point, when he identified the piles he had marked, which were some of those confiscated and branded \uparrow . On examining other piles lying at the wharf we found nineteen branded \uparrow , \uparrow H, \uparrow I, \uparrow N, and \uparrow P. None of these bore the C brand, were never paid for by Mr. Ellis, nor has he any claim to them. Some of them belonged to Campbell, who some months back made application for extension of time to remove a number of piles, which application was refused.

In consequence of the foregoing I have proceeded against the two teamsters, Murphy and Walsh, for stealing the timber, and against the manager, Devine, for having the same in his possession, and on a second charge for having the nineteen piles in his possession. These proceedings, in the case of the teamsters, are taken under 46 Victoria No. 17, section 165, of the Amended Act; in Devine's case, under section 167 of the same Act.

On 27th, in company of the Stroud Sergeant of Police, I went to Sandy Creek, and found the teamsters with Devine on Crown Lands; one team being hooked on to a confiscated pile, the other team standing by and ready to hook on to another. The sergeant served the men with summonses, when Devine said that Mr. Winrose (who is Mr. Ellis's head man at Clarendetown) told him to go on moving the timber, and that if he or the men were fined Mr. Ellis would pay it.

The cases will be heard at Stroud, 2nd March, when it is not improbable something will be elicited to implicate Mr. Ellis or Mr. Winrose.

I have, &c.,
EDWD. HIGGINS,
Forest Ranger.

No. 156.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 27 February, 1886.

In reply to your letter of 20th instant, respecting the timber seized in the Port Stephens district, I have to inform you that as it would take some months to carry out the proposal to reserve land for road, and as it is advisable to dispose of the timber as soon as practicable, it is considered that the sale should not await.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 157.

J. C. Ellis, Esq., to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Newcastle, 1 March, 1886.

In reply to your letter (86-1,881) of 23rd February, I beg to state that I think, under the circumstances previously explained, I ought to be allowed an additional time to remove the piles.

I propose, if you will give me additional time, to draw the piles out on to the road only, so as to separate them from the remainder.

In any case I do not see why my being given time to do this need delay the sale, as those released to me are specially marked, and, if not, they could be; but the 800 lot are specially marked.

Your Forest-Ranger has thrown obstacles in my way, and, as you are aware, illegally stopped my teams and laid them idle several weeks, to my great pecuniary loss.

I will attend personally at your office on Wednesday next, the 2nd instant.

I have, &c.,
J. C. ELLIS.

See Ranger's report, 86-2,120.—W.F.P., 2/3/86.

Mr. Ellis to be allowed six weeks to remove the timber authorized by Mr. Secretary Abbott to be released to Mr. Ellis, and if removed by Mr. Ellis on to a road the Department will have done with it. The Minister of Justice to be asked to remit the penalties on Murphy and Walsh.—H.W., 4/3/86.

Submitted. Approved.—J.F., 4/3/86. Telegram to Rangers Cullen and Higgins, 4/3/86. Inform Mr. Ellis, 5/3/86. J. C. Ellis, 5/3/86.

No. 157½.

Telegram from the Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

1 March, 1886.

HAVE you taken proceedings against person named Devine, employed by Mr. Ellis, for being in possession of certain logs; if so, ask for postponement of case for seven days, and report fully; if you have not taken proceedings report by telegram at once.

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary for Mines.

No. 158.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Booral, 1 March, 1886.

With reference to your letter 86-1,881 F. dated 27th February, concerning the 200 piles released to Mr. Ellis, I have to inform you that Mr. Ellis's statement to the effect that he has removed said 200 piles on to a road is incorrect. Of the confiscated piles Mr. Ellis has now only thirteen on a road, and these have been re-seized by Mr. Ranger Cullen on account of their having been removed since the 16th February.

What

Campbell cut
the piles for
Croaker,
85-7,824 F.

By instructions
cases postponed
to 9th instant.

What object Mr. Ellis could have in making such a statement I cannot say, unless it was to enable him to claim any piles he might remove after the extension of time expired, and but for the proceeding referred to in my letter of 27th ultimo having been taken, a considerable number would be now on the road, as the men state that Mr. Winrose, Mr. Ellis's manager at Clarencetown, told them the extension of time would not expire till 16th March. Mr. Winrose was aware such was not the case.

I have, &c.,

EDWD. HIGGINS.

Under date of 17th February, Mr. Ellis stated he was drawing the balance of the piles to the road.—W.F.P., 4/3/86.

No. 159.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 1 March, 1886.

With reference to the seized timber in the Port Stephens district, and extension of time granted to Mr. Ellis to remove 200 piles, the said 200 to bear his brand C, I have to inform you that there are 20 piles lying near Mr. Ellis's wharf, at Pumpkin Point (19 of which are referred to in my letter of 27th ult.), which do not bear the C brand, but are some of the confiscated piles. In my opinion these piles will disappear if not removed; I therefore beg to request that you will authorize me to employ the necessary labour to remove these piles to a place of safety without delay. The new Booral public wharf, which is less than a mile from where they now are, would be convenient, and the piles would probably bring a high price there.

I have, &c.,

EDWD. HIGGINS,

Forest Ranger.

These piles should perhaps be counted as part of number released to Mr. Ellis.—W.F.P., 4/3/86. In order to avoid any question concerning these piles, they may be counted as part of the 200.—H.W., 4/3/86. Inform both Rangers.—W.F.P., 4/3/86. Forest-Ranger Higgins, 5/3/86; Forest-Ranger Cullen, 5/3/86.

No. 160.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 1 March, 1886.

With reference to the sale of the confiscated timber in the Port Stephens district, I have to point out that the piles belonging to Mr. Cullen's seizure must be counted, also lots C and D, which consisted of 271 and 970 respectively, before the sale can take place, as it is impossible to say what has been removed by Mr. Ellis. Each pile must be marked as it is counted, to avoid its being counted a second time, and thereby causing confusion. It will be necessary to employ some of the men in the district, and I beg to request that you will authorise me to employ what labour I require.

I have, &c.,

EDWD. HIGGINS,

Forest Ranger.

The expenses up to end of January amounted to £93 9s. Mr. Ranger Higgins should submit an estimate of the cost.—W.F.P., 4/3/86.

Mr. Ellis has been granted six weeks, or to 15th April, to remove the timber released to him. Mr. Higgins should furnish an estimate of the cost of proposed assistance in counting and marking. The expenses in this case have already been very heavy. He should also prepare a statement showing description of timber, quantity, brands, and locality where lying, distinguishing each lot, and specifying separately the timber to be removed by Mr. Ellis. It is advisable that this should be done before the sale is advertized.—W.F.P., 16/3/86. Forest Branch.

Approved.—H.W., 16/3/86. Forest-Ranger Higgins, 17/3/86. Inform Mr. Rudder of instructions issued to Mr. Ranger Higgins on the 17th March.—W.F.P., 7/4/86. Forest-Ranger Rudder, 7/4/86.

No. 161.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 2 March, 1886.

With reference to the prosecution against James Devine, I have the honor to inform you that the postponement granted to-day will, of course, give him time to obtain the services of a solicitor. It will be of the greatest importance to Mr. Ellis that the case against Devine should be dismissed, and he will probably spare no expense to secure this end. Should he be successful the authority of Mr. Ranger Cullen and myself will be set at defiance, and he will go on removing the confiscated timber in spite of us. Under these circumstances I most urgently request that you will authorize me to obtain the services of a solicitor for the prosecution.

There are a number of other persons in the district whose timber has been seized, and should Devine's case be dismissed, it will become a precedent, and the forest rangers' authority will be set at nought.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD HIGGINS,

Forest Ranger.

[Enclosures.]

Summons.

To James Devine, of the Karuah River, in the Colony of New South Wales,—
WHEREAS complaint on oath hath this day been laid before the undersigned, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said Colony of New South Wales, for that you, on the 25th day of February instant, at a wharf known as Pumpkin Point, in the said Colony, had in possession two portions of trees removed from Crown lands in the parish of Nerong, in the Colony aforesaid, the same being the property of the Crown, and each portion exceeding the sum of 1s. in value, contrary

contrary to the Act in such case made and provided: These are therefore to command you, in Her Majesty's name, to be and appear, on Tuesday, the 2nd day of March next, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, at the Police Office, Stroud, in the said Colony, before such Justice or Justices of the Peace for the said Colony as may then be there, to answer to the said complaint, and to be further dealt with according to law.

Given under my hand and seal, this 25th day of February, in the year of our Lord 1886, in the said Colony,—
THOS. LAMAN, J.P.

Summons.

To James Devine, of Karuah River, in the Colony of New South Wales,—
WHEREAS complaint on oath hath this day been laid before the undersigned, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said Colony of New South Wales, for that you, on the 25th day of February instant, at a wharf known as Pumpkin Point, in the said Colony, had in possession nineteen portions of trees removed from Crown lands in the parish of Nerong, in the Colony aforesaid, the same being the property of the Crown, and each portion exceeding the sum of 1s. in value, contrary to the Act in such case made and provided: These are therefore to command you, in Her Majesty's name, to be and appear, on Tuesday, the 2nd day of March next, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, at the Police Office, Stroud, in the said Colony, before such Justice or Justices of the Peace for the said Colony as may then be there, to answer to the said complaint, and to be further dealt with according to law.

Given under my hand and seal, this 26th day of February, in the year of our Lord 1886, at Stroud, in the said Colony,—
THOS. LAMAN, J.P.

Forwarded.—W.F.P., 4/3/86. Inform Ranger Higgins and prosecuting constable that the case against Mr. J. Devine is to be withdrawn. (See decision on 86.) Also inform Mr. Ellis.—W.F.P., 4/3/86. Forest-Ranger Higgins, Crown Bailiff of Stroud, and J. C. Ellis, 5/3/86.

No. 162.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 2 March, 1886.

I have the honor to forward for your approval two copies of an advertisement which I propose to insert in the papers, and would suggest that one or more insertions should be forwarded to a metropolitan paper should the enclosed meet with your approval. I beg to request that you will notify the same to me by telegram, so that there may be an appearance in next Saturday's *Maitland Mercury*.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD HIGGINS,
Forest Ranger.

[Enclosure.]

O.H.M.S.—Notice.

To timber shippers, contractors, timber-getters, and others.

It is hereby notified for general information that the confiscated timber specified hereunder will be offered for sale in lots at Stroud Court-house, on Thursday, 18th March instant, at noon, on behalf of the Crown. The timber is principally iron-bark, with grey gums and other species:—

2,200 piles, estimated to contain an average of about 50 cubic feet.

442 girder logs, estimated to contain 650 superficial feet, more or less, per log.

695 saw-mill logs, estimated to contain 1,000 superficial feet, more or less, per log.

A lithograph plan will be exhibited at the sale showing the position of the different lots.

Particulars of timber may be obtained from this Department, or Messrs. Cullen or Higgins, Forest Rangers, Stroud. Department of Mines, Sydney.

The time proposed between date of advertisements and date of sale does not appear sufficient.—W.F.P., 4/3/86. Enclosure relating to timber seized on forest reserve 29 (east side of Myall River) placed with case 86-2,075.

No. 163.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 2 March, 1886.

With reference to the prosecutions undertaken against Mr. Ellis's men, I have the honor to inform you that I attended at the Court-house, Stroud, this morning, when the cases were called on, but there was no appearance on the part of the defendants.

In the cases of the teamsters, Henry Murphy and Michael Walsh, the Bench issued warrants, and they will be brought up to-morrow. The same course would have been pursued in the case of Devine, his being the last called on, when your telegram was handed to me, and the Bench, on my application, granted a postponement for seven days.

I have, &c.,

EDWD. HIGGINS.

Telegrams were sent to Stroud to await Mr. Cullen's and Mr. Higgins's arrival. It is thought that under the circumstances of the case Mr. Higgins should have applied for a postponement, as in the case of Devine.—W.F.P., 4/3/86.

Mr. Ellis states the two men have been fined £2. Inform.

No. 164.

Telegram from Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Stroud, 2 March, 1886.

LETTER, with full report, should reach you this morning. Devine's cases postponed till Tuesday next.
E. HIGGINS.

Devine appears to be Mr. Ellis's foreman at Pumpkin Point. (See 86-1,433.) There is no report of the institution of these proceedings by either Rangers Higgins or Cullen. (See letter of 14/2/86, 1,433, to Mr. Higgins, that Mr. Cullen should have seen that only the timber on Crown Lands for which authority was given was removed.) Telegram—Rangers Cullen and Higgins asked to postpone case six or seven days if proceedings have been taken against Devine, 1/3/86.

Ranger's report now herewith, 86-2,120 F.—W.F.P., 2/3/86. 86-2,559 F.

No. 165.

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No. 165.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Raymond Terrace, 3 March, 1886.
I have the honor to inform you that Mr. J. C. Ellis's two teamsters, Henry Murphy and Michael Walsh, were brought up this morning at Stroud and charged with stealing timber. Defendants pleaded not guilty, but the Bench considered that the charge was proved, and fined the men £2 and and £1 5s. 10d. costs each.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD HIGGINS,

Forest Ranger.

See decision 86-2,119 F for letter *re* fine.—W.F.P., 6/3/86. Under Secretary for Justice, 10/3/86.
Mr. Rudder for perusal and noting when papers have been examined.—W.F.P., 30/3/86. Examined and noted.—A. RUDDER, 31/3/86. Mr. Rudder advised on 86-2,151, 12/4/86.

No. 166.

Office Memorandum.

Mr. J. C. Ellis and the seizure of timber felled in parish of Nerong.

In 1883 Mr. Ranger Cullen seized certain logs. Upon representations made by Mr. Ellis these were released.

In June, 1885, Ranger Cullen reported seizure of 800 logs, including some seized in 1883. They were branded A. Upon certain representations, and the offer to remove the timber during the currency of licenses to be taken out, and to pay expenses, the timber was released to Mr. Ellis.

Mr. Abigail, M.P., having drawn attention to the alleged waste of timber in the locality, Mr. Ranger Higgins, by Ministerial direction, was instructed to take action. All papers were forwarded to him 17/9/85.—7,504 F.

Acting under Mr. Higgins's instructions, Ranger Cullen stopped, on 18th and 19th September, removal of any timber (S5-7,771 F), Mr. Ellis's licenses expiring on 30th of that month.

On this account Mr. Ellis was granted a further extension from 5th November, 1885, to 4th February, 1886, for removal of the 800 logs, or the part of them remaining.

2,799 logs and piles having been seized by Ranger Higgins, Mr. Ellis was also permitted to remove fifty piles from a lot of 271, and 150 from a lot of 979, two months being allowed for removal from 16th December. Piles to be branded within one month, Mr. Ellis waiving any claim against the Department.

Mr. Ranger Higgins reports that very little attempt has been made to remove any of the timber, and complains that Mr. Ellis, in his instructions to his employees, entirely ignores the conditions attached to the permission to remove.

Application for further extension of time has been refused.

The reports in the case show that there has been an enormous waste of timber in the locality.

Mr. Higgins prosecuted under the Criminal Law Amendment Act, Mr. Ellis's foreman and two teamsters for illegally removing timber. The case against the first was postponed. Warrants have been issued against the two teamsters, 85-2,238 F.

Forest Branch.

W.F.P., 4/3/86.

No. 167.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

4 March, 1886.

THE Minister has directed that Mr. Ellis be allowed six weeks to remove the timber authorized by Mr. Secretary Abbott to be released to Mr. Ellis, and if removed by Mr. Ellis on to a road the Department will have done with it.

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 168.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

4 March, 1886.

THE Minister has directed that Mr. Ellis be allowed six weeks to remove the timber authorized by Mr. Secretary Abbott to be released to Mr. Ellis, and if removed by Mr. Ellis on to a road the Department will have done with it.

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 169.

Telegram from Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins to The Under Secretary for Mines.

West Maitland.

WHAT about advertisement submitted for your approval? I shall be here till 5 this evening, at Muswellbrook Friday and Saturday, Stroud on Monday.

E. HIGGINS.

Inform Muswellbrook matter to wait for further instructions.—W.F.P., 4/3/86. Ranger Higgins, 4/3/86.

No. 170.

No. 170.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

4 March, 1886.

MATTER as to advertising to await further instructions.

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 171.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 5 March, 1886.

With reference to your letter of 1st instant, I have to inform you that, to avoid any question concerning the piles, the twenty piles lying near Mr. Ellis's wharf at Pumpkin Point which do not bear the C brand may be counted as part of the 200 released to Mr. Ellis.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 172.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 5 March, 1886.

Mr. Ranger Higgins having reported that there are twenty piles lying near Mr. Ellis's wharf at Pumpkin Point which do not bear the C brand, I have to inform you that in order to avoid any question concerning these piles they may be counted as part of the 200 released to Mr. Ellis.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 173.

The Under Secretary for Mines to J. C. Ellis, Esq.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 5 March, 1886.

Having submitted for consideration your letter of 1st instant, I am directed to inform you that you will be allowed an extension of time of six weeks, from 4th instant, for the removal of the timber authorized by Mr. Secretary Abbott to be released to you, and if you remove it on to a road the Department will have done with it.

The Minister of Justice will be asked to remit the penalties on Murphy and Walsh.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 174.

The Under Secretary for Mines to J. C. Ellis, Esq.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 5 March, 1886.

With reference to the proceedings taken at the Stroud Police Court against Devine for being in possession of certain logs, I have the honor to inform you that the Forest Ranger and Crown Bailiff have been instructed to withdraw the case.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 175.

The Under Secretary for Mines to The Crown Lands Bailiff, Stroud.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 5 March, 1886.

With reference to the proceedings taken against one Devine, at the Stroud Police Court, on 2nd instant, for being in illegal possession of certain logs, I have to inform you that the case is to be withdrawn.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 176.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 5 March, 1886.

With reference to your letter of 2nd instant, I have to inform you that the proceedings taken against Devine for being in illegal possession of certain logs are to be withdrawn.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 177.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 17 March, 1886.

With reference to your letter of 1st instant, respecting the sale of timber seized in the Port Stephens district, I have to request that you will be good enough to furnish an estimate of the cost of the proposed assistance in counting and marking the logs.

A

A statement should also be furnished showing description of timber, quantity, brands, and locality where lying, distinguishing each lot, and specifying separately the timber to be released to Mr. Ellis. It is necessary that this should be done before the sale is advertised. The matter should receive your early attention.

I have, &c.,
W. F. PIPER
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 178.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. C. Dee, jun.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 23 March, 1886.

With reference to your letter of 18th December last, applying for an extension of time for the removal of your logs from Crown lands at Nugrawidgeree Creek, I have the honor to inform you that the Minister for Mines has refused to grant your application.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 179.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Cullen.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 23 March, 1886.

With reference to your reports of 17th January and 1st ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that the Minister for Mines has refused to grant an extension of time to Mr. Charles Dee for the removal of his logs from Crown lands at Nugrawidgeree Creek.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 180.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 12 April, 1886.

With reference to the paper perused by you respecting the confiscated timber claimed by Mr. J. C. Ellis, in the Port Stephens district, I have to point out that Mr. Ellis has been granted six weeks, or to the 15th instant, to remove the timber released to him, viz., 800 logs seized in June, 1885, by Mr. Ranger Cullen, and branded A, and 200 piles branded C, consisting of 150 from a lot of 979 lying south of the road from Booral to Bullahdelah and west of the main range, and 50 from a lot of 271, lying north-east of Wm. Croaker, junior's, conditional purchase of 640 acres, and west and south of the main range, such timber to be removed from Crown lands or on to a road.

The 2,999 logs and piles seized by Mr. Ranger Higgins, less the 200 released, if removed, are to be offered for sale by auction, in lot at the upset price proposed by him, viz., 7s. 6d. for the piles, 3s. 6d. or 6d. per 100 superficial feet for the girders, and 6d. per 100 superficial feet for the saw-mill logs.

The logs and piles which are branded as per Schedule herewith, and do not include any of the 800 logs of Mr. Cullen's seizure, branded A only, with any of the said 800 logs not removed within the time allowed, are to be divided into lots, counted, and the quantity in each lot estimated.

Before the sale it will be necessary to re-seize any of the timber released to Mr. Ellis, and not removed within the time specified.

A statement should be prepared showing description of timbers, quantity, brands, and locality where lying, distinguishing each lot and specifying separately the timber to be removed from the road by Mr. Ellis.

It is advisable that this should be done before the sale is advertised.

Similar instructions were issued to Mr. Higgins on 17th ultimo.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 181.

J. C. Ellis, Esq., to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Newcastle, 19 April, 1886.

I have the honor to request that you will grant me one month's extension of time to remove the piles released to me in the Port Stephens district.

The wet weather retarded me to some extent, the ground being of a very soft nature in that district, but as a matter of fact I was unable to procure a sufficient number of teams to complete the work in the time.

I have, &c.,
J. C. ELLIS.

Mr. Ellis was allowed a further extension of six weeks from 4th ultimo; time now expired (*see* decision on 86-2,359 F.)—W.F.P., 21/4/86. Forest Branch. I cannot recommend the extension asked for, unless it can be made to apply to certain piles marked in some special way, and stacked by themselves in some defined place.—H.W., 21/4/86. J. C. Ellis, 22/4/86.

No. 182.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 23 April, 1886.

Referring to your letter of the 13th instant (86-2,151 F.) *re* the timber seizures cases, permit me to direct your attention to the last paragraph but one, in which I am directed to specify separately the timber to be removed from the road by Mr. Ellis. I am not quite clear as to the meaning intended in this passage, as it seems to me in contradiction to the concluding lines in the second paragraph in your letter, which appears to sanction the removal by Mr. Ellis (to the road) of timber released to the 15th instant, with which I should infer I have no right to interfere. Perhaps your instructions are intended to refer to any timber which Mr. Ellis has failed to remove or bring to the road within the time granted? I shall be glad if you will further advise me on this matter, that I may avoid any mistake.

I shall also be glad to be informed, in the event of the re-seizures of any of the timber for which extension of time for removal was granted to Mr. Ellis, if it will be necessary to post up the usual notice at the Court-house, as in the case of an original seizure, or whether written notice to Ellis will be sufficient, which I should suggest as being all that is necessary. In the latter case please to send me Mr. Ellis's address.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS RUDDER,

Forest Ranger.

To specify the timber lying on the road, removed by Mr. Ellis in terms of the permission granted to him. Submitted with reference to the necessity for re-seizure of any of the timber released, but not removed within the proper time, and now forfeited.—W.F.P., 30/4/86. Forest Branch.

Such timber should be re-seized. Submitted.—H.W., 30/4/86. Approved.—J.F., 3/5/86.

No. 183.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 29 April, 1886.

Referring to previous instructions, dated 12th April instant (86-2,151 F.) *re* timber seizure cases in the parish of Nerong, I have the honor to point out that it would appear to me that you are not exactly in possession of all the circumstances of the case. The 800 piles first seized by Mr. Cullen, and subsequently given up to Mr. Ellis on condition of their removal before the 15th instant, do not stand alone in any one locality, so that they might in such case have been removed separately, but are in the same neighbourhood and intimately intermixed with subsequent seizures made jointly by Messrs. Higgins and Cullen, after closer and more systematic search over the same ground, so that the two seizures could not be distinguished. I proceeded to the locality yesterday with Mr. Cullen to learn what I could as to the extent of timber removed by Mr. Ellis's teams, and while out was informed that a large quantity of piles had been drawn to a selection some miles from the road, down Sandy Creek, near to the Australian Agricultural Company's boundary, and that some five or six teams were still drawing on to it. The latter part of my information was incorrect, while the piles drawn to and now lying upon it amounted to 114. Some of these were branded Δ only, others Δ and P, while others again bore no marks of seizure.

On the road from Bullahdelah, commencing on the western side of the main range for about 3 miles in the direction of Booral, there are also 136 piles similarly branded, while some of these also had never been seized.

From examination to-day of the forfeited conditional purchase of Croaker, senior, where we spent over five hours' careful search, it would appear that nearly all the piles of any value have been removed, as we could only discover about three dozen of inferior quality remaining.

From the circumstances as now placed before you, you will perceive how impossible it will be to carry out your instructions to make out a separate list for sale of timber which should have been, but may not, have been removed by Mr. Ellis, or to determine, even approximately, what timber he has actually removed and should not have removed and what remains, without a thorough investigation of the whole.

Taking the case as it now stands, though of necessity attended with great labour and expense, I see no alternative but to go all over the ground again to ascertain as nearly as possible the quantity of timber that does remain, with the view of one general sale of all that remains.

I would point out that in my opinion, owing to the great distance, in some cases over 12 miles, which the timber has to be drawn, and considering also that a great deal of it has been culled and the best removed, that the prices now fixed upon are too high if a sale is to be effected, while at the same time there is serious difficulty said to be thrown in the way of its removal by the Australian Agricultural Company objecting to allow the timber to be drawn over their land to a place of shipment, excepting by Mr. Ellis only, which is also sure to deter buyers. Referring once more to prices, probably the 7s. 6d. mentioned is intended to apply to the girder logs and 3s. 6d. to piles.

I should inform you that it is generally reported about here within the last two days that Mr. Ellis has still been granted another month for the removal of timber, but if true doubtless I should have been advised of it.

I purpose going with Mr. Cullen to Pumpkin Point to-morrow to inspect Mr. Ellis's timber and ascertain if possible what he may have removed illegally.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS RUDDER,

Forest Ranger.

It may be pointed out to Mr. Ranger Rudder that, as the papers which he perused show, the 800 logs of the original seizure are branded Δ only, and lie among the 970 piles, 243 girders, and 361 saw-mill logs, south of the Booral and Bullahdelah Road and west of the main range, and among the 271 piles lying north and east of Mr. Croaker, junior's, conditional purchase and west of the main range; but the time allowed to Mr. Ellis having expired, his right to any of them not removed to the road has now lapsed. He should carry out instructions respecting re-seizure (see 86-3,991 F.), but should not interfere with timber on Croaker's conditional purchases. With reference to the proposed upset price, if Mr. Rudder considers the rate fixed on recommendation of Mr. Higgins too high, he should report the rate now recommended. The logs should be recounted in lots. Forest Branch.—W.F.P., 5/5/86. Approved.—H.W., 5/5/86. Advise Ranger Rudder. Urgent.—A.A.D. Informed.—17/3/86.

No. 184.

J. C. Ellis, Esq., to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Newcastle, 3 May, 1886.

Referring to your letter of 22nd April, I beg to apply to be allowed to remove 200 of the 970 piles supposed to be in one lot, branded C.

The said piles to be removed in one month from the date of my receiving permission to do so.

I have, &c.,

J. C. ELLIS.

I may add that my vessel, the "Speedwell," is now at Port Stephens, and I want to ship these piles or some of them in her.—J.C.E.

The time allowed to Mr. Ellis expired on 15th instant; his right to any logs not removed has therefore lapsed. Mr. Ranger Rudder reports that some piles have been removed to the road, viz., 136, and some to a selection, viz., 114, but all do not bear marks of seizure—86-4,113 F. If it be decided to give another month's extension, as applied for, it should perhaps be confined to a number branded C, to make up the 200 for which the last extension was granted. Any right to the balance of the 800 logs not already removed to lapse.—W.F.P. Forest Branch, 5/5/86.

If Mr. Ellis has not already removed 200 piles he may be allowed one month within which to make up that number from the lot of 970.—H.W., 5/5/86. Submitted. Approved.—J.F., 12/5/86. Inform Mr. Ellis and Ranger Rudder.—A.A.D., 15/5/86. Urgent. Informed, 17/5/86.

No. 184 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 10 May, 1886.

I have the honor to inform you, though not prepared to make a final statement of matters referring to the seizure of timber by Rangers Higgins and Cullen in the parish of Nerong, county of Gloucester, in which Messrs. Ellis and Croaker were involved, I nevertheless feel it my duty to report progress. Appended is a Schedule of all that portion of the timber referred to, which, with Mr. Cullen's assistance, I have been able to trace up to the present time, including that claimed and secured by Mr. Ellis by its removal from off Crown lands on to the road and on to private property, as well as that forfeited and still lying upon Crown lands.

As you will perceive, the result of my investigation, so far, is most unsatisfactory.

To the present what we have seen represents little more than a remnant, and this, on the whole, is of inferior quality.

The map furnished to me to indicate the sites of seizures I found very misleading, as the localities were not correctly given.

For instance, between Sandy Creek, the Booral Road, and the Australian Agricultural Company's boundary on the west and south, where I expected, as indicated, to find the most timber, there has been no seizure at all prior to my arrival here.

I should point out that a great deal of the timber seized is utterly valueless, especially the girder logs. As an illustration of this, out of seventy-two of these logs seen by me on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday last, principally on the north side of the Booral and Bulladelah Road, west of the main range, to the back of Croaker, junior's, conditional purchase, fifty-two of this number are quite worthless, while the rest are of a very doubtful value; so I do not think that even these will sell. What Mr. Cullen saw, after I explained to him defects, were reported by him as but little better. I can only account for this blunder by the surprising ignorance of what constitutes good timber manifested by those branding, and that, in face of most of it having been tested and condemned by the timber-getters, mixed with these girder logs. However, with the exception of those removed, the piles are the best I have yet seen.

In every direction I have been there is the evidence of the most careful search for timber over a broken country, obstructed by creeks difficult to cross, a tangled undergrowth and shrubbery in which the timber is often almost completely hidden away. Yet, with this proof of care in the search for timber, the very serious blunder just referred to has been made.

Financially, the whole of this timber seizure will, I fear, prove a loss to the Department, unless the next eight or ten days should place things in a different light to what they now appear. I am told the largest seizures took place south-east of Boomerang Creek, where I have not yet been. The search for the timber, which is scattered all over a large extent of country, such as just described, is a slow and most laborious task, especially as it has been down so long, and, unfortunately, when once found it cannot be pointed out, but must be sought for all over again.

I have stated herein that I doubted if even the best of the girder logs would sell, for the following reasons:—1st. They are all short lengths; 2nd. Girder logs should be worked when green, when more easily hewn, whereas these have been down for years; 3rd. They are widely scattered, hard to find, and far to draw, and there are difficulties in the way of drawing.

As my statements are so little in harmony with what might be expected, judging by the prices set upon the timber by the late Mr. Ranger Higgins, I would respectfully suggest that Mr. Piper, or some other trusty officer, who is a judge of timber, might be sent up for a few days, to whom, without going into the labour of a long search such as I am now engaged in, I could in a couple of days point out sufficient to satisfy the Minister as to the verity of my statements, which might be as reassuring to the Minister as it would be satisfactory to myself.

I expect to be absent from Booral during this week, but will return on Saturday, the 15th; if I should then learn that Mr. Piper is coming up I could arrange to meet him, and hire a horse and saddle for the occasion; indeed I have partly arranged for one already.

Mr. Cullen will resume assisting me after to-morrow, and I would suggest that while engaged in our present arduous duty that other matters which are now being pressed upon my attention be allowed to stand over till that now in hand is placed in better form.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS RUDDER,

Forest Ranger.

[Enclosure.]

[Enclosure.]

SCHEDULE referred to.

Timber claimed by Mr. Ellis, and removed by him from off Crown Lands on to road and private property :—
On Grey's selection, Sand Creek, 114 piles ; on the Booral and Bullahdelah Roads, 136 piles ; at Ellis's depôt at Pumpkin Point, 75 piles ; on Renwick's selection, 17 piles ; on road near Renwick's selection, 9 piles. Total, 351 piles.

Forfeited on Crown lands :—

Croaker, senior's, conditional purchase of 640 acres, 36 piles.

Between branches of Sandy Creek, 3 girders, 23 piles.

Between Sandy and Boomerang Creeks, 9 piles.

North side of Booral Road, back and between Renwick's conditional purchase and Australian Agricultural Company's boundary, 39 girders, 47 piles.

North side of Booral Road, west of Main Range, to the back of Croaker, junior's, conditional purchase of 640 acres, 82 girders, 90 piles.

Total, 124 girders, 556 piles.

No. 185.

The Under Secretary for Mines to J. C. Ellis, Esq.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 17 May, 1886.

With reference to your letter of 3rd instant, and to the extension of time granted to you to remove 200 piles, released to you in the Port Stephens district, I am directed by the Minister for Mines to inform you that if you have not already removed the 200 piles you will be allowed one month's extension of time within which to make up that number from the lot of 970.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 186.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 17 May, 1886.

With reference to your letter of the 29th ultimo, I have to point out that the papers which you perused show the 800 logs of the original seizure are branded broad-arrow only, and lie among the 970 piles, 243 girders, and 361 saw-mill logs, south of the Booral and Bullahdelah Roads, and west of the main range, and among the 271 piles lying north and east of Wm. Croaker, junior's, conditional purchase, and west of the main range ; but the time allowed to Mr. Ellis having expired, his right to any of the timber not removed to the road has now lapsed. You should therefore re-seize any portion of the 800 logs not removed within the proper time, but should not interfere with timber on Croaker's conditional purchases.

If you consider the upset price as fixed, on recommendation of Mr. Higgins, too high, you should report the rate you propose. The logs should be recounted in lots.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 187.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Forest Branch, Sydney, 17 May, 1886.

With reference to the extension of time granted to Mr. Ellis to remove 200 piles released to him in the Port Stephens district, I am directed to inform you that the Minister for Mines has approved of, and Mr. Ellis has been informed, that if he has not already removed the 200 piles, he will be allowed one month's further extension within which to make up that number from the lot of 970.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 188.

Mr. C. Dee, jun., to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Bullahdelah, 29 May, 1886.

I wish to bring under your notice matter concerning timber. Some 100 logs, which were felled on Crown lands by myself and brothers, under the old Regulations have, under the new law, been branded by the Forest Rangers. An extension of time to remove same was applied for to the Department, and refused.

I wish further to bring under your notice the injustice done me in preference to others. In the same locality one J. C. Ellis has had the timber slaughtered in all directions, branded by the Forest Rangers on behalf of the Crown, and extension of time has been granted to him to remove the same in preference to others.

And I beg further to state that the timber felled by myself and brothers was for our own saw-mill purposes, and not for monopoly, the same as in the instance referred to.

I beg to ask the Honorable the Minister for Mines for an extension of six months, to remove the 100 logs in question.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES DEE, JUN.

Forwarded with reference to decision on 86-1,611 F.—A.A.D. (for Chief Clerk), Forest Branch, 3/6/86. How does this case compare with Mr. Ellis's ?—H.W., 3/7/86.

No. 189.

No. 189.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 31 May, 1886.

With respect to the instructions contained in your letter of the 17th instant (86-4,113 F.), *re* the extension of time granted to Mr. Ellis in which to remove the 200 piles released to him in the Port Stephens District, and in which you advise me, if not already removed, that the Minister has been pleased to extend the time for another month, I have the honor to inform you that it is impossible to say whether Mr. Ellis has or has not already removed these piles, until all the ground in the locality has been searched to ascertain what remains.

I shall be glad to be informed upon what date this further concession to Mr. Ellis is to terminate.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS RUDDER,

Forest Ranger.

An extension of six weeks was granted to Mr. Ellis, which expired on 14 April last. Further application was made, and Mr. Ellis informed that an extension could not be recommended unless under special conditions. Upon a further communication from Mr. Ellis, an extension of time for another month was granted, 17 May, 1886. It is asked whether this is to take effect from the date of expiry of previous concession or from date of letter of advice.—A.A.D. (for Chief Clerk), Forest Branch, 4/6/86.

From date of notice to Ellis.—G.E.H. (for Under Secretary), 4/6/86. Inform Mr. Rudder.—A.A.D. Forest-Ranger Rudder informed, 10/6/86.

No. 190.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 7 June, 1886.

On receipt of your letter of the 17th ultimo (86-4,113 F.), in which you inform me that Mr. Ellis has been granted another month in which to remove piles, I have the honor to inform you that, in consequence of this concession, I deemed it unadvisable to continue to muster piles in that locality for the present, or while Mr. Ellis' men are drawing in, and directed my attention elsewhere. Within the last few days Mr. Cullen and myself have been searching on the south side of the Booral and Bulladelah Road, east of the Dividing Range, where the map furnished indicates there should be 158 piles, 25 girder logs, and 309 saw-mill logs (seized about nine months ago), and I regret to say that of this timber little more than a worthless remnant seems to be left, which, in my opinion, is not deserving of any further consideration whatever, as it is sure to lead to expense far beyond the prospect of any return. Mr. Cullen assured me that we have searched in the right place, and the timber is gone.

These robberies were evidently committed some months ago, and it seems almost impossible to prevent them in a wide range of country, where extensive seizures have been made in the midst of a lawless community of timber-getters.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS RUDDER,

Forest Ranger.

Under this report it appears that, of 467 piles and logs seized by Mr. Ranger Higgins some months ago, all but a worthless remnant have been removed. Delay in dealing with this timber has been caused in consequence of the concessions granted to Mr. Ellis from time to time.—W.F.P., Forest Branch, 15/6/86.

No further action need now be taken.—H.W., 16/6/86. Place with other papers when returned.

No. 191.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 10 June, 1886.

Referring to your letter of the 31st ultimo, respecting the further extension of time granted to Mr. J. C. Ellis for the removal of the 200 piles released to him, I have to inform you that the extension granted was one month from 17th May, and will therefore expire on the 16th instant.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 192.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 12 June, 1886.

Re the last month's extension of time granted to Mr. Ellis, in which to remove 200 piles, I have the honor to inform you that Mr. Ellis' teamsters have already drawn over 70 on to the timber tracks, and it would appear that they are under the impression that they will be allowed to continue to do so to the end of the month, instead of taking them clean away from the Crown lands in that time and may then remove them at their leisure. I desire to point out that this would leave a loop-hole for the removal of other piles beyond the 200 already allowed, and would entail the necessity of a constant watch to prevent plunder, which could not be prevented, and is in every way objectionable.

I think Mr. Ellis should be warned of this in time, or mischief will come of it; as it is, I must visit the ground every few days to see that the removal of the 200 piles is not exceeded. Trusting that you may be pleased to consider this matter in time,—

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS RUDDER,

Forest Ranger.

The extension of one month expires on 17th instant. (86-5,866 F.) Pointed out that, under the terms of the permission granted to Mr. Ellis he need only remove the piles to a public road. Refer to his letter.—W.F.P., 15/6/86. Ranger Rudder, 16/6/86.

No. 193.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 12 June, 1886.

In reply to your letter of the 16th instant (86-5,578 F.) with telegram *re* the removal by Mr. Ellis' agents of released piles on to a public road, I have the honor to inform you that the piles referred to in my letter of the 12th instant are not removed to a public road, but to timber tracks only in close proximity of the site of the principal seizure.

I would respectfully reiterate the objections contained in my letter of the 12th instant for the reasons therein stated.

Mr. Ellis might perhaps under the circumstances be allowed a few weeks in which to remove his piles away, but if some decided and definite action is not taken in relation to these seizure cases it is hard to say when they will be brought to a close, and what expenses they may lead to. I would again repeat my suggestion of the offer to Mr. Ellis of the release of all piles seized for a lump sum as a course likely to save expense to the Department and suit Mr. Ellis.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS RUDDER,

Forest Ranger.

Mr. Ellis was to remove the timber to a public road. See last paragraph.—W.F.P., Forest Branch, 28/6/86. Ask Ranger Rudder if he can say what logs would be comprised under the term "all piles," and what period would be absolutely necessary for the removal of such logs.—H.W., 28/6/86. Forest-Ranger Rudder, 30/6/86.

No. 194.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 14 June, 1886.

I have the honor to inform you that, with Mr. Ranger Cullen's assistance, I have completed the search for seized timber in the parish of Nerong, county of Gloucester, as far as is practicable to do so, till after Mr. Ellis' agents have removed the 200 piles (for which a month's time was recently allowed) with the exception of 56 saw-mill logs at Black Camp Creek, for which an offer has already been submitted for your consideration. The results are 261 saw-mill logs, of which 24 are worthless; 516 piles, of which 61 are worthless; and 183 girder logs, of which 116 are quite worthless, while the remaining 67, which might possibly be used, are of little value. The saw-mill logs on the whole are good, with the exception of the 24 mentioned. The piles are also fairly good, less the 61 named, and about 71 between the branches of Sandy Creek and round about Croaker's and Renwick's conditional purchases, mostly in a westerly direction, which are of very short lengths (averaging about 36 feet), and are mere culls. Of the girder logs, I should say of the 67 which might possibly be used, that in my opinion, if the whole were a free gift, there is not a dozen that would be turned to any account, and I believe it to be waste of money to trouble further about them. It was an error of judgment to brand them from the first. Girder logs (always prized if good) are considered of little or no value unless quite sound, of which very few of these branded are, and it is usual to hew them in a green state, whereas those have been down for years, and most of them have from the first been tested and condemned. They are besides so widely scattered that it would not pay to collect them. With respect to the saw-mill logs I would suggest their sale at Bullahdelah, as per proposed advertisement transmitted herewith, and that the reserve should not exceed 3s. 6d. per log, or they will not sell, as they have to be drawn a long distance to Mr. Dee's mill, the only place where it seems they are likely to be available, and the Australian Agricultural Company's estate intervenes.

In regard to the piles, Mr. Ellis' with other piles, will have removed part of those already mustered; so that I do not see that anything can be done with them until Mr. Ellis has cleared out, unless Mr. Ellis be invited to make an offer for the redemption of the whole for a lump sum, with ample time given him in which to remove them, which, if he is willing to do so, would, I think, be for the best.

If you will furnish me with lithographs of the parish of Nerong, I will indicate natural features thereon, with sites of seizures, as that in hand is not correct.

In concluding this report, I may state that our search for seized timber has been most careful and unremitting, so that many piles and logs have been branded and placed on the list which were not branded before, but during the whole of our investigations I have failed to discover the evidence of the extensive seizures reported, a circumstance I cannot account for, unless Messrs Higgins and Cullen have been greatly misled by the men employed in assisting them. It is possible, however, that in the locality where Mr. Ellis' teams are now at work, which we only commenced to search, that many piles may yet be found.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS RUDDER,

Forest Ranger.

N.B.—If my suggestions for the sale of the above timber is approved, notices should be posted up at Bullahdelah without any delay, and I should write to or see Mr. Dee, as he is not near a post-town, and is, I think, the only person likely to buy. In the event of sale shall I conduct it or auctioneer?—A.R.

[Enclosure.]

O.H.M.S.—Notice.

To Saw-mill Owners, Timber-cutters, and others.

It is hereby notified, for general information, that the confiscated timber hereunder will be offered for sale in lots at Bullahdelah Court-house, on Saturday, 3rd of July (proximo), on behalf of the Crown.

The timber is chiefly tallow-wood, flooded gum, gray gum, and red mahogany. 237 saw-mill logs, estimated to contain 1,000 superficial feet, more or less, per log.

Particulars of timber may be obtained from the Department and Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder, Booral.
Department of Mines.

Particulars of the timber could not be supplied to parties inquiring without further information. He should furnish written particulars, which can be shown to intending buyers, and also indicate the position of the different lots on the parish map. If he considers it desirable to employ an auctioneer he should submit the name of some reputable person.—W.F.P. Forest Branch, 16/6/86.

Approved.—H.W., 16/6/86. Inform Forest-Ranger Rudder, 25/6/86.

55

No. 195.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 16 June, 1886.

With reference to your letter of 12th instant, I have the honor to point out that, under the terms of the permission granted to Mr. Ellis, he need only remove the piles to a public road.

I enclose herewith a copy of the telegram addressed to Mr. Ranger Higgins upon the subject.

I have, &c.,

W. F. PIPER,

(For the Under Secretary).

[Enclosure.]

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Higgins.

4 March, 1886.

THE Minister has directed that Mr. Ellis be allowed six weeks to remove the timber authorized by Mr. Secretary Abbott to be released to Mr. Ellis, and if removed by Mr. Ellis on to a road the Department will have done with it.

No. 196.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 23 June, 1886.

With reference to your letter of 14th instant, respecting the timber seized in the Port Stephens District, I have to inform you that particulars of the timber could not be supplied without further information.

You should furnish written particulars, which can be shown to intending buyers, and also indicate the position of the different lots on the parish map.

If you consider it desirable to employ any auctioneer, the name of some respectable person should be submitted.

I have, &c.,

W. F. PIPER,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 197.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Booral, 25 June, 1886.

I have the honor to inform you that on the 15th instant I went to the ground and warned all Mr. Ellis' teamsters to discontinue drawing any more piles from off Crown lands after the 16th; I also saw Mr. Ellis' agent, Devine, and cautioned him likewise.

On visiting the ground, however, again yesterday, I feel convinced from appearances that piles have been drawn off within the last three or four days, but cannot prove it. I searched the forest round, but no one was then at work. I will go out again in a few days, but it is very difficult to detect parties stealing, as they are easily sheltered under the plea of drawing off the timber tracks. (See my letter of the 12th instant.)

Mr. Ellis has now secured, by drawing, principally on to the timber track just referred to, the last concession of 200 piles, of which 167 are now on these tracks, and the residue on a road and conditional purchase, or have been drawn away.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS RUDDER,

Forest Ranger.

No. 198.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Booral, 29 June, 1886.

I have the honor to inform you that I have just returned from Nuggarawidgee, where Mr. Ellis' teams have been drawing out the 200 piles last conceded, and although I have not found any more piles drawn out since I reported on the 25th instant, at the same time I saw unmistakable evidence of intended plunder.

I met two teams passing through the forest drawing empty trucks, and on searching, traced them to where they had been to two piles, from which only a few minutes before they had been hastily detached in consequence of having been warned in time by a man on horseback, every movement of the ranger being carefully watched. (See my letters of the 12th, 21st, and 25th instant on this subject.) As matters stand, my time is taken up keeping sentinel over these piles, so that other duties are unavoidably neglected.

I was informed by the teamsters I saw, that Devine, Mr. Ellis' agent, had give them notice that there was a further concession made, and they were to commence drawing in piles again.

I would respectfully point out in reference to the last concession, the consequences of which I clearly foresaw, that the teamsters and others interested in it seemed to know, and spoke of it, long before I was made aware of it by the Department.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS RUDDER,

Forest Ranger.

No. 199.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 30 June, 1886.

With reference to your report of 12th instant, respecting the removal of timber released to Mr. Ellis, and suggesting that the seized timber should be offered to Mr. Ellis for a lump sum, I have to request that you will be good enough to state whether you can say what logs would be comprised, under the term, "all piles," and what period would be absolutely necessary for the removal of such logs.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 200.

No. 200.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 30 June, 1886.

In reply to your letter of the 25th instant (86-5,596 F.), *re* the sale of 237 saw-mill logs, I have the honor to forward herewith the accompanying lithograph, and memo. referring thereto. The red cross indicates the timber, which is very scattered everywhere. It has no specially distinguishing mark, and cannot be divided into lots, the whole being more or less intermixed and conterminous, and is branded with the broad-arrow and other brands and marks.

With respect to the piles, now that Mr. Ellis has drawn off to the timber roads the last 200 conceded to him, which includes part of those previously mustered (how many it is impossible to say), it will be requisite to muster afresh all that now remains from Boomerang Creek to the dividing range in an east and south-easterly direction to the Australian Agricultural Company's boundary, before any of them can be offered to any advantage, unless my suggestions to release all the piles to Mr. Ellis for a lump sum be adopted.

To complete this further muster will in itself take several weeks, exclusive of other duties, which requires attention. When offered for sale there will, I fear, be no bid, unless by a contractor, as they are useless to the ordinary timber-getter, unless he has a special order. Under any circumstances, there is always a great reluctance to purchase confiscated timber. Intending purchasers, if there should be any, are placed at great disadvantage by the repeated concessions to Mr. Ellis, who has had his pick, and has, of course, drawn those in which were the most easily got at.

On the lithograph you will observe that I have only pencilled in the sites of piles, because, in my opinion, all bad ones should be left out, and the muster is yet incomplete.

The girder logs I have not entered at all, for the reasons stated in my letter of the 14th instant. To conduct any sales I will make inquiry about an auctioneer.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS RUDDER,

Forest Ranger.

[Enclosure.]

Memorandum.

THE 237 saw-mill logs referred to in the advertisement of _____ are situated between Sandy and Nuggarwidgee Creeks, and on either side of the last-named creek and its tributaries, as shown in the accompanying lithograph, the XX in red indicating its distribution according to relative proportion of quantity.

This timber is distant from navigable water at Mr. Dee's mill, Dirty Creek, from about 5 to 8 miles, and is about the same distance from a shipping place, on "the branch," in a south-westerly direction, near to Mr. Amor's saw-mills.

The above timber is generally of superior quality, all objectionable logs having been carefully excluded, and a liberal allowance has been made for hollows and other defects.

A. RUDDER,

Forest Ranger.

30/6/86.

No. 201.

Mr. C. Dee, jun., to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Bullahdelah, 1 July, 1886.

Some time since there were seized at Nuggarawidgee, near Dirty Creek, in the parish of Nerong, about 80 saw-mill logs cut for me.

These logs are of no value to anybody but myself, my mill being the only one to which they can be drawn. I beg respectfully to ask that these logs may be released. They have already deteriorated to a considerable extent by the action of the weather, and will become entirely valueless, even to me, unless I am soon able to use them. Although the logs were not removed in the time prescribed by law after being cut, they were cut for *bona fide* use and consumption, and I beg to state that I am the employer of a large amount of labour at my mills.

Asking your favourable consideration to this matter,—

I have, &c.,

CHARLES DEE.

86-5,107, C. D., junr. Further for extension of time for removal of 100 logs seized by rangers. Complaining of refusal of this concession when similar ones have been granted.—J. C. ELLIS, 3/6/86. Under Secretary.

No. 202.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Giran, Sandy Creek, 2 July, 1886.

In reply to your letter of the 30th ultimo (86-5,503 F.), *re* my suggestion to offer to release to Mr. Ellis all piles for a lump sum, and asking me to state whether I can say what logs would be comprised under the term "all piles," and what period would be absolutely necessary for the removal of such logs, I have the honor to inform you that my suggestion would embrace all the piles now remaining wherever seizures have been made in the parish of Nerong, also in the parishes of Topi Topi, Booloombayt, and Bullahdelah, in the county of Gloucester.

With reference to my proposition, however, it might be advisable to go on with a few weeks' further search for piles between Boomerang Creek and the Dividing Range, in an east and south-easterly direction from the above mentioned creek to the Australian Agricultural Company's boundary, where I think it is probable that a good many piles may be remaining, before my suggestion is acted upon. Up to the present we have only traced about 500 piles over and above those released—or perhaps, more correctly, taken away—by Mr. Ellis' agents; but a few weeks' further search over the ground alluded to, where we ceased to muster after the last concession of 200 piles was made to Mr. Ellis, may place things in a different light. No mustering of piles has as yet been made by me east of the Myall River.

In

In respect to time for removal of piles, owing to their very wide distribution, I do not think twelve months would be too long, but while drawing on to roads or selections the teamsters should hold licenses.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS RUDDER,
Forest Ranger.

The timber in the parishes of Topi Topi, Booloombait, and Bullahdelah, on east side of river, should not be mixed up with the Nerong timber. Now that the time for removal allowed to Mr. Ellis has expired, the remaining timber should be counted and particulars furnished. If then Mr. Ellis makes an offer for this timber, or any of it, the offer could be taken into consideration.—W.F.P., Forest Branch, July, 1886.

Approved.—H.W., 10/7/86. Inform Forest-Ranger Rudder, 20/7/86.

No. 203.

Office Memorandum.

Timber cut for Mr. Dee, Nuggarawidgee Creek—With reference to Mr. Dee's application, and the query on 86-5,107 F., as to how this case stands compared to Mr. Ellis's.

RANGER Higgins reported the timber had been cut for Mr. Dee four years or more, either to monopolise it, or as a protection against others.

Continuous licenses have not been held. There has been nothing to prevent Mr. Dee drawing it in, but since it was felled he has had fresh timber cut and worked up. The timber is in same locality as that cut for Mr. Ellis.

In Mr. Ellis's case it was reported by the ranger that wholesale destruction was carried on for the purpose of blocking others and monopolising the trade, trees being felled before they reached maturity. Continuous licenses were not held.

The removal of 800 logs of a previous seizure, released to Mr. Ellis, having been stopped precipitously by Ranger Cullen, and Mr. Ellis claiming that he had been stopped removing piles before actual seizure, he was granted a further extension of time for the removal, and was also permitted to remove 200 piles of the new seizure, he waiving any claim to compensation.

Forest Branch, 9/7/86.

W.F.P.

Mr. Dee and Mr. Ellis appear to have been in much the same position. Some portion of the seized timber claimed by Mr. Ellis was given up on condition that he paid the expenses to which the Crown had been put. Part of the timber so released to Mr. Ellis has been again seized. It is suggested that Mr. Ellis be allowed to make an offer for the timber cut by him, and Mr. Dee might perhaps be permitted to do the same as to the timber which he (Dee) had cut.—H.W., 10/7/86. Submitted. Approved.—J.F., 12/7/86. Inform Chas. Dee, J. C. Ellis, and Forest-Ranger Rudder, 20/7/86. Plan with seizure cases.

No. 204.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 13 July, 1886.

I have the honor to inform you that I have made inquiry about a suitable auctioneer for the sale of any seized timber on behalf of the Government. The principal auctioneer at Bullahdelah is Mr. Dee, who owns a mill, and whose timber was seized, so that his services are out of the question.

The only auctioneer at Stroud is a Mr. George Herley, hotelkeeper, but he is spoken of as being a respectable man. In the event of any sale of timber, perhaps Mr. Herley's services might be engaged to sell at Bullahdelah, or the sale might perhaps be conducted in Stroud without any serious disadvantage.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS RUDDER,
Forest Ranger.

Can await until an auctioneer is required.—W.F.P., 20/7/86.

No. 205.

Questions and Answers.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—TUESDAY, 13 JULY, 1886.

ALLEGED REMOVAL OF TIMBER FROM GOVERNMENT LAND:—Mr. Toohey, for Mr. Thompson, asked the Secretary for Mines,—

- (1.) Has any report been made to him, either verbally or in writing, that James Cole Ellis had improperly possessed himself of a large quantity of timber from Government land?
- (2.) Was any such timber seized; and, if so, how many logs or pieces?
- (3.) What was the value of such timber?
- (4.) Was such timber marked by any Government official after seizure?
- (5.) Was it advertized for sale; and when?
- (6.) Was it sold; if not, for what reason, and what has become of it?
- (7.) Has Mr. Ellis had any permission to remove it, or any of it?
- (8.) Has he information that such timber was placed on a forfeited selection, and was seized there?
- (9.) If Mr. Ellis has removed any such timber, who gave him authority to do so?
- (10.) Has Mr. Ellis paid for any such timber?
- (11.) In what state is the matter now?

Mr.

Mr. FLETCHER answered,—

- (1.) It was represented that a large quantity in the parish of Nerong, county of Gloucester, had been wastefully cut and branded by, or on behalf of Mr. J. C. Ellis.
- (2.) The timber found on the selection was seized. The ranger reported there were 1,833 piles, 442 girder logs, 695 saw-mill logs, and 19,665 feet of squared timber?
- (3.) The ranger estimated the value at 7s. 6d. for piles, 3s. 6d. for girder logs, 6d. per 100 superficial feet for sawmill logs, and 6s. 3d. per 100 superficial feet for squared timber. A subsequent report by another officer is to the effect that these values are excessive.
- (4.) Yes.
- (5.) Yes; for 18th December, 1885, but postponed on 15th January, 1886. The sale was again postponed, and a preliminary notice of a postponed sale in March was advertised.
- (6.) Not sold, because it was considered desirable that certain timber, balance of a previous seizure of 800 logs and 200 piles released to Mr. Ellis, lying intermixed with this timber, should be first removed. Part of the timber is now lying where it was seized; part has been surreptitiously removed.
- (7.) Yes, the squared timber, 200 piles, and part of a lot of 800 logs.
- (8.) It was reported that 213 piles and 19 logs had been drawn to a forfeited conditional purchase. These were seized; but, upon its being ascertained that the forfeiture had been recommended but not declared, this timber was released.
- (9.) The Minister for Mines gave authority to remove the timber referred to in Question No. 7. Permission has not been granted to remove any other.
- (10.) No; but he paid certain expenses in connection with the 800 logs when they were first seized.
- (11.) The time allowed Mr. Ellis for drawing the released timber to a main road has now expired. The balance remaining on the ground is being counted with a view to its disposal.

No. 206.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 20 July, 1886.

With reference to your letter of 2nd instant, respecting the seizure of piles in certain parishes in the county of Gloucester, I have to inform you that the timber in the parishes of Topi Topi, Booloom-bayt, and Bullahdelah, on the east side of the river, should not be mixed up with that seized in the parish of Nerong.

Now that the time for removal allowed to Mr. Ellis has expired, the remaining timber should be counted, and particulars furnished.

If then Mr. Ellis makes an offer for the timber or any of it the offer could be taken into consideration.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 207.

The Under Secretary for Mines to J. C. Ellis, Esq.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 20 July, 1886.

With reference to the seizure of piles, logs, &c., in the Port Stephens district, county of Gloucester, I am directed by the Secretary for Mines to ask whether you are prepared to make an offer for the timber cut by you remaining under seizure in the parish of Nerong.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD.

No. 208.

The Under Secretary for Mines to C. Dee, Esq.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 20 July, 1886.

Having submitted for consideration the papers in connection with the seizure of about 100 logs (Port Stephens district, parish Nerong, county Gloucester), claimed by you, and for which you have applied for an extension of time for removal, I have to point out that the timber has been confiscated and an application for an extension of time for removal of it already refused.

If, however, you are prepared to make an offer for the logs it will be taken into consideration.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 209.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 20 July, 1886.

With reference to previous reports and correspondence respecting the seizure of piles, logs, &c., in the Port Stephens district, county of Gloucester, I am directed to inform you that Messrs. Dee and Ellis have respectively been asked to make an offer for the timber cut by them and now remaining under seizure in the parish of Nerong.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 210.

No. 210.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 26 July, 1886.

In reply to your letter of the 20th instant (86-6,165 F.) I have the honor to inform you that I am now engaged mustering the piles still remaining after the last concession of 200 to Mr. Ellis, and will use all the dispatch possible. Speaking of counting these piles, however, there seems to be some misconception about this matter. They are scattered about everywhere over a wide extent of broken, scrubby country, and must be searched for in detail at the expense of considerable loss of time and patient labour. I have no one assisting me.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS RUDDER,
Forest Ranger.

Inform of decision on 86-6,840 F.—W.F.P., 27/7/86. Informed (Cullen notes in errors thereon), 27/7/86.

No. 211.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 27 July, 1886.

In the event of any sales of timber here by auction, please to inform me of the terms submitted by Mr. Farley; and forwarded herewith are such as I should accept.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS RUDDER,
Forest Ranger.

[Enclosure.]

Sir,

Stroud, 21 July, 1886.

In reply to yours of the 19th instant, I shall be glad to undertake the sale of all timber referred to at the rate of 5 per cent. up to £50, and 2½ per cent. above that amount; and 5 per cent. all through at Bullahdelah.

I am, &c.,

GEORGE FARLEY,
Auctioneer.

Augustus Rudder, Esq., Forest Ranger, Booral.

The terms stated are those usually charged when an auctioneer is employed. Mr. Ranger Rudder may be so informed.—W.F.P., Forest Branch, 24/7/86. Approved.—H.W., 10/8/86. Forest Ranger Rudder, 11/8/86.

No. 212.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 11 August, 1886.

Referring to your letter of 29th ultimo, I have to inform you that the terms offered by Mr. G. Farley for conducting sale of confiscated timber are those usually charged when an auctioneer is employed.

I have, &c.,

W. F. PIPER,
(For the Under Secretary.)

No. 213.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 12 August, 1886.

On referring to my report of the 14th June last, *re* the mustering of seized timber in the parish of Nerong, county of Gloucester, you will find that up to that time Mr. Cullen and myself accounted for 261 saw-mill logs (exclusive of the fifty-six logs up Black Camp Creek), 516 piles, and 183 girder logs (exclusive of all timber previously released to and removed by Mr. Ellis to the middle of May). Since then a further concession of a month to Mr. Ellis in which to remove another 200 piles, to the 16th June, had the effect of disturbing our muster, which was accordingly suspended for other duty till after Mr. Ellis's time was up.

Since then, however, I have diligently resumed this duty (alone), and have just brought it to a close, and have now the honor to place before you the results, which are exclusive of the 200 piles conceded to Mr. Ellis, and shows the timber now available for sale, viz., saw-mill logs, 272, of which 248 are good and twenty-four are bad; piles, 826, of which 755 are good and 71 bad; girder logs, 235, of which I previously reported sixty-nine to be available and 116 bad. Of the fifty girder logs now added these are fairly good, but are not long averaging only about 32 feet. The piles average about 52 feet. Of the last 300 piles mustered about sixty had not been previously branded at all. On the other hand there was the evidence that a good many piles had been worked up into girders, seemingly about six months ago, which would help to account for the number alleged to have been seized by Messrs. Higgins and Cullen.

In submitting this list of timber I would suggest, in relation to its sale, the advisableness of leaving out all marked bad, and all the girder logs with the exception of the last fifty, which are the best and the most concentrated; the rest I consider to be unsaleable, and are very widely scattered.

If the lithograph of Nerong is returned to me I will place upon it the sites of the last mustered timber, leaving out all that marked bad if approved of.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS RUDDER,
Forest Ranger.

Forest-Ranger Rudder, 16/8/86.

No. 214.

No. 214.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Booral, 23 August, 1886.
I have the honor to return herewith the lithograph of the parish of Nerong, upon which, as directed, I have placed the sites of confiscated timber.

As you will observe, I have left out the bad saw-mill logs, and have omitted most of the girder logs, which are scattered all over the country with the piles, for the reasons stated in my report of the 12th instant.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS RUDDER,
Forest Ranger.

86-7,615 F. I think the direction was to mark the position of all the timber. Before submitting papers Mr. Daniel should see whether the rangers have carried out their instructions.—W.F.P., 24/8/86.

This course is usually followed. The paper on which the instructions were issued is noted above. I was under the impression this was sufficient. Ranger Rudder instructed to have position of all timber marked shown approximately. Point out to Mr. Rudder that he should mark the position of all the timber.—W.F.P., 24/8/86. Forest-Ranger Rudder (with lithograph), 25/8/86.

No. 215.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 25 August, 1886.
With reference to your letter of the 23rd instant, forwarding a lithograph showing the position of confiscated timber in the parish of Nerong, with the exception of the bad saw-mill logs, and most of the girder logs, I have to point out that you should mark the position of all the timber.

I have, &c.,

W. F. PIPER,
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 216.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Booral, 4 September, 1886.
In returning to you the lithograph of the parish of Nerong, upon which I have placed the sites of confiscated timber, as directed by you, which I had previously omitted, as being unlikely to sell on account of its being of little value, I feel it my duty to repeat this, my conviction: To offer any of this timber for sale will, I believe, be prejudicial to that which is good, and will only lead to expense. See my reports of the 10th May and 12th August last on this subject. The timber marked at present is very depressed, and no other than good timber will sell. The accompanying note of William Gorman is characteristic.

With the exception of the two logs sold by me to Mr. M'Rae, and the fifty-six logs at Black Camp Creek a few days ago to Thomas Corrigan, I have been unable, as yet, to sell any timber.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS RUDDER,
Forest Ranger.

[Enclosure.]

Sir, Bullahdelah, Myall River, 28 August, 1886.
In answer to your letter of the 9th instant, concerning ten logs of timber seized by Mr. Cullen, I cannot make any offer for them, as there is no sale for timber at present, and the saw-mills are all closing.

I have, &c.,

Mr. A. Rudder.

WILLIAM GORMAN.

Ten logs containing about 9,200 superficial feet, to be sold at the best price obtainable (85-9,815.) Seen.—W.F.P., 7/11/86. Ranger Rudder should report how the matter stands.—W.F.P., 20/11/86. Forest-Ranger Rudder, 22/11/86. Remind.—W.F.P., 17/2/87. Forest-Ranger Rudder, 17/2/87.

Ranger Rudder instructed to mark position of all confiscated timber, parish of Nerong (86-7,846 F.) Messrs. Ellis and Dee asked to make an offer for the timber cut by them. (See 86-6,540 F.) No reply received.

No. 217.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Booral, 29 September, 1886.
I have the honor to inform you that a few days ago while patrolling the forest I came upon a man who had just commenced to cut fresh piles for Mr. Ellis, under the direction of Edward Devine, so often referred to, on Crown lands, in the parish of Nerong, a proceeding I at once put a stop to on the ground that the timber was under the prescribed size. I also saw where Devine himself had been cutting piles on the back part of Croaker's, sen, conditional purchase, which I believe is forfeited, but of which I received no notice, or I would have seized them.

I would strongly advise that no piles be allowed to be cut in this district till those seized are disposed of.

It is said that the seized piles are now unsaleable, and that some of those drawn in have been condemned, but with the exception of the sapwood, which in some instances shows decay, and excepting a few piles injured by fire, most of them are as sound as ever.

I would suggest that the license to cut piles be made at least double that of any other license to cut timber, as they are now getting very scarce.

I am now keeping close watch where an attempt has recently been made to steal seized piles, and have seen the police, who will be on the look-out during my absence.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS RUDDER,
Forest Ranger.

The question as to permitting timber under the minimum girth to be cut can be dealt with when application is made, but if those lying felled show signs of decay sufficient to procure their condemnation for public works it would scarcely be expedient to prohibit the cutting of others. Raising the license fee for piles could not be carried out without an amendment of the Regulations.—W.F.P., 13/10/86. Forest Branch.

Submitted for approval.—H.W., 14/10/86. Approved.—J.F., 15/10/86. A. Rudder, 26/10/86.

No. 218.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 12 October, 1886.

With reference to previous correspondence respecting the timber seized in the parish of Nerong, I have to inform you that Messrs. Dee and Ellis were requested in July last to make an offer for the timber cut by them, as no reply has been received.

I have to request that you will be good enough to submit an upset price for each lot.

I have, &c.,

W. F. PIPER,
(For the Under Secretary.)

[Enclosure.]

Office Memorandum—Timber seized in parish of Nerong.

QUANTITY of timber seized,—1,833 piles, 442 girder logs, 695 saw-mill logs, and 19,655 feet of squared timber. Upset value,—piles, 7s. 6d. ; girder logs, 3s. 6d. ; saw-mill logs, 6d. per 100 superficial feet ; squared timber, 6s. 3d. per 100 superficial feet ; total value about £1,000. A subsequent report is to the effect that the above values are excessive. Total permitted to be removed, all the squared timber :—200 piles and part of 800 logs.

Total quantity of good and bad timber now on the ground :—696 good and 47 bad piles ; 123 good and 119 girders ; 237 good and 11 saw-mill logs.

Mr. Ellis and Mr. Dee were requested in July last to make an offer for the timber cut by them (86-6,540 F.) No reply received.

It is suggested that Mr. Ranger Rudder be informed, and requested to submit an upset price for each lot. Forest Branch, 21 September, 1886.

W.F.P.

Submitted.—H.W., 9/10/86. Approved.—J.F., 10/10/86. Inform. A. RUDDER, 12/10/86.

Number of piles, girders, and saw-mill logs reported seized, 2,970 ; permission granted to remove piles, 200 ; log (not all removed), 800 ; quantity now branded,—piles and logs (good), 1,056 ; piles and logs (useless), 177 ; total, 2,233 ; deficiency, at least 737.

[Enclosure.]

PARTICULARS of seized timber lying in parish of Nerong.

| Locality where lying. | Piles. | | Girders. | | Saw-mill logs. | |
|--|--------|-------|----------|-------|----------------|-------|
| | Good. | Bad. | Good. | Bad. | Good. | Bad. |
| North of Booral Road and west of W. Croaker's C.P. | 55 | 14 | 24 | 23 | ..... | ..... |
| " east " " " | 106 | 9 | 32 | 65 | ..... | ..... |
| South and west of "Sandy Creek"..... | 15 | 4 | 1 | 3 | ..... | ..... |
| Between Boomerang and Sandy Creek | 6 | ..... | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Between Booral Road Dividing Ranges and Timber Road to Dee's Mill | 337 | 13 | 56 | 10 | ..... | ..... |
| Between Sandy and Miggimawidgee Creeks and south of road to Dee's Mill | 64 | 7 | 9 | 12 | 237 | 11 |
| South of Miggimawidgee Creek and road to Dee's Mill..... | 77 | ..... | ..... | 6 | ..... | ..... |
| On W. Croaker, sen.'s C.P..... | 36 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |

No. 219.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 21 October, 1886.

In reply to your letter of the 12th instant (86-9,420 F.) only to hand on the 19th, in which you inform me that Messrs. Dee and Ellis have not made any offer for the timber cut by them, and in which you direct me to submit an upset price for each lot, I do myself the honor to express perplexity how best to advise you, from the firm conviction that the timber in question will scarcely sell at any price, as there is a sort of understanding amongst those in the trade not to purchase forfeited timber. I, however, submit the following upset prices for your consideration for all the confiscated timber in the parish of Nerong, viz., for the 248 good saw-mill logs, 2s. each all round ; for the nineteen fairly good piles, between the branches of Sandy Creek, and the thirty-six usable piles on the north side of the Bullahdelah to Booral road, west of Renwick's conditional purchases, (say) 1s. 6d. each ; and for all the good piles in other localities, viz., 700, (say) 2s. each ; for the fifty-nine girder logs in and about the locality, marked

(A)

(A) on the map, (say) 2s. each; and for the other sixty usable girder logs, which are very widely scattered and inferior, (say) 1s. each. It is quite useless to include any of the bad timber.

With respect to the piles, I am inclined to the opinion that Newcastle or Sydney will be the best markets. I do not think there will be any local buyers. These piles are still fairly sound and good, and average about 52 feet in length, but will have to be searched for by the purchaser, and drawn a considerable distance to water carriage (say) from 7 to 10 or 12 miles. For the saw-mill logs and the girder logs it is just possible (though I doubt it) a market may be found at Bullahdelah. The upset prices mentioned are low, probably below actual value, but the timber has been down a long time, and has to be drawn long distances, and forfeited timber, as before stated, will not sell.

I have, &c.,
AUGUSTUS RUDDER,
Forest Ranger.

No. 220.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Clarencetown, 22 October, 1886.

After despatching my letter yesterday *re* the upset price for the timber seized in the parish of Nerong, while on my way here I met Mr. Ellis' agent, Mr. Joseph Windross, who acts in his interests in connection with his timber trade, and from him I was given to understand that he was about to employ men to square girders, and also that it was likely that Mr. Ellis might ask for a further concession in regard to the piles or make an offer for the whole of them. Under these circumstances I would suggest that no action be taken with regard to any of this timber for a few days more, especially as Mr. Ellis seemed, from what I could learn, more inclined to make an offer for the whole lot than to ask for a further concession. Under any circumstances I would most strongly advise no concession, as it would complicate matters and be attended with loss.

I gave Mr. Windross to understand that the piles were good with the exception of those referred to in my letter as bad or inferior, and as he told me that he would at once communicate with Mr. Ellis, I think it probable that you may receive an offer for all the piles, and such of the girder logs as may be available, in the course of a few days.

In the event of Mr. Ellis coming to terms, as I am now inclined to think he will, I would suggest his having ample time granted him in which to remove the timber (say) twelve months. I think, however, that the men employed in drawing in should hold licenses, and to this I do not anticipate that they will raise any objection.

I do not think the question will be raised.

I have, &c.,
AUGUSTUS RUDDER,
Forest Ranger.

Can await offer or return of papers.—W.F.P., 20/10/86.

The ranger values the timber as follows:—Piles (755), £73 3s. 6d.; saw-mill logs (248), £24 16s.; girder logs (119), £8 18s.; total, £106 17s. 6d. This is not including the timber that has become useless. He strongly advises that no further concession be made to Mr. Ellis in regard to the piles. As it appears probable that Mr. Ellis will make an offer to purchase the lot perhaps the matter may stand over.—W.F.P., 27/10/86.

Submitted for approval.—H.W., 29/10/86. Approved.—J.F., 30/10/86.

No. 221.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 26 October, 1886.

With reference to your letter of 29th ultimo, respecting the piles cut in the parish of Nerong for Mr. Ellis, I have the honor to inform you that the question of permitting timber under the minimum girth to be cut can be dealt with when application is made; but if those lying felled show signs of decay sufficient to procure their condemnation for public works, it would scarcely be expedient to prohibit the cutting of others.

The license fees for piles cannot be raised without an amendment of the regulations.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 222.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 27 October, 1886.

In reply to your letter of the 26th instant (56-8,947 F) *re* the cutting of fresh piles in the parish of Nerong, I have the honor to inform you that the piles seized are still perfectly sound, with the exception of the sap wood, and are practically fit for any purpose where piles are required. I have since ascertained that the reason any were condemned was on account of being crooked, and not because of decay.

With reference to the license for cutting piles, since it cannot be raised without amending the regulations, I believe it will be found advisable to do so for the better protection of this highly valuable class of timber, which is becoming scarce.

I have, &c.,
AUGUSTUS RUDDER,
Forest Ranger.

No. 223.

No. 223.

J. C. Ellis, Esq., to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

247, George-street, Sydney, 5 November, 1886.

Referring to the communication from your Department, asking me to make an offer for timber seized in the Port Stephens district, I beg to state that the timber has no value in its present state and position.

The timber trade at the present time is worse than I have ever known it during my practical experience of twenty years.

Four-fifths of the saw-mills in the Port Stephens district are lying idle for the reason that there is no demand for the timber.

If you will release that timber to me on condition that the men employed in its removal each hold a timber license, I can find employment for a considerable number of the unemployed in that district. I desire to point out that men holding timber licenses can cut and remove green timber.

Under the arrangement I propose the Crown will receive the same revenue in the removal of the old instead of the new, and it is in the interest of the State that the old should be consumed in a legitimate manner, and in the ordinary course of trade, instead of new being cut down for the same purpose.

I beg also to add that if this old timber remains in the bush during the present summer months the probability is it will be destroyed by bush fires.

Further, I beg to state that there is a plentiful supply of the same description of timber in the same district.

I have, &c.,

J. C. ELLIS.

Papers herewith (*vide* 86-9,723 and 9,420 F.]—A.A.D. (for Chief Clerk). Forest Branch, 6/11/86.

This timber has been valued by the ranger at over £100. It may be that the timber has no value in its present state and position, but the only way to prove that is to offer it for sale. If no bid can be obtained for it then it might be proper to allow any holders of licenses to remove it.—H.W., 10/11/86. Submitted.

The timber seized is now lying on the ground, valueless both to the Department and to the parties from whom it was seized. I have ascertained from several sources that the saw-mills in the district where large numbers of men were employed are now idle. If Mr. Ellis and the other parties from whom the timber was seized will undertake to pay a license for every man they employ in dealing with this timber. I think the request should be complied with. If such is not done the license which each man holds will entitle him to go into the bush and cut timber down, and I think it is much better to use the timber already on the ground. Mr. Ellis may be informed that the conditions in his letter will be accepted by the Department.—J.F., 18/11/86.

J. C. Ellis. Forest-Ranger Rudder, 22/11/86.

Mr. Ranger Rudder should perhaps be instructed to report as to the balance of timber remaining under seizure not claimed by Mr. Ellis, whether he is aware of claimants, also *re* quantity, quality, and value, &c., 23/11/86.

Yes.—W.F.P., 23/11/86. Forest-Ranger Rudder, 24/11/86.

[Enclosure.]

SCHEDULE of timber under seizure in Port Stephens district.

| Description of Timber. | Number. | Value. | |
|------------------------|---------|-----------|---|
| | | £ s. d. | |
| Piles | 258 | 97 5 0 | Seized at Myers' Flat. |
| " | 152 | 57 0 0 | Seized in parish of Booloombayt. |
| Saw-mill logs | 768 | 192 0 0 | 240 at Myers' Flat, 528 in parish of Booloombayt. |
| " | 248* | 47 0 0 | 237 good and 11 bad. |
| Girders | 242* | 21 10 6 | 123 good, and 119 bad. |
| Piles | 743* | 261 0 0 | 696 good, and 47 bad. |
| | | £675 15 6 | |

The value given above is estimated at the following rates, viz.:—Piles, 7s. 6d.; girder logs, 3s. 6d.; saw-mill logs, 6d. per 100 superficial feet. The bad timber has not been taken into consideration.

* Claimed by Mr. Ellis.

No. 224.

The Under Secretary for Mines to J. C. Ellis, Esq.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 22 November, 1886.

Having submitted for the consideration of the Secretary for Mines your letter of 5th instant, I am directed to inform you that the timber now lying under seizure in the Port Stephens district, claimed by you, will be released on condition that each person employed in cutting or removing it holds a license.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder (Booral) has been so informed.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 225.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 22 November, 1886.
 With reference to previous correspondence respecting the timber seized in the Port Stephens district, I am directed to inform you that the Minister for Mines has approved of that portion claimed by Mr. J. C. Ellis being released to him on condition that each person employed in cutting or removing the timber holds a license.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 226.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 22 November, 1886.
 With reference to your letter of 21st August last, respecting the ten logs seized by Mr. Ranger Cullen, and claimed by Mr. Gorman, I have to request that you will report as to how the matter stands.

I have, &c.,

W. F. PIPER,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 227.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 24 November, 1886.
 With reference to my letter of 22nd instant, I have to request that you will be good enough to furnish particulars of the timber remaining under seizure in the Port Stephens district not claimed by Mr. J. C. Ellis, viz., as to names of claimants (if any), quantity, quality, and value of timber and particulars of position; also whether there is any likelihood of a sale being effected, if submitted at auction.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 228.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Booral, 26 November, 1886.
 In reply to your letter of the 24th instant, just to hand (86-10,209 F), re the seized timber in the Port Stephens district, I have the honor to inform you with respect to that seized on the east side of the Myall River, none of it was ever pointed out to me, nor have I had (with my numerous other duties) any time in which to muster it, which would cost more than it is worth.

All I have seen has been a long time down and damaged. I cannot learn from my notes that any ownership or claim was established to any of the saw-mill logs, save the ten claimed by William Gorman. The piles were, I believe, cut for Messrs. Croaker and Ellis.

With reference to the timber mustered by Mr. Ranger Cullen and myself in the parish of Nerong, now that all piles are released to Mr. Ellis, there only remains besides the fifty-nine good and sixty usable girder logs which, I believe, were also cut for Messrs. Ellis and Croaker, the 248 good saw-mill logs, to which I do not think any separate and distinct ownership could be established, as doubtless a good many of those originally seized were stolen, and found their way to Mr. Dee's mill before I took charge of this district. The 248 logs just referred to are as yet fairly good, and would average about 1,000 feet. For sites of these logs permit me to refer you to the lithograph of the parish of Nerong, in your possession, and for other particulars to my report of the 21st ultimo.

In the event of this timber being offered for sale, and not finding a purchaser, in such case I would strongly advise its release, not to individuals but to the timber cutters generally, as the moral effect of the seizure would not be lost, and waste would be spared.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS RUDDER,

Forest Ranger.

86-10,209? Did the letter respecting Mr. Ellis's timber refer to piles only or to timber?—W.F.P., 29/11/86. To timber lying under seizure claimed by Mr. Ellis, 29/11/86. Send in schedule showing quantity and estimated value of timber under seizure in the Port Stephens district.—W.F.P., 30/11/86.

The decision, 86-10,209 F, would apply to the timber on the west side of the Myall River, parish of Nerong, and also to that in the parish of Boolambayt. It appears some of the timber is not claimed, but under the circumstances there would appear no objections to any licensee removing it.—W.F.P., Forest Branch, December, 1886.

All the timber may be removed by license holders. Submitted.—H.W., 24/12/86. Approved.—C.K.M., 31/12/86. Mr. Rudder to note.—W.F.P., 1/1/87. Noted.—A.R., 3/1/87. Mr. Ranger Rudder should perhaps give notice to all parties supposed to be interested.—W.F.P., 3/1/87. Approved.—G.E.H. (for Under Secretary), 7/1/87. A. Rudder, 10/1/87.

No. 229.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder.

Sir, Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 10 January, 1887.
 With reference to recent instructions respecting the removal of felled timber from Crown lands on the west side of the Myall River, and in the parishes of Nerong and Booloombayt, I have to inform you that you should give notice to any parties supposed to be interested.

I have, &c.,

W. F. PIPER,

(For the Under Secretary.)

No. 230.

No. 230.

Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Booral, 15 January, 1887.

In reply to your letter of the 10th instant (86-10,888 F.) *re* the removal of felled timber from Crown lands on the west side of the Myall River, and in the parishes of Nerong and Booloombayt, in which you direct that "I should give notice to any parties supposed to be interested," I regret to say that I have unaccountably mislaid and cannot find my notes on this subject taken at the head office while in Sydney recently.

Does the release referred to include the 248 good saw-mill logs mentioned in my letter of the 21st of October last, part of which was claimed by Mr. Dee? Is all the seized timber in the parishes above referred to to be released?

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS RUDDER.

Yes, inform.—W.F.P., 18/1/87. Forest-Ranger Rudder, 27/1/87.

No. 231.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Forest Branch, Sydney, 27 January, 1887.

In reply to your letter of 15th instant, I have to inform you that all the seized timber in the parishes of Nerong and Booloombayt is to be released.

I have, &c.,

W. F. PIPER,

(For the Under Secretary.)

No. 232.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Forest-Ranger Rudder.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Forest Branch, Sydney, 17 February, 1887.

With reference to my letter of 22nd August last, I have to request that you will be good enough to report what steps you have taken to dispose of the ten logs seized by Ranger Cullen on the eastern side of the Myall River, and whether there is any probability of their being sold.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

[Four Plans.]

PARISH OF NERONG COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER *Land District of Port Stephens*

PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHED AT THE GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE,
SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

| Lot No. | Area | Remarks |
|---------|------|---------|
| I | 100 | |
| II | 100 | |
| III | 100 | |
| IV | 100 | |
| V | 100 | |
| VI | 100 | |
| VII | 100 | |
| VIII | 100 | |
| IX | 100 | |
| X | 100 | |
| XI | 100 | |
| XII | 100 | |
| XIII | 100 | |
| XIV | 100 | |
| XV | 100 | |
| XVI | 100 | |
| XVII | 100 | |
| XVIII | 100 | |
| XIX | 100 | |
| XX | 100 | |
| XXI | 100 | |
| XXII | 100 | |
| XXIII | 100 | |
| XXIV | 100 | |
| XXV | 100 | |
| XXVI | 100 | |
| XXVII | 100 | |
| XXVIII | 100 | |
| XXIX | 100 | |
| XXX | 100 | |

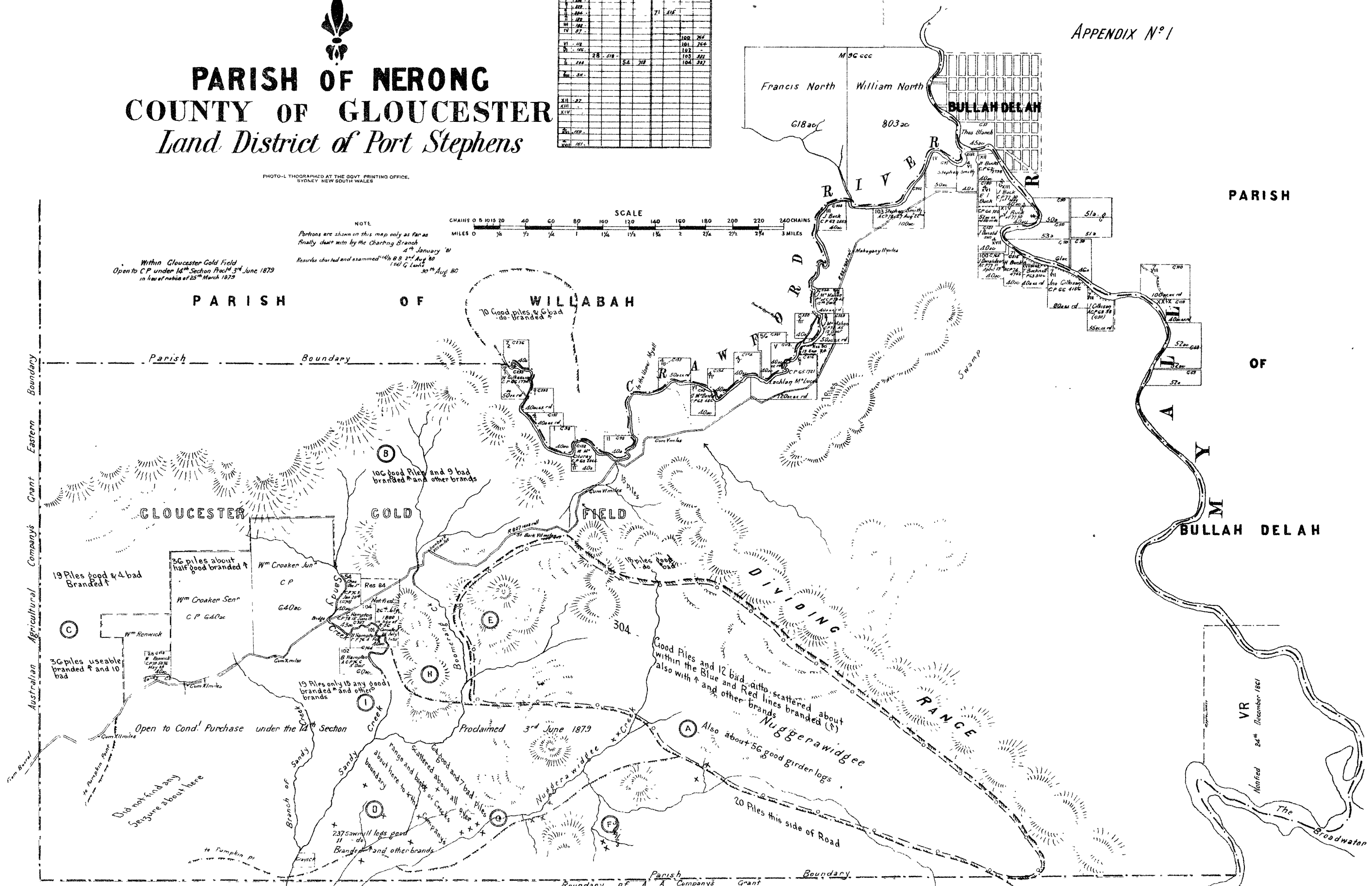
APPENDIX N° 1

A A C^o GRANT 464640 Acres

SCALE
CHAINS 0 5 10 15 20 40 60 80 100 120 140 160 180 200 220 240 CHAINS
MILES 0 1/4 1/2 3/4 1 1 1/4 1 1/2 1 3/4 2 2 1/4 2 1/2 2 3/4 3 MILES

NOTE
Portions are shown on this map only as far as finally dealt with by the Charting Branch 4th January '81
Resurveys checked and examined 14th B.S. 2nd Aug 80
15th G. Lant. 30th Aug 80

Within Gloucester Gold Field
Open to C.P. under 14th Section 1st June 1879
in lieu of notice of 25th March 1879



- 56 fairly good girder logs mixed with the other timber & scattered about all along from E boundary of Boomerang Ck
- 12 possibly usable and 66 worthless girder logs between Creeks and Ranges and back of Crooks Jun^r: scattered
- 24
- 1
- 3
- 8 possibly usable
- 1

(S. 143)

NOTE - Writing in black pencil on original is shown on this copy thus ..branded &c 12345
blue ..branded &c 12345
Dotted lines .. are ..
Circles .. Red ..
Crosses ..

Note - The residue of the girder logs are scattered about everywhere with the piles & are not in my opinion worthy of any notice. The 24 bad Sawmill logs I have also omitted they are worthless (10) A R
XXX Indicating position of Saw mill logs

(Office No P 186)

PARISH OF NERONG COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER Land District of Port Stephens

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 1 | 100 | 200 | 300 | 400 | 500 | 600 | 700 | 800 | 900 | 1000 |
| 1 | 100 | 200 | 300 | 400 | 500 | 600 | 700 | 800 | 900 | 1000 |
| 1 | 100 | 200 | 300 | 400 | 500 | 600 | 700 | 800 | 900 | 1000 |
| 1 | 100 | 200 | 300 | 400 | 500 | 600 | 700 | 800 | 900 | 1000 |
| 1 | 100 | 200 | 300 | 400 | 500 | 600 | 700 | 800 | 900 | 1000 |
| 1 | 100 | 200 | 300 | 400 | 500 | 600 | 700 | 800 | 900 | 1000 |
| 1 | 100 | 200 | 300 | 400 | 500 | 600 | 700 | 800 | 900 | 1000 |
| 1 | 100 | 200 | 300 | 400 | 500 | 600 | 700 | 800 | 900 | 1000 |
| 1 | 100 | 200 | 300 | 400 | 500 | 600 | 700 | 800 | 900 | 1000 |
| 1 | 100 | 200 | 300 | 400 | 500 | 600 | 700 | 800 | 900 | 1000 |

PHOTO-LITHO. BY THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE
No. 107 W. B. S.

NOTE

For sale & shown on this map only as far as
nearly exact map by the Charting Branch
4th January 81

Within Gloucester Gold Field
Open to C.P. under 14th Section 3rd June 1879
to hold under 14th March 1879



464640 Acres

GRANT

C^o

A

A

PARISH OF WILLABAH

PARISH

OF

BULLAH-DELAH

VR

14th

December 1861

Notified

The

Goodwater

GLOUCESTER GOLD FIELD

William Croakers Sen
640 acres
for forfeit C.P.
213 Piles B
29 Girder Logs
2 Squared Pieces
Branded A

William Croakers Jun
C.P.
640 acres
30 Piles not surveyed
455555 F

Open to C^o Purchase under the 14th Section
970 Piles
58
970

943 Girder Logs
Proclaimed
3rd June 1879

51 Squared Pieces
Branded A H or L or M or P
interspersed with Logs of original seizure & branded A only

58 Piles 25 Girder Logs
309 Squared Logs
Branded A

(Sig. 143)

A

A

C^o

GRANT

Pencil lines original plan are shown thus
Red do do do do do
Blue do do do do do
Brown lines in red do do do
do do do do do

50 Piles not surveyed
& interspersed with
interspersed with

Cat N° B 2171 2009
 Con. Sales N° 82.3379 S

Land Dist Cowra

TRACING

showing portion 106 in the

Parish of Waugoola
 County of Bathurst

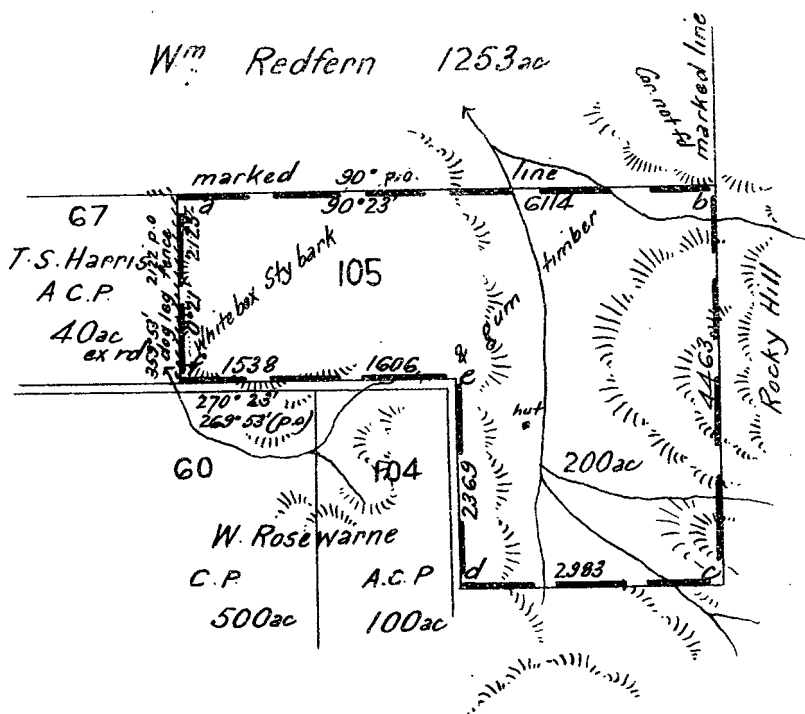
Scale 20 chains to an inch

Applied for by Thos Rosewarne
 13th clause of the C.L.A Act of 1861
 C.P. No 81.104 of 5th May

under the

Inspector Davies R
 17 Nov 82

Scale of Chains 0 20 40 60



Portion edged red on original is shown, on this copy, thus _____

| Reference to Corners | | | | |
|----------------------|----------|-----------------|--------|------------|
| Cor. | bearing | From | lks | No on tree |
| a | 106° 00' | Stringybark box | 66 | 67.105 |
| b | 339° 56' | " | 48 | 105 |
| c | 180° 00' | " | 14 | " |
| d | 192° 20' | gum | 62 | " |
| e | 105° 30' | Apple box | 16 1/2 | " |
| f | 321° 30' | " | 74 | 67.105 |

Traced by J.C.T.
 Ex. by J.C.T.

C.P.
 TRACING BRANCH

(Signature)

6 Oct '82

S.G.O.

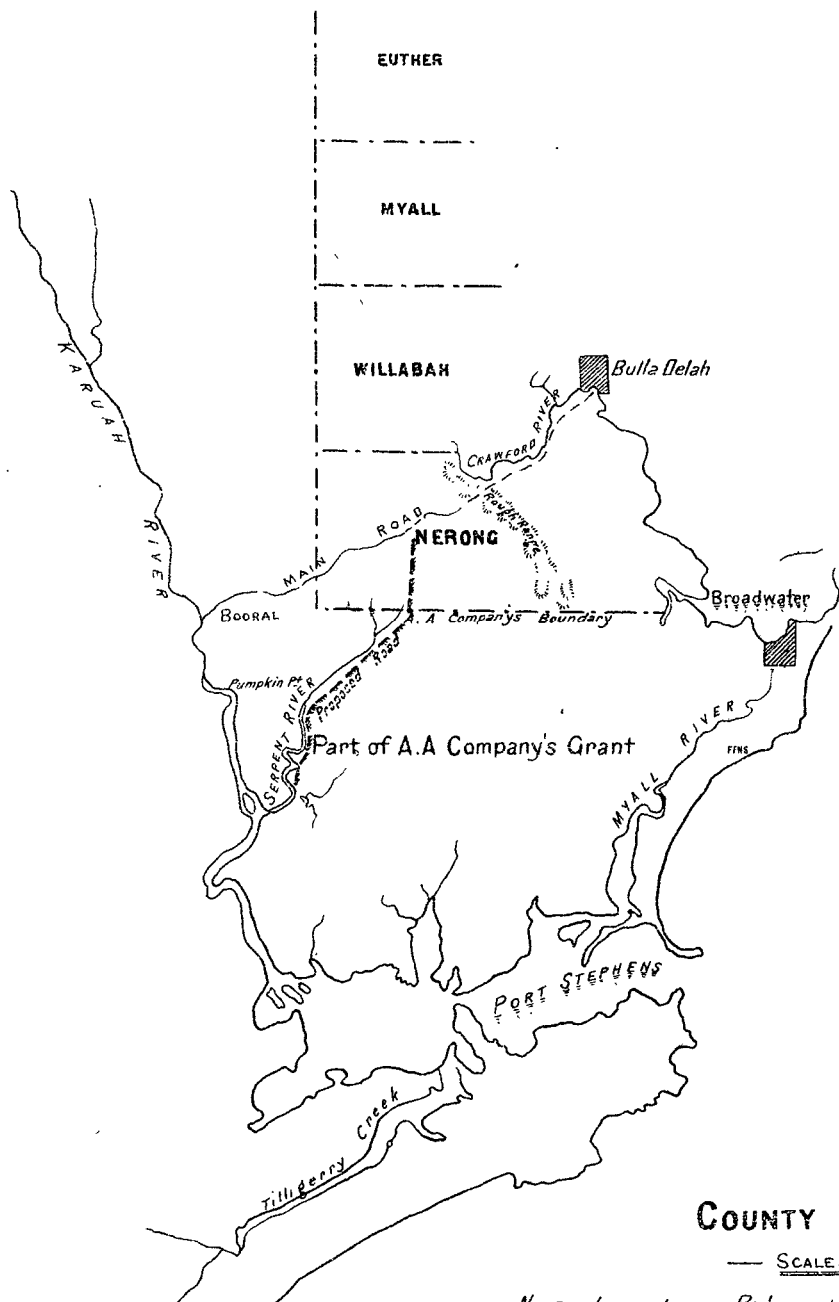
Date of Survey 28th March 1882

Value of Improvements Hut £5

(sd) R.C. Glasson
 Lic. Surveyor

Traced by M.C. de Gyulay
 Examined by (sd) W.D.B.H

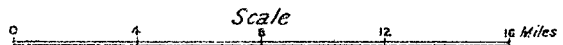
Enclosure to N^o 150
Appendix N^o 3



COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER

— SCALE 4 MILES TO 1 INCH —

NOTE - Lines shown in Red on original are shown on this copy, thus ~~Writing~~ is Proposed &c



Traced by J.E.T.
Examined by ~~W. J. M. D.~~ 4 July 95.
(Sig. 143)

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(RETURN SHOWING GRANT OF—TO THE AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL COMPANY.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 19 December, 1888.

VICTORIA by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, and so forth.

To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting—

WHEREAS, by an Act of Parliament made and passed in the fifth year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George the Fourth, intituled, “An Act for granting certain powers and authorities to a company to be incorporated by charter, to be called ‘The Australian Agricultural Company,’ for the cultivation and improvement of waste lands in the Colony of New South Wales, and for other purposes relating thereto,” it was amongst other things enacted, that in case His said Majesty should within three years after the passing of the said Act be pleased by charter under the Great Seal of Great Britain, to declare and grant that such and so many persons as should be named therein, and all and every such other person or persons as from time to time should be duly admitted members into their corporation, should be a body politic and corporate by the name of the Australian Agricultural Company, and to declare that the Corporation so to be made and created should be established for the purpose of cultivating waste lands in the said Colony of New South Wales. Then, and in such case, it should and might be lawful for the said Corporation to hold to them and their successors such lands, tenements, and hereditaments within the said Colony of New South Wales, as should or might be granted by His said Majesty to them and to their successors within the said Colony, or as should be contracted for and purchased or acquired by them therein; and to hold, alienate, sell and dispose of all such lands, tenements, and hereditaments upon, under, and subject to such conditions and provisions, limitations and restrictions, as His said Majesty by his said charter might impose, direct, or prescribe. And whereas His said late Majesty by his Letters Patent or Charter under the Great Seal of Great Britain, dated at Westminster the 1st day of November, in the fifth year of the Reign of His said Majesty, and in the year of Our Lord, 1824, after reciting the said Act of Parliament, did by his said Letters Patent or Charter, grant and declare that certain persons therein named and all and every such other person or persons as from time to time should be duly admitted members into the said Corporation, should be a body politic and corporate by the name of the Australian Agricultural Company, and amongst other things, did thereby declare that all such lands, tenements, and hereditaments within the said Colony as should or might be granted by His said Majesty to the said Corporation and their successors within the said Colony, should be held alienated and disposed of under and subject to the conditions, provisoes, and limitations and restrictions in the said Letters Patent or Charter, expressed among which were certain conditions relating to certain quit-rents, thereby directed to be reserved to His said Majesty, his heirs and successors, in respect of the lands to be so granted: And whereas by divers instructions, which have been issued from time to time by order of His said late Majesty King George the Fourth, and of His said late Majesty King William the Fourth, to the Governors of our said Colony, the said Company have been authorized to take possession of the several lands and hereditaments hereinafter described, and intended to be hereby granted, and to have with the assent of the Governors for the time being of our said Colony, entered into and taken possession of the said lands and hereditaments, and the said Company have now been for several years past in the possession thereof, and they have laid out and expended very large sums of money in the improvement thereof, but no grant thereof, hath yet been made to the said Company: And whereas by an Act made and passed in the tenth year of our reign intituled “An Act to amend an Act passed in the fifth year of the reign of His Majesty King George the Fourth, for granting certain powers and authorities to the Australian Agricultural Company.” After reciting (among other things) in part to the effect aforesaid, and further reciting that the said Company had substantially fulfilled divers of the conditions contained in the said Letters Patent on their part to be observed and performed, and that by reason of lapse of time and the alteration of circumstances, others of the said conditions had become unmaterial. It was enacted that it might be lawful for us, and our successors from time to time, and at all times thereafter, by warrant under the Royal Sign Manual to authorize, and empower the Governor for the time being of the said Colony of New South Wales, to execute a deed or deeds under the Great Seal of the said Colony of New South Wales, granting to the said Company any lands, tenements, and hereditaments in the said Colony freed, and for ever discharged of, and from the quit-rents, conditions, provisoes, limitations, and restrictions in the said Letters Patent or Charter, expressed or such of them or such parts thereof, as we or our successors should in and by the said grant, or warrant, or grants, or warrants direct, and that it should be lawful for the said Company to hold, alienate, sell, and dispose of all or any part or parts of the said lands so to be granted, subject only to such conditions, and restrictions if any as should be stipulated in and by the grant, or grants thereof, to the said Company: And whereas we, in consideration of the said instructions, and in pursuance of the last hereinbefore recited Act of Parliament, did by warrant under the Royal Sign Manual, bearing date on or about the 13th day of April, 1847, transmitted by the Right Honorable Earl Grey, one of our Principals

Secretaries of State, authorize and empower the Governor of our said Colony to execute a deed under the Great Seal of the said Colony of or to the tenor of these presents: Now know ye that, in consideration of the premises, we, of our special grace, mere motion, and certain knowledge, have granted, and for us, our heirs, and successors, do hereby grant unto the Australian Agricultural Company and their successors: Firstly, all that piece or parcel of land in our said Colony containing by admeasurement 464,640 acres, be the same more or less, situated in the county of Gloucester between Port Stephens and the Manning River: Bounded on the south by the harbour of Port Stephens (commencing at the reserve at the base of the North Head), the Karuah River, and a line west from about half a mile below the head of the navigation of that river; on the west by a line north 47 miles to the Manning River; on the north by that river east direct 19 miles, exclusively of the windings of that river; and on the east by lines south 2 miles and 52 chains, west 7 miles, south 39 miles, and east 11 miles, and 56 chains to a creek of the Myal Lake, and by that lake and the Myall River to Port Stephens: And also secondly, all that piece or parcel of land in our said Colony, containing by admeasurement 249,600 acres, be the same more or less, situated in a county and parish unnamed, at Liverpool Plains: Bounded on the south by a line west 30 miles, commencing in a ravine forming the source of the Warrah Brook; on the west by a line north 13 miles; on the north by a line east 30 miles; and on the east by a line south 13 miles to the ravine at the head of Warrah Brook: And likewise thirdly, all that other piece or parcel of land in our said Colony, containing by admeasurement 313,298 acres, be the same more or less, situated in a county and parish unnamed between the River Peel and the Turi Range: Bounded on the west by a line south from Peel's River to a remarkably rocky pointed hill, called by the black natives Turi, and measuring $16\frac{1}{2}$ miles; on the south by lines from that rocky pointed hill bearing east 10 miles; then south 13 miles, east $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles, south 5 miles, and again east 10 miles and 38 chains to Peel's River; and on the east and north by that river: And fourthly, all that piece or parcel of land in our said Colony, containing by admeasurement 2,000 acres situate in the parish of Newcastle, county of Northumberland: Commencing at the north-east corner, and bounded partly on the north by 35 chains and 40 links of the coast on a west line; on part of the west by a south line of 10 chains to the south side of the road to Maitland; on the remainder of the north, and on the north-east, by the south side of the before-mentioned road to the north-west corner, that corner bearing from the centre of the bridge over Throsby's creek, north $319\frac{1}{2}$ degrees east 50 chains; on the west by a south line of 193 chains 50 links; on the south by an east line of 162 chains to the coast; on the south-east by the coast; and on the east by a line bearing north 15 degrees west 47 chains to the coast at the north-east corner aforesaid, except and always reserved to us, our heirs and successors, out of the said piece or parcel of land containing 2,000 acres, all that piece or parcel of land containing by admeasurement 87 acres, situate in the said county of Northumberland, and parish of Newcastle, commencing at the north-west corner of the township (according to the scale of the maps prepared by Mr. Dangar) and bounded on the west by a line bearing south 7 degrees, west 17 chains and 15 links, and a line bearing south 15 degrees east 41 chains to the coast line; on the south by the coast line; on the east by a line bearing north 15 degrees west 47 chains to the harbour of Newcastle; and on the north by high-water mark of that harbour westerly to the commencing point: And fifthly by way of further grant, and not of exception or reservation, all that other piece or parcel of land in our said Colony, containing by admeasurement 36 perches, situate in the said county of Northumberland, and parish of Newcastle, and in the town of Newcastle: Commencing from the south-east corner of allotment number 21, and bounded on the north by its south boundary line, bearing west 7 degrees north 2 chains and 25 links; on the west by the east boundary of allotment number 24, bearing south 7 degrees west 1 chain; on the south by a line bearing east 7 degrees south 2 chains 25 links to Pacific-street; and on the east by 1 chain of that street bearing north 7 degrees east to the south-east corner of allotment number 21 as aforesaid, being allotment number 23: And sixthly all that piece or parcel of land in our said Colony, containing by admeasurement 36 perches, situated in the county of Northumberland, parish of Newcastle, town of Newcastle: Commencing from the south-east corner of allotment number 54 (William Evans), and bounded on the north by its south boundary line bearing west 7 degrees north 2 chains and 25 links; on the west by the east boundary line of allotment 53 (William Hicks) bearing south 7 degrees west 1 chain; on the south by a line bearing east 7 degrees south 2 chains and 25 links to Watt-street; and on the east by 1 chain of the west side of that street bearing north 7 degrees east to the south-east corner of allotment number 54 aforesaid, being allotment number 52: And seventhly and lastly, full and free license, liberty, and authority unto and for the said Australian Agricultural Company, their successors and assigns for ever, and their agents, servants, and workmen to enter into, search for, dig, get, take, and carry away to and for the use and benefit of the said company and their successors, all and all manner of coals and minerals, and mines and quarries of coals and minerals now open for or known, or which at any time hereafter shall be found out and discovered in or under the piece or parcel of land containing 87 acres hereinbefore described, or any part thereof: Subject, nevertheless, in the working of such mines, in and under the last-mentioned piece or parcel of land, to such conditions as to depth and necessary supports as may be approved of by the Governor, for the time being, of our said Colony: And provided that in no case the depth of land left from the surface of the mine shall be less than 100 feet, they, the said company and their successors, making reasonable satisfaction unto us, our heirs and successors, for all damage which may be occasioned to the surface of the said piece of land, containing 87 acres or any part thereof, by or by means of the working of the said mines; together with all rights, members, and appurtenances to the several lands and hereditaments hereby granted, or intended so to be; to hold the lands and hereditaments hereby granted, or intended so to be, and every part thereof, to the said Australian Agricultural Company and their successors, for ever freed and for ever discharged from all and every the quit-rents, conditions, provisos, limitations, and restrictions in the said Letters Patent or Charter expressed and contained.

In witness whereof, we have caused our trusty and well-beloved Sir Charles Augustus Fitz-Roy, Knight, our Captain-General, and Governor-in-Chief, in and over our said Colony of New South Wales and its dependencies, to affix to these presents the public Seal of our said Colony, at Government House, Sydney, in New South Wales aforesaid, this 20th day of November, in the eleventh year of our reign, and in the year of our Lord 1847.

(L.S.) CHAS. A. FITZ-ROY.

ENTERED on record by me, this 27th day of November, 1847, the words from "to execute, &c.," to "granting," being interlined after Wales in the sixteenth line of page 505, this registration being now a verbatim copy of the original deed as executed.—E. DEAS THOMSON, Colonial Secretary and Registrar.

1888-9.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

SELECTIONS BY JOHN HARRISON, OF LISMORE;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

AND

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

ORDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO BE PRINTED,
16 *January*, 1889.

SYDNEY: CHARLES POTTER, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1889.

1888-9.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 16. TUESDAY, 27 NOVEMBER, 1888.

7. SELECTIONS BY JOHN HARRISON, OF LISMORE:—Mr. Ewing moved, pursuant to Notice,—
- (1.) That a Select Committee be appointed, with power to send for persons and papers, to inquire into and report upon the selections made by John Harrison in Lismore district, declared forfeited.
- (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Brunner, Mr. Henry Clarke, Mr. Crouch, Mr. Day, Mr. Henson, Mr. Kethel, Mr. M'Farlane, Mr. Stevenson, and the Mover.
- Question put and passed.
-

VOTES No. 36. WEDNESDAY, 16 JANUARY, 1889.

4. SELECTIONS BY JOHN HARRISON, OF LISMORE:—Mr. Ewing, as Chairman, brought up the Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, and Evidence taken before, the Select Committee for whose consideration and report this subject was referred on 27th November, 1888.
- Ordered to be printed.
-

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1888-9.

SELECTIONS BY JOHN HARRISON, OF LISMORE.

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed on the 27th November, 1888, "*with power to send for persons and papers, to inquire into and report upon the selections made by John Harrison, in Lismore district, declared forfeited,*"—have agreed to the following Report:—

Your Committee, having examined the witnesses named in the margin (whose evidence will be found appended hereto), find as follows:—

W. H. Capper,
John Harrison.

That John Harrison acquired the following conditional purchases in the parish of Bungabbee, county of Rous, and district of Lismore, viz.:—74/2,138, 77/11, 81/92, 81/107, 81/128, 81/297, and 81/319, of 40 acres each; also 81/440 of 125 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres, and 82/136 of 234 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres.

That his conditional purchases Nos. 81/107, 81/128, 81/319, and 81/440 were recommended for forfeiture by Mr. Secretary Garrett, which action would also forfeit No. 82/136 on account of separation.

That, on examination of the papers and the evidence, your Committee is of opinion that the conditional purchases of John Harrison should not have been declared forfeited, and they recommend his case to the favourable consideration of your Honorable House.

THOS. EWING,
Chairman.

No. 2 Committee Room,
Sydney, 16th January, 1889.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

TUESDAY, 15 JANUARY, 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

| | | |
|-------------|--|-------------------|
| Mr. Ewing, | \| | Mr. Henry Clarke, |
| Mr. Kethel, | \| | Mr. Stevenson, |
| Mr. Day, | \| | Mr. Henson. |

Mr. Ewing called to the Chair.

Entry from Votes and Proceedings appointing the Committee *read* by the Clerk.

W. H. Capper (*Clerk, Lands Department*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness *produced* papers relating to selections made by John Harrison, of Lismore.

Witness withdrew.

John Harrison called in, sworn, and examined.

Room cleared.

Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till To-morrow at *Three* o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 16 JANUARY, 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

| | | |
|----------|--|-------------------------|
|  | \| | Mr. Ewing in the Chair. |
| Mr. Day, | \| | Mr. M'Farlane, |
|  | \| | Mr. Stevenson. |

Chairman submitted Draft Report.

Same read and *agreed* to.

Chairman to report to the House.

1888-9.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

SELECTIONS BY JOHN HARRISON, OF LISMORE.

TUESDAY, 15 JANUARY, 1889.

Present:—

MR. EWING,
MR. HENRY CLARKE,
MR. STEVENSON,

MR. DAY,
MR. KETHEL,
MR. HENSON.

T. T. EWING, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

William Henry Capper called in, sworn, and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] You are in attendance from the Lands Office, in reply to a request from this Committee? Yes.
2. Do you find that Mr. Harrison selected on the 19th February, 1874, 74-13, 40 acres? Yes.
3. And as an additional conditional purchase, 77-11, on the 11th January, 1877, 40 acres? Yes.
4. These were declared upon a certificate of conformity issued for that 80 acres? Yes.
5. That 80 acres form part of a series which make up 640 acres? Yes.
6. He then made an additional conditional purchase on the 9th June, 1881, of 40 acres? Yes.
7. Another on the 16th of June, 1881, of 40 acres? Yes.
8. Another on the 23rd of June, 1881, of 40 acres? Yes.
9. Another on the 15th of September, 1881, of 40 acres? Yes.
10. Another on the 22nd of September, 1881, of 40 acres? Yes.
11. Another on the 1st of December, 1881, of 125 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres? Yes.
12. And one on the 30th November, 1882, of 234 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres? Yes.
13. Making a total of 640 acres? Yes.
14. You say that the first two selections of 40 acres each have been completed;—that is, the residence and improvements have been made and certificates issued? Yes.
15. I believe, on the 6th July, 1887, Inspector West reported that on the original conditional purchase there was 100 rods of fencing, representing a value of £25? Yes.
16. And that was erected since the fire consumed the first improvements, and was allowed by the Minister on appeal? Yes.
17. There was a fire, and these improvements have disappeared, and consequently Inspector West could not have seen them? Exactly.
18. You will find on page 16 of the papers that C.P. 81-92 had improvements on it to the value of £33 15s.? Yes.
19. Then C.P. 81-128 had on it improvements to the value of £7 4s.? Yes.
20. On A.C.P. 81-297 there are improvements to the value of £22? Yes.
21. On C.P. 81-319 there are improvements to the value of £3? Yes.
22. On 81-440 improvements to the value of £31 15s.? Yes.
23. On 82-136 improvements to the value of £86 11s.? Yes.
24. If you turn to page 19 of the papers issued by the Department you will find that there are 40 chains of barbed-wire fence on original conditional purchase, valued at £40? Yes.

W. H.
Capper.
15 Jan., 1889.

- W. H. Capper.
15 Jan., 1889.
25. And 140 acres have been ringbarked, the improvement being valued at £21? Yes.
26. Then on page 20 you will see that ringbarking is shown to the amount of £6, and land sown with clover-seed valued at £10? Yes.
27. What does all that amount to? £286 5s.; but if the allowance of £20 by the Board, and the improvements effected after inspection and previous to inquiry (£61), with those omitted by Inspector West (£16), are also calculated, the total will be £306 5s.
28. We have only 560 acres under consideration;—what area of improvements would that £306 5s. cover? 612½ acres.
29. Had Mr. Harrison made his final declaration on his C.P. 82-136, of 234 acres, which was the last of the series, at the time the inquiry took place by the Land Board? No; the final declaration was made on the 25th February, 1888.
30. So that, in point of fact, the Department held an inquiry before Mr. Harrison made his final declaration? No; not in regard to the additional conditional purchases authorized for inspection and inquiry.
31. If the Land Board had postponed the inquiry until the final declaration had come in, and then held their final inquiry, would they have found the whole of the improvements on the land? Yes; so it appears.
32. I want to know if the Department had postponed their inquiry until Mr. Harrison's time was expired, would they have found the improvements;—would they have found them to be over the amount required? Yes; but only for a certain area.
33. For 560 acres? Yes; but the area in question is 640 acres, as I understand it.
34. But this 80 acres, which forms part of the 640, had been previously dealt with? As far as they themselves were concerned.
35. Therefore you only want improvements to cover 560 acres? Yes.
36. Totted up, the amount comes to enough to cover 612 acres? Yes; but you have taken improvements on selections which have been dealt with, and at the same time excluded the area of those selections.
37. The £25 worth of improvements that were burnt? I do not think it is admissible to take that into consideration.
38. But the improvements were in the series? No doubt the improvements were on the original and on the additional conditional purchase when the declarations were made.
39. And were dealt with? Yes; but resuscitated when you consolidated the area to satisfy the law as regards improvements. The law requires that the improvements shall be 10s. per acre on the aggregate area. From the papers it appears that they were not, and the Minister so decided in the Appeal Court.
40. I suppose you have no fault to find with Mr. Harrison except in regard to these improvements? That is all.
41. Have you any information that will lead you to believe that he has very large improvements on adjacent lands? I have not read the papers through closely to ascertain such information.
42. Have you any reason to doubt his *bona fides*? None.
43. Taking the departmental view of the case, is it not a fact that there is only £4 in dispute? In consolidating the area in this case, the calculation excludes the 1882 selection of 234½ acres, and that gives an area of 405 acres 3 roods, the improvements required for which would be £202 17s. 6d.
44. Do you know that Mr. Harrison has resided there for the last fourteen years? That is out of the question.
45. On page 21 of the papers you will see the following statement, made by the Chairman of the Land Board at Grafton—"but two days after the Board concluded the case he went to Mr. Allingham, a solicitor in Lismore, and that gentleman wanted the Board to reopen the case, as Mr. Harrison was prepared to prove the existence of much more improvements. Anything more barefaced I never saw. My colleagues are strong personal friends of Mr. Harrison's, but were so disgusted with the unscrupulousness displayed, that it was determined not to reopen the case at Lismore, but leave the parties concerned to their remedy by appeal";—I presume that would weigh pretty heavily with the Minister, would it not, if he believed he was dealing with an unscrupulous man? I must object to answer that question. I cannot say what would weigh with the Minister. If it was a question of residence it would be a different matter altogether; but this is a question of improvements, and it would depend upon the evidence given by Mr. Harrison and by the public officers.
46. If the Minister for Lands is prepared to accept the opinion of the chairman of the Local Land Board, and if the case hangs in the balance, the Minister feeling some doubts and believing that he has an unscrupulous man to deal with, would that not affect him a little? This letter, I take it, is to some extent informal. The case was submitted to the Local Land Board for investigation, and it was within their province to report everything they took as evidence, and to submit their decision. This is a letter written by the chairman himself.
47. In his official capacity as chairman of the Land Board? Yes; but it is outside his duty as a member of the Board.
48. Where is Mr. Blackman now? I do not know.
49. Did you find him pretty competent to do these cases? I cannot criticise Mr. Blackman; he is my senior officer.
50. *Mr. Stevenson.*] Can you say why he was removed? I cannot.
51. *Chairman.*] Is Mr. Blackman still chairman up there? He is not.
52. *Mr. Stevenson.*] Can you tell why he is not? I cannot.
53. Is he in the Service still? Yes.
54. Is he still in the position of chairman of the Land Board? I think he has that position, but he is not acting.
55. *Chairman.*] I presume it is customary for the Department, when there is any delay or misunderstanding about improvements, to concede an extension of time? There is legal provision for it.
56. Can you tell why, when Mr. Harrison applied for the extension of time, no reply was sent to him? His letter was sent to the chairman of the Board. The chairman has no power to grant extensions of time, upon cases under the repealed Acts; but it was, however, sent on to the Minister.
57. Can you tell why it was not replied to? I cannot. I do not think the Minister has power to refuse a request for an extension of time; it is a right given under the Act.
58. *Mr. Stevenson.*] Have you known a case in which an application has been refused? No.
59. *Chairman.*] This was virtually refused because it was never replied to? No; it would not affect the selection.

60. What was the special urgency to cause an inquiry to be held before the last of the series was completed? It is usual to inquire, if necessary, into every case as it matures.

61. Two months afterwards the whole series matured, still an inquiry was held prematurely? He should have been prepared, on the expiration of each term, to satisfy the Department that he had carried out the conditions.

62. *Mr. Stevenson.*] Is it usual to make any allowance for improvements that have been destroyed by fire? No doubt if the improvements were destroyed by fire or swept away by floods allowance would be made.

W. H.
Capper.

15 Jan., 1889.

John Harrison, of Lismore, called in, sworn, and examined:—

63. *Chairman*] You selected 74-13 on the 19th February, 1874, 40 acres? Yes.

64. And you selected the A.C.P. 77-11 on the 11th January, 1877, being another 40 acres? Yes.

65. These were declared upon and a certificate of conformity issued? Yes.

66. You afterwards made the following additional conditional purchases, 81-92 on the 9th June, 1881, 40 acres; 81-107, made on the 16th June, 1881, 40 acres; 81-128, made on the 23rd June, 1881, 40 acres; 81-207, on the 15th September, 1881, 40 acres; 81-319, on the 22nd September, 1881, 40 acres; 81-440, on the 1st December, 1881, 125½ acres; 82-136, on the 30th November, 1882, 234¼ acres? Yes; I made those selections.

67. Being a total of 640 acres? Yes.

68. Can you tell us the total value of the improvements on the 560 acres? £306 5s., including the improvements that were burnt.

69. We find from the papers that up to the time of Inspector West's visit the value of the improvements on the original conditional purchase amounted to £25? Yes.

70. On C.P. 81-92 the value of the improvements was £33 15s.? Yes.

71. On C.P. 81-128 the value of the improvements was £7 4s.? Yes.

72. On C.P. 81-297 the improvements amounted to £22? Yes.

73. On A.C.P. 81-319 the improvements amounted to £3? Yes.

74. On A.C.P. 81-440 the value of the improvements amounted to £31 15s.? Yes.

75. On A.C.P. 82-126 the value of the improvements was £86 11s., making a total of £209 5s.? Yes. I claim £4 in addition to the Inspector's valuation. There is also £16 more, making a total of £229 5s.

76. What value of improvements should you have had on the land? £233 3s. at that date.

77. That is the worst possible view of the case? I may mention that at the date of the inspection there were 325¼ acres due the full amount of 10s. an acre, amounting to £162 17s. 6d.; and another selection of 234¼ acres, at 6s. an acre, amounted to £70 5s. 6d., or a total of £233 3s.

78. *Chairman.*] That made a difference of about £3 between you and the Department? I stated at the inquiry that I had made further improvements to the value of £61 since the Inspector came.

79. Had you made your final declaration on the C.P. 82-136, which was the last of the series, at the time of the inquiry? No, I had not; it was not due.

80. This last conditional purchase then did not form part of the inquiry? No.

81. The inquiry was held on the 9th January, 1888? No, on the 22nd November, 1887; and the last C.P. was due seven days after the 30th November.

82. But usually three months grace is allowed by the Department? Yes.

83. If the Board had postponed the inquiry until after the final declaration had come in would they have found the whole of the improvements on them? Yes.

84. What amount was the total? The total amount declared for was £366 5s.

85. If the Department had allowed for the burnt improvements which were on by their Inspector's own report, would you have been safe in the first instance? Yes; I was only £3 18s. short, and with the other two pieces, amounting to 80 acres, I should have had a surplus of £20. I counted upon it until I found it was not the rules of the Department to allow it. I thought that as the Inspector had vouched for the improvements they were to my credit at the Department.

86. How long have you resided at Lismore on this selection? Fourteen years. The first selections were taken up fourteen years ago.

87. *Mr. Kethel.*] Have you no other improvements on these conditional purchases and additional conditional purchases than fencing improvements? The original improvements were burnt after my term of residence was completed. My brother and I put up a large butter and cheese factory. We have expended a large sum of money, and we have resided there. The improvements which have been destroyed were our original residence.

88. *Chairman.*] You have expended some £2,000 on adjacent land on the erection of a butter factory? Yes.

89. The conditional purchases under consideration, I believe, are your paddocks for dry cows? For the milking cattle.

90. *Mr. Kethel.*] What description of land is it? Open forest.

91. *Chairman.*] You perceive from the official papers that the chairman of the Local Land Board severely criticises you, saying that your conduct was barefaced, &c.;—was that written with the authority of the Land Board? No; but I heard of this. I saw three members of the Board, and Mr. Garrard was very much annoyed about it. He has given me the following declaration:—

I, SEBASTIAN GARRARD, of Boorie, do solemnly and sincerely declare that I am a member of the Lismore Land Board, and that on the 22nd day of November, 1887, a certain matter, wherein the fulfilment of the condition of improvements by John Harrison on his conditional purchases, 81-92, 81-107, 81-128, 81-297, 81-319, 81-440, Lismore, county Rous, parish Bungaby, came before the said Lismore Land Board for inquiry; that the chairman of the said Land Board did, in his report to the Under Secretary for Lands, dated 9 January, 1888, state that the Board were so disgusted at the unscrupulousness displayed that it was determined not to reopen the case at Lismore, but to leave the parties concerned to their remedy by appeal.

I now declare that those statements are not in accordance with the facts of the case, and further, that no disgust was expressed, and that the Board did agree to reopen the case at Lismore, provided that they had the power to do so, and that they recommended the selector to apply to the Minister for that purpose, and stated that they would not oppose the application.

That the said Board did agree to an increase of £16 on the Inspector's valuation of improvements on portion No. 85, and that the Board agreed that this sum might go towards making up any deficiency on the other portions.

That I am personally aware that the said John Harrison and his brother, George Harrison, have expended a large sum of money for buildings, yards, machinery, and plant, for butter and cheese manufacture on a large scale, and close to those portions referred to above.

And

J. Harrison.

15 Jan., 1889.

J. Harrison.
15 Jan., 1889.

And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the ninth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act for the more effectual abolition of oaths and affirmations taken and made in the various Departments of the Government of New South Wales and to substitute declarations in lieu thereof and for the suppression of voluntary and extra-judicial oaths and affidavits."
Taken and declared at Lismore, this 8th day }
of January, 1889, before me, — S. GARRARD.

GEORGE LARKIN, J.P.

92. *Mr. Kethel.*] Did you get any expression of opinion from any other members of the Board? I saw Mr. Duncan M'Donald, the other member, and asked him if he would give me a declaration similar to the one from Mr. Garrard; but he stated, whilst admitting that while the declaration was true, that he felt some delicacy about giving a declaration, as he was a member of the Board. I might mention that if the Committee will call on Mr. M'Donald he will substantiate what I say.
93. *Chairman.*] You were under the impression that an extension of time would be allowed? I was. When I stated in Court that I had applied for an extension of time, Mr. Blackman said that the application had not been received, and I had no proof that it was received until I saw it amongst the printed papers.
94. *Mr. Stevenson.*] It was necessary for you to reside on this selection? Yes; I complied with the residence condition.
95. There is no improvement shown in the papers to be a residence? That is a portion of the £60 worth of improvements that were burnt.
96. *Mr. Henson.*] When improvements are destroyed by fire, has notice to be given to the Department? I am not aware.
97. *Mr. Day.*] You say that you had £229 worth of improvements when the fire took place, whereas £233 worth were required;—were the burnt improvements included in that £229 worth? They were not included.
98. But if they had been included you would have had a large amount over that which you ought to have had on this selection? Yes.
99. Was there any reason given for not allowing for the improvements that were destroyed by fire? I am not aware that they gave any reason. They said they could not allow for them.
100. But these improvements were passed before by the Inspector? Yes.
101. And the Department were satisfied that the improvements were on the land? They must have been, and they granted me a certificate of conformity for residence and improvements on the two pieces on which they were made.
102. Was there any other inquiry with regard to the other selections the time of which had not expired? No, only one inquiry.
103. Has there been no inquiry after the final declaration? None whatever.
104. Are you quite sure that when the Local Land Board sat to hear your case they did not allow for the improvements which were burnt down? I am quite sure of it.
105. Did you ask them to allow for the improvements already allowed by the Inspector? No.
106. Did anyone ask for you? No; I was allowed very little latitude at the inquiry. The chairman would not even allow me to make the best of my own case.
107. Would not the chairman allow you to speak? No. I pointed out that at the time the decision was given that a selection of 40 acres had improvements on to the value of £33 15s. where it only required improvements to the amount of £20, and that another 40 acres had improvements on to the value of £22 although only requiring improvements to the value of £20, but I could get no allowance for the surplus; the chairman would not listen to me. I have lost my solicitor, Mr. Allingham, who would make a statutory declaration that the Board did agree to reopen the case when further improvements were effected, provided that they could do it; that they recommended me to apply to the Minister, and said that they would uphold my application.
108. *Chairman.*] If you lose this selection I suppose it will break up your whole enterprise there? It will.
109. *Mr. Day.*] Did you receive notice to come before the Appeal Court in Sydney? Yes; I was there.
110. Did you explain the case to the Minister then? I did explain it to a certain extent. My solicitor, Mr. Allingham, was there, but he did not make much of the case.
111. Did you mention about these improvements having been burnt down? I am not sure. The cases were taken so quickly at the Appeal Court.
112. *Mr. Stevenson.*] You did not know about these remarks of the chairman of the Board? A few minutes before the appeal I was furnished with the particulars, but had no means of refuting them. I told Mr. Oliver in conversation that I should be able to refute the statement of the chairman.
113. *Mr. Day.*] I suppose that you must have been pretty boisterous at the Land Court meeting? I was not boisterous; but I was annoyed at the way in which it was conducted.
114. *Mr. Stevenson.*] Why so? I had prepared a statement, but the chairman objected to it on several accounts. I made statements in reference to the improvements, which were taken down by the deposition clerk; but when the statements came to be read over I refused to sign the document, stating that some of the statements were not as they had been made by me, but were the remarks of the chairman. Some portions of the depositions had to be altered, which caused considerable annoyance to the chairman.
115. Have you ever heard any complaints against Mr. Blackman? Complaints on all sides.
116. Has he ceased to preside at the Land Court? Yes.
117. *Mr. Henson.*] Did you know Mr. Blackman at all? I only knew him as chairman of the Board.

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(AMENDED REGULATIONS, &c.)

Presented to Parliament pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 14th August, 1888.

It is hereby notified, for general information, that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has approved of Regulations 43 and 44 under the Crown Lands Act of 1884 (which were cancelled by Gazette notice of the 29th March last) being revived, and of Regulations 64 and 130 under that Act being amended to read as follows. His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has also approved of the following additional Regulations, 184 to 189 inclusive under that Act and the Crown Lands Act Further Amendment Act, and has approved of Forms 13, 14, and 22, at present in use under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, being cancelled, and of Forms 13, 14, and 22, as printed hereunder, being used in lieu thereof for the purposes of both the Acts referred to.

[Minl. 88-6,381]

HENRY PARKES.

43. The Board shall, whenever possible, endorse on every Certificate of Confirmation a note specifying the class or classes of fence to be erected by the selector: provided that any selector may apply to the Board at any time to alter or vary such note.

44. Every such application as last aforesaid shall be heard in open Court, at a time and place to be fixed by the Chairman, whereof not less than fourteen days notice shall be given to the applicant.

64. Fences to be erected under this Act shall be such as the Local Land Board shall prescribe.

130. The fence to be erected by the Lessee shall be such as the Local Land Board shall prescribe.

184. Any holder on the 23rd July, 1888, of a conditional purchase or conditional lease under section 48 or 54 of the Act, may, on or before the 23rd January, 1889, apply on Form 22 to the Chairman of the Local Land Board for permission to substitute other improvements wholly or partly in lieu of fencing.

185. A similar application may be made by any person who may have applied for a conditional purchase or conditional lease prior to the 23rd July, 1888, but whose application had not at that date been confirmed; or by any person who may apply for a conditional purchase or conditional lease after that date. In any such case application on Form 22 may be made either before or within two years after the confirmation of the application for the land.

186. On any conditional purchase or conditional lease brought under the provisions of the Crown Lands Act Further Amendment Act, and containing any area up to and inclusive of 1,280 acres, improvements shall be made within three years from the confirmation of the application to the value of at least 6s. per acre; and within five years from the confirmation of the application, to the value of at least 10s. per acre. But where the land contains any area between 1,281 and 2,560 acres inclusive, it will be sufficient if the improvements within three years from the confirmation of the application be of the value of £384; and within five years from that date, of the value of £640. In any case where the application for the purchase or lease was confirmed on or before the 23rd July, 1888, it will be sufficient if the improvements (without reference to their value within the third year) are of the value of 10s. per acre or £640, as the case may be, within five years from the confirmation of the application. On any conditional purchase, under section 47 of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, brought

under the provisions of the Amendment Act before referred to the improvements must, within 5 years from the confirmation of the application, be of the value of at least £1 10s. per acre.

187. Application for exemption from fencing the boundary of any conditional purchase or conditional lease, on the ground that a sufficient fence is in existence on such boundary, may be made on Form 22 to the Chairman of the Local Land Board before the expiration of the period allowed for fencing.

188. Application for permission to wholly or in part enclose a road or watercourse separating lands may be made on Form 22 to the Chairman of the Land Board before the expiration of the period allowed for fencing such lands. Such application shall contain an indorsement by any holder of land interested therein that he consents to the arrangement proposed, but any such defect in the application may be remedied by separate statements or otherwise as the Board may permit prior to the application being finally dealt with. In any case where a condition of fencing attaches to the land on both sides of the road or watercourse, a separate application must be made by each holder.

189. On conditional purchases brought under the provisions of the Crown Lands Act Further Amendment Act, the declaration required by sections 3 and 5 of that Act after the expiration of 3 and 5 years from the confirmation of the application must be made on Forms 13 or 14 respectively before the Crown Land Agent of the District.

Form 13.

C.P. No. of 188 .

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884—(PART III, SECTION 34).
CROWN LANDS ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT ACT.

Declaration by Conditional Purchaser of Fulfilment of Conditions at the end of Three Years from Confirmation of Application.

I [*Name in full of conditional purchaser*], of _____ in the Colony of New South Wales, do hereby solemnly declare and affirm that I am the lawful owner of the land described at the foot hereof as an ["*original*" or "*additional*"] conditional purchase under the Crown Lands Act of 1884: And I further declare and affirm that I have fulfilled the condition of residence to the present date and the condition of fencing [*The words "and the condition of fencing" may be omitted*]

in any case where an exemption from all fencing has been granted under the Crown Lands Act Further Amendment Act], as required by the said Act; and that the improvements specified in the Schedule on the back hereof have been made, and are on the land, and are of the values set opposite thereto respectively, as required by the Crown Lands Act Further Amendment Act. [The words "and that the improvements specified in the Schedule on the back hereof have been made, and are on the land, and are of the values set opposite thereto respectively, as required by the Crown Lands Act Further Amendment Act" should be omitted if the conditional purchase has not been brought under the provisions of the Crown Lands Act Further Amendment Act.] And I make this solemn declaration as to the matters aforesaid according to the law in this behalf made, and subject to the punishment by law provided for any wilfully false statement in any such declaration.

Taken and declared at this day of 188 , before me,—

Land Agent.

DESCRIPTION REFERRED TO ABOVE.

County of , parish of , acres, being conditional purchase No. of 188 , made at the Land Office at on the day of 188 . The application was confirmed on the day of 188 .

SCHEDULE REFERRED TO.

NOTE.—If the improvements claimed to be sufficient for the conditional purchase declared upon are not situated on that particular conditional purchase, but are on one or more conditional purchases of the same series, or conditional leases under section 48 or 54, granted by virtue thereof, such purchases or leases should be particularized in the Schedule, together with the improvements, and their value upon each. A conditional purchase and conditional lease should not be entered on the same line in the Schedule.

| No. of Conditional Purchase. | No. of Conditional Lease. | Area. | Date of Application. | Date of Confirmation of Application. | Description of each Improvement. | Value of each Improvement. |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | | | |

Form 14.

C.P. No. of 188 .

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884—(PART III, SECTION 34).
CROWN LANDS ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT ACT.

Declaration by Conditional Purchaser of Fulfilment of Conditions at the end of five years from Confirmation of Application.

I, [Name in full of conditional purchaser] of in the Colony of New South Wales, do hereby solemnly declare and affirm that I am the lawful owner of the land described at the foot hereof as an ["original" or "additional"] conditional purchase under the Crown Lands Act of 1884: And I further declare and affirm that I have fulfilled the complete term of residence as required by the said Act, and that I have maintained the required fencing in good repair and condition [The words "and that I have maintained the required fencing in good repair and condition" may be omitted in any case where an exemption from all fencing has been granted under the Crown Lands Act Further Amendment Act]; and that the improvements specified in the Schedule on the back hereof have been made, and are on the land, and are of the values set opposite thereto respectively, as required by the Crown Lands Act Further Amendment Act. [The words "and that the improvements specified in the Schedule on the back hereof have been made, and are on the land, and are of the values set opposite thereto respectively, as required by the Crown

Lands Act Further Amendment Act" should be omitted if the conditional purchase has not been brought under the provisions of the Crown Lands Act Further Amendment Act.] And I make this solemn declaration as to the matters aforesaid according to the law in this behalf made, and subject to the punishment by law provided for any wilfully false statement in any such declaration.

Taken and declared at this day 188 , before me,—

Land Agent.

DESCRIPTION REFERRED TO ABOVE.

County of , parish of , acres, being conditional purchase No. of 188 , made at the Land Office at on the day of 188 . The application was confirmed on the day of 188 .

SCHEDULE REFERRED TO.

NOTE.—If the improvements claimed to be sufficient for the conditional purchase declared upon are not situated on that particular conditional purchase, but are on one or more conditional purchases of the same series, or conditional leases under section 48 or 54, granted by virtue thereof, such purchases or leases should be particularized in the Schedule, together with the improvements, and their value upon each. A conditional purchase and conditional lease should not be entered on the same line in the Schedule.

| No. of Conditional Purchase. | No. of Conditional Lease. | Area. | Date of Application. | Date of Confirmation of Application. | Description of each Improvement. | Value of each Improvement. |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | | | |

Form 22.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884, AND CROWN LANDS ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT ACT.

Application for permission to substitute other Improvements in lieu of Fencing, or for exemption from Fencing a natural boundary or boundary already sufficiently fenced, or for permission to enclose a road or watercourse.

Post Town, Date, 188 .

In connection with the Conditional Purchases and Conditional Leases specified in the Schedule on the back hereof, I hereby apply [State fully the object of the application, and illustrate by a rough sketch if possible.]

Signature of Applicant,

To the Chairman of the Local Land Board,

SCHEDULE REFERRED TO.

NOTE.—A conditional purchase and a conditional lease should not both be referred to on the same line. Conditional Purchases or conditional leases of different series should not be included.

| No. of Conditional Purchase. | No. of Conditional Lease. | Date of Application. | Date of Confirmation of the Application. | Land District. |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--|----------------|
| | | | | |

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(AMENDED REGULATIONS.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

Department of Lands,

Sydney, 4th September, 1888.

It is hereby notified, for general information, that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has approved of Regulations 28 and 87, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, being amended as hereunder.

HENRY PARKES.

28. Every application for a conditional purchase (except as mentioned in the next Regulation) must be tendered by the applicant in person, together with the required deposit and declaration, to the Land Agent of the District, on any Thursday, not being a public holiday, between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. or between 1.30 and 4 p.m. Not more than one application for an original conditional purchase shall be made on the same day by the same applicant. Provided, however, that nothing herein shall prevent any person whose application shall have been rejected after determination by lot, as prescribed by Regulation No. 31, from making another application during lawful hours on the same day, or shall limit the number of applications to be made by the same applicant on the same day for additional conditional purchases; but an additional conditional purchase shall not be applied for until after confirmation of the application relating to the original conditional purchase by virtue of which it may be made, or until after confirmation of any additional conditional purchase application of the same series for land intervening between that originally conditionally purchased and the land included in the further additional conditional purchase application. Provided the area applied for, together with the original and any prior additional conditional purchases held in virtue of such original purchase, shall not exceed the limit allowed by law.

87. Applications for conditional leases shall be in the Form 32, and must be tendered to the Land Agent, on any Thursday, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. and 4 p.m., with a deposit of two pence per acre on the area applied for; and should there be more than one application for the same land or any part thereof tendered at the same time, such applications shall be dealt with as provided by Regulation 31. No person shall be debarred from making, on the same day, several applications, provided they be not made by virtue of one and the same conditional purchase, or from putting forward successive applications by virtue of the same conditional purchase after rejection by lot of the previous applications made by virtue thereof. Provided that unless the conditional lease application be presented on the same day as the application for the conditional purchase by virtue of which it may be made, in accordance with section 21, subsection 1, of the Act, such conditional lease application shall be liable to be defeated by a conflicting application of subsequent date.

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT, 1884.

(AMENDED REGULATIONS.)

Presented to Parliament pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 30 October, 1888.

AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS NOS. 78 AND 79, UNDER THE CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of Regulations Nos. 78 and 79, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, published on 2nd January, 1885, being amended as hereunder.

[Ml. 88-9,081]

JAMES N. BRUNKER.

REGULATION No. 78.

Every such transfer shall be signed by the transferor and the transferee in the presence of a barrister, an attorney, a notary public, a magistrate, a commissioner for affidavits, or the Crown land agent. Forms of transfer (including a copy on parchment for registration under the 120th section of the Act) may be obtained at each Land Office, on payment of a fee of 2s. 6d. On lodgment of a transfer the sum of 7s. 6d. (in addition to stamp duty) will be payable for cost of registration in the general office for the registration of deeds.

REGULATION No. 79.

If the transferor or transferee is a marksman, his mark must be attested by a magistrate, barrister, attorney, or notary public, a further certificate being endorsed by such attesting witness on the transfer that the same was previously read over and explained to such marksman, and that he acknowledged and appeared fully to understand the effect thereof. If such attestation is made by a solicitor, in his capacity of magistrate, attorney, or notary public, a further certificate must be attached to the effect that the witness is not the party employed to prepare the transfer.

1888.

 NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(FURTHER AMENDED REGULATION No. 41.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

FURTHER amendment of Regulation No. 41, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, published on 2nd January, 1885, and amended on 26th February, 1886.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 7 December, 1888.

HIS Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of a further amendment, as hereunder, of Regulation No. 41, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, published on 2nd January, 1885, and amended on 26 February, 1886.

[M.L. 88-9,629]

JAMES N. BRUNKER.

REGULATION No. 41.

If any part of the land applied for contains improvements for which payment has to be made to the Crown under section 41 of the Act, the conditional purchaser shall pay the first annual instalment of one quarter of the value of such improvements, as appraised by the Local Land Board, to the Colonial Treasurer or the Crown Land Agent of the District, within three months from the date of appraisement. The balance shall be paid in annual instalments of an equal amount during the three following years, but one or more of such instalments may be paid before due.

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(REGULATIONS, &c., IN CONNECTION WITH THE SEARCHING FOR MINERALS ON LAND UNDER LEASE.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 4th December, 1888.

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of the following Additional Regulations and Forms under the Crown Lands Act of 1884.

[Ml. 88-10,353]

JAMES N. BRUNKER.

190. Application for authority to search for minerals within any conditional leasehold shall be made in the form annexed, numbered 70, to the Minister for Mines, and if such application be approved, authority may be granted in the form annexed, numbered 71.

191. Every such authority shall name the mineral or minerals for which the holder may search.

192. The extent of land which may be marked out and occupied under any such authority as aforesaid, shall be—

For the purpose of searching for gold, any area named in the authority, not exceeding 25 acres.

For the purpose of searching for coal, any area named in the authority, not exceeding 640 acres.

For the purpose of searching for any minerals other than gold or coal, any area named in the authority, not exceeding 80 acres.

193. The person or persons to whom such authority has been granted may mark out, in such position within the leasehold as shall interfere as little as possible with permanent improvements, the area named or described in such authority, by erecting at each angle thereof a post projecting above the surface of the land not less than three feet, and from each such post shall cut trenches indicating the general direction of the boundary lines, and may within such area dig and search for the mineral or minerals named in the authority.

194. For the purpose of digging and searching within the area so marked out for the mineral named in the authority, the holder or holders thereof shall have and enjoy the right of ingress, egress, and regress to and from such area into, upon, and over the leasehold referred to in the authority, and for that purpose shall have the right to make or construct a road or passage from the nearest public road through or over the land comprised in such leasehold to such area, and from such area to cut or construct through such leasehold a ditch or channel for conveying away any waste water or refuse, but so as to do as little injury as possible to the land.

195. Unless the holder or holders of an authority maintain the boundary marks of the area and prosecute the search for the minerals named in the authority to the satisfaction of the Minister for Mines, such Minister may, by notice under his hand published in the Government Gazette, cancel such authority.

FORM 70.

Crown Lands Act of 1884—(Part III, section 98).

Application for authority to dig and search for Minerals within land held under Conditional Lease.

(a) Christian names and Surname in full. I (a) hereby apply for
 (b) Name of mineral or minerals. authority to dig and search for (b) within a parcel of land situated in the
 county of parish of being portion No.
 which on the day of 188 , was leased to
 (c) Name of lessee. (c) as a conditional lease. That part of the said
 portion upon which I request authority to mine is described at the foot hereof.

I make this application in terms of and subject to the Crown Lands Act of 1884, and the Regulations made thereunder; and I agree, if such authority be granted, to be bound by the conditions imposed by the said Regulations, and any other conditions which may be contained in the permission or authority.

Description of Land to be mined upon.

(d) Here set out (d)
 fully the part of
 the leased land
 upon which it is
 proposed to dig
 and search for
 minerals.

Signature of Applicant

Address, Post Town

Date

188 .

Witness

The Under Secretary for Mines,
 Sydney.

FORM 71.

Crown Lands Act of 1884—(Part III, section 98.)

Authority to dig and search for Minerals within land held under Conditional Lease.

THIS is to authorize Regulations, an area comprising to mark out and occupy in accordance with the
 within the conditional leasehold of
 being portion No. in the county of parish of
 which on the day of 188 , was leased to
 for in accordance with the Regulations, but so as not to interfere with any area occupied
 in virtue of any authority of prior date to this.

Given under my hand at the Department of Mines, Sydney, in the Colony of New South Wales, this
 day of 188 .

Minister for Mines.

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(CANCELLATION OF TIMBER CUTTING ON SYDNEY WATER SUPPLY RESERVE.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act, 48 Vic. No. 18.

Cancellation of the Special Regulations made under the 106th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, notified on 25th May, 1886, providing for timber cutting on the Sydney Water Supply Reserve, No. 57, county of Camden.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 25th September, 1888.

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of the cancellation of the Special Regulations made under the 106th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, notified on 25th May, 1886, providing for timber cutting on the Sydney Water Supply Reserve, No. 57, county of Camden.

[Minl. 88-8,123]

JAMES N. BRUNKER.

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(ALTERATIONS OF DESIGNS OF CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES, UNDER ACT 48 VIC. No. 18, SEC. 107.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 107.

ABSTRACT of Alterations of Designs of Cities, Towns, and Villages, under the 107th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

| Town or Village. | Government Gazette in which alteration is notified. |
|--|---|
| Cobar, town..... | 21 July, 1888. Page 5079. |
| Wallabadah, village | 28 July, 1888. Page 5311. |
| Gunnedah, town..... | 18 August, 1888. Page 5863. |
| Carroll, town and suburban lands | 29 Sept., 1888. Page 6919. |
| Currawong, village | 29 Sept., 1888. Page 6919. |
| Deepwater, village | 29 Sept., 1888. Page 6919. |
| Gosford, town | 29 Sept., 1888. Page 6919. |
| Parramatta North, town | 20th Oct., 1888. Page 7430. |

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(ALTERATIONS OF DESIGNS OF CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES, UNDER THE ACT 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

ABSTRACT of Alterations of Designs of Cities, Towns, and Villages, under the 107th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

| Town or Village. | <i>Government Gazette</i> in which alteration is notified. |
|--------------------------|--|
| St. Leonards (Town)..... | 27th October, 1888, page 7609. |

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(ALTERATIONS OF DESIGNS OF CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES, UNDER THE ACT 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic No. 18

ABSTRACT of Alterations of Designs of Cities, Towns, and Villages, under the 107th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

| Town or Village | Government Gazette in which alteration is notified |
|--|--|
| Boorowa (Town) | 24 November, 1888, page 8389. |
| Culligal (Village and Suburban Lands) | " " " |
| Macquarie (Village, name altered to Neville) | " " " |
| Kyuga (Village) | " " " |
| Muttama (Village) | " " " |
| Temoia (Town) | " " " |
| Yass (Town) | " " " |
| Murrumburrah (Village) | 8 December, 1888, page 8746. |

1888-9.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(ALTERATIONS OF DESIGNS OF CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES, UNDER THE ACT 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 107.

ABSTRACT of Alterations of Designs of Cities, Towns, and Villages, under Act 48 Victoria No. 18, sec. 107.

| Town or Village. | <i>Government Gazette</i> in which alteration is notified. |
|------------------------|--|
| Moulamein (Town) | 22 December, 1888, page 9111. |
| Goulburn (City) | " " " |

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(AUTHORIZED TO BE DEDICATED TO PUBLIC PURPOSES UNDER THE ACT 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 104.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands authorized to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

| Place. | County. | Portion. | Allotment | Section | Locality. | Area. | To what purpose dedicated. | No. of Papers. | Catalogue No. of Plan. |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------|-----------|------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| | | | | | | a. r. p. | | Misc. | |
| Blackwattle Bay | Cumberland | .. | .. | .. | Parish of Petersham .. | 0 2 33 $\frac{3}{4}$ | Wharfage | 88- 7146 | Ms. 83 Sy. |
| Bournda | Auckland | 127 | .. | .. | Parish of Wallagoot .. | 2 0 0 | Public School Site .. | 88- 2240 | A. 2280-2098 |
| Brasfort | Cook | .. | .. | .. | Parish of Jamison .. | 11 2 0 | General Cemetery .. | 88- 3080 | Ms. 116 Sy. |
| Bullockcreek | Monteagle | 12 | .. | .. | Parish of Wilton .. | 2 0 0 | Public School Site .. | 88- 1657 | M. 4333-1780 |
| Bundarra | Hardinge | .. | .. | Part of 66 | Town of Bundarra .. | 0 0 32 $\frac{1}{4}$ | Site for School of Arts | 88- 9667 | B. 14-1576 |
| Colinton | Beresford | 63 | .. | .. | Parish of Colinton .. | 2 0 0 | Public School Site .. | 88- 9313 | B. 2597-1765 |
| Coramba | Fitzroy | 92 | .. | .. | Parish of Moonee .. | 2 0 0 | do | 88- 6158 | F. 837-1810 |
| Drake (Fairfield Diggings). | Drake | 7 | .. | .. | Parish of West Fairfield | 2 0 0 | do | 88- 5159 | D. 578-1743 |
| Eaglehawk | Wallace | 128 | .. | .. | Parish of Middlingbank | 2 0 0 | do | 88- 8614 | W. 3743-1604 |
| Germantown | Goulburn | 206 | .. | .. | Parish of Germantown | 4 0 0 | Site for Hospital | 88- 8190 | G. 2654-1475 |
| Girvan | Gloucester | 74 | .. | .. | Parish of Nerong .. | 2 0 0 | Public School Site .. | 88- 7770 | G. 1992-1497 |
| Gregadoo | Wynyard | 158 | .. | .. | Parish of Gregadoo .. | 2 0 0 | do | 88- 6374 | W. 3403-2119 |
| Harold's Cross | Murray | 87 | .. | .. | Parish of Jmero .. | 2 0 0 | do | 88- 4865 | M. 4311-1956 |
| Longueville | Cumberland | .. | .. | .. | Parish of Willoughby | 4 0 39 | Wharfage and Recreation | 88-10011 | C. 394-2030 |
| do | do | .. | .. | .. | do | 1 0 22 | do | 88-10011 | C. 394-2030 |
| do | do | .. | .. | .. | do | 3 0 0 | Public Recreation | 88-10011 | C. 382-2030 |
| Mangrove Creek | Northumberland | 93 | .. | .. | Parish of Cowan .. | 0 3 16 | Site for Public Wharf .. | 88-11719 | N. 1296-2111 |
| Molroy | Murchison | 25 | .. | .. | Parish of Molroy .. | 2 0 0 | Public School Site .. | 88- 4282 | M. 1138-1789 |
| Mossiel | Waljeers | .. | .. | .. | Parish of Boondarra | 16 2 0 | General Cemetery .. | 88- 4592 | Ms. 22-Hy. |
| Minmi | Gloucester | .. | .. | .. | Parish of Tillegra .. | 0 0 35 | Public School Site .. | 88- 9132 | Ms. 104 Md. |
| Nanama | Murray | 278 | .. | .. | Parish of Beddulluck .. | 2 0 0 | do | 88- 3962 | M. 4303-1956 |
| Narrandera | Cooper | .. | .. | 40 & 45. | Town of Narrandera .. | 12 0 17 | Public Recreation... | 88- 7302 | N. 6-1712 Roll |
| Nyngan | Oxley | .. | 2 | 31 | Village of Nyngan | 1 0 0 | Court house Site and Police Purposes. | 88- 7901 | N. 5-2282 |
| do | do | .. | 3 | 31 | do | 0 2 0 | Site for Mechanics' Institute. | 88- 6961 | Nyngan, S-2282 |
| Oxley Island | Macquarie | 226 | .. | .. | Parish of Oxley .. | 1 0 3 | Site for School of Arts | 88-12673 | M. 2713-666 |
| Pee Dee | Dudley | 48 | .. | .. | Parish of Nulla Nulla. | 2 0 0 | Public School Site .. | 88-11695 | D. 1115-1505 |
| Tabrabucca .. | Roxburgh | 52 | .. | .. | Parish of Tubiabucca.. | 2 0 0 | do | 88- 7965 | R. 2175-1496 |
| Trundle Lagoon | Cunningham | 9 | .. | .. | Parish of Trundle .. | 2 0 0 | do | 88- 3941 | C. 727-1947 |
| Upper Dural .. | Cumberland | .. | .. | .. | Parish of Berowra .. | 2 0 0 | do | 88- 8499 | Ms. 122 Sy. |
| Waterloo (near Glen Innes). | Gough | 57 | .. | .. | Parish of Waterloo | 0 2 0 | Site for School of Arts.. | 88- 3703 | G. 4330-1761 |
| West Kempsey .. | Dudley | .. | .. | .. | Town of West Kempsey | 9 3 24 | Public Recreation | 88-12558 | K. 32-1593 |
| do | do | .. | .. | .. | do | 7 2 35 | do | 88-12557 | K. 31-1593 |
| Wickham | Northumberland | .. | .. | .. | Town of Wickham | 0 2 27 | Site for Town Hall .. | 88- 8542 | Ms. 100 Md. |
| Yarrunga (Fitzroy Falls). | Camden | .. | .. | .. | Parishes of Burrawang and Yarrunga. | 135 0 0 | Public Recreation .. | 88- 9066 | |

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(AUTHORIZED TO BE DEDICATED TO PUBLIC PURPOSES, UNDER THE ACT 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands authorized to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

| Place. | County. | Portion. | Allotment. | Section. | Locality. | Area. | To what purpose dedicated. | No. of Papers. | Cat. No. of Plan. |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------|------------|----------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------|
| Albury | Goulburn ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Town and Suburbs of Albury. | a. r. p. 48 2 5 | Public Recreation | Ms. 88- 4498 | |
| Cootamundry | Harden | 125 | ..... | ..... | Parish of Cootamundry. | 21 2 20 | For the use of the Cootamundry Agricultural and Pastoral Association. | 86- 3531 | H. 4340-1716 R |
| Grenfell | Monteagle ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Town of Grenfell | 0 0 10 | Public School Site (Addition to). | 88- 3287 | G. 21952 Roll. |
| Kildary | Bourke | 30 | ..... | ..... | Parish of Ellen | 2 0 0 | Public School Site | 2934 | B. 1863-1806 |
| Liverpool | Cumberland ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Parish of St. Luke | 19 0 35 | General Cemetery | 6089 | C. 894-1984 |
| Micalo Island | Clarence | 269 | ..... | ..... | Parish of Taloumbi | 2 0 0 | Public School Site | 3295 | C. 1527-1577 |
| Narrabeen | Cumberland ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Parish of Narrabeen | 10 0 0 | Public Recreation | 5792 | Ms. 135 S. |
| Do | do ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | do | 3 2 0 | Public Recreation | 5792 | Ms. 139 S. |
| South Lead | Forbes | 135 | ..... | ..... | Parish of Wongajong .. | 1 2 28 | Public School Site | 2265 | F. 1932-1737 |
| Ugley Range | Inglis | 83 | ..... | ..... | Parish of Scott | 2 0 0 | Public School Site | 4605 | I. 1152-1690 |
| Armidale | Sandown ..... | ..... | ..... | 45 | City of Armidale | 6 2 20 | Public Recreation and Cricket Ground. | 4304 | A. 60-1354 |
| Colombo | Auckland | 3 | ..... | ..... | Parish of Mogila | 11 2 0 | Cricket Ground and Show Ground for the use of the Colombo Agricultural Association. | 6582 | A. 2144-2098 |
| Galargambone | Gowen ..... | ..... | 8 | 12 | Village of Galargambone | 0 2 0 | Site for School of Arts. | 6963 | G. 3-2221 |
| Gobarralong | Bucleuch ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Parish of Gobarralong .. | 1 1 0 | Public School Site | 87-16185 | B. 1695-1718 |
| Morrisset | Northumberland ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Town of Morrisset | 2 0 0 | Public School Site | 88- 6995 | Ms. 42 S. |
| Port Macquarie | Macquarie ..... | ..... | 1 | 4 | Town of Port Macquarie | 0 0 34 | Town Hall Site | 6959 | M. 44-706 |
| Woodstock | Bathurst ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Parish of Kenilworth .. | 13 0 32 | General Cemetery | 1650 | C. 1131-1984 |

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(AUTHORIZED TO BE DEDICATED TO PUBLIC PURPOSES UNDER THE ACT 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands authorized to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

| Place. | County. | Portion. | Allotment. | Section. | Locality. | Area. | To what purpose dedicated. | No. of Papers. | Catalogue No. of Plan. |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------|------------|----------|---|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Bathurst | Bathurst | 150 | ..... | ..... | City of Bathurst | a. r. p. 15 0 0 | Gaol site | Misc. 88-10188 | B. 159-824. |
| Beresford | Wellesley | 59 | ..... | ..... | Parish of Cathcart | 2 0 0 | Public School site | 88- 8243 | W. 3873-1584. |
| Bonavista | Inglis | 179 | ..... | ..... | Parish of Bloomfield | 2 0 0 | Public School site | 88- 9314 | I. 1121-1690. |
| Friday Hut Road | Rous | 31 | ..... | ..... | Parish of Teven | 2 0 0 | Public School site | 88- 7171 | R. 4163-1759. |
| Hunter's Hill .. | Cumberland .. | ..... | ..... | ..... | Parish of Hunter's Hill, (fronting Collingwood-st) | 0 0 24 | Baths and Boat-shed .. | 88-12591 | |
| Keirson | Westmoreland.. | 144 | ..... | ..... | Parish of Kendale | 2 0 0 | Public School site | 88- 5627 | W. 2351-1502. |
| Murrumbidgee | Lincoln ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Parish of Murrumbidgee .. | 14 0 0 | General Cemetery | 88- 8486 | Ms. 25 D.O. |
| Oakey Creek | Burnett | 30 | ..... | ..... | Parish of Ginerol | 2 0 0 | Public School site | 88- 4352 | B. 1167-1951. |
| Yarrowitch | Vernon | 105 | ..... | ..... | Parish of Yarrowitch .. | 2 0 0 | Public School site | 88- 8613 | V. 1234-1719. |

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(AUTHORIZED TO BE DEDICATED TO PUBLIC PURPOSES, UNDER THE ACT 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands authorized to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

| Place. | County. | Portion. | Allotment | Section. | Locality. | Area. | To what purpose dedicated. | No. of Papers. | Cat. No. of Plan. |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------|-----------|----------|--------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| | | | | | | a. r. p. | | Ms. | |
| Crackemback | Wallace | 54 | ..... | ..... | Parish of Clyde | 2 0 0 | Public School Site | 88-12736 | W. 3748-1504 |
| Mannus | Selwyn | 205 | ..... | ..... | Parish of Mannus | 2 0 0 | Public School Site | „ 11302 | S. 1231-1522 W.G.A. |
| Musclebrook | Durham ..... | ..... | 7 | 7 | Town of Musclebrook .. | 0 3 8½ | Extension to Hospital Site. | „ 15429 | M. 43-856 |
| Raleigh | Raleigh ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Suburbs of Raleigh | 8 2 18 | General Cemetery | „ 14360 | R. 8-1941 |
| Sandy Hills | Clive | 7 | ..... | ..... | Parish of Timburra | 2 0 0 | Public School Site | „ 11314 | C. 1308-1809 |
| Tomanbil | Forbes ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Parish of Bandon | 2 0 0 | Public School Site | „ 11304 | F. 2135-1787 |
| Wagga Wagga | Wynyard ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Town of Wagga Wagga .. | 42 2 19 | Public Recreation | „ 6986 | Ms. 29 W.G.A. |
| Willyama | Yancowinna ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Town of Willyama | 13 0 20 | General Cemetery | „ 9601 | Ms. 100 B.C. |
| Yalwal | St. Vincent | 10 | ..... | ..... | Parish of Ettrima | 0 1 0 | Site for School of Arts .. | „ 14533 | V. 1697-2013 |

1888-9.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(AUTHORIZED) TO BE DEDICATED TO PUBLIC PURPOSES, UNDER THE ACT 48 VIC. No. 18, SEC. 104.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands authorized to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

| Place. | County. | Portion. | Allotment | Section. | Locality. | Area. | To what purpose dedicated. | No. of Papers. | Catalogue of Papers. |
|------------------|----------------------|----------|-----------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Barbungal | Bland | 29 | ..... | ..... | Parish of Barbungal .. | a. r. p. 2 0 0 | Public School Site | Misc. 88-11115 | B. 1991-1946. |
| Deepwater | Gough | .. | ..... | Part of 18 | Village of Deepwater .. | 2 0 21 | Public School Site | 88-12347 | D. 7-1824. |
| Hollybrook | Roxburgh | 126 | ..... | ..... | Parish of Jesse .. | 2 0 0 | Public School Site | 88-12317 | R. 2180-1496 |
| Newcastle | Northumber- land. | .. | ..... | ..... | City of Newcastle .. | 1 0 5 | Public Recreation | 88-15053 | Ms. 69 Md. |
| Newcastle | Northumber- land. | .. | ..... | ..... | City of Newcastle .. | 0 1 39 | Public Recreation | 88-15053 | N. 67-2071. |
| Newcastle | Northumber- land. | .. | ..... | ..... | City of Newcastle .. | 1 2 21 | Public Recreation | 88-15053 | Ms. 96 Md. |
| Newcastle .. | Northumber- land. | .. | ..... | ..... | City of Newcastle | 3 0 35 | Public Recreation | 88-15053 | Ms. 96 Md. |
| Ponto ... | Lincoln | .... | ..... | ..... | Village of Ponto | 12 1 38 | General Cemetery | 88- 8282 | Ms 26 D.O. |
| Thornhurst | Murray | 156 | ..... | ..... | Parish of Majura . | 2 0 0 | Public School Site | 88-12751 | M. 4075-1956. |
| Turkey Creek | Hardinge. | 13 | ..... | ..... | Parish of Honeysuckle.. | 2 0 0 | Public School Site | 88-15073 | H. 2331-1762. |
| White's Point .. | Beresford | 8 | ..... | ..... | Parish of Rivers | 2 0 0 | Public School Site | 88-13649 | B. 2613-1765. |
| Willyama | Yancowinna | .... | ..... | ..... | Suburbs of Willyama . | 22 0 0 | Site for Hospital | 88-15479 | Y. 198-2186. |
| Wollombi | Northumber- land | .... | ..... | Part of 17 | Town of Wollombi | 3 3 0 | Public Recreation | 88-16192 | W. 40-996. |

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(PROPOSED DEDICATION OF CERTAIN LANDS, UNDER THE ACT 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 24th August, 1888.PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF GENERAL CEMETERY
AND PART OF PERMANENT COMMON AT HOW-
LONG, AND DEDICATION OF A GENERAL
CEMETERY IN LIEU.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the General Cemetery at Howlong, area 7½ acres, dedicated on the 16th July, 1863, and that part of the Permanent Common hereunder described, with a view to the dedication of an area of 8 acres 3 roods 3 perches, in the locality mentioned, as described below, for a General Cemetery in lieu.

[Ms. 88-9,049]

HENRY PARKES.

DESCRIPTIONS.

CENTRAL DIVISION.

LAND DISTRICT OF COROWA.

General Cemetery—Proposed to be resumed.

County of Hume, parish of Howlong, containing an area of 7 acres 2 roods: Commencing at a point bearing south 41 degrees 57 minutes east and distant 38 chains 72 links from the north-east corner of allotment 2 of section 5, town of Howlong, J. F. Molony's 2 acres 27 perches; and bounded thence on the west by a line north 9 chains 96 links; on part of the north by a line east 8 chains; on part of the east by a line south 3 chains 96 links; on part of the south by a line west 4 chains 56 links; again on the east by a line south 1 chain; on the remainder of the north by a line east 4 chains 56 links; thence on the remainder of east by a line south 5 chains; and on the remainder of the south by a line west 8 chains, to the point of commencement,—shown on plan catalogued C. 811-730.

Part of Permanent Common—Proposed to be resumed.

County of Hume, parish of Howlong, containing an area of 3 roods 24 perches. That portion of the permanent common at Howlong, dedicated 16th February, 1869, within the following boundaries: Commencing at a point bearing 313 degrees 34 minutes and distant 88 links from the angle in the north boundary of John Cook's 40 acres, conditional purchase portion 264, said angle bearing west and distant 10 chains 37 links from the north-east corner of that portion; bounded thence by a line north 9 degrees 34 minutes east 10 chains and 46 links; thence by a line south 10 chains 36 links to the north side of a

road 60 links wide, running along the north boundary of John Cook's 40 acres aforesaid; thence by a line bearing west 1 chain and 74 links, to the point of commencement,—as shown on plan catalogued Mis. 40, Wagga.

General Cemetery—Proposed to be dedicated.

County of Hume, parish of Howlong, containing an area of 8 acres 3 roods 3 perches: Commencing at a point bearing west 125½ links, and north 60 links from the north-east corner of portion 264, John Cook's 40 acres conditional purchase; thence by a line bearing north 89 degrees 42 minutes west 9 chains 74½ links; thence on the west by a line bearing north 9 degrees 34 minutes east 10 chains and 46 links; thence on the north by a road 150 links wide bearing east 8 chains and ¾ link; thence on the east by a road 150 links wide bearing south 10 chains 36 links, to the point of commencement,—as shown upon plan catalogued Mis. 40, Wga.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 24th August, 1888.PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF PART OF MUR-
RURUNDI PERMANENT COMMON, WITH A
VIEW TO RESERVATION FOR TRAVELLING
STOCK AND CAMPING.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of that part of the Murrurundi Permanent Common, hereunder described, with a view to its being included in a proposed travelling stock and camping reserve.

[Ms. 88 9,050]

HENRY PARKES.

DESCRIPTION.

EASTERN DIVISION.

LAND DISTRICT OF MURRURUNDI.

Part of the Murrurundi Permanent Common, dedicated 17th June, 1873, county of Brisbane, parish of Murrurundi, area about 53 acres: Commencing at the north-west corner of portion 26 of 1,036 acres; and bounded thence on the south by part of the north boundary of that portion bearing east to the western boundary of the Great Northern Railway; thence by that western boundary bearing generally north-westerly to a point north of the starting point; and thence on the west by a line bearing south to that point.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 24th August, 1888.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF RECREATION RESERVE AT KEEPLIT, AND DEDICATION FOR THE SAME PURPOSE IN LIEU THEREOF.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the land at Keepit, area 137½ acres, dedicated on the 13th May, 1887, for public recreation, and hereunder described, with a view to the dedication of an area of 10 acres, in the locality mentioned, also hereunder described, for the same purpose in lieu thereof.
[Ms. 88-9,298]

HENRY PARKES.

DESCRIPTION.

EASTERN DIVISION.

LAND DISTRICT OF TAMWORTH.

Recreation Reserve—Proposed to be resumed.

County of Darling, parish of Keepit, 137 acres 3 roods: Commencing on the left bank of the Namoi River, at the south-western corner of portion 92 of 100 acres; and bounded thence on the north by the southern boundary of that portion bearing north 89 degrees 43 minutes east 61 chains 87 links; on the east by the western boundary of portion 186 of 135 acres, and the end of a road 1 chain wide, in all bearing south 17 minutes west 22 chains 77 links; on the south by part of the northern boundary of portion 147 of 60 acres, the end of a road 50 links wide, and the northern boundary of portion 51 of 50 acres, in all bearing west 51 chains 15 links; thence by part of the western boundary of the latter portion south 3 chains; and thence by part of the northern boundary of portion 50 of 50 acres west 15 chains 30 links; on the west by a line north 10 chains 62 links to the aforesaid river; and thence by that river upwards, to the point of commencement.

Exclusively of a road 1 chain wide passing through this land in a south-easterly direction, and of portions 100, 101, 159, and 160, situated within the boundaries of this land, the areas of which have been deducted from the total area.

Recreation Reserve—Proposed to be dedicated.

Within the leasehold area of Keepit Holding No. 492, notified 5th August, 1885.

County of Darling, parish of Keepit, containing an area of 10 acres. The Crown Lands within the following boundaries: Commencing at the north-east corner of portion 101 of 2 roods; and bounded thence on part of the south by the north boundaries of that portion and portion 100 of 1 acre bearing in all west 4 chains 16½ links to the north-west corner of the latter portion; thence on part of the east by the west boundary of that portion bearing south 3 chains 60 links to the south-west corner of the portion; on the remainder of the south by a line west 6 chains 13½ links; on the west by a line north 11 chains 17 links; on the north by a line east 10 chains 30 links; and on the remainder of the east by a line south 7 chains 57 links, to the point of commencement.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 31st August, 1888.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF RECREATION RESERVE AT NARRANDERA, AND RE-DEDICATION FOR RACECOURSE.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the land at Narrandera, area 200 acres, viz., portion 251, in the parish of Narrandera, county of Cooper, dedicated on the 22nd April, 1886, for public recreation, and hereunder described, with a view to the re-dedication of the area in question for racecourse.

[Ms. 88-10,215]

HENRY PARKES.

DESCRIPTION.

County of Cooper, parish of Narrandera, 200 acres: Commencing at a point bearing north 38 degrees 7 minutes east and distant 12 chains 71 links from the north-eastern corner of portion 68 of 83 acres; and bounded thence on the south by a line bearing west 36 chains and 98 links; on the west by a line bearing north 40 chains; on the north by a line bearing east 63 chains and 2 links; and on the south-east by a line bearing south 33 degrees 4 minutes west 47 chains and 73 links, to the point of commencement.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 21st September, 1888.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL SITE AT WALLAROO, WITH A VIEW TO ITS RESERVATION FOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the Public School site at Wallaroo, area 2 acres, viz., portion No. 163, in the parish of Cowra, county of Bathurst, dedicated on the 11th July, 1884, and hereunder described, with a view to the reservation from sale of the area in question for public buildings.

[Ms. 88-10,953]

JAMES N. BRUNKER.

DESCRIPTION.

County of Bathurst, parish of Cowra, at Wallaroo, 2 acres, portion 163: Commencing on the southern side of a road 1 chain wide at a point bearing south 28 degrees 43 minutes east and distant 1 chain 14 links from the south-eastern corner of portion 130 of 100 acres; and bounded thence on the north by that road dividing it from part of that portion bearing west 2 chains 64 links; on the west by the eastern boundary of portion 189 of 20 acres bearing south 5 chains; on the south by a northern boundary of that portion bearing east 5 chains 37 links; and on the north-east by the road 1 chain 50 links wide from Cowra to Canowindra bearing north 23 degrees 43 minutes west 5 chains 70 links, to the point of commencement.

Plan P. 1,141-1,978.

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(“GAZETTE” NOTICES SETTING FORTH PROPOSED DEDICATION OF CERTAIN LANDS, UNDER THE ACT 48 VIC. NO. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 7th November, 1888.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF RESERVE FOR RACECOURSE AND RECREATION AT INVERELL.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the land at Inverell, area 100 acres, dedicated on the 10th January, 1865, for racecourse and recreation, hereunder described, it being intended to reserve a site for racecourse in lieu.

[Ms. 88-9,627]

JAMES N. BRUNKER.

DESCRIPTION.

County of Gough, parish of Inverell, area 100 acres: Commencing at a point on the north-western boundary of portion 336 of 47 acres 1 rood bearing south 71 degrees west and distant 8 chains 27 links from its most northern corner; bounded thence on the north-east by a line bearing north-westerly 33 chains 35 links forming the south-western side of a road 1 chain wide separating it from portions 358 and 357.

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(PROPOSED DEDICATION OF CERTAIN, UNDER THE ACT 48 VIC., No. 18.

Presented to Parliament pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 7th December, 1888.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF PART OF RESERVE
FOR PERMANENT COMMONAGE AND PUBLIC
RECREATION AT BATHURST, AND REDEDICA-
TION FOR EXTENSION TO GAOL SITE.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of that part of the reserve for permanent commonage and public recreation at Bathurst, within the boundaries of measured portions 154 and 155 in the parish of Bathurst, county of Bathurst, containing an area of 12 acres and 20 perches, with a view to the rededication of that area for extension to gaol site.

[Ms. 88-15,349]

JAMES N. BRUNKER.

DESCRIPTION.

All that piece or parcel of land situate in the county of Bathurst, parish of Bathurst, and city of Bathurst, portions 154 and 155, containing an aggregate area of 12 acres 0 roods 20 perches,—shown on plan catalogued B. 3,153-2,009: Commencing on the south-west side of Brilliant-street, at the intersection of the south-westerly prolongation of the north-west side of Back-street; and bounded thence by a line bearing south 50 degrees 32 minutes west 10 chains 49 links; thence by a line south 48 degrees 28 minutes 40 seconds east 9 chains 2 links; thence by a line bearing north 12 degrees 52 minutes 20 seconds east 12 chains 63½ links to the south-west side of Brilliant-street first mentioned; and thence by part of that side of that street bearing north 77 degrees 8 minutes west 1 chain 50½ links, to the point of commencement. Again, commencing at a point on the south-west side of Lort-street bearing south 55 degrees 2 minutes east, and distant 16 chains 50½ links from the first-mentioned intersection of the south-west side of Brilliant-street with the south-westerly prolongation of the north-west side of Back-street; and bounded thence by a line bearing south 41 degrees 30 minutes west 12 chains 25

links; thence by a line south 48 degrees 28 minutes 40 seconds east 5 chains 30⅞ links; thence by a line north 41 degrees 30 minutes east 12 chains 25⅞ links to the south-west side of Lort-street above mentioned; and thence by part of that side of that street bearing north 48 degrees 30 minutes west 5 chains 30⅞ links, to the point of commencement.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 7th December, 1888.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF TOWN HALL SITE AT
MOAMA, AND REDEDICATION FOR SITE FOR
SCHOOL OF ARTS.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the land at Moama, area 34 perches, viz., allotment No. 4 of section 56a, dedicated on the 2nd December, 1887, for site for Town Hall, and hereunder described, with a view to the rededication of the area in question as a site for School of Arts.

[Ms. 88-15,348]

JAMES N. BRUNKER.

DESCRIPTION.

CENTRAL DIVISION.

LAND DISTRICT OF DENILIQUIN.

Town of Moama, parish of Moama, county of Cadell, area 34 perches. The land within the following boundaries: Commencing on the south-western side of Minninya-street, town of Moama, at the north-western corner of portion 2, section 56a; thence north-westerly along the south-western side of Minninya-street a distance of 1 chain and 05·8 links; thence on the north-west by a line bearing south 27 degrees 41 minutes west a distance of 2 chains and 55·9 links; thence by a line bearing south 77 degrees 41 minutes east 1 chain to the north-western boundary of portion 2 aforesaid; thence along the said north-western boundary of portion 2 bearing north 27 degrees 41 minutes east a distance 1 chain 86 links, to the point of commencement.

The above-described land is shown on plan catalogued Moama 15-1,425.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 7th December, 1888.

**PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF RECREATION RESERVE
AT NORTH WILLOUGHBY.**

It is hereby notified, for public information, that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the land at North Willoughby, area 45 acres 3 roods 38 perches, dedicated on the 26th March, 1886, for public recreation, and hereunder described, with a view to the sale by auction of the land in question.

[Ms. 88-14,588]

JAMES N. BRUNKER.

DESCRIPTION.

County of Cumberland, parish of Willoughby, area 45 acres 3 roods 38 perches: Commencing at the eastern corner of J. Roberts' 25 acres grant; and bounded thence on the north-west by the south-east boundary of that grant bearing south 49 degrees 19 minutes 27 seconds west (magnetic) 16 chains 1.30 link to its southern corner; thence on the south-west by part of the north-east boundary of G. Tilley's 25 acres grant bearing south 40 degrees 38 minutes 42 seconds east (magnetic) 12 chains 36.19 links; thence on the south-east by a line

bearing north 49 degrees 20 minutes 37 seconds east (magnetic) 16 chains 00.29 link; thence on the north-east by a line bearing north 40 degrees 35 minutes 25 seconds west (magnetic) 12 chains 36.83 links, to the point of commencement. Again, commencing at the western corner of the site for Municipal buildings, dedicated 12th March, 1869; and bounded thence on part of the north-west by a line bearing south 49 degrees 20 minutes 37 seconds west (magnetic) 9 chains 99.92 links; thence on the south-west by part of the north-eastern side of Elizabeth-street, being lines bearing respectively south 40 degrees 38 minutes 42 seconds east (magnetic) 2 chains 67.92 links, and south 40 degrees 38 minutes 38 seconds east (magnetic) 16 chains 3.45 links to the western corner of J. Tyler's 25 acres grant; thence on the south-east by part of the north-west boundary of that grant bearing north 49 degrees 23 minutes 15 seconds east (magnetic) 15 chains 9.41 links; thence on part of the north-east by a line bearing north 40 degrees 56 minutes 7 seconds west (magnetic) 14 chains 73.27 links to the eastern corner of the site for Municipal buildings aforesaid; thence on the remainder of the north-west and north-east, being lines bearing respectively south 50 degrees 31 minutes 14 seconds west (magnetic) 4 chains 98.29 links, and north 41 degrees 9 minutes 49 seconds west (magnetic) 3 chains 88.89 links, to the point of commencement.

Shown on plan catalogued C. 70-2,063.

1888-9.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

("GAZETTE" NOTICE SETTING FORTH PROPOSED DEDICATION OF CERTAIN LANDS, UNDER THE ACT 48 VIC. NO. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 15 January, 1889.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF GENERAL CEMETERY AT WILLYAMA.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the General Cemetery at Willyama, area 12 acres 2 roods 28 perches, dedicated on the 3rd August, 1888, and hereunder described, it being intended to dedicate another site in lieu thereof.

[Ms. 88-16,209]

JAMES N. BRUNKER.

Description.

County of Yancowinna, parish of Picton, containing an area of 12 acres 2 roods 28 perches: Commencing on the north-east side of a road 1 chain 50 links wide at a point bearing north 41 degrees 39 minutes west 4 chains 50 links from the western corner of suburban portion 202, town of Willyama; and bounded thence on part of the south-east by a line bearing north 48 degrees 21 minutes east 6 chains to the eastern corner of allotment 7 of 2 acres 1 rood 24 perches, measured for a general burial-ground; bounded thence on the north-east by a line bearing north 41 degrees 39 minutes west 8 chains 79 links to a point on the southern side of a road 1 chain wide; thence on the north-west by a line bearing south 69 degrees 36 minutes west 8 chains 5 links; thence on part of the south-west by a line bearing south 41 degrees 39 minutes east 1 chain 70½ links to the northern corner of allotment 2 of 3 roods, measured as a burial-ground for the Independents; bounded thence by a line forming the north-west boundaries of allotment 2, just mentioned, and allotment 1 of 1 rood, site for Jews' Burial-ground, in all 5 chains; on the remainder of the south-west by a line bearing south 41 degrees 39 minutes east 10 chains to the southern corner of allotment 5 of 2 acres, set apart as a burial-ground for the Roman Catholic Denomination; and thence on the remainder of the south-east by a line bearing north 48 degrees 21 minutes east 6 chains 50 links, to the point of commencement,—shown on plan catalogued Willyama 5, District Survey Office, Bourke.

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

RESERVED FROM SALE, UNTIL SURVEYED, FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WATER SUPPLY OR OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES.

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, secs. 101, 103, 109, and 112.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands reserved from sale, until surveyed, for the preservation of Water Supply or other Public Purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 103rd, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

| No. of Papers. | No. of Reserve. | Section. | County. | Parish. | Area. | Government Gazette in which the description is published. | Folis. |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---|--------|
| Ms. 88- 5410 | 6788 | 101 | Harden | Bowning | a. r. p. 0 1 38 | 21 July, 1888 | 5076 |
| 6510 | 6789 | " | Narromine | Obley | 20 0 0 | " " | " |
| 6604 | 6803 | " | Mitchell | Mangoplah | 31 0 0 | " " | " |
| 7102 | 6792 | " | Sandon | Armidale | 15 3 0 | " " | " |
| 6009 | 6814 | " | Wallace | Middlingbank | 8 0 0 | " " | " |
| 6006 | 6812 | " | Vernon | Yarrowitch | 8 0 0 | " " | " |
| 6779 | 6790 | " | Wellington | Mulyan | 10 0 0 | " " | 5077 |
| 6604 | 6799 | " | Mitchell | Mangoplah | 5 1 0 | " " | " |
| " | 6800 | " | do | do | 6 2 0 | " " | " |
| 7112 | 6793 | " | Bathurst | Tintern | 24 0 0 | " " | " |
| 6914 | 6791 | " | Gloucester | Myall | 150 0 0 | " " | " |
| 6604 | 6801 | " | Mitchell | Mangoplah | 27 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 6802 | " | do | do | 150 0 0 | " " | " |
| 3264 | 6785 | " | Townsend | Coolagali | 68 1 0 | " " | " |
| 7475 | 6852 | " | Roxburgh | Tabrabucca | 3 2 0 | 28 " | 5305 |
| 7247 | 6848 | " | Cumberland | St. George | 28 0 0 | " " | " |
| 87- 7548 | 6853 | " | Roxburgh, &c. | Lidsdale, &c. | 8 0 0 | " " | " |
| 88- " | 6854 | " | do | do | 2 0 0 | " " | " |
| 6375 | 6860 | " | Harden | Cootamundry | 5 1 8 | " " | 5306 |
| 7548 | 6855 | " | Cook | Lidsdale | 2 2 0 | " " | " |
| " | 6856 | " | do | do | 1 3 0 | " " | " |
| Forests 88- 2922 | 6863 | 112 | Urana | Widgiewa | 213 3 0 | " " | " |
| Ms. 88- 6375 | 6861 | 101 | Harden | Cootamundry | 5 1 8 | " " | " |
| 7548 | 6857 | " | Cook | Lidsdale | 2 0 0 | " " | " |
| 7171 | 6870 | " | Rous | Teven | 8 0 0 | " " | " |
| 6503 | 6864 | " | Wellington | Nubrigyn | 12 3 0 | " " | " |
| Occ. 88- 5685 | 6859 | " | Camden | Nundialla | 83 0 0 | " " | 5307 |
| C.S. 88-8657 Dep. | 6786 | " | Wellington | Biranganbil | 137 3 0 | " " | " |
| Ms. 88- 7398 | 6862 | " | King | Rabnor | 9 3 27 | " " | " |
| 7359 | 6851 | " | Northumberland | Mandolong | 24 0 10 | " " | " |
| 7269 | 6850 | " | Harden | Woolgarlo | 10 0 0 | " " | " |
| 7247 | 6849 | " | Cumberland | St. George | 1 0 22 | " " | " |
| 7616 | 6858 | " | Georgiana | Kangaloolah | 7 1 0 | " " | " |
| C.S. 85- 4364 cor. | 6819 | " | Boyd | Coleambally | 100 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms. 88- 4161 | 6847 | 109 | Taila | Matalong | 300 0 0 | " " | 5308 |
| 2444 | 6866 | " | Mossgiel | Pittenween, &c. | 464 3 0 | " " | " |
| " | 6867 | " | do | Palymyra | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 7114 | 6820 | " | Buller | Cullendore | 100 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 6821 | " | do | Undercliffe | 120 0 0 | " " | " |
| Aln. 88- 1095 | 6974 | 101 | Denham | Berryabar | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 1575 | 6975 | " | Jamison | Thalaba | 350 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms. 88- 12798 | 6973 | " | Kennedy | Graddle | 640 0 0 | " " | 5309 |
| Aln. 87- 4722 | 6986 | " | Rous | Ballina | 1 2 27 | " " | " |
| Ms. 87- 11550 | 6972 | 109 | Forbes | Binda | 450 0 0 | " " | " |
| Aln. 88- 1132 | 6992 | 101 | Buckland | Coleypolly, &c. | 90 0 0 | 30 " | 5328 |
| Ms. 88- 498 | 6983 | " | Forbes | Wongajong | 80 0 0 | " " | " |
| 1630 | 6993 | " | Harden | Galong | 807 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 6994 | " | do | do | 91 0 0 | " " | " |
| Aln. 87- 6131 | 7015 | " | Jamison | Dealwarraldi, &c | 640 0 0 | " " | 5329 |
| Ms. 88- 1630 | 6995 | " | Harden | Galong | 77 0 0 | " " | " |

| No of Papers | No of Reserve | Section | County | Parish | Area | Government Gazette in which the description is published | Folio |
|------------------|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------------|------------|--|-------|
| Ms 87- 8378 | 7017 | 101 | Harden | Bowling | 346 0 0 | 30 July, 1888 | 5329 |
| Aln 87- 606 | 3026 | " | Denison | Boomaroomana | 960 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms 87-13067 | 6980 | " | Fons | North Casino | 336 0 0 | " " | " |
| 88- 498 | 6984 | " | Forbes | Wongajong | 800 0 0 | " " | " |
| Aln 87- 606 | 3625 | " | Denison | Boomanoomana | 296 1 0 | " " | 5331 |
| Ms 88- 9055 | 7023 | " | Cooper | Cudgel | 109 2 0 | 31 " " | 5468 |
| 9190 | 7024 | " | Gowen | Ernganein | 97 2 0 | " " | " |
| 9135 | 7026 | " | Murchison | King | 243 0 0 | " " | " |
| 87-11337 | 6878 | " | Nicholson | Hopwood | 248 0 0 | 4 Aug, 1888 | 5454 |
| 3594 | 6879 | " | Bena ba | Numby | 80 0 0 | " " | " |
| 7090 | 6880 | " | Manra | Younga South | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 6246 | 6881 | " | Franklin | Moolbong | 560 0 0 | " " | " |
| 88- 5674 | 6749 | " | Hume | Buraja | 1 3 14 | " " | " |
| " | 7650 | " | do | do | 6 0 14 | " " | " |
| " | 7651 | " | do | do | 6 1 6 | " " | " |
| 7018 | 6887 | " | Titziroy | Leigh, &c | 15,000 0 0 | " " | 5455 |
| 7631 | 6888 | " | Oxley | Daouble | 290 0 0 | " " | " |
| C S 88 18925 dep | C929 | 101 & 112 | Rous | Bylon | 80 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms 88- 5674 | 6746 | 101 | Hume | Buraja | 2 3 13 | " " | " |
| " | 6747 | " | do | do | 5 1 9 | " " | " |
| " | 6748 | " | do | do | 6 1 6 | " " | " |
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| 7632 | C928 | " | Rous | Terama | 350 0 0 | " " | " |
| 8811 | 7063 | " | Dampier | Bermagucc | 4 2 32 | 11 " " | 5661 |
| 6011 | 6936 | 109 | Baradine | Baradine | 204 3 10 | " " | " |
| 6537 | 6955 | " | Townsend | Naidoo | 231 2 0 | " " | " |
| 2442 | 6938 | " | Blaxland | Merrimerrwa, &c | 639 2 0 | " " | " |
| " | 6939 | " | do | do | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 8811 | 7046 | 101 | Dampier | Bermagucc | 2 1 36 1/2 | " " | 5662 |
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| " | 6957 | " | Pottinger | Yarraman | 1 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 6958 | " | do | do | 1 0 0 | " " | " |
| 8811 | 7066 | " | Dampier | Bermagucc | 12 2 17 | " " | " |
| 7176 | 6834 | " | Bathurst | Tintern | 275 0 0 | " " | 5663 |
| " | 6835 | " | do | do | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 6836 | " | do | do | 550 0 0 | " " | " |
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| 8811 | 7059 | 112 | Dampier | Bermagucc | 236 0 0 | " " | " |
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| 7176 | 6827 | 101 | Bathurst | Bracebridge | 180 0 0 | " " | " |
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| " | 6830 | " | do | do | 152 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 6831 | " | do | do | 80 0 0 | " " | " |
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| " | 6833 | " | do | do | 100 0 0 | " " | " |
| 4159 | 6933 | 109 | Tara | Utah, &c, &c | 28,800 0 0 | " " | 5665 |
| 8811 | 7052 | 101 | Dampier | Bermagucc | 7 3 22 | " " | " |
| " | 7053 | " | do | do | 6 2 23 | " " | " |
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| " | 7056 | " | do | do | 17 2 22 | " " | 5666 |
| Aln 88-3023 | 6930 | " | Raleigh | South Bellingen | 39 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 6931 | " | do | do | 12 0 10 | " " | " |
| Ms 88-8036 | 6959 | " | Pottinger | Yarraman | 6 3 28 | " " | " |
| 8811 | 7039 | " | Dampier | Bermagucc | 1 1 13 | " " | " |
| " | 7040 | " | do | do | 2 2 20 | " " | " |
| 5588 | 6949 | " | Macquarie | Taree | 765 0 0 | " " | " |
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| Occ 87- 8989 | 6951 | " | Auckland | Bournda | 20 0 0 | " " | " |
| 88- 111 | 6933 | " | Bathurst | Orange | 1 0 0 | " " | " |
| 746 | 6885 | " | Monteagle | Murrings | 2 0 0 | " " | " |
| 1789 | 6952 | " | Ewenmar | Umdugla | 5 0 0 | " " | " |
| 87-14013 | 6934 | " | Rankin | Buckinba | 5 0 0 | " " | " |
| 88- 1790 | 6960 | " | Cowpei | East Bourke | 320 0 0 | " " | " |
| 87- 6573 | 6962 | " | Narran | Goonoo | 0 1 4 | " " | " |
| Ms 88- 8811 | 7051 | " | Dampier | Bermagucc | 6 0 0 | " " | 5668 |
| " | 7062 | " | do | do | 8 2 4 | " " | " |
| 87- 5989 | 6948 | " | Carra | Loocalle | 420 0 0 | " " | " |
| 88- 7473 | 6944 | " | Beresford | Rowland, &c | 0 0 34 | " " | " |
| C S 88-23380 dep | 6932 | " | Leichhardt | Buchanan | 50 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms. 88- 8811 | 7057 | " | Dampier | Bermagucc | 2 1 6 | " " | " |
| 6953 | 6956 | " | Nicholson | Beaconsfield | 320 0 0 | " " | " |

| No of Papers. | No of Reserve | Section | County | Parish | Area | Government Gazette in which the description is published | Folio | |
|------------------|---------------|---------|----------------|----------------|-----------|--|--------------|------|
| Ms 88-7173 | 6950 | 101 | Northumberland | Branxton | a 163 | r 0 | 11 Aug, 1888 | 5669 |
| 8811 | 7045 | " | " | Dampier | P 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 8278 | 6964 | " | Yancowinna | Bermagabee | 5 0 14 | " | " | " |
| 8811 | 7065 | " | " | Pictou | 29 1 35 | " | " | " |
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| " | 7038 | " | do | do | 2 1 15 | " | " | " |
| 6395 | 6954 | " | Gough | Glen Innes | 2 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 8726 | 7134 | " | Corialtic | Yarraman | 1,682 0 0 | 18 | " | 5860 |
| 9720 | 7143 | " | Ewenmar | Killendoon | 2,533 0 0 | " | " | 5861 |
| 7592 | 7148 | " | St Vincent | Wandawandrian | 44 3 0 | " | " | " |
| C.S 88-12494 dep | 7037 | " | Wellington | Barrandong | 40 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 12497 " | 7034 | " | Gordon | Newira | 40 0 0 | " | " | " |
| Ms 88- 9999 | 7117 | " | Forbes | Boyd | 640 0 0 | " | " | " |
| C S 87- 5836 dep | 7083 | " | Wallace | Jimenbuen | 100 0 0 | " | " | 5862 |
| 88-23673 " | 7084 | " | Fitzroy | Krensos | 40 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 11572 " | 7085 | " | Bucclench | Bungongo | 40 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 2836 " | 7086 | " | Ariawatta | Wecon | 40 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 1781 cor | 7087 | " | Veinon | Apsley | 640 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 87-58258 dep | 7088 | " | Monteagle | Burrumunda | 369 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 88- 6089 " | 7089 | " | Cunningham | Wolongong | 679 2 0 | " | " | " |
| " | 7090 | " | do | do | 507 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 10910 " | 7091 | " | Townsend | Thrlabin | 147 3 0 | " | " | " |
| 87-37985 " | 7029 | " | Ewenmar | Bundemeer | 527 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 88-12334 " | 7092 | " | Gregory | Goolagoola | 640 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 87- 4974 cor | 7133 | " | Cunningham | Barrawang | 1,211 2 0 | " | " | " |
| 88-14687 dep | 7093 | " | Forbes | Braulin | 287 3 0 | " | " | " |
| 85- 6542 cor | 7132 | " | do | Bunda | 321 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 88-14534 dep | 7094 | " | Pottinger | Calala | 640 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 21650 " | 7095 | " | Dowling | Merrl Merrigal | 640 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 469 cor | 7096 | " | Benarba, &c | Wirrit, &c | 2,160 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 12062 dep | 7097 | " | Urana | Culombo | 55 0 0 | " | " | 5863 |
| 12063 " | 7098 | " | do | do | 150 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 12061 " | 7099 | " | do | Morundah South | 146 3 0 | " | " | " |
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| 99951 " | 7101 | " | Stapylton | Whalan | 40 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 85-26996 dep | 7149 | " | Hume | Ryan | 200 0 0 | 22 | " | 5951 |
| 10786 " | 7150 | " | Bucclench | Bungongo | 80 0 0 | " | " | " |
| Ms. 88- 9308 | 7151 | " | Gunderbooka | Pera | 50 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 9307 | 7152 | " | Waljeers | Boondara | 640 0 0 | " | " | " |
| C.S 88- 4159 cor | 7191 | " | Wynyard | Mundarlo | 640 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 30942 dep | 7193 | " | Clarendon | Merrybundinnah | 112 3 0 | " | " | " |
| Aln. 87- 5532 | 7068 | " | Pottinger | Wondoba | 480 0 0 | " | " | 6045 |
| Ms. 88- 8481 | 7142 | 109 | Ashburnham | Nanami | 679 0 0 | 1 Sept, 1888 | " | 6216 |
| 3730 | 7125 | " | Benarba | Oreel, &c | 5,020 0 0 | " | " | " |
| " | 7126 | " | Jamison | Dangat, &c | 1,020 0 0 | " | " | 6217 |
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| 7986 | 7123 | " | Forbes | Melyra | 10 0 0 | " | " | " |
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| " | 7130 | " | do | Markham | 520 0 0 | " | " | " |
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| 7671 | 7102 | 101 | Pottinger | Tamba | 16 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 87- 4382 | 3011 | 109 | Demison | Turrana | 105 2 0 | " | " | 6218 |
| 4382 | 012 | " | do | Mulwala | 152 3 0 | " | " | " |
| 88- 8433 | 7115 | 101 | Roxburgh | Waltham | 45 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 7964 | 7109 | " | Bathurst | Coota | 200 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 8282 | 7112 | " | Lincoln | Geurie | 2 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 8486 | 7140 | " | do | Murrumbidgee | 7 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 8431 | 7114 | " | Phillip | Rumker | 40 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 7897 | 7121 | " | Bullel | Wyhe | 4 0 0 | " | " | 6219 |
| 8485 | 7139 | " | Lincoln | Murrumbidgee | 1 3 0 | " | " | " |
| 8540 | 7141 | " | Selwyn | Buna | 160 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 7984 | 7122 | " | Cook | Falnash | 21 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 7235 | 7136 | " | Phillip | Coolcalwin | 1 2 10 | " | " | " |
| " | 7137 | " | do | do | 5 0 0 | " | " | " |
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| 7672 | 7103 | " | Pottinger | Tambal | 56 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 6520 | 6967 | " | Farnell | Byjerkerno | 12 0 17 | " | " | " |
| 7917 | 7107 | " | Westmoreland | Thornshope | 15 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 6520 | 6966 | " | Farnell | Byjerkerno | 5 1 8 | " | " | " |
| 7177 | 6844 | " | King | Bunton, &c | 914 0 0 | " | " | 6220 |
| 9520 | 6484 | " | Gordon | Ganoo | 1 580 0 0 | " | " | " |
| " | 6498 | " | do | do | 640 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 8152 | 7111 | " | St. Vincent | Teimeil | 45 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 8143 | 7110 | " | Ewenmar | Bobalah | 460 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 7235 | 7135 | " | Phillip | Coolcalwin | 10 0 0 | " | " | 6221 |
| 7690 | 7119 | " | Northumberland | Patonga | 37 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 7871 | 7104 | " | Camden | Jellere &c | 1,370 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 8324 | 7113 | " | Benarba | Gooalla | 1,361 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 87-14120 | 7070 | " | Rous | Broadwater | 21 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 88- 7724 | 6971 | " | Cumberland | Southend | 134 0 0 | " | " | 6222 |
| 7872 | 7105 | " | Camden | Wallaya | 40 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 6964 | 7118 | " | Ewenmar | Berida | 430 0 0 | " | " | " |
| Aln | 3416 | " | Mitchell | Wanbeninna | 216 2 0 | " | " | " |
| Ms 88- | 7874 | " | Cook | Irvine | 40 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 7918 | 7108 | " | do | Kedumba | 200 0 0 | " | " | " |
| 7811 | 7120 | " | King | Mundoonen | 3 1 38 | " | " | " |
| 8434 | 7124 | " | Gordon | Burrawong | 10 0 0 | " | " | " |

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|--------------------|-----------------|----------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---|--------|
| Aln. 88- 3293 | 7160 | 101 | Camden | Wingello | a. r. p. 10 0 0 | 8 Sept., 1888 | 6349 |
| Ms. 88- 8547 | 7156 | " | Oxley | Beelban | 70 0 0 | " " | 6350 |
| " " | 7157 | " | do | Trowan | 242 1 0 | " " | " |
| Aln. 88- 3298 | 7166 | " | Camden | Wingello | 5 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 7167 | " | do | do | 62 0 0 | " " | " |
| C.S. 88-13359 dep. | 7147 | " | Dudley | Macleay | 629 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms. 88- 3549 | 7168 | " | Young | Dickens | 300 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 7145 | " | Hawes | Uriamukki | 105 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 7350 | " | Pottinger | Girrawillie | 1,150 0 0 | " " | " |
| Aln. 88- 3298 | 7161 | " | Camden | Wingello | 1 1 36 | " " | 6351 |
| " " | 7162 | " | do | do | 0 2 0 | " " | " |
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| Ms. 88- 8406 | 7146 | " | Cumberland | Berowa | 88 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 8767 | 112 | King | Newham | 1,700 0 0 | " " | " |
| Aln. 88- 3298 | 7164 | 101 | Camden | Wingello | 14 3 30 | " " | " |
| " " | 7165 | " | do | do | 24 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms. 88- 9269 | 7335 | 112 | Clyde | Carinda, &c. | 4,240 0 0 | " " | " |
| Aln. 88- 3298 | 7159 | 101 | Camden | Wingello | 5 1 37 | " " | 6352 |
| Ms. 88-10895 | 7441 | " | Clive | Tarban | 62 2 0 | 12 " | 6453 |
| " " | 9248 | 112 | King | Graham | 4,000 0 0 | 15 " | 6540 |
| " " | 8821 | 101 | Cumberland | Bulgo, &c. | 198 0 0 | " " | 6544 |
| " " | 8584 | " | Raleigh | Warrell | 170 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 8718 | " | Wellington | Wellington | 3 0 29 | " " | " |
| " " | 7015 | " | Harden | Cootamundra | 10 2 29 | " " | " |
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| " " | 2443 | " | Blaxland | Wagga Wagga, &c. | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 7201 | " | do | do | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 2446 | " | do | Gunnagi | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 7205 | " | Blaxland, &c. | Gunnagi, &c. | 639 3 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 2447 | " | Blaxland | South Yackerboon, &c. | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 7209 | " | do | do | 639 3 0 | " " | " |
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| " " | 7246 | " | do | do | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 8652 | 101 | Waradgery | Wallaby | 135 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 8510 | " | Goulburn | Gerogery | 8 1 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 6776 | 109 | Mosgiel | Pittenweeni, &c. | 1,100 0 0 | " " | " |
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| " " | 7260 | " | do | do | 12 2 0 | " " | " |
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| " " | 87-14130 | " | Kennedy | Strathorn | 670 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 88- 8810 | " | Goulburn | Gregory | 3 2 0 | " " | " |
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| " " | 7619 | " | Clive | Timbarra | 8 0 0 | " " | " |
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| " " | 7254 | " | do | do | 0 3 24 | " " | " |
| Occ. 88- 2291 | 7250 | " | Hardinge | New Valley | 20 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 890 | " | Arrawatta | King's Plains | 10 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms. 88- 8810 | 7252 | " | Goulburn | Gerogery | 3 2 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 8582 | " | Wellesley | Ashton | 800 0 0 | " " | 6549 |
| " " | 7226 | " | do | Mila | 95 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 7961 | " | Wellington | Merinda | 740 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 7958 | " | Roxburgh | Crudine | 880 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 87-13067 | 103 | Rous | North Casino | 336 0 0 | 22 " | 6717 |
| " " | 88- 8281 | 101 | Lincoln | Geurie | 5 1 8 | " " | 6721 |
| " " | 6608 | " | Mitchell | Uranquinty | 14 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 6810 | " | do | do | 20 0 0 | " " | 6722 |
| " " | 8281 | " | Lincoln | Geurie | 2 0 19 | " " | " |
| " " | 7233 | " | do | do | 2 0 19 | " " | " |
| " " | 7234 | " | do | do | 5 1 8 | " " | " |
| " " | 7235 | " | do | do | 5 1 8 | " " | " |
| " " | 7236 | " | do | do | 5 1 8 | " " | " |
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| " " | 7239 | " | do | do | 30 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 7240 | " | do | do | 180 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 6608 | " | Mitchell | Uranquinty | 13 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 8281 | " | Lincoln | Geurie | 10 0 0 | " " | 6723 |
| " " | 7241 | " | do | do | 580 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 6608 | " | Mitchell | Uranquinty | 8 0 35 | " " | " |
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| " " | 6608 | " | Mitchell | Uranquinty | 48 0 0 | " " | " |
| C.S. 88- 1608 cor. | 6884 | " | Sandon | Metz | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms. 88- 7984 | 7174 | " | Lincoln | Dubbo | 640 0 0 | " " | 6724 |
| " " | 6808 | " | Mitchell | Pearson | 16 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 2818 | " | Georgiana | Mulgunnia | 5 3 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 6943 | " | do | do | 74 2 0 | " " | " |
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| " " | 8281 | " | Lincoln | Geurie | 1 3 0 | " " | " |
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| Occ. 88- 4296 | 7212 | 101 | Wakool | Poon Boon | a. 10 | r. 0 | 22 Sept, 1888 | 6725 | | |
| Ms. 88-12157 | 7565 | " | Hume | Buraja | 100 | 3 20 | | 26 | 6784 | |
| 6914 | 6791 | " | Macquarie | Myall | 150 | 0 0 | | 29 | 6905 | |
| 9914 | 7435 | " | Cunningham | Indoono | 4,000 | 0 0 | | " | " | |
| " | 7436 | " | do | Mount Nobby, &c. | 4,000 | 0 0 | | " | " | |
| " | 7437 | " | do | Mowabla, &c. | 4,500 | 0 0 | | " | " | |
| Aln. 88- 5104 | 7566 | " | Denison | Boomanoomana. | 640 | 0 0 | | " | " | |
| Ms. 88-12062 | 7551 | " | Forbes | Bundaburrah, &c. | 1,400 | 0 0 | | " | " | |
| 9923 | 7430 | " | Kennedy | Gobodey, &c. | 9,000 | 0 0 | | " | " | |
| 12061 | 7550 | " | Carra | Bunumburt . . . | 40 | 0 0 | | " | 6906 | |
| 7750 | 7424 | " | Macquarie | Camden Haven, &c. | 17 | 0 0 | | " | " | |
| " | 7425 | " | do | Queen's Lake | 18 | 0 0 | | " | " | |
| 87- 2648 | 7313 | " | Clarence | Coldstream | 10 | 0 0 | | " | " | |
| 88- 2970 | 7318 | " | Rous | Nullum | 90 | 0 0 | | " | " | |
| Aln. 88- 3715 | 7434 | 109 | Ewenmar | Eurombedah, &c. | 2,000 | 0 0 | | " | 6907 | |
| Ms. 88- 9045 | 7286 | " | Ashburnham | Kamandra | 90 | 0 0 | | " | | " |
| " | 7287 | " | do | Goobang, &c. | 363 | 0 0 | | " | | " |
| 6294 | 7282 | " | Leichhardt | Brewon, &c. | 3,125 | 0 0 | | " | | " |
| " | 7283 | " | do | Wyabey | 3,230 | 0 0 | | " | | " |
| 10477 | 7433 | " | Finch | Biben, &c. | 15,360 | 0 0 | | " | 6908 | |
| 8682 | 7332 | 101 | Harden | Cumbamurra | 3 | 0 30 | | " | " | |
| 8641 | 7381 | " | Cook | Jamieson | 8 | 0 0 | | " | " | |
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| " | 7386 | " | do | do | 185 | 0 0 | | " | " | |
| " | 7385 | " | do | do | 104 | 0 0 | | " | " | |
| 9128 | 7375 | " | Bourke | Berrembed | 5 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| Occ. 88- 2747 | 7395 | " | Cowper | Mackay | 320 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| Ms. 88- 7622 | 7393 | 109 | Arrawatta | Burgundy | 3 | 1 20 | " | 6909 | | |
| 6495 | 7298 | " | Townsend | Winter | 230 | 1 0 | " | | " | |
| " | 7299 | " | do | North Zara | 378 | 2 0 | " | | " | |
| " | 7300 | " | do | do | 640 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| 6659 | 7308 | " | Waradgery | Willama | 640 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| 6659 | 7309 | " | do | Ulonga, &c. | 640 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| 6494 | 7319 | " | do | Bresford, &c. | 640 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| " | 7320 | " | do | Paradise, &c. | 640 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| 6215 | 7423 | " | do | Yang Yang | 430 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| 8682 | 7329 | 101 | Harden | Cumbamurra | 2 | 2 0 | " | 6910 | | |
| " | 7330 | " | do | do | 2 | 2 0 | " | " | | |
| 7750 | 7429 | " | Macquarie | Queen's Lake | 20 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| 8727 | 7314 | " | Stapylton | Boggabilla | 721 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
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| 9386 | 7277 | " | do | Bywong | 30 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| 9475 | 7273 | " | Clarence | Tolumbi | 0 | 2 26 | " | 6911 | | |
| 2648 | 7563 | " | do | Coldstream. | 48 | 0 0 | " | | " | |
| " | 7564 | " | do | do | 100 | 1 0 | " | | " | |
| 9496 | 7278 | " | St. Vincent | Bateman | 2 | 0 0 | " | | " | |
| 9065 | 7376 | " | Camden | Bargo | 16 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| 7750 | 7428 | " | Macquarie | Queen's Lake | 10 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| 9183 | 7288 | " | Gloucester | Forster | 950 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| 7855 | 7284 | " | Wakool | Genoe | 1,654 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| 4939 | 7379 | " | Buckland | Carroll | 25 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| 7071 | 7351 | " | Bourke | Drumston | 350 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| 6244 | 7357 | " | do | Ellon | 120 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| :87- 7872 | 7352 | " | Narran | Cowga | 223 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| 13368 | 7353 | " | Blaxland | Barthong | 320 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| 86- 1895 | 7354 | " | Finch | Yeranbah | 300 | 0 0 | " | 6912 | | |
| :87- 8480 | 7356 | " | Yantarra | Yandenbery | 160 | 0 0 | " | | " | |
| :88-10340 | 7438 | " | Richmond | Mytle | 180 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| 6292 | 7397 | " | Rous | Tuckurimba | 482 | 1 0 | " | " | | |
| 8668 | 7304 | " | Cooper | Colaragang | 93 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| 8682 | 7333 | " | Harden | Cumbamurra | 10 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| 7812 | 7389 | " | Darling | Fleming | 8 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| 7750 | 7426 | " | Macquarie | Camden Haven | 600 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| " | 7427 | " | do | Queen's Lake, &c. | 1,025 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| 9668 | 7279 | " | Mitchell | Grubben | 0 | 2 0 | " | 6913 | | |
| 8682 | 7331 | " | Harden | Cumbamurra | 4 | 3 12 | " | | " | |
| 9128 | 7373 | " | Bourke | Lupton | 1 | 3 37½ | " | | " | |
| " | 7374 | " | do | Berrembed | 3 | 3 0 | " | | " | |
| 9434 | 7377 | " | Wellington | Malyon | 120 | 0 0 | " | | " | |
| 9435 | 7378 | " | do | Muckerwa | 400 | 0 0 | " | | " | |
| 8682 | 7328 | " | Harden | Cumbamurra | 1 | 2 22 | " | | " | |
| 9923 | 7431 | " | Kennedy | Fitzoy | 640 | 0 0 | " | | " | |
| " | 7432 | " | do | Babathuil | 350 | 0 0 | " | | " | |
| 9663 | 7387 | " | Bathurst | Somers | 184 | 0 0 | " | | " | |
| 9045 | 7285 | 109 | Ashburnham | Kamandra | 72 | 0 0 | " | 6914 | | |
| 6294 | 7280 | " | Leichhardt | Brewan | 640 | 0 0 | " | | " | |
| " | 7281 | " | do | Wyabery | 640 | 0 0 | " | | " | |
| 9522 | 4061 | 101 | Cunningham | Emu Plains | 929 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| C.S. 88-23785 dep. | 7326 | " | Nicholson | Bungess | 1,360 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| Ms. 88- 9165 | 7363 | " | Tara | Warpa | 1,920 | 0 0 | " | " | | |
| 8820 | 7327 | 103 | Cumberland | Bulgo | 6 | 2 0 | 6 Oct., 1888 | 7045 | | |
| 9305 | 7380 | " | Northumberland | Patonga | 3 | 0 0 | " | 7046 | | |
| 8318 | 7442 | 101 | Forbes, &c. | Eualdrie, &c. | 1,740 | 0 0 | " | 7054 | | |
| 11378 | 7578 | " | Northumberland | Morrisset | 1 | 3 0 | " | 7055 | | |
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| | | | | | a r p | | |
| Ms. 88-11378 | 7580 | 101 | Northumberland | Morrisset | 4 2 0 | 6 Oct, 1888 | 7055 |
| " | 7581 | " | do | do | 7 2 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7594 | " | do | do | 8 2 0 | " " | " |
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| 11378 | 7588 | " | Northumberland | Morrisset | 8 3 29 | " " | 7056 |
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| " | 7590 | " | do | do | 11 2 16 | " " | " |
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| 10160 | 7491 | " | Nandewar | Tippereena | 420 0 0 | " " | " |
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| 11254 | 7574 | " | Richmond | Riley | 1 2 0 | " " | " |
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| 1067 | 7407 | " | King | Crosby | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
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| 3206 | 6308 | " | Townstead | Neerim | 270 0 0 | " " | " |
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| 11378 | 7582 | " | Northumberland | Morrisset | 3 0 30 | " " | " |
| " | 7583 | " | do | do | 11 0 4 | " " | " |
| " | 7584 | " | do | do | 1 2 1 | " " | 7058 |
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| " | 7586 | " | do | do | 1 3 24 | " " | " |
| " | 7587 | " | do | do | 2 1 2 | " " | " |
| 6990 | 7324 | " | Rous | Wollumbin | 1 0 22½ | " " | " |
| 9716 | 7461 | 109 | Mootwingee | Kayrunneia | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7462 | " | Yungnulgia | Yeiltara | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 10014 | 7465 | " | do | Menamurtie | 445 3 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7466 | " | do | do | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 10016 | 7469 | " | Tandora | Silistria | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7470 | " | do | do | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 10355 | 7509 | 101 | Cumberland | Manly Cove | 7 1 0 | " " | 7059 |
| " | 7510 | " | do | do | 7 2 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7511 | " | do | do | 10 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7512 | " | do | do | 12 3 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7513 | " | do | do | 14 1 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7514 | " | do | do | 19 3 0 | " " | " |
| 9537 | 7486 | " | Manara | Gunnaraby | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 10355 | 7508 | " | Cumberland | Manly Cove | 5 1 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7500 | " | do | do | 2 1 0 | " " | 7060 |
| " | 7501 | " | do | do | 4 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7502 | " | do | do | 10 1 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7503 | " | do | do | 8 1 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7504 | " | do | do | 9 3 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7505 | " | do | do | 13 3 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7506 | " | do | do | 22 1 0 | " " | " |
| 10273 | 7445 | " | Kennely | Bentiock | 100 0 0 | " " | " |
| 9533 | 7410 | " | Urana | Broome | 135 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7411 | " | do | do &c. | 382 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7412 | " | do | do | 550 0 0 | " " | " |
| 10355 | 7507 | " | Cumberland | Manly Cove | 0 2 0 | " " | 7061 |
| 5540 | 7358 | " | Gregory | Mobala | 1,600 0 0 | " " | " |
| 8429 | 7391 | " | Roxburgh | Jesse | 20 0 0 | " " | " |
| 2838 | 7367 | " | Camden | Wingello | 10 0 0 | " " | " |
| 9671 | 7459 | " | Wallace | Clyde | 8 0 0 | " " | " |
| 9660 | 7455 | " | Murray | Majura | 9 2 0 | " " | " |
| 9786 | 7490 | " | Ashburnham | Currajong | 8 0 0 | " " | " |
| 9738 | 7443 | " | Stapylton | Boggabilla | 7 2 8 | " " | " |
| 11237 | 7573 | " | Baradine | Goangra | 485 0 0 | " " | " |
| 7810 | 7485 | " | Gough | Glen Innes | 1,100 0 0 | " " | 7062 |
| 11036 | 7571 | " | Forbes | Currowong | 240 0 0 | " " | " |
| 11037 | 7572 | " | Bland | Yulme | 1,200 0 0 | " " | " |
| Occ 88- 7865 | 7473 | " | Roxburgh | Anly | 20 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms 88- 9987 | 7444 | " | Wynyard | Batlow | 9 1 8 | " " | " |
| 6990 | 7323 | " | Rous | Muwillumbah | 7 12 0 | " " | " |
| 10691 | 7570 | " | Macquarie | Beranghi | 130 0 0 | " " | 7063 |
| 11378 | 7591 | " | Northumberland | Morrisset | 11 2 6 | " " | " |
| " | 7593 | " | do | do | 38 0 0 | " " | " |
| 3513 | 7414 | " | Urana | Bundue | 600 0 0 | " " | " |
| 10208 | 7492 | " | Murray | Majura | 10 0 0 | " " | " |
| 10210 | 7493 | " | do | Amungula | 11 2 25 | " " | " |
| Forests 88- 5128 | 7569 | 112 | Raleigh | Bonville | 400 0 0 | " " | 7064 |
| 3706 | 7447 | " | Blaxland | Creamy Hills, &c | 3,840 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms 88-12210 | 7595 | 101 | Selwyn | Welaregang | 49 1 10 | " " | " |
| 3513 | 7415 | " | Uiana | Bundure | 961 0 0 | " " | " |
| 9477 | 7388 | " | Gough | Lands End | 40 2 0 | " " | " |
| 87- 4210 | 7295 | " | Denison | Tocumwal, &c | 322 0 4 | " " | " |
| " | 7296 | " | do | Langunya, &c | 50 0 0 | " " | " |
| 88-10480 | 7531 | " | Mitchell | Gillenbah | 40 0 0 | " " | 7212 |
| 9787 | 7547 | " | Sturt | Currahoole | 296 0 0 | " " | " |
| C S 85-23553 dep | 7454 | " | Pottinger | Calala | 640 0 0 | 13 | 7213 |
| Ms 88-12205 | 7615 | " | Wellington | Trudgett | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 13109 | 7698 | " | Cumberland | Heathcote, &c | 13,000 0 0 | 17 | 7289 |

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|--------------|---------------|---------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|--|-------|
| Aln 88- 1097 | 7683 | 101 | White | Mollec | a r p 130 0 0 | 17 Oct, 1888 | 7289 |
| Ms 88-13173 | 7684 | " | Dampier | Bermagucc | 0 3 27 | " " | 7290 |
| C S 80-23355 | 7726 | " | Northumberland | Wallarrah | 960 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms 88- 6806 | 6719 | 103 | Brisbane | Killoe | 640 0 0 | 20 " " | 7416 |
| 4363 | 7535 | " | Cook, &c, &c | Merroo, &c, &c | 90,000 0 0 | " " | " |
| 4363 | 7536 | " | do | Nepean | 80 0 0 | " " | " |
| 8503 | 7516 | 101 | Lincoln | Murrumbidgee | 2 0 0 | " " | 7418 |
| " | 7517 | " | do | do | 2 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7518 | " | do | do | 5 1 9 | " " | " |
| " | 7519 | " | do | do | 5 1 9 | " " | " |
| " | 7520 | " | do | do | 5 1 9 | " " | " |
| 10346 | 7475 | " | Biesford | Bransby | 9 2 20 | " " | " |
| 10373 | 7561 | " | Monteagle | Murriago | 30 1 36 | " " | " |
| 10346 | 7484 | " | Beresford | Bransby | 71 0 0 | " " | 7419 |
| 10568 | 7556 | " | Auckland | Panbula | 13 3 10 | " " | " |
| 12730 | 7723 | " | Rous | North Lismore | 6 2 0 | " " | " |
| 9770 | 7543 | " | Murray | Carwoola | 0 2 27 | " " | " |
| " | 7544 | " | do | do | 1 0 31 | " " | " |
| " | 7545 | " | do | do | 2 3 4 | " " | " |
| " | 7546 | " | do | do | 10 1 0 | " " | " |
| 8503 | 7526 | " | Lincoln | Murrumbidgee | 26 0 9 | " " | " |
| 10346 | 7579 | " | Beresford | Bransby | 0 2 30 | " " | " |
| " | 7480 | " | do | do | 2 3 15 | " " | " |
| " | 7481 | " | do | do | 3 3 22 | " " | " |
| " | 7482 | " | do | do | 18 3 18 | " " | " |
| 9770 | 7541 | " | Murray | Amungula | 12 3 12 | " " | " |
| 8503 | 7522 | " | Lincoln | Murrumbidgee | 80 0 0 | " " | " |
| 10346 | 7476 | " | Beresford | Bransby | 0 2 24 | " " | 7420 |
| " | 7477 | " | do | do | 5 1 8 | " " | " |
| " | 7478 | " | do | do | 5 1 8 | " " | " |
| 12730 | 7721 | " | Rous | Lismore | 1 2 20 | " " | " |
| " | 7722 | " | do | do | 2 0 0 | " " | " |
| 9770 | 7538 | " | Murray | Carwoola | 2 0 14 | " " | " |
| " | 7539 | " | do | do | 3 2 6 | " " | " |
| 10568 | 7555 | " | Auckland | Panbula | 12 20 0 | " " | " |
| 9770 | 7540 | " | Murray | Amungula | 4 1 8 | " " | " |
| 8503 | 7521 | " | Lincoln | Murrumbidgee | 5 1 9 | " " | " |
| Occ 88 6683 | 7364 | " | Gipps | Bibbyolee | 2 0 0 | " " | " |
| 7679 | 7457 | " | Pottinger | Baan Baa | 2 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms 88-10570 | 7558 | 112 | Georgiana | Yewrangara | 670 0 0 | " " | 7421 |
| 10434 | 7534 | 109 | Cooper | Gogeldrie | 182 0 0 | " " | " |
| 9749 | 7401 | 101 | Gunderbooka, &c | Cowper | 10,600 0 0 | " " | " |
| 10582 | 7562 | " | Roxburgh | Ben Bullen | 660 0 0 | " " | " |
| 10569 | 7557 | " | Bathurst | Egbert | 1,000 0 0 | " " | " |
| 9770 | 7542 | " | Murray | Carwoola | 15 2 0 | " " | 7422 |
| 10264 | 7452 | " | Harden | Bangongolong | 24 0 0 | " " | " |
| 9749 | 7400 | " | Cowper | Baiton | 958 1 0 | " " | " |
| 6455 | 7559 | 109 | Jamison | Warrambool, &c | 700 0 0 | " " | " |
| 9770 | 7537 | 101 | Murray | Amungula | 2 2 39 | " " | " |
| 9919 | 7553 | " | Ashburnham | Faile | 8 2 0 | " " | " |
| 9801 | 7560 | " | Nicholson | Boolgal | 250 0 0 | " " | 7423 |
| 8503 | 7525 | " | Lincoln | Murrumbidgee | 940 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7524 | " | do | do | 180 0 0 | " " | " |
| 10437 | 7534 | " | Buller | Strathspey | 28 sq miles | " " | " |
| 10436 | 7533 | " | do | Clarence | 45 sq miles | " " | " |
| 8503 | 7523 | " | Lincoln | Murrumbidgee | 16 0 0 | " " | 7424 |
| Aln. 88 4321 | 7530 | " | Bland | Narraburri | 185 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms 88- 8503 | 7515 | " | Lincoln | Murrumbidgee | 10 0 0 | " " | " |
| 12730 | 7720 | " | Rous | North Lismore | 1 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7724 | " | do | Lismore | 3 0 0 | " " | " |
| 12878 | 7653 | " | Denison | Mulwala | 750 0 0 | " " | " |
| 10346 | 7453 | " | Beresford | Bransby | 86 1 0 | " " | 7425 |

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1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(RESERVED FROM SALE UNTIL SURVEYED FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WATER SUPPLY, OR OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES, UNDER THE ACT 48 VICTORIA No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands reserved from sale until surveyed, for the preservation of Water Supply, or other public purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

| No. of Papers. | No. of Reserve. | Section. | County. | Parish. | Area. | Government Gazette in which the description is published. | Folio. |
|----------------|-----------------|----------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------|
| Ms. 88-12552 | 7767 | 101 | Wakool..... | Chowar | a. r. p. 2,420 3 0 | 24 Oct., 1888 | 7485 |
| „ 11793 | 7644 | „ | Macquarie | Lewis | 20 0 0 | „ „ | 7602 |
| „ 8992 | 7597 | „ | Dudley | Yarravell | 1 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| 87-15049 | 7640 | 109 | Buller | Maryland | 315 0 0 | „ „ | 7603 |
| 88- 9910 | 7419 | „ | Cunningham..... | Mowalba | 640 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ | 7420 | „ | do | do | 640 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 10681 | 7601 | „ | Mouramba | Carlisle, &c..... | 638 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 11377 | 7651 | 101 | Northumberland..... | Morrisset | 57 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| Aln. 88-1067 | 7646 | „ | Wakool..... | Moulamein South..... | 973 2 0 | „ „ | „ |
| Ms. 88-12268 | 7744 | „ | Macquarie | Kinchela | 14 3 14 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 4145 | 7641 | „ | Bathurst | Somers | 152 1 38 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 12268 | 7745 | „ | Macquarie | Kinchela..... | 1 1 0 | „ „ | 7604 |
| „ 11107 | 7616 | „ | Harden | Coolac | 12 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 7303 | 7648 | „ | Pottinger | Bogabri | 90 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 12268 | 7742 | „ | Macquarie | Kinchela..... | 1 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ | 7743 | „ | do | do | 10 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 6377 | 7647 | „ | Clarendon | Malebo | 441 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 6586 | 7623 | „ | Finch | Cumborah | 640 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 10388 | 7621 | „ | Taila | Bengallow, &c..... | 2,480 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 7623 | 7649 | „ | Sandon | Falconer | 140 0 0 | „ „ | 7605 |
| „ 9531 | 7600 | „ | Stapylton | Boggabilla | 100 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 11727 | 7652 | „ | St. Vincent | Albert | 830 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 10884 | 7650 | 109 | Ashburnham | Kamandra, &c..... | 600 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 12268 | 7741 | 101 | Macquarie | Kinchela..... | 5 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 11923 | 7645 | 112 | Urana | Watt | 154 3 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 11236 | 7643 | 101 | Auckland | Wallagoot | 10 0 0 | „ „ | 7606 |
| „ 11341 | 7619 | „ | Beresford | Rivers | 8 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 11514 | 7618 | „ | Ewenmar | Umangia..... | 3 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 11168 | 7642 | „ | Vernon | Norton | 62 1 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 9905 | 7655 | „ | Waradgery | Hay | 10 0 0 | 3 Nov., 1888 | 7844 |
| „ 9486 | 7677 | 112 | Cunningham | Mulgothrie | 240 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 11617 | 7658 | 101 | Rous | Hanging Rock | 150 0 0 | „ „ | 7845 |
| „ | 7656 | „ | do | do | 50 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ | 7659 | „ | do | do | 420 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ | 7657 | „ | do | Gooninbar, &c., &c..... | 120 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 12435 | 7680 | „ | Macquarie | Rowley | 23 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 11524 | 7673 | „ | Camden | Bargo | 70 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 7883 | 7669 | „ | Clyde | Willenbone | 486 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 9035 | 7676 | „ | Gough | Inverell | 10 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 6666 | 7670 | 109 | Sturt | Mirool, &c., &c. | 250 0 0 | „ „ | 7846 |
| „ 11375 | 7679 | „ | Jamison | Oreel, &c., &c. | 5,450 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 13721 | 7768 | 101 | Denham | Walgett | 104 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 12136 | 7674 | „ | Ashburnham | Forbes | 4 0 0 | „ „ | 7847 |
| „ | 7675 | „ | Forbes | Wongajong..... | 180 2 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 10173 | 7671 | „ | Jamison | Bolcarol, &c., &c. | 9,000 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 10175 | 7672 | „ | do | Helebah, &c., &c. | 2,560 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 9856 | 7678 | „ | Durham | Darlington | 230 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 14149 | 7816 | „ | Forbes | Wangajong | 549 3 0 | 7 „ | 7939 |
| „ 12430 | 7734 | „ | Macquarie | Stewart | 785 0 0 | 10 „ | 8001 |
| „ 11182 | 7729 | „ | Jamison | Dealwarraldi | 2,500 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ | 7730 | „ | do | Denham, &c..... | 3,460 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ | 7731 | „ | Denham | Gorian, &c., &c. | 24,900 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 12195 | 7732 | „ | Monteagle | Illunie | 8 2 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 10521 | 7598 | „ | Cumberland..... | Nelson | 0 2 0 | „ „ | 8002 |
| 87- 3099 | 7611 | „ | Mitchell | Edgehill | 5 0 18 | „ „ | „ |
| „ | 7612 | „ | do | do | 160 0 0 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 88-12497 | 7735 | „ | White | Cooma..... | 8 3 36 | „ „ | „ |
| „ 10672 | 7728 | „ | Murray..... | Jingera | 5,000 0 0 | „ „ | „ |

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|----------------|-----------------|----------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------|---|--------|
| | | | | | a. r. p. | | |
| Ms. 88-12391 | 7733 | 101 | Hardinge | Stony Batter | 65 0 0 | 10 Nov., 1888 | 8002 |
| " 12578 | 7737 | " | Burnett | Burnett | 48 0 0 | " " | " |
| " 12639 | 7738 | " | Harden | Woolgarlo | 20 0 0 | " " | 8003 |
| " 11636 | 7711 | " | Westmoreland | Crete | 90 0 0 | " " | " |
| " 12527 | 7736 | " | do | Oberon | 33 1 0 | " " | " |
| Cs. 88-29860 | 7739 | " | Gregory | Goolagoola, &c., &c. ... | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms. 88-10521 | 7599 | " | Cumberland | Nelson | 28 1 0 | " " | " |
| " 4066 | 7654 | " | Drake | Timbarra | 171 3 0 | " " | " |
| " 10717 | 7740 | " | Gipps | Wheoga | 6,000 0 0 | " " | 8004 |
| " 14057 | 7911 | " | Cumberland | Liberty Plains | 17 2 0 | 14 " | 8116 |
| " " | 7912 | " | do | do | 4 3 39 | " " | " |
| " 10668 | 7756 | " | Ashburnham | Warregal | 3 2 0 | 17 " | 8207 |
| " 11233 | 7702 | " | Selwyn | Craven | 3 3 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 7704 | " | do | do | 3 2 32 | " " | " |
| " " | 7705 | " | do | do | 6 2 2 | " " | " |
| " " | 7706 | " | do | do | 8 3 32 | " " | " |
| " 12677 | 7761 | " | Yancowinna | Picton | 8 0 28 | " " | 8208 |
| " " | 7762 | " | do | do | 10 1 10 | " " | " |
| " " | 7763 | " | do | do | 10 1 10 | " " | " |
| " " | 7764 | " | do | do | 10 1 10 | " " | " |
| " " | 7765 | " | do | do | 10 1 10 | " " | " |
| " 11233 | 7699 | " | Selwyn | Craven | 35 0 0 | " " | " |
| " 10686 | 7696 | " | Bland | Tumbleton | 14 0 0 | " " | " |
| " 9264 | 7755 | " | Macquarie | Ralfe, &c., &c. | 235 0 0 | " " | " |
| " 11376 | 7717 | " | Rous | Dunoon | 57 0 0 | " " | 8209 |
| " 11233 | 7701 | " | Selwyn | Craven | 0 2 20 | " " | " |
| " " | 7703 | " | do | do | 1 0 10 | " " | " |
| " " | 7700 | " | do | do | 20 3 37 | " " | " |
| " 11376 | 7716 | " | Rous | Dunoon | 98 0 0 | " " | " |
| " 11233 | 7707 | " | Selwyn | Craven | 5 2 0 | " " | " |
| " 5621 | 7710 | " | Harden | Burra | 285 0 0 | " " | 8210 |
| " 5781 | 7752 | 109 | Cunningham | Gunningbland | 540 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 7753 | " | do | do | 600 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 7754 | " | do | do | 400 0 0 | " " | " |
| " 12677 | 7766 | 101 | Yancowinna | Picton | 16 2 0 | " " | " |
| " 11376 | 7715 | " | Rous | Dunoon | 280 0 0 | " " | " |
| " 10986 | 7757 | 109 | Bland | Weedallion, &c. | 392 0 0 | " " | 8212 |
| " 5781 | 7751 | " | Cunningham | Gunningbland | 475 0 0 | " " | " |
| " 10986 | 7758 | " | Bland | Weedallion, &c. | 560 0 0 | " " | " |

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(RESERVED FROM SALE UNTIL SURVEYED FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WATER SUPPLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACT 48 VICTORIA No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands reserved from sale until surveyed, for the preservation of Water Supply, or other public purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 103rd, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

| No. of Papers. | No. of Reserve. | Section. | County. | Parish. | Area. | Government Gazette in which the description is published. | Folio. | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------|---|--------|---------------|------|
| | | | | | | | | a. | r. | p. |
| Ms. 88-14282 | 8044 | 101 | Harden | Galong | 4 | 1 | 34 | 21 Nov., 1888 | 8289 |
| 14819 | 8046 | " | Narromine | Bulgandramine | 4,800 | 0 | 0 | " | " |
| 14367 | 8045 | " | Arrawatta | Wandera | 107 | 2 | 0 | " | " |
| 12253 | 7803 | " | Durham | Underbank | 6 | 0 | 0 | 24 | " |
| " | 7804 | " | Gloucester | do | 220 | 0 | 0 | " | 8380 |
| " | 7805 | " | Durham | do | 42 | 0 | 0 | " | " |
| " | 7806 | " | do | do | 5 | 2 | 0 | " | " |
| " | 7807 | " | Gloucester | do | 21 | 0 | 0 | " | " |
| " | 7808 | " | do | Tillegra | 65 | 2 | 0 | " | " |
| " | 7809 | " | Durham | do | 292 | 3 | 0 | " | " |
| 13436 | 7812 | 109 | Raleigh | Newry | 57 | 0 | 0 | " | 8381 |
| 4349 | 7800 | " | Stapylton | Willimill, &c. | 5,000 | 0 | 0 | " | " |
| " | 7801 | " | do | Warra, Warrama, &c. | 4,300 | 0 | 0 | " | " |
| 11340 | 7802 | " | Tara | Utah, &c. | 28,800 | 0 | 0 | " | " |
| 12464 | 7760 | 101 | Buckland | Corridoon | 626 | 0 | 0 | " | 8382 |
| 12549 | 7810 | " | Clarke | Dyke | 310 | 0 | 0 | " | " |
| 12128 | 7781 | " | Gloucester | Tillegra | 9 | 2 | 0 | " | " |
| 13152 | 7798 | " | Urana | Jerilderie South | 10 | 0 | 0 | " | " |
| 13227 | 7769 | " | Yancowinna | Pictou | 5 | 1 | 8 | " | 8383 |
| " | 7770 | " | do | do | 5 | 1 | 8 | " | " |
| 13228 | 7771 | " | do | do | 5 | 1 | 8 | " | " |
| " | 7772 | " | do | do | 12 | 0 | 16 | " | " |
| 4357 | 7369 | " | King | Hume | 1 | 3 | 18 | " | " |
| " | 7370 | " | do | Yass | 2 | 2 | 2 | " | " |
| " | 7371 | " | do | do | 2 | 1 | 22 | " | " |
| " | 7372 | " | do | do | 1 | 1 | 11 | " | " |
| 13229 | 7773 | " | Yancowinna | Pictou | 10 | 1 | 8 | " | " |
| 12890 | 7797 | " | Gowen | Galargambone | 24 | 0 | 0 | " | " |
| 13229 | 7774 | " | Yancowinna | Pictou | 10 | 1 | 8 | " | " |
| " | 7775 | " | do | do | 47 | 2 | 0 | " | " |
| 13018 | 7811 | " | Sandon | Uralla | 0 | 2 | 0 | " | 8384 |
| 4357 | 7367 | " | King | Yass | 1 | 0 | 0 | " | " |
| " | 7368 | " | do | do | 11 | 0 | 19 | " | " |
| 13110 | 7910 | " | Monteagle | Young | 0 | 2 | 0 | " | " |
| 13218 | 7813 | " | Beresford | Milford | 0 | 0 | 34 | " | " |
| 11995 | 7777 | " | Georgiana | Tuena | 4 | 1 | 32 | " | " |
| 12925 | 7779 | " | Forbes | Broula | 8 | 0 | 0 | " | " |
| 12840 | 7796 | " | Yancowinna | Bray | 2 | 0 | 0 | " | " |
| 13222 | 7776 | " | Rous | Ballina | 100 | 0 | 0 | " | 8385 |
| 4357 | 7366 | " | King | Yass | 29 | 2 | 0 | " | " |
| 12464 | 7759 | " | Buckland | Corridoon | 542 | 0 | 0 | " | " |
| 12823 | 7795 | " | Murray | Bywong | 10 | 0 | 0 | " | " |
| 11202 | 7794 | " | Camden | Jellore | 40 | 0 | 0 | " | " |
| 13221 | 7799 | " | Sandon | Armidale | 4 | 2 | 0 | " | " |
| 13318 | 7783 | " | Urana | Boree Creek | 196 | 0 | 0 | " | 8386 |
| 12565 | 7819 | " | Rous | South Gundurimba | 288 | 0 | 0 | 1 Dec., | 8569 |
| 15087 | 8091 | 112 | Buccleuch | Nanangroe | 280 | 0 | 0 | " | " |
| C.S. 88-3821 Cor. | 7362 | 101 | Rous | Tuckombil | 62 | 2 | 0 | " | " |
| Ms. 88-10807 | 7786 | " | Northumberland | Mulbring | 24 | 1 | 0 | " | " |
| " | 7788 | " | do | do | 166 | 1 | 0 | " | " |
| 14705 | 8084 | " | Bligh | Bellaleppa | 640 | 0 | 0 | " | 8570 |
| C.S. 88-22909 Dep. | 8010 | " | Buccleuch | Bungongo | 568 | 0 | 0 | " | " |
| 31285 | 8011 | " | do | do | 1,968 | 0 | 0 | " | " |
| 10924 | 8012 | " | do | Goobarralong | 631 | 3 | 0 | " | " |
| 10920 | 8013 | " | do | Nanangroe | 320 | 0 | 0 | " | " |
| " | 8014 | " | do | do | 94 | 0 | 0 | " | " |
| 30869 | 8015 | " | Harden | Cooney | 330 | 0 | 0 | " | " |
| Ms. 88-14520 | 8016 | " | do | Gobarralong | 300 | 0 | 0 | " | " |

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|--------------------|----------------|---------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|--|-------|
| C.S. 88-30868 Dep. | 8017 | 101 | Harden | Gobarralong | a. r. p. 593 1 0 | 1 Dec, 1888. | 8570 |
| " | 8018 | " | do | do | 46 3 0 | " " | " |
| 26034 " | 8019 | " | do | Mooney Mooney | 250 0 0 | " " | " |
| 27642 " | 8031 | " | Darling | Tarpoly | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 87-11803 " | 8020 | " | Buccleuch | Adjungbilly | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 24785 " | 8021 | " | do | do | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 18913 " | 8022 | " | do | Killmeat | 55 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms. 87-14471 | 8008 | " | Vernon | Norton | 100 0 0 | " " | " |
| 14582 | 8039 | " | Leichhardt | Gelambula | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 14485 | 8030 | " | Forbes | Bundaburrah | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| C.S. 87-13591 Dep. | 8032 | " | Pottinger | Benlabri | 246 2 0 | " " | " |
| " | 8033 | " | do | do | 739 0 0 | " " | " |
| 2852 Cor. | 8034 | " | Jamison | Boorah | 521 0 0 | " " | 8571 |
| " | 8035 | " | do | do | 119 0 0 | " " | " |
| 24788 Dep | 8023 | " | Hume | Ryan | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 4250 Col. | 8024 | " | Uiana | Hebden | 176 1 0 | " " | " |
| 27707 Dep. | 8025 | " | do | Ross | 102 2 0 | " " | " |
| 25302 " | 8026 | " | Bouike | Ashbridge | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 25301 " | 8027 | " | do | do | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 24957 " | 8028 | " | do | Elhott | 909 1 0 | " " | " |
| 27470 " | 8029 | " | Mitchell, &c. | Jera Jera, &c | 2 540 0 0 | " " | " |
| 28979 " | 8037 | " | Denham | Denham | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 27228 " | 8036 | " | Burnett | Gullungutta | 220 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms. 88-14475 | 8009 | " | Cana | Derinum | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 13289 | 8040 | " | Blaxland | Whoey | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| C.S. 88-28978 Dep | 8038 | " | Finch | Pnegobla | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| Misc. 88-14523 | 8090 | " | Clarendon | Tenandia | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 15192 | 8093 | " | Gough | Beardy Plains | 107 2 0 | " " | " |
| 6662 | 7852 | 109 | Waradgely | Lorraine | 272 3 0 | " " | 8572 |
| " | 7853 | " | do | Leuna, &c | 367 1 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7854 | " | do | do | 121 3 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7855 | " | do | do | 530 0 0 | " " | " |
| 7346 | 7860 | " | Nicholson | Mca Mia, South | 216 2 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7861 | " | do | do | 446 1 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7862 | " | do | do | 616 2 0 | " " | " |
| 12338 | 7866 | " | Gunderbooka | Mulga | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7867 | " | do | do | 640 0 0 | " " | 8573 |
| 6590 | 7848 | " | Finch | Bunghill, &c. | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7849 | " | do | do | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 13106 | 7950 | 101 | Wellesley | Hayden | 2 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7951 | " | do | do | 2 2 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7952 | " | do | do | 2 2 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7941 | " | do | do | 3 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7946 | " | do | do | 2 2 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7947 | " | do | do | 1 2 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7948 | " | do | do | 3 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7949 | " | do | do | 5 1 8 | " " | " |
| " | 7942 | " | do | do | 1 0 0 | " " | 8574 |
| " | 7943 | " | do | do | 1 0 0 | " " | " |
| 13290 | 7904 | " | Beresford | Cooma | 2 0 0 | " " | " |
| 13106 | 7953 | " | Wellesley | Hayden | 1 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7954 | " | do | do | 2 1 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7955 | " | do | do | 3 3 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7956 | " | do | do | 15 3 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7957 | " | do | do | 24 2 0 | " " | " |
| 14007 | 7908 | " | Sandon | Metz | 500 0 0 | " " | " |
| 10955 | 7903 | " | White | Cooma | 5,200 0 0 | " " | 8575 |
| 13428 | 7906 | " | Bathurst | Malongulli | 60 0 0 | " " | " |
| 10807 | 7787 | " | Northumberland | Mulbrng | 149 0 0 | " " | " |
| 13106 | 7944 | " | Wellesley | Hayden | 3 2 0 | " " | " |
| 13230 | 7846 | " | Beresford | Dangelong | 8 0 0 | " " | " |
| 13499 | 7880 | " | Argyle | Narrangaril | 8 0 0 | " " | " |
| 12623 | 7874 | " | Northumberland | Blaxland | 3 2 27 | " " | " |
| 12496 | 7872 | " | Nandewar | Bullawa | 20 0 0 | " " | " |
| 13366 | 7905 | " | Macquarie | Mackay | 30 0 0 | " " | " |
| 13809 | 7907 | " | Clarence | Eaton | 15 0 0 | " " | " |
| C.S. 88-30156 Dep. | 8001 | " | Forbes | Warrangong | 480 0 0 | " " | 8576 |
| 30155 " | 8002 | " | Forbes, &c | do | 300 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms. 88-13106 | 7945 | " | Wellesley | Hayden | 19 0 0 | " " | " |
| 13430 | 7870 | " | Wellington | Ironbarks | 96 0 0 | " " | 8577 |
| 15370 | 8129 | " | Ashburnham | Carrawabbity | 50 0 0 | 5 " | 8658 |
| 14637 | 8134 | " | Camden | Meryla | 6 2 0 | " " | " |
| 4363 | 7536 | 103 | Cook | Nepean | 80 0 0 | 8 " | 8728 |
| 9389 | 7792 | " | Rous | Brunswick | 138 0 0 | " " | 8729 |
| " | 7793 | " | do | do | 180 0 0 | " " | " |
| Aln. 88- 3831 | 7967 | 101 | Gloucester | Forster | 4 0 0 | " " | 8733 |
| Ms. 88- 8580 | 7971 | 109 | Cooper | Palletop, &c | 6,400 0 0 | " " | 8734 |
| 13209 | 7973 | " | Flinders | Nangerbone | 270 0 0 | " " | " |
| 13903 | 7981 | 101 | Bland | Thanowring | 134 1 0 | " " | " |
| 13481 | 7960 | " | Auckland | Nariababa | 80 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7961 | " | do | Wonboyn, &c. | 106 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7962 | " | do | do | 160 0 0 | " " | " |
| 13912 | 7927 | " | Narian | Buruma | 10 0 0 | " " | " |
| 5161 | 7977 | " | Richmond | West Coraki | 5 2 0 | " " | 8735 |
| " | 7978 | " | do | do | 7 2 0 | " " | " |
| 13551 | 7963 | " | Yancowinna | Picton | 6 3 17 | " " | " |
| " | 7964 | " | do | do | 10 1 8 | " " | " |
| " | 7965 | " | do | do | 12 3 20 | " " | " |
| 12387 | 7871 | " | Roxburgh | Stewart, &c | 34,800 0 0 | " " | " |

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|------------------|---------------|---------|--------------|---------------|-------------|---|-------|
| Ms. 88-13146 | 7835 | 101 | Selwyn | Glenken | a 1. p. | 8 Dec., 1888 | 8736 |
| 12007 | 7884 | " | Buccleuch | Brungle | 23 0 0 | | |
| Forest 88- 5765 | 7970 | 112 | King | Woko | 1 1 0 | " " | " " |
| 5771 | 7974 | " | Hawes | do &c | 1,000 0 0 | " " | " " |
| " | 7975 | " | do | Yarragong, &c | 1,280 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 5584 | 7969 | " | Ashburnham | do | 8½ sq miles | " " | " " |
| Ms 88-13007 | 7885 | 101 | Buccleuch | Brungle | 980 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 5161 | 7976 | " | Richmond | West Coraki | 0 3 27 | " " | " " |
| 12025 | 7959 | " | Cumberland | Manly Cove | 10 0 0 | " " | 8737 |
| Forest 88- 5152 | 7968 | " | Brisbane | Manbus | 13 3 30 | " " | " " |
| Aln 88 4542 | 7895 | " | Macquarie | Taree | 200 0 0 | " " | " " |
| " | 7896 | " | do | Wingham | 34 0 0 | " " | " " |
| " | 7897 | " | do | do | 38 3 20 | " " | " " |
| " | 7898 | " | do | do | 39 0 0 | " " | " " |
| " | 7899 | " | do | Taree | 41 0 0 | " " | " " |
| Ms. 88 13375 | 7878 | " | do | Bulga, &c | 62 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 12832 | 7822 | " | Gowen | Ernganerin | 95 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 13146 | 7838 | " | Selwyn | Glenken | 330 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 13007 | 7888 | " | Buccleuch | Brungle | 5 0 8 | " " | 8738 |
| " | 7889 | " | do | do | 3 2 27 | " " | " " |
| " | 7890 | " | do | do | 5 1 9 | " " | " " |
| " | 7891 | " | do | do | 5 1 9 | " " | " " |
| " | 7892 | " | do | do | 13 3 33 | " " | " " |
| 12892 | 7830 | " | Ewenma | Bobarah | 21 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 13903 | 7982 | " | Bland | Bundawallah | 44 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 12892 | 7820 | " | Ewenma | Bobarah | 950 0 0 | " " | " " |
| " | 7821 | " | Gowen | Ernganerin | 4 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 13146 | 7837 | " | Selwyn | Glenken | 30 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 13007 | 7886 | " | Buccleuch | Brungle | 2 25 0 | " " | 8739 |
| 12892 | 7887 | " | do | do | 2 0 0 | " " | " " |
| " | 7823 | " | Ewenmar | Bobarah | 5 1 9 | " " | " " |
| " | 7824 | " | do | do | 1 1 37 | " " | " " |
| " | 7825 | " | do | do | 2 0 33 | " " | " " |
| " | 7826 | " | do | do | 4 2 18 | " " | " " |
| " | 7827 | " | do | do | 1 1 0 | " " | " " |
| " | 7828 | " | do | do | 2 2 0 | " " | " " |
| " | 7829 | " | do | do | 3 1 0 | " " | " " |
| 5161 | 7879 | " | Richmond | West Coraki | 3 1 8 | " " | " " |
| 12829 | 7972 | " | Camden | Bargo | 29 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 13146 | 7839 | " | Selwyn | Glenken | 190 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 12892 | 7831 | " | Ewenma | Bobarah | 6 1 18 | " " | 8740 |
| Aln 88- 4542 | 7900 | " | Macquarie | Wingham | 5 1 8 | " " | " " |
| Ms. 88-12892 | 7832 | " | Ewenma | Bobarah | 45 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 13007 | 7893 | " | Buccleuch | Brungle | 540 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 12892 | 7833 | " | Gowen | Ernganerin | 140 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 13146 | 7836 | " | Selwyn | Glenken | 170 0 0 | " " | " " |
| " | 7840 | " | do | do | 22 2 10 | " " | 8741 |
| " | 7841 | " | do | do | 2 3 28 | " " | " " |
| " | 7842 | " | do | do | 5 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 13374 | 7876 | " | Macquarie | Bulga | 5 1 10 | " " | " " |
| 13007 | 7894 | " | Buccleuch | Brungle | 300 0 0 | " " | " " |
| C S 88-29626 Dep | 7980 | " | Wallace | Eucombene | 8 2 0 | " " | " " |
| Ms. 88 14846 | 8065 | " | Beresford | Tinderry | 60 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 11619 | 7958 | " | Sandon | Saltash | 40 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 13903 | 7983 | " | Bland | Bundawallah | 1,920 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 6451 | 7914 | " | Westmoreland | Jocelyn | 10 0 0 | " " | 8742 |
| 13742 | 8047 | " | Pottinger | Beeza | 5 0 33 | 15 | 8939 |
| 11615 | 8074 | 109 | Cunningham | Oxley North | 0 2 0 | " " | " " |
| " | 8075 | " | do | do South | 363 3 0 | " " | 8940 |
| 6660 | 8070 | " | Townsend | Booirooban | 419 0 0 | " " | " " |
| " | 8071 | " | do | do | 126 3 0 | " " | " " |
| 13628 | 8078 | " | Barrona | Wanga | 513 1 0 | " " | " " |
| " | 8079 | " | do | do | 423 3 0 | " " | " " |
| 6451 | 7917 | 101 | Westmoreland | Jocelyn | 640 0 0 | " " | " " |
| " | 7918 | " | do | do | 0 3 0 | " " | " " |
| 13847 | 7995 | " | Monteagle | Illume | 5 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 6451 | 7913 | " | Westmoreland | Jocelyn | 125 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 13907 | 8063 | " | Roxburgh | Rylstone | 8 3 0 | " " | 8941 |
| 13804 | 8052 | " | Gloucester | Berico | 46 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 13104 | 7902 | " | Buckland | Wallabadah | 5 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 13506 | 8050 | " | Ashburnham | Parke | 30 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 6451 | 7919 | " | Westmoreland | Jocelyn | 1 0 0 | " " | " " |
| S7- 6964 | 3199 | 109 | Forbes | Nanma | 1,080 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 88-10128 | 8055 | " | Leichhardt | Brewon, &c | 500 0 0 | " " | 8942 |
| 6451 | 7915 | 101 | Westmoreland | Jocelyn | 4,100 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 13847 | 7988 | " | Monteagle | Illume | 4 0 39 | " " | " " |
| " | 7989 | " | do | do | 7 0 0 | " " | " " |
| " | 7990 | " | do | do | 0 3 0 | " " | " " |
| " | 7992 | " | do | do | 6 0 0 | " " | " " |
| " | 7993 | " | do | do | 5 1 9 | " " | " " |
| " | 7991 | " | do | do | 2 3 12 | " " | " " |
| " | 7994 | " | do | do | 30 0 0 | " " | " " |
| " | 7996 | " | do | do | 6 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 14212 | 8067 | 109 | Forbes | Melyra | 350 0 0 | " " | 8943 |
| 10128 | 8056 | " | Leichhardt | Mourabie | 90 0 0 | " " | " " |
| " | 8057 | " | do | Brewon, &c. | 640 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 12128 | 8058 | " | do | do | 640 0 0 | " " | " " |
| 13847 | 7986 | 101 | Monteagle | Illume | 640 0 0 | " " | " " |
| " | 7987 | " | do | do | 11 2 36 | " " | " " |
| " | " | " | " | " | 138 0 0 | " " | " " |

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|-----------------|-----------------|----------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|---|--------|
| Ms. 88- 6451 | 7920 | 101 | Westmoreland | Jocelyn | a. r. p. 3 1 0 | 15 Dec., 1888 | 8944 |
| " | 7921 | " | do | do | 3 3 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7922 | " | do | do | 12 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7923 | " | do | do | 12 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7924 | " | do | do | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 14216 | 8087 | " | Murray | Ballallaba | 430 0 0 | " " | " |
| 13847 | 7999 | " | Monteagle | Illunie | 13 3 0 | " " | " |
| 11208 | 8048 | " | Clarendon | Marar | 50 0 0 | " " | " |
| 13795 | 8051 | " | Durham | Seaham | 0 0 38½ | " " | " |
| 13847 | 7985 | " | Monteagle | Illunie | 3 0 35 | " " | " |
| 13907 | 8060 | " | Roxburgh | Clandulla | 87 0 0 | " " | 8945 |
| " | 8061 | " | do | Rylstone | 270 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 8062 | " | do | Clandulla | 270 0 0 | " " | " |
| 12845 | 8049 | " | Gregory | Boonum | 380 0 0 | " " | " |
| 13847 | 7998 | " | Monteagle | Illunie | 42 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 7997 | " | do | do | 209 0 0 | " " | " |
| 13104 | 7901 | " | Buckland | Wallabadah | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 13225 | 7925 | 112 | Rous | Berwick | 240 0 0 | " " | 8946 |
| | | & 101 | | | | | |
| 11238 | 8059 | 101 | Wynyard | Ellerslie | 10 0 0 | " " | " |
| 13907 | 8064 | 101 | Roxburgh | Wells, &c. | 2,850 0 0 | " " | " |
| | | & 112 | | | | | |
| Forests 88-3308 | 8053 | 101 | Brisbane | Alma | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 5990 | 8054 | " | Durham | Rouchel | 178 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms. 88-13846 | 8086 | " | Murray | Queanbeyan | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 6451 | 7916 | " | Westmoreland | Jocelyn | 0 2 34 | " " | 8947 |
| 13745 | 8066 | " | Wellington | Ironbarks | 40 0 0 | " " | " |

1888-9.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(RESERVED FROM SALE UNTIL SURVEYED, FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WATER SUPPLY OR OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES, UNDER THE ACT 48 VICTORIA No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands reserved from sale until surveyed, for the preservation of Water Supply or other public purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 103rd, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act 48 Victoria No 18

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|-----------------|---------------|---------|------------|-------------------|--------|----|----|--|-------|
| | | | | | a. | r. | p. | | |
| Ms. 88-15784 | 8246 | 101 | Boyd | Waddi | 2,334 | 1 | 0 | 19 Dec, 1888 | 9014 |
| 15188 | 8242 | " | Forbes | Eualdrie | 456 | 3 | 0 | " " | " |
| " | 8241 | " | do | do | 400 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| 16269 | 8247 | " | Bland | Nariaburra | 95 | 2 | 0 | " " | " |
| 15910 | 8226 | " | Roxburgh | Crudine | 120 | 0 | 0 | 22 " | 9102 |
| 15495 | 8227 | " | Richmond | Nandabah | 160 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| " | 8228 | " | do | do | 140 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| 14856 | 8137 | " | Mitchell | Mangoplah | 5 | 1 | 9 | " " | " |
| " | 8138 | " | do | do | 2 | 0 | 19 | " " | " |
| 12846 | 8105 | 109 | Gregory | Bokamore | 360 | 0 | 0 | " " | 9103 |
| " | 8106 | " | do | Neinby | 3,100 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| 9054 | 8102 | " | Benarba | Meroc, &c | 6,000 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| 12706 | 8107 | " | Gipps | Goobothery | 360 | 0 | 0 | " " | 9104 |
| " | 8108 | " | do | do | 560 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| " | 8109 | " | do | South Gulgo | 540 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| " | 8110 | " | do | do | 350 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| " | 8111 | " | do | Goobothery | 60 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| " | 8112 | " | do | do | 170 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| " | 8113 | " | do | South Gulgo | 640 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| 9054 | 8101 | " | Benarba | Currygundi | 400 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| 13862 | 8095 | 101 | Vernon | Andy | 110 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| 6661 | 8114 | 109 | Sturt | Buckley | 479 | 3 | 0 | " " | 9105 |
| " | 8115 | " | do | do | 578 | 2 | 0 | " " | " |
| 6496 | 8123 | " | Nicholson | Gonowlia | 319 | 3 | 0 | " " | " |
| " | 8124 | " | do | do | 339 | 1 | 0 | " " | " |
| " | 8125 | " | do | do | 519 | 3 | 0 | " " | " |
| 12804 | 8068 | " | Irrara | Mukudjeroo | 640 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| " | 8244 | " | do | do | 40 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| 14856 | 8139 | 101 | Mitchell | Mangoplah | 2 | 2 | 0 | " " | 9106 |
| " | 8141 | " | do | do | 2 | 0 | 19 | " " | " |
| " | 8142 | " | do | do | 2 | 0 | 19 | " " | " |
| " | 8140 | " | do | do | 2 | 0 | 19 | " " | " |
| 13897 | 8089 | " | Darling | Ironbark, &c | 33,000 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| 12846 | 8104 | " | Gregory | Neinby | 650 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| Forests 88-5899 | 8100 | " | Brisbane | Myrabluen | 553 | 3 | 0 | " " | 9107 |
| Ms. 88-13862 | 8096 | " | Vernon | Andy | 2,568 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| " | 8097 | " | do | Andy and St Clair | 2,843 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| " | 8098 | " | do | St. Leonard, &c | 3,862 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| " | 8099 | " | do | Glen Morrison | 4,240 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| 86-16561 | 8092 | " | Benarba | Kurrygundi | 280 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| 88-11917 | 8103 | " | Wynyard | Courabyra | 103 | 0 | 0 | " " | 9108 |
| 14232 | 8088 | " | Young .. | Dessally | 302 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| 14138 | 8167 | " | Pottinger | Gunnedah | 450 | 0 | 0 | 5 Jan., 1889 | 153 |
| 14462 | 8155 | " | Georgiana | Rockley | 0 | 1 | 36 | " " | 154 |
| " | 8156 | " | do | do | 0 | 1 | 31 | " " | " |
| " | 8157 | " | do | do | 3 | 0 | 32 | " " | " |
| " | 8158 | " | do | do | 4 | 1 | 36 | " " | " |
| " | 8159 | " | do | do | 1 | 2 | 16 | " " | " |
| " | 8160 | " | do | do | 3 | 0 | 32 | " " | " |
| " | 8161 | " | do | do | 2 | 1 | 37 | " " | " |
| 14470 | 8147 | " | Richmond | Tabbimoble | 20 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| 13571 | 7966 | " | Macquarie | Arakoon | 2 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| 14228 | 8173 | " | Monteagle | Young | 15 | 1 | 5 | " " | " |
| " | 8174 | " | do | do | 41 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| 13429 | 8164 | " | Wellington | Mumbil, &c | 888 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| 13746 | 8203 | " | do | Ironbarks | 420 | 0 | 0 | " " | 155 |
| 14619 | 8206 | 109 | Forbes | Tallabung | 640 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |
| 14161 | 8204 | " | Narran | Coobemda | 170 | 0 | 0 | " " | " |

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| | | | | | a r p | | |
| Ms. 88-14161 | 8205 | 109 | Narian | Boogendera | 160 0 0 | 5 Jan, 1889 | 155 |
| 1155 | 8187 | " | Manara | Manara | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 13064 | 8143 | 101 | Buller | Ruby, &c | 8,570 0 0 | " " | " |
| 14462 | 8152 | " | Georgina | Rockley | 0 3 39 | " " | 156 |
| " | 8153 | " | do | do | 0 1 37 | " " | " |
| " | 8154 | " | do | do | 32 1 6 | " " | " |
| 13572 | 8165 | " | Gough | Glen Innes | 5 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 8166 | " | do | do | 5 2 0 | " " | " |
| 14644 | 8189 | " | Beresford | Micalgo | 1 0 0 | " " | " |
| " | 8190 | " | do | do | 10 0 0 | " " | " |
| Aln. 88- 4421 | 8122 | " | Phillip | Wilbtree | 396 3 0 | " " | " |
| Ms 88-14401 | 8168 | " | Camden | Kiama | 0 3 39 | " " | " |
| 14346 | 8146 | " | St Vincent | West Nelligen | 0 2 0 | " " | " |
| 14815 | 8208 | " | Camden | Cumberline | 88 0 0 | " " | " |
| 10957 | 8162 | " | Gough | Rusden | 300 0 0 | " " | 157 |
| 13849 | 8177 | " | Townsend | South Demilquim | 6 2 0 | " " | " |
| 13791 | 8201 | " | Wellington | Birangubil | 1,245 0 0 | " " | " |
| Forests 88- 5094 | 8171 | 112 | Bourke | Kindra, &c | 2,730 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms 88 12127 | 8163 | 101 | Clarence, &c | Elland, &c | 995 0 0 | " " | " |
| 14344 | 8145 | 109 | Baradine | Denevoli, &c | 7,500 0 0 | " " | 158 |
| 14462 | 8150 | 101 | Georgina | Rockley | 5 1 29 | " " | " |
| " | 8151 | " | do | do | 1 2 0 | " " | " |
| 15625 | 8093 | " | Gough | Beardy Plains | 107 2 0 | " " | " |
| 14619 | 8207 | " | Foibes | Fallabung | 70 0 0 | " " | " |
| 14228 | 8172 | " | Monteagle | Young | 16 2 8 | " " | " |
| 14745 | 8185 | " | Wallace | Buckenderra | 1 0 0 | " " | " |
| 14580 | 8148 | " | Murray | Tonal | 10 0 0 | " " | 159 |
| 12831 | 8149 | 103 | Northumberland | Potonga | 2 3 0 | 12 " | 310 |
| 14472 | 8202 | " | King | Jenawa | 0 2 2 | " " | " |
| 14916 | 8233 | 101 | Westmoreland | Balfour | 320 0 0 | " " | 315 |
| 14052 | 8174 | " | Harden | Bongongolong | 5 0 0 | " " | " |
| Aln 88- 6087 | 8182 | " | Wynyard | Mundarlo | 176 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms 88-12622 | 8303 | " | Northumberland | Coorumbung | 100 0 0 | " " | " |
| 13899 | 8219 | " | Macquarie | Camden Haven | 2 1 0 | " " | " |
| C S. 84- 4455 Sur | 8345 | " | Clarke | Avondale | 40 0 0 | " " | 316 |
| 4266 " | 8346 | " | do | Gill | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 85- 1257 " | 8347 | " | do | Nowland | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 84- 7940 " | 8348 | " | do | Pogonbilla | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 7935 " | 8349 | " | Hardinge | Morse | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 86-38583 Dep | 8350 | " | do | Skinner | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 84- 7980 Sur | 8351 | " | Inghis | Haning | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 4660 " | 8334 | " | Wellesley | Bungaby | 80 0 0 | " " | " |
| 88-34245 Dep | 8335 | " | do | Thoko | 80 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms 88-16338 | 8326 | " | Harden | Coppabella | 80 0 0 | " " | " |
| 87- 4198 Cor. | 8336 | " | Beresford | Murumbucca | 180 0 0 | " " | " |
| 88-18452 Dep | 8337 | " | Cowley | Boboyan | 320 0 0 | " " | " |
| 84- 9800 Sur. | 8338 | " | Wallace | Chippendale | 50 0 0 | " " | " |
| 9800 " | 8339 | " | do | co | 219 0 0 | " " | " |
| 85- 2763 " | 8340 | " | do | The Peak | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 11031 Dep | 8332 | " | Clive | Eastern Water | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 87- 6399 Cor | 8333 | " | Gough | Gordon | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 86-14734 Dep | 8360 | " | Clarence | Richmond | 200 0 0 | " " | " |
| 85- 2831 Sur | 8361 | " | do | do | 60 0 0 | " " | " |
| 87-54055 Dep | 8369 | " | Clarendon | Wuntool | 89 0 0 | " " | " |
| 88- 9742 " | 8370 | " | do | do | 149 0 0 | " " | 317 |
| 87-58160 " | 8371 | " | Wynyard | Bangus | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 88- 2835 " | 8354 | " | Arawatta | Brunnockburn | 82 0 0 | " " | " |
| 30681 " | 8355 | " | do | Biloonbah | 121 0 0 | " " | " |
| 85- 1731 Sur | 8356 | " | do | Vivru, &c | 296 0 0 | " " | " |
| 83-11040 Dep | 8337 | " | Gough | Paradise | 52 0 0 | " " | " |
| 25402 Dep | 8363 | " | Dudley | Nulla Nulla | 150 0 0 | " " | " |
| 85- 531 Sur | 8364 | " | do | Tanban | 200 0 0 | " " | " |
| 527 " | 8365 | " | do | do | 80 0 0 | " " | " |
| 529 " | 8366 | " | do | Waibro | 160 0 0 | " " | " |
| 4112 " | 8367 | " | do | Yarrabandini | 200 0 0 | " " | " |
| 7466 " | 8368 | " | do | do | 100 0 0 | " " | " |
| 84-10057 " | 8341 | " | Cowley | Congwarra | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 87- 8717 Dep | 8344 | " | do | Venteiman | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 83-11048 " | 8358 | " | Gough | Highland Home | 80 0 0 | " " | " |
| 85- 5594 Sur | 8372 | " | Buccleuch | Bungte | 60 0 0 | " " | " |
| 79-23922 " | 8373 | " | do | Mundongo | 60 0 0 | " " | " |
| 88- 2980 Dep | 8359 | " | Vernon | Oorundunby | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 85- 757 Sur | 8328 | " | Murchison | Delunga | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 755 " | 8329 | " | do | Wyndham | 80 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms 88-16275 | 8325 | " | Gowen | Caigun | 50 0 0 | " " | " |
| 88- 4474 Dep | 8393 | " | Leichhardt | Canabear | 40 0 0 | " " | 318 |
| 4476 " | 8394 | " | do | do | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 85- 4364 Sur | 8395 | " | Gowen | Gumun | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 84-10706 " | 8396 | " | do | Yalcogun | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 83-27076 Dep | 8397 | " | Leichhardt | Bimble | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 88- 136 Cor | 8398 | " | do | Wanagan | 112 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms 88-16818 | 8374 | " | Hume | Loves | 213 1 20 | " " | " |
| 87-27775 Dep | 8412 | " | Townsend | Colmo | 182 0 0 | " " | " |
| 85- 2136 Sur | 8399 | " | Ewenmar | Moonal | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 2137 " | 8400 | " | do | do | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 5480 " | 8401 | " | Lincoln | Daley | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 84- 1105 " | 8402 | " | do | Donnelly | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms 88-16662 | 8327 | " | Cunningham | Corridgery | 602 1 0 | " " | " |
| C S 85- 9537 Dep | 8330 | " | Benarba | Dielnabida | 2,560 0 0 | " " | " |

| No. of Papers. | No. of Reserve. | Section. | County. | Parish. | Area. | Government Gazette in which the description is published. | Folio. |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---|--------|
| C.S. 84- 8560 Sur. | 8331 | 101 | Benarba | Gin | a. r. p. 640 0 0 | 12 Jan., 1889 | 318 |
| 85- 1199 " | 8332 | " | do | Gingham..... | 320 0 0 | " " | " |
| 7438 " | 8375 | " | Bourke | Boblegigbie | 80 0 0 | " " | " |
| 78- 6214 " | 8376 | " | Boyd | Eunanbrennan | 120 0 0 | " " | " |
| 87- 7264 Dep. | 8377 | " | Cooper | Grong Grong | 70 0 0 | " " | " |
| 85- 4020 Sur. | 8378 | " | Mitchell | Birrego | 166 0 0 | " " | " |
| 88-28045 Dep. | 8380 | " | Urana | Boree Creek | 40 0 0 | " " | 319 |
| 87-56492 " | 8381 | " | do | Clyde | 153 0 0 | " " | " |
| 85- 3650 Sur. | 8382 | " | do | do | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 3162 Cor. | 8383 | " | do | North Gunambil | 278 0 0 | " " | " |
| Aln. 73- 4208 " | 8384 | " | do | do | 122 3 0 | " " | " |
| C.S. 88-30562 Dep. | 8385 | " | do | Piney Ridge | 89 3 0 | " " | " |
| 84- 9813 Sur. | 8386 | " | Bourke | Ariah | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 8674 " | 8387 | " | do | Warri | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 87-56531 Dep. | 8388 | " | Clarendon | Sturkey | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 39988 " | 8389 | " | do | do | 162 0 0 | " " | " |
| 88-25440 " | 8390 | " | Mitchell | Bourke | 130 0 0 | " " | " |
| 24295 " | 8391 | " | do | Milbrulong..... | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 24291 " | 8392 | " | do | Osborne | 74 1 0 | " " | " |
| 42099 " | 8333 | " | Burnett | Ellis | 499 3 0 | " " | " |
| 87-19492 " | 8413 | " | Caira | Muckee | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 88-34643 " | 8414 | " | Kilfera | Sahara East | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 87-41816 " | 8415 | " | Manara | Yelty | 320 0 0 | " " | " |
| 86- 1407 " | 8403 | " | Gunderbooka..... | Pera | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 8404 | " | do | do | 1,909 2 0 | " " | " |
| 85-30833 " | 8405 | " | Gregory | Eula | 540 0 0 | " " | " |
| 87-49238 " | 8406 | " | do | do | 346 0 0 | " " | " |
| 88-23409 " | 8407 | " | Narran | Cumblegubinbah | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 85-28937 " | 8408 | " | do | Gruve | 480 0 0 | " " | 320 |
| " " | 8409 | " | do | do | 1,657 0 0 | " " | " |
| 5328 " | 8410 | " | Mouramba | Crowle | 200 0 0 | " " | " |
| 84-11130 Sur. | 8411 | " | do | Flinders | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 24944 Dep. | 8416 | " | Franklin | Roli | 1,350 0 0 | " " | " |
| 88-30339 " | 8417 | " | do | Baeda | 640 0 0 | " " | " |
| 34250 " | 8291 | 112 | Durham | Allyn | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| 34251 " | 8292 | " | do | Boonabilla | 40 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms. 88-12622 | 8364 | 101 | Northumberland | Coorumbung | 9 0 0 | " " | " |
| 13899 | 8220 | " | Macquarie | Camden Haven..... | 8 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 8221 | " | do | do | 15 0 0 | " " | " |
| 15875 " | 8234 | " | Bland | Memagong..... | 101 0 0 | " " | " |
| 16808 " | 8283 | 112 | Cook | Strathdon | 730 0 0 | " " | 321 |
| Forests 88- 6414 | 8235 | " | Macquarie | Knorrit | 20 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms. 88-14684 | 8232 | " | Mitchell | Hanging Rock, &c. | 8,050 0 0 | " " | " |
| 13899 | 8222 | 101 | Macquarie | Camden Haven..... | 3 3 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 8223 | " | do | do | 4 2 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 8224 | " | do | do | 4 2 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 8225 | " | do | do | 5 2 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 8211 | " | do | do | 1 0 0 | " " | 322 |
| " " | 8212 | " | do | do | 1 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 8213 | " | do | do | about 1 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 8209 | " | do | do | 27 0 0 | " " | " |
| 12918 " | 8231 | " | Gloucester | Stowell, &c. | 12,100 0 0 | " " | " |
| 13899 | 8215 | " | Macquarie | Camden Haven..... | 3 1 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 8210 | " | do | do | 23 2 0 | " " | 323 |
| " " | 8214 | " | do | do | 1 1 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 8218 | " | do | do | 220 0 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 8216 | " | do | do | 1 1 0 | " " | " |
| " " | 8217 | " | do | do | 6 1 0 | " " | " |
| Aln. 88- 5297 | 8239 | " | Camden | Cambewarra | 3 2 0 | " " | " |
| 5777 " | 8200 | " | Gloucester | Wang Wauk | 25 3 0 | " " | " |
| Ms. 88-13500 | 8230 | " | Georgiana | Leighwood, &c. | 5,760 0 0 | " " | 324 |
| 16836 " | 8302 | " | Gloucester | Stowell | 14,500 0 0 | " " | " |
| 15338 " | 4749 | 109 | Monteagle | Kikiamah, &c. | 630 0 0 | " " | " |
| 15977 " | 8236 | 101 | Camden | Illaroo | 168 0 0 | " " | " |
| 15457 " | 8238 | " | Cooper | Dallas | 180 0 0 | " " | 325 |
| 12622 " | 8305 | " | Northumberland | Coorumbung | 72 0 0 | " " | " |
| Aln. 88- 2476 | 3188 | 109 | Parry | Turi | 45 0 0 | " " | " |
| Ms. 88-11629 | 8237 | 101 | Monteagle | Coba | 5 0 0 | " " | " |

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(SITES FOR CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES, DECLARED UNDER THE ACT 48 VIC. No. 13, SEC. 101.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 13, sec. 101.

ABSTRACT of all sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages, declared under the 101st section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 13.

| City, Town, or Village. | Area for City, Town, or Village. | Area for Suburbs. | Locality. | Government Gazette in which published. |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| Mangoplah (Village) | Acres. 270 | Acres. 15,000 | County of Mitchell, parish of Man- goplah. | 21 July, 1888, page 5079. |
| Buraja (Village) | 160 | 540 | County of Hume, parish of Buraja. | 4 August, 1888, page 5453. |
| Raleigh (Village) | 130 | 1,760 | County of Raleigh, parish of South Bellingen. | 11 " " 5672. |
| Bermagabee, South (Village) ... | 194 | 273 | County of Dampier, parish of Ber- magabee. | 11 " " " |
| Bermagabee (Village) | 70 | 360 | County of Dampier, parish of Ber- magabee. | 11 " " 5673. |
| Alma (Town extension) | 86 | ..... | County of Yancowinna, parish of Pieton. | 14 " " 5695. |
| Euriowie (Town) | 330 | 961 | County of Farnell, parish of Byjer- kerno. | 1 Sept., 1888, " 6206. |
| Walbundry (extension to suburbs) ..... | ..... | 2,544 | County of Hume, parishes of Wal- bundry and Hindmarsh. | 8 " " 6352. |
| Glenrouth (Village) | 190 | 610 | County of Mitchell, parishes of Uranquinty and Pearson. | 22 " " 6714. |
| Ponto (Village) | 270 | 2,140 | County of Lincoln, parish of Geurie. | 22 " " 6715. |
| Carroll (Town) | 271½ | 490 | County of Buckland, parish of Carroll. | 29 " " 6918. |
| Grenfell (addition to suburban lands) ..... | ..... | 2 | County of Monteagle, parish of Bundah. | 29 " " 6918. |
| Byangum (Village) | 270 | 335 | County of Rous, parishes of Mur- willumbah and Wollumbin, &c. | 6 October, 1888, " 7047. |
| Welaregang (extension of sub- urban lands) ..... | ..... | 450 | County of Selwyn, parish of Wel- aregang. | 6 " " 7067. |
| Burbong (Village) | 139 | ..... | County of Murray, parish of Car- woola, &c. | 20 " " 7414. |
| Bredbo (Village) | 140 | 415 | County of Beresford, parish of Bransby. | 20 " " 7415. |
| Murrumbidgee (Village) | 280 | 730 | County of Lincoln, parish of Murrumbidgee. | 20 " " 7416. |

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(SITES FOR CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES, DECLARED UNDER THE ACT 48 VIC. No. 18, SEC. 101.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 101.

ABSTRACT of all sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages, declared under the 101st section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

| City, Town, or Village. | Area for City, Town, or Village. | Area for Suburbs. | Locality. | Government Gazette in which published |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| Boggabilla (Village) | acres. 78 $\frac{3}{4}$ | acres. 857 | County of Stapylton, parish of Boggabilla. | 27 October, 1888, page 7609. |
| Teven (Village) | 65 | 415 | County of Rous, parish of Tuckombil, &c. | 10 November, 1888, ,, 7995. |
| Kenthurst (Village) | 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ | County of Cumberland, parish of Nelson. | 10 ,, ,, ,, 7994. |
| Rosewood (Village) | 270 | ..... | County of Selwyn, parish of Craven. | 17 ,, ,, ,, 8199. |

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(SITES FOR CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES, DECLARED UNDER THE ACT 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

ABSTRACT of all sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages, declared under the 101st section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

| City, Town, or Village. | Area for City, Town, or Village. | Area for Suburbs. | Locality. | Government Gazette in which published |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Alma (Suburban lands) | acres. | acres. 411 | County of Yancowinna, parish of Picton. | 24 Nov., 1888, page 8387. |
| Gulligal (Village) | 29½ | 370 | County of Pottinger, parish of Gulligal. | 24 " " " 8388. |
| Muttama (Village) | 326 | 250 | County of Harden, parish of Mooney Mooney, &c. | 24 " " " 8388. |
| Kyuga (Village) | 100 | 210 | County of Brisbane, parish of Ellis. | 24 " " " 8388. |
| Brungle (Village) | 245 | 750 | County of Buccleuch, parish of Brungle. | 8 Dec., " " 8727. |
| Glenken (Village) | 114 | ..... | County of Selwyn, parish of Glenken. | 8 " " " 8728. |
| Gilgandra (Village) | 140 | 620 | County of Ewenmar, &c., parish of Bobarah, &c. | 8 " " " 8729. |
| Willyama (Extension to sub-urban lands). | ..... | 2,000 | County of Yancowinna, parish of Picton. | 8 " " " 8745. |
| Currawong (Village) | 80 | 880 | County of Harden, parish of Currawong. | 8 " " " 8745. |
| Coraki (Village) | 450 | 1,250 | County of Richmond, parish of West Coraki. | 8 " " " 8746. |
| Gunnedah (Town) | 600 | 1,960 | County of Pottinger, &c., parish of Gunnedah, &c. | 8 " " " 8746. |
| Glenburn (Village) | 215 | 815 | County of Westmoreland, parish of Jocelyn, &c. | 15 " " " 8932. |
| Koorowatha (Town) | 150 | 1,050 | County of Monteagle, parish of Illuine. | 15 " " " 8950. |
| Wallabadah (Village) | 313 | 790 | County of Buckland, parish of Wallabadah. | 15 " " " 8950. |

1888-9.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(SITES FOR CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES, DECLARED UNDER THE 101ST SECTION OF THE ACT
48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18. sec. 101.

ABSTRACT of all sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages, declared under the 101st section of the Act 48
Victoria No. 18.

| City, Town, or Village. | Area for City, Town, or Village. | Area for Suburbs. | Locality. | Government Gazette in which published. |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---|---|
| Camden Haven (Village)..... | acres. 250 | acres. 225 | County of Macquarie, parish of Camden Haven. | 12 Jan., 1889, page 309. |

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

NATIONAL PARK.

(REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 1887.)

[Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 6 November, 1888.]

The Chairman, National Park Trust, to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Sydney, 1 January, 1888.

The Trustees of the National Park have the honor to present to you their Report of the works effected during the year now ended.*

During that year the road from Audley to Jibbon Beach has been completed; also branch roads from that road to Scarborough-street, in the Yarmouth Estate,† and to Wentworth Beach, upon the Port Hacking frontage of the National Park. Road from Audley to Jibbon Beach, Yarmouth, and Wentworth Beach.

The Forest Path (to be Forest Road) is now cleared its entire length, leaving Lady Carrington Road, near the confluence of Bola Creek with Port Hacking River, and again joining Lady Carrington Road at its junction with Waterfall Road now in course of construction. The Forest Path.

In addition to the interest which the noble forest trees adjacent to the Forest Path create, there are, at intervals visible from it, fine clumps of palm, fern, and vine foliage. At one place, situate about three quarters of a mile south-westerly from Bola Creek confluence, across the river, but within 100 yards of, and fully visible from, the Forest Path, there is an especially extensive and beautiful aggregation of cabbage palms, so dense that all other foliage, including several kinds of eucalypti, turpentine trees, &c., is completely hidden by the palms, hundreds in number, varying in height from a few feet up to about 80 feet.

The road from Waterfall Railway Station to Lady Carrington Road, designed and formed under the direction of officers instructed by the Casual Labour Board, and those who preceded them in their duties in charge of the men known as the unemployed, is approaching completion. Waterfall Road, and continuation thereof across Port Hacking River to Carrington Road.

Excepting a small part near Waterfalls Station, this road is excellently designed and is well made throughout.

As indicated in the last Report of the Trust, this road gives easy means of access to a very beautiful and attractive part of the Park, and in conjunction with Lady Carrington Road—the latter made throughout by men employed by the Park Trustees under the direction of the Trust—forms an excellent carriage-drive and thoroughfare for pedestrians and equestrians between Waterfalls Railway Station and Loftus Railway Station.

Visitors desirous of seeing in the course of a few hours much of the best of the very beautiful fern foliage, forest, and semi-tropical palm foliage in the Park, are recommended to proceed by train to Waterfalls Railway Station, and thence by vehicle, or horseback, or by walking along Waterfall Road 3 miles to Lady Carrington Road; thence along the latter south-westerly 1 mile to about 100 yards beyond Palm Creek Bridge; thence returning along Lady Carrington Road $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the Dam at Audley; and thence 1 mile by Park Road to Loftus Railway Platform, the whole being a good driving road. Perhaps the most charming dispositions of foliage are at the vicinities of the southerly approaches of Palm Creek‡ and Bola Creek§ Bridges, and the magnificent collection of palm and hanging vine,|| close to the left bank of Port Hacking River, at about one and a half mile northerly from Bola Creek Bridge, and visible from Lady Carrington Road between Tamur Brook and Burunnda Brook.

If upon arriving at Loftus Station time permits, the visitor might spend with satisfaction the few minutes necessary therefor in following the course of Florence Parade—a road made by the men working under the direction of the Casual Labour Board—as the views throughout its course are beautiful and extensive, including the waters of Botany Bay, the ocean, and of Port Hacking River, with interesting land views of Loftus Heights and other extensive areas of the Park. Florence Parade and beautiful and extensive views therefrom.

* The previous reports have been presented to Parliament, and are annexed.

† As pointed out in the National Park Trustees Report to 31 December, 1886, the Directors of the Yarmouth Estate have contributed £100 towards cost of road from Audley to Jibbon Beach and Yarmouth.

‡ 1 mile south-westerly from junction of Waterfall Road with Lady Carrington Road.

§ $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile northerly from junction of Waterfall Road with Lady Carrington Road.

|| Referred to and described in the second Report (to 31 August, 1885) of the Trustees.

Projected new road, in continuation of Waterfall Road, from Lady Carrington Road, to cross the Coast Road near Garie, and terminate on Garie Beach.

The most suitable line for a carriage drive from Lady Carrington Road to the Coast Road and beyond has in the main been determined. It passes through lovely palms and festoons of vines, and terminates at Garie Ocean Beach. The cost of this very desirable road—to be known as Garie Road—will be moderate, and if available funds admit, it will be constructed during the current year.* As projected it is indirect continuation of the road from Waterfalls Railway Station. The grades will be easy, and this road will afford the best way of access to enable visitors to view the grand coast scenery from Garie trigonometrical station (altitude 762 feet above sea level), and from salient points along the Coast Road. The effect of constructing Garie Road, in conjunction with Lady Carrington Road, already completed, and Waterfall Road, in course of construction, must be to increase the Railway Traffic to Waterfall and Loftus. The scenery to be compassed is unsurpassed in respect of the varied foliage, and in few localities equalled in respect of the coast views.

Park boundary fence.

During the last year the southern boundaries of the Park from the Railway fence near Waterfall Railway Station to the Ocean Beach at Garie, a total distance of 4 miles 74½ chains has been erected in a satisfactory manner by workmen employed by the Trust. Towards the cost of this fence the Coal Cliff Coal Mining Company, owning adjoining land, have agreed to pay £67 3s. 6d., the half cost of fencing 1 mile 44½ chains of Common boundary.

Extension of under-scrubbing in the Deer Park.

The work of under-scrubbing in the Deer Park has been extended, and has improved the grass available for the deer, which have increased in number, and continue to thrive.†

Proposed hotel at Loftus, National Park.

The hotel near Loftus station for providing refreshments for visitors, mentioned in the last Report, unfortunately has not been completed and remains unopened, the lessee who was to have completed it having found, he alleges, unexpected difficulties. These it is hoped will soon be removed.‡

Avenue from Sutherland to Loftus.

A valuable improvement, projected and designed by officers working under direction of the Casual Labour Board, is an avenue, to be planted with double rows of the most suitable varieties of ornamental trees, to shade each side of the carriage-way. The total length will be about 2¼ miles, extending from the park gate, at Sutherland, to Loftus station. The first mile, extending from Sutherland to Loftus Junction, will be straight, the remaining mile and a quarter will be curved and generally distant about 100 feet from the branch railway. The avenue is marked out so that advantage will be taken of much of the tree-planting near Loftus done last winter. The steepest grade will be about 1 in 25. From the avenue at intervals there are beautiful views of the waters of Botany Bay, the ocean, &c. Considerable progress has been made in the work, which is being done in a very satisfactory manner. An advantage of the avenue will be that, upon its completion, the main road from Sydney to the main camp at the National Park will not cross the railway after passing St. Peters, whereas the present road crosses the railway three times on level crossings between Sutherland and Loftus.

Road at Loftus.

Another important work in progress under the direction of the Casual Labour Board is a road leading from the main road, at about one quarter of a mile southerly from Loftus Junction to Loftus Station; this road is made with very easy gradients, and in a most substantial manner.

General improvements by the men engaged upon the relief works.

Notable among the improvements effected by the men engaged upon the relief works are several thousands of acres of under-scrubbing, and probably about 500 acres, thoroughly cleared and matted, about half of which has been sown with grass seed, including 40 acres enriched with bone dust, and upon parts of the remainder hundreds of ornamental trees, mostly deciduous, have been planted, and several thousands of seeds of ornamental trees sown. The other improvements include a dam substantially built, and a reservoir near Loftus Heights, and a training wall or break-water in Port Hacking River—constructed by the Park Trustees—lengthened and enlarged by the Casual Labour Board.

Respecting schedule of estimated value of improvements by the men engaged upon relief works at the Park.

The Trustees have endeavoured to obtain full information in detail from the Casual Labour Board respecting the improvements on the Park effected by the men engaged upon relief works; difficulties have, however, intervened so that those particulars have yet not been supplied, which, to a large extent, has caused delay in issuing this Report. The Trustees, however, believe that nearly all are specified in Schedule B hereto. The values therein stated are of course only approximate.

Your obedient Servant,
JOHN ROBERTSON,
Chairman.

* This road has since been commenced, and is being made under the direction of the Casual Labour Board by the men engaged upon relief works, and under contract.

† The deer have increased satisfactorily, and the Trustees have brought a considerable additional number which will be speedily delivered.

‡ The hotel is still incomplete, but the lessee assures the Park trustees that the building will soon be proceeded with.

SCHEDULE "A" to Fourth Report of National Park Trust.

| Funds received since dedication of Park in the year 1879. | £ s. d. | Estimated value of improvements, boats, tools, appliances, &c., on 31st December, 1887, exclusive of works by the men known as "the unemployed." | £ s. d. |
|---|---------------|--|------------|
| To 31st December, 1886 (<i>vide</i> Schedule to second Report, dated 31st December, 1886; ordered to be printed by the Legislative Assembly, 22nd June, 1887)— | | Pavilions (two) | 550 0 0 |
| For general improvements .. £14,500 0 0 | | Furniture and fittings in pavilions | 100 0 0 |
| For clearing land and snagging .. 1,250 0 0 | | Caretaker's cottage | 200 0 0 |
| For enclosing National Park* .. 1,500 0 0 | | Cottages for rangers, working overseer, carpenter, and labourers | 600 0 0 |
| Special credit towards purchase of steam launch, &c. 200 0 0 | | Stables, stores, and outhouses | 200 0 0 |
| For completion of dam below "Audley" | 500 0 0 | Forge, smithy, tools, and plant | 300 0 0 |
| For dam across Port Hacking River, above "The Peach Trees" | 300 0 0 | Boat-house and jetties..... | 100 0 0 |
| For road from southerly end of contract No. 5 to southernmost boundary of Park, including bridge over Bola Creek, &c | 1,200 0 0 | Ship, built of wood, with galvanized iron roof, for repairing steam launch and boats | 100 0 0 |
| Miscellaneous funds availed of for general improvements | 630 8 9 | Dock, Port Hacking River, below dam below "Audley" | 100 0 0 |
| Subscriptions towards cost of dam below "Audley" (Hon. T. Holt, £100; Hon. Sir J. Robertson, £50; J. Lucas, Esq., £50; W. Bradley, Esq., £50) | 250 0 0 | Boats and punt..... | 200 0 0 |
| Contribution by Reform Land Investment and Building Co. towards road from dam at "Audley" to Gibbon Beach, expended for works of that road | 100 0 0 | Steam launch..... | 300 0 0 |
| General total to 31st December, 1886 | 20,430 8 9 | Carriage, waggon, and dray | 100 0 0 |
| From 1st January, 1887, to 31st December, 1887:— | | Horses..... | 60 0 0 |
| For general improvements:— | | Fencing' | 900 0 0 |
| Estimates-in-Chief, 1887 .. 3,000 0 0 | | Dam below "Audley" | 2,500 0 0 |
| Miscellaneous funds availed of for general improvements:— | | Roads, bridges, and pathways | 10,000 0 0 |
| Messrs. Rowe and Smith, for royalty, at rate of 1/6 per 1,000 on bricks made on the National Park for Illawarra Railway purposes | 212 13 3 | Clearing Port Hacking River and Kangaroo Creek of fallen timber, &c., above dam at "Audley" .. | 1,000 0 0 |
| Mr. William Murphy, for royalty, at rate of 2/- per 1,000 on bricks made on the National Park for general purposes | 6 8 0 | Part of work of erection of training-wall, Port Hacking River, below dam below "Audley" | 100 0 0 |
| Mr. T. Wray, for royalty, at rate of 10/- per bag on oysters dredged from the deep water in Port Hacking River, National Park | 25 0 0 | Excavation of water tanks | 50 0 0 |
| Sundry individuals—Occupation fees, National Park, in connection with Illawarra Railway | 20 0 0 | Clearing and grubbing on flats near "Audley," 10 acres | 150 0 0 |
| Sundry individuals, for permits to sell temperance refreshments, Military Encampment, Easter, 1887 .. | 12 0 0 | Clearing on Loftus Heights, 230 acres | 1,200 0 0 |
| G. Kiss, net proceeds of sale of lorry and harness on account of National Park Trust | 15 15 0 | Underscrubbing within Deer Park, about 80 acres ... | 120 0 0 |
| Contribution by Holt Sutherland Estate Co., being half cost of boundary fence, Holt-Sutherland Estate and National Park | 112 4 6 | Sundries, about..... | 570 0 0 |
| Bank of New Zealand o/d, Fencing and Enclosing Account, 31st December, 1887 | 43 0 7 | | |
| | 3,447 3 4 | | |
| General total to 31st December, 1887.. | 23,877 12 1 | | |
| Unexpended balance, 31st December, 1887, General Improvement Account | 221 17 9 | | |
| Difference, being the total expenditure, 1st October, 1879, to 31st December, 1887 | £23,655 14 4† | Total estimated value.....£ | 19,500 0 0 |

* Under special authority of Parliament (item 339 of Appropriation Act of 1884) £1,000 of this sum has been expended for general improvements.
 † Caretaking, maintenance of roads, &c., have been covered by this sum since October, 1879.

SCHEDULE "B" to Fourth Report of National Park Trust.

APPROXIMATE list and Trustees' estimate, from best information within their reach, of value of the labour, &c., carried out at the National Park to 31st December, 1887, by the men known as "the unemployed":—

| | |
|---|---------|
| Roads, culverts, and pathways | About |
| About 7,000 acres partially underscrubbed | £6,000 |
| About 500 acres cleared and matted | 7,000 |
| Grassing about 250 acres, including about 40 acres enriched with bone-dust | 7,500 |
| Ornamental trees, and tree-seeds, planted and sown, and draining and trenching work | 500 |
| Reservoir and spring enclosed with rustic work, with vines planted around, and dam | 400 |
| Powder magazine and subsidiary works | 200 |
| Part of work of erection of training-wall, Port Hacking River, below dam below "Audley" | 100 |
| Sundries | 200 |
| | 600 |
| Total estimated value | £22,500 |

[Previous Reports for 1885 and 1886 annexed, also Map.]

NATIONAL PARK.

Reports from Trustees, to 31 August, 1885,* ordered by the Council to be printed, 10 June, 1886.

The Chairman National Park Trust to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Sydney, 26 May, 1884.

The Trustees of the National Park have the honor to submit to you this Report of the works done in connection with the formation of the Park; and, in so doing, deem it desirable to describe, in general terms, its extent, situation, and aspect, as well as to particularize the several improvements made, or in progress, at the end of last year.

An area of about 18,000 acres was originally dedicated for the National Park, as shown by *Government Gazette* notification of 26 April, 1879, and the

Extent dedicated 26 April, 1879.

Trustees.

Honorable Sir John Robertson, K.C.M.G., M.P.,
 Honorable Robert Wisdom, M.P.,
 Angus Cameron, Esquire, M.P.,
 Andrew Hardie McCulloch, Esquire, M.P.,
 Honorable John Lucas, M.P.,
 Walter Lamb, Esquire, J.P.,
 Charles York, Esquire, J.P.,
 Joseph Graham, Esquire, J.P.,
 Charles Moore, Esquire, F.L.S.,
 Walter Bradley, Esquire, and
 George Frederick Want, Esquire,

Alterations in Trust.

were appointed Trustees under the provisions of the Public Parks Act of 1854. Subsequently Edward Bingham Woodhouse, Esquire, J.P. (in place of Walter Lamb, Esquire, J.P., resigned), the Honorable James Squire Farnell, M.P. (in place of Charles York, Esquire, J.P., deceased), and John Williams, Esquire, J.P. (in place of the Honorable John Lucas, M.P., resigned), were appointed Trustees.

Extended area dedicated 3 August, 1880.

On 3rd August, 1880, an extended area for the Park, making the whole 36,300 acres, was dedicated and notified in the *Government Gazette*. The boundaries of the whole area have been surveyed and permanently marked.

Frontages of the National Park—Principal water-courses, &c., included within its boundaries.

The National Park, on its boundaries, has frontage of $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the Ocean (with a good boat harbour at Wattamolla Inlet, and good fishing grounds), $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Port Hacking, $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile to Woronora River, $1\frac{3}{4}$ mile to the former main road to Illawarra via Woronora River, and 8 miles to the main road now in use to Illawarra. There are within the boundaries of the Park about 7 miles of the Illawarra Railway, and Port Hacking River flows through it for $9\frac{3}{4}$ miles of its course, 5 miles being navigable for boats. The upper four of these 5 miles is made practically a fresh water-lake, by the construction of a dam below the confluence with Kangaroo Creek. The other principal watercourses within the Park are Bola Creek, Kangaroo Creek, South-west Arm Creek, and Cabbage-tree Creek. South-west Arm Creek is navigable for $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles of its course, and at high tide Cabbage-tree Creek is navigable for boats for $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile. Since the construction of the dam above alluded to the whole of Kangaroo Creek is fresh water, $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile being in the main navigable.

Situation of National Park.

The northerly boundary of the Park is distant by road or railway (in course of construction) 15 miles from the Sydney Railway Station, and about 17 miles from Liverpool, partly by George's River and partly by road. The southerly boundary is about 8 miles from Clifton, about 17 miles from Bulli, and about 25 miles from Wollongong, each by road; Campbelltown is distant by bridle-track about 18 miles from the westerly boundary of the Park.

Aspect.

The Park generally may be described as high table-land, from which, at numerous places, excellent and extensive views are obtained of the ocean, Port Hacking, Botany Bay, Sydney, Randwick, &c., with deep gorges, and rich flats covered with beautiful foliage, bordering running streams of the purest fresh water.

The high table-lands to some extent consist of comparatively barren stony heaths, and of fair to good land, the latter in areas suitable for formation of recreation, review, and encampment grounds or of plantations of ornamental trees, &c., and readily accessible, situated at elevations of from about 350 feet to about 900 feet above high-water mark. The valleys of the principal watercourses, notably of Port Hacking River and Bola Creek, are to a large extent covered with rich foliage, including cabbage-tree and Bangalo palms, tree-ferns, Christmas, myrtle, and other handsome shrubs, numerous large well-grown blackbutt, woollybutt, turpentine and other noble forest timber trees rising at the part southerly and south-easterly above the confluence of Bola Creek with Port Hacking River, to heights up to nearly 200 feet, and bordering and adjacent beautiful streams, having occasional long reaches of deep, shaded, pure, cool, fresh water.

Order of effecting improvements.

The operations of the Trust have hitherto been confined to—

1. Opening up the Park, by clearing and forming roads, and the construction of culverts and bridges where most required.
2. Rendering the upper and most beautiful part of Port Hacking River, within the Park, as far as practicable, permanently navigable, by removal of snags, detached rocks, and other obstructions in the channel, and, by dam construction, raising the water level, and changing Port Hacking River for 4 miles, and Kangaroo Creek for $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile, from salt to fresh water, useful for acclimatisation and other purposes.
3. Clearing and beautifying the rich flats adjacent the confluence of Kangaroo Creek with Port Hacking River, so as to afford sites for main camp, for cultivation, and for paddock for horses required in connection with the works.

4.

* It is intended to furnish in future a Report as soon after 31st December each year as may be found practicable.

4. Clearing a large area on the table-land, called "Loftus Heights" in honor of His Excellency the Governor, between the main road to Illawarra and Port Hacking River, adjacent the site for platform on the Illawarra Railway at 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Sydney, to afford sites for recreation and military encampment and review grounds.
5. And the completion of necessary surveys, to enable the fencing of the boundaries of the Park.

A caretaker and two rangers have been employed from the first to prevent removal from the Park, or destruction of the plants, palms, tree-ferns, Christmas bushes, &c., which are indigenous, and for preventing destruction or injury of game.

Adjacent to the confluence of Kangaroo Creek with Port Hacking River three rich flats of land have been cleared to the extent of about 10 acres in all, in such a manner as to afford site for a main camp, &c.; this camp consists of a weather-board pavilion of two rectangular rooms, each about 24 feet by about 20 feet, caretaker's cottage, stables, stores, and the fencing of cultivation paddock, horse paddock, and yards. In the clearing care was taken to leave a row of trees to retain the banks of the river and creek, and for ornament, and a number of the most handsome of the trees back from the river and creek have also been left. Adjoining and northerly from the main camp about 100 acres are enclosed by fencing, &c., for a run for the horses required in connection with the works.

Roads as under have been formed or cleared:—

1. From the Main Camp to the Main Road from Illawarra to Sydney, at the site for the platform on the Illawarra Railway, at 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Sydney Railway Station; length 2 miles formed, including very heavy works for a considerable proportion of the distance.
2. From the Main Camp over the Dam, along the right (easterly) bank of Port Hacking River and of Bola Creek, crossing Bola Creek, passing by the easterly side of the isolated high hill or mountain known as "The Island"; thence again close to right bank of Port Hacking River, and on to the southernmost boundary of the Park. It is so formed and being formed as to make a beautiful drive for vehicles and a very pleasant walk; at frequent intervals pretty and extensive glimpses of the river and the handsome palm and fern foliage bordering come into view. The work on this road is substantial, and necessarily heavy on account of the broken nature of the country. It is still in progress; length cleared from Main Camp to southernmost boundary of Park, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles; length formed, with necessary culverts, bridges, and approaches, 3 miles.
3. From opposite Kangaroo Creek confluence to summit of main range between Port Hacking River and its south-west arm or branch, and thence to Wattamolla Boat Harbour, on the sea-coast, 8 miles; cleared.
4. From the southernmost boundary of Park, near Garie, *via* Simpson's Farm, to Jibbon Beach, 10 miles; cleared.
5. From No. 4 Road (above) to sea-beach at Garie, 1 mile; cleared.
6. From No. 4 Road to Port Hacking, near Costen's Point, 2 miles; cleared.
7. From No. 6 Road to Port Hacking, at the Spit, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ mile; cleared.
8. From No. 3 Road to Port Hacking, near "Wentworth Fountain," 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles; cleared.
9. From No. 7 Road to Grafton-street, in the township of Sutherland, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ mile; cleared.

Total, 5 miles cleared and formed, and 32 miles cleared only. General total, 37 miles.

A bridle-track, of about 18 miles long, has also been cleared as an approach from Campbelltown.

The channel of Port Hacking River above the dam, formerly, on account of the numerous snags, &c., was scarcely navigable for even the smallest boats, excepting at high-water, has been cleared to a width of not less than 30 feet at the part between its confluence with Kangaroo Creek and the "Lower Peach Trees," and to a width of not less than 10 feet for an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ mile above, towards the "Upper Peach Trees." Since the completion of that useful work the dam has been constructed across Port Hacking River. The length of the dam is 300 feet, and the average width at base about 100 feet, providing a road 33 feet wide on top. It has a by-wash cut out of the solid rock on the easterly side, and a timber bridge built over, and a flood-gate built in the by-wash. The dam was completed during the year 1883 so far as the funds available permitted, and in that year withstood two heavy freshes in the river. After the first fresh the area backed up became fresh water of aggregate length 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles (Port Hacking River, 4 miles, and its tributary, Kangaroo Creek, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ mile), navigable for steam launches of moderate draught. The roadway over the dam has proved of great service, as affording the only way for carting appliances and materials for the road and other works on the easterly or right-hand side of the river. Twice before the completion of the dam unusually heavy floods came down the river, and carried away and destroyed considerable quantities of the wood-work and earth-work.

It is intended to stock the river and Kangaroo Creek with fresh-water fish; and it is anticipated that the perch already in the river will now rapidly increase.

Towards the cost of the dam Honorable Thomas Holt contributed £100, Honorable Sir John Robertson £50, Honorable John Lucas £50, and Walter Bradley, Esquire, £50.

The clearing on "Loftus Heights" included on 31st December, 1883, nearly 80 acres, and 91 acres additional were marked out on the ground, in blocks of from 5 acres to 15 acres, for clearing under contract. In the agreements for clearing under contract it is stipulated that all good shelter, well-grown and handsome (selected) trees, Christmas bushes, waratahs, gigantic lilies, and other plants and shrubs of an ornamental nature shall be left. The timber from the 80 acres cleared was dwarf, ill-grown, and not ornamental, and the general aspect of the Park has been much improved by its removal. The area comprised in the land cleared and the land to be cleared is advantageously situated; its elevation reaches to about 450 feet above high-water mark; it slopes gently to the north, north-east, and east, having a creek through the centre, nearly always running, and with fine rocky holes, several of which hold water in times of the most severe drought.

To afford shade to the creek, clearing will not be permitted to extend to within about 30 feet of each side of that creek. From the area already cleared extensive and pleasant views are obtained of the ocean, Port Hacking, Botany Bay, and extending also to Randwick and Sydney. Comparatively sheltered from the westerly winds—hot in summer and cold in winter—the area, which is readily accessible, should prove a desirable site for military encampments and reviews, for athletic sports, and for almost any recreation purposes. A considerable proportion of the area is suitable for plantations of ornamental trees.

The work of enclosing the Park has awaited the necessary resurveying and remarking of old abutting boundaries. Proprietors of adjoining lands will be required to pay their legal share of the cost of the fencing.

The Schedule hereto specifies all moneys received to 31st December, 1883, in connection with the National Park, and states the estimated values of the principal improvements, plants, &c.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN ROBERTSON,

Chairman, National Park Trust.

Arrangements for care of Park, and prevention of removal or destruction of indigenous growth, prevention of destruction of game birds, &c.

Principal improvements effected—Main Camp and clearing and other improvements adjacent confluence of Kangaroo Creek with Port Hacking River.

Roads.

Effect of snagging upper part of Port Hacking River, and of construction of dam across that river.

Subscriptions received towards cost of the dam.

Clearing at "Loftus Heights" (near site for railway platform, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Sydney).

Proposed work of enclosing the Park.

Expenditure and estimate of value of works effected, &c.

SCHEDULE to First Report of National Park Trust.

| Funds received since dedication of Park. | | Estimated value of improvements, steam-launch, boats, tools, appliances, &c., on 31st December, 1883. | |
|--|---------------|---|-------------|
| | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| For general improvements :— | | | |
| Estimates-in-Chief, 1879 | 2,000 0 0 | Pavilion | 220 0 0 |
| Do do 1881 | 1,000 0 0 | Caretaker's cottage | 150 0 0 |
| Supplementary Estimates, 1881 | 500 0 0 | Stables, stores, and out-houses | 180 0 0 |
| Estimates-in-Chief, 1882 | 2,000 0 0 | Forge, smithy, tools, and plant | 220 0 0 |
| Do do 1883 | 2,000 0 0 | Dam | 2,000 0 0 |
| For clearing land and snagging :— | | Training wall, Port Hacking River, below dam | 80 0 0 |
| Supplementary Estimates, 1882 | 750 0 0 | Snagging, Port Hacking River, above dam | 500 0 0 |
| For snagging and otherwise improving Port Hacking River :— | | Boat-house and jetty | 40 0 0 |
| Estimates-in-Chief, 1883 | 500 0 0 | Dock, Port Hacking River, below dam | 60 0 0 |
| For enclosing National Park :— | | Steam-launch | 300 0 0 |
| Estimates-in-Chief, 1883 | 1,500 0 0 | Boats and punts | 100 0 0 |
| Subscriptions towards cost of dam :— | | Roads | 3,500 0 0 |
| Hon. T. Holt, £100; Hon. Sir J. Robertson, £50; J. Lucas, Esq., £50; W. Bradley, Esq., £50 | 250 0 0 | Clearing on flats, near main camp, 10 acres | 100 0 0 |
| T. F. Clayton, royalty for right to collect grass-tree gum, 12 months, from April, 1883 | 175 0 0 | Clearing on Loftus Heights, 80 acres | 400 0 0 |
| C. Miller and E. Miller, for firewood | 19 11 0 | Fencing | 70 0 0 |
| Sale of old boat to F. Beaker | 15 0 0 | Waggons and drays | 100 0 0 |
| | | Horses | 30 0 0 |
| | | Sundries, about | 150 0 0 |
| | | Total estimated value | £ 8,200 0 0 |
| Unexpended balances, 31st December, 1883 :— | £ 10,709 11 0 | | |
| Votes for general improvements | £206 16 0 | | |
| Vote for clearing land and snagging | 551 4 8 | | |
| Vote for enclosing National Park | 1,500 0 0 | | |
| | 2,258 0 8 | | |
| Difference, being the total expenditure, 1st October, 1879, to 31st December, 1883* .. | 8,451 10 4† | | |

* Of course caretaking, &c., has been covered by this sum.

† Memo.—31st December, 1883, ultimate liability on road contract No. 4, Port Hacking River Valley, about £555.

REPORT to the present date from the date (31st December, 1883) to which the last Report recorded the operations of the Trust.*

The Chairman National Park Trust to The Secretary for Lands.

31 August, 1885.

Sir,

The Trustees of the National Park have the honor to present to you their Report of the works effected since 31st December, 1883.

Road extension.

The formation of the road along the valley of Port Hacking River towards the southernmost boundary of the Park has been extended a further distance of 3 miles,—to the bridge in course of construction across Bola Creek,—making the total distance completed 6 miles.

The work has been carried out under contract, and performed in a most satisfactory manner, notwithstanding the numerous heavy rock and shale excavations.

The bridges and culverts are very strongly built; they are of durable character and of sufficient capacity, and with strength sufficient to withstand the heaviest floods.

This road follows the windings of the river, and brings into view some of the most beautiful scenery of the Park, It will doubtless become a favourite drive and promenade. Just beyond Tamūr Creek, on the opposite (the left-hand) side of the river, there are tall forest trees, over which vines climb and overhang; also, bangalo and cabbage-tree palms, fine specimens of bird's-nest ferns, tree ferns, &c. Intermixed are wild canes, which attain to 100 feet.

About 2 miles below Bola Creek (northerly therefrom) the Illawarra formation commences, and extends from thence upwards to the southernmost boundary of the Park; this accounts for the rich varied palm, fern, vine, and tree foliage.

About 1 mile south-westerly from Bolo Creek Bridge there is a forest of magnificent timber, as yet unassailed by the devastating hands of the woodman; included in the forest are blackbutts of gigantic height, some measuring 22 feet in girth at the height of 5 feet from the ground; and turpentines about 150 feet high, measuring 27 feet in girth at 5 feet from the ground. No forest within 100 miles of Sydney is comparable to it.

A contract has been arranged for road extension beyond the bridge over Bola Creek, and through the easterly margin of this forest, which will thus be made easily accessible for visitors to the Park.

New road.

A new road, with very easy gradients, has been made from the crossing, at 16 miles 30 chains from Sydney, of the Railway line over the main Illawarra Road, to the gate on the saddle below the southerly end of Loftus Heights, which will be the terminus in the Park of the Railway. The length of this road is 1½ mile. The whole has been cleared, and the formation is nearly complete.

Shelter and accommodation for the public.

The necessity of providing shelter and accommodation for visitors to the Park, more especially at the time of the opening of the Railway, became so apparent that the Trustees unsuccessfully requested the Government to authorize them to transfer the expenditure of £1,200, voted for roads southerly in the Park, and for a bridge to cross Bola Creek, to defray the cost of providing the required shelter and accommodation. As the sum appropriated could not be legally transferred, the Trustees determined to make other arrangements.

* That Report is dated 26th May, 1884, and was presented to Parliament by the Honorable The Secretary for Lands on Tuesday, 26th August, 1884.

† The Trustees of the Park now are :—

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Honorable Sir John Robertson, K.C.M.G., M.P., | appointed 26th April, 1879, Chairman. |
| Honorable Robert Wisdom, M.P., | do. do. |
| Angus Cameron, Esquire, M.P., | do. do. |
| Andrew Hardie McCulloch, Esquire, M.P., | do. do. |
| Joseph Graham, Esquire, J.P., | do. do. |
| Charles Moore, Esquire, F.L.S., | do. do. |
| Walter Bradley, Esquire, | do. do. |
| George Frederick Want, Esquire, | do. do. |
| Edmund Bingham Woodhouse, Esquire, | do. 12th December, 1879. |
| Honorable James Squire Farnell, M.P., | do. 4th February, 1881. |
| John Williams, Esquire, J.P., | do. 1st August, 1882. |
| James Patrick Garvan, Esquire, M.P., | do. 14th November, 1884. |

A beautiful supentine walk has been made, leading from the southern end of Loftus Heights, which will be the terminus of the Railway siding, to the salt-water part of the river, where boats will be kept for the accommodation of the public. The walk is continued up the left bank of the river, facilitating approach to the boats which will be kept on the fresh water above the dam.

The area of land cleared at Loftus Heights has been extended from 80 acres to upwards of 200 acres. This work has been done mainly under contract in areas from 5 to 20 acres. As in all similar work at the National Park, precaution has been exercised to preserve the best of the ornamental and all the good sheltering trees, all Christmas bushes, waratahs, gigantic lilies, &c.

During the past year progress has been made in planting ornamental trees obtained from the Government nurseries, and from various contributors. Many of the trees are well established and thriving.

Among the latest and most attractive improvements is the partial clearing of a very picturesque area of about 160 acres for a deer park. This area is enclosed where necessary, and to the extent of $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, by a permanent 6-foot fence of 9 wires; the other boundaries, 2 miles in length, are Port Hacking River, and its pretty inlets.

A considerable proportion of the area is well grassed, with a never-failing supply of pure fresh water, including the water of the brook which terminates at "The Fountain," opposite Mangrove Island.

The under scrubbing of the area is in progress.

Seven deer, a donation from the Trustees of Parramatta Park, are now running on this area, and doing well.

After surmounting many difficulties a contract was entered into, in October last, for the erection of a fence along that part of the boundary of the Park which extends from Woronora River to Port Hacking River. $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile of this fence is completed.

On application of the Park Trustees the southerly shore of Port Hacking River, so far as it bounds the National Park, was, on the 19th of June, 1885, proclaimed a Public Oyster Reserve, and exempt from the power of leasing.

With a view to the advancement of oyster culture the Trustees have made arrangements to procure the best varieties from America.

In November, 1884, and at subsequent periods, the Trustees expended a sum of money for the introduction of English perch, and other fresh water fish.

In May last, by the kind co-operation of His Worship the Mayor and the City Clerk of Ballarat, and Officers of the Railway Departments of Victoria and New South Wales, a large number of live trout and English perch, from Ballarat, were successfully introduced into Port Hacking River, above the "Upper Peach Trees."

The River, perhaps the only one running from south to north between high and precipitous mountains, is shaded from the sun more than any other river in New South Wales known to the Trustees—hence the prospect of English fish thriving in it is the greater, owing to the cool temperature.

The training walls erected in 1883 (incomplete though these were), along and partly across the worst sand-shoal flat in Port Hacking River, situate about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile below the dam, has resulted in considerably deepening of the channel at this part. Further expenditure will be required to make the work more completely effective.

The Trustees propose to carry out similar improvements in the future on the river, below the dam near Audley, and they hope with equal or even greater beneficial results, so that the river throughout may become navigable for large boats at all times. Above the dam the river for 4 miles is constantly navigable for steam launches of modern draught, and large boats, as a result of the construction and maintenance of that structure. During the past four months this dam has been increased in height, so that it is now above the level of the highest king tides.

On 3rd October, 1884, a purchase at auction, at Messrs. Richardson & Wrench's Rooms, Pitt-street, Sydney, was effected (on behalf of the Government), of 60 acres, between Simpson's 50 acres and Lord's 20 acres, to afford for the Park a convenient approach to the high land at the back, and an additional desirable frontage to Port Hacking at a clear sandy beach. The price paid, equal to £7 6s. 8d. per acre, is undoubtedly very moderate.

The Trustees hope to be able to furnish with the next report accurate maps, which are in course of compilation to a sufficiently large scale to show clearly the various roads, structures, and improvements generally, as well as the natural features, &c.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN ROBERTSON,

Chairman, National Park Trust.

SCHEDULE of Names adopted for Natural Features within the National Park since its dedication.

THE names "Fountain Brook" and "The Fountain," respectively, for the brook and the natural fountain within and close to the southerly boundary of the "Deer Park."

The name "Loftus Heights," in honor of His Excellency the Governor, for the high land between the Illawarra Railway, at about 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Sydney, and Port Hacking River, below the dam. This area is now cleared to the extent of 200 acres to afford sites for recreation and military encampment and review grounds; from it fine views are obtained of the ocean, Port Hacking, Botany Bay, Randwick, parts of Sydney, &c.

The name "Audley" has been adopted for the locality of the Main National Park Camp, at the confluence of Port Hacking River with Kangaroo Creek, in honour of Licensed-Surveyor Lord Audley, who, in the year 1864, made the first accurate survey of Port Hacking River, and had his main survey camp at the place.

The name "The Island" for the isolated high hill or mountain immediately southerly from the confluence of Port Hacking River and Bola Creek, and between those streams.

The names hereunder have been adopted for the brooks which flow to the right bank of Port Hacking River, and are crossed by the road formed through the valley of that river:—

| Distance by Road southerly from the Dam. | Name of Brook in the Language of the Aborigines of Australia adopted. | In parenthesis, the Meaning in the English Language of the Name. |
|--|---|--|
| 66 chains (about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile) | Mullion | (Eagle). |
| 88 " (" 1 ") | Warrul | (Bee). |
| 97 " (" 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ") | Burowa | (Bustard). |
| 165 " (" 2 miles) | Karoga | (White Crane). |
| 192 " (" 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ") | Gorra Worra | (Laughing Jackass). |
| 211 " (" 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ ") | Buralga | (Native Companion). |
| 246 " (" 3 ") | Kobardō | (Parrot). |
| 254 " (" 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ") | Birumba | (Plover). |
| 266 " (" 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ ") | Dirjiri | (Wagtail). |
| 288 " (" 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ") | Murrindum | (Quail). |
| 327 " (" 4 ") | Dumbal | (Crow). |
| 336 " (" 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ ") | Tamūr | (Bronze-winged Pigeon). |
| 356 " (" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ") | Burunda | (Swan). |
| 366 " (" 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ ") | Karāni | (Duck). |
| 425 " (" 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ ") | Palona | (Hawk). |

SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE No 2 to Second Report of National Park Trust.

| Funds received since dedication of Park. | | Estimated value of improvements, boats, tools, appliances, &c, on 31st August, 1885. | |
|--|-------------|--|-------------|
| | £ s. d. | | £ s. d. |
| To 31st Dec, 1883 (<i>vide</i> Schedule to first Report, dated 26th May, 1884, and presented to Parliament by the Hon. the Secretary for Lands, on 26th August, 1884) — | | Pavilion erected prior to 31st Dec, 1883, and since improved | 200 0 0 |
| For general improvements | £7,500 0 0 | Pavilion erected since 31st December, 1883 | 300 0 0 |
| For clearing land and snagging | 1,250 0 0 | Furniture and fittings in pavilions | 100 0 0 |
| For enclosing National Park | 1,500 0 0 | Caretaker's cottage, with kitchen added since 1883 | 200 0 0 |
| Subscriptions towards cost of dam below "Audley" (Hon T Holt, £100; Hon. Sir J. Robertson, £50; J. Lucas, Esq, £50; W. Bradley, Esq, £50) | 250 0 0 | Cottages for working overseer, carpenter, and labourers | 200 0 0 |
| Other miscellaneous funds | 209 11 0 | Stables, stores, and outhouses | 200 0 0 |
| General total to 31st Dec, 1883 | 10,709 11 0 | Forge, smithy, tools, and plant | 300 0 0 |
| Since 31st Dec, 1883, to 31st August, 1885 — | | Dam below "Audley" | 2,500 0 0 |
| For general improvements — | | Training wall, Port Hacking River, below dam below "Audley" | 100 0 0 |
| Estimates in chief, 1884 | £2,000 0 0 | Boat house and jetties | 50 0 0 |
| Do do 1885 | 2,000 0 0 | Shp, built of wood, with galvanized iron roof, for repairing steam launch and boats | 100 0 0 |
| Bank of New Zealand, o/d 31st Aug, 1885 | 188 15 11 | Dock, Port Hacking River, below dam below "Audley" | 60 0 0 |
| Miscellaneous funds availed of for general improvements — | | Steam launch | 150 0 0 |
| "C Millar and E Millar, for royalty at rate of 1s 6d per 1,000 on bricks made on National Park for Illawarra Railway purposes | 22 10 0 | Boat and punts | 150 0 0 |
| Sundry individuals—for callow bricks (presented to the National Park Trust by the Messrs. Millar), at rate of £2 per 1,000 | 18 0 0 | Roads, bridges, and pathways | 6,000 0 0 |
| Sundry individuals—occupation fees, National Park, in connection with Illawarra Railway works | 60 8 0 | Clearing on flats near main camp, 10 acres | 100 0 0 |
| Messrs Rowe & Smith, for royalty at rate of 1s. 6d. per 1,000, on bricks made on National Park for Illawarra Railway purposes | 16 7 9 | Clearing on Loftus Heights, 200 acres | 1,050 0 0 |
| G Kiss—net proceeds of sale of horse on account National Park Trust | 17 8 0 | Under scrubbing within deer park, about 30 acres | 60 0 0 |
| | 4,323 9 8 | Fencing | 300 0 0 |
| Special credit towards purchase of steam launch, &c (received from the Treasury, 3rd June, 1884) | 200 0 0 | Waggons and drays | 130 0 0 |
| For completion of dam below "Audley"—Supplementary Estimates, 1884 | 500 0 0 | Horses | 80 0 0 |
| For road from southerly end of road contract No 5 to southermost boundary of park, including bridge over Bola Creek, &c—Estimates in chief, 1885 | 1 200 0 0 | Sundries, about | 270 0 0 |
| For dam across Port Hacking River, above "The Peach Trees"—Estimates in chief, 1885 | 300 0 0 | Clearing snags from Port Hacking River and Kangaroo Creek | 1,000 0 0 |
| General total to 31st August, 1885 | 17,233 0 5† | | |
| Unexpended balances, 31st August, 1885 — | | | |
| Vote for completion of dam below "Audley" | £316 11 6 | | |
| Vote for enclosing National Park | 337 16 11 | | |
| Vote for dam across Port Hacking River above "The Peach Trees" | 300 0 0 | | |
| Vote for extension of road to southermost boundary of National Park, and bridge over Bola Creek | 1,200 0 0‡ | | |
| | 2,154 8 5 | | |
| Difference, being the total expenditure, 1st Oct, 1879, to 31st Aug, 1885 | 15,078 12 3 | Total estimated value | £13,600 0 0 |

* Under special authority of Parliament (item 339 of Appropriation Act of 1884), £1 000 of this sum has been expended for general improvements.
† Caretaking maintenance of roads &c, have been covered by this sum since October 1879
‡—Memo—31st August, 1885, estimated liability on contract for bridge over Bola Creek and road half a mile beyond, £371 16s
§ Inadvertently omitted from Schedule

National Park.—Reports of Trustees to 31 December, 1886. Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 22 June, 1887.

The Chairman National Park Trust to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Sydney, 31 December, 1886

The Trustees of the National Park have the honor to present to you their Report of the works effected since the date of their last Report (31st August, 1885)

The formation of the road in the valley of Port Hacking River to the southernmost boundary of the Park has been completed; the total length from the dam near Audley is 8½ miles

The work—under contract—was continued and satisfactorily completed in the manner contemplated in the former Reports of the Trustees to the Honorable the Minister for Lands, and dated 26th May, 1884, and 31st August, 1885, respectively.

Additional

Additional beautiful scenery is made accessible by the completion of this road from Bola Creek Bridge and from Palm Creek Bridge. At the southern approach to Bola Creek Bridge there are charming vistas of palm foliage; at Palm Creek palms are even more abundant, and are interspersed with numerous tree-ferns, and fine specimens of the red cedar-tree* are to be found a few yards southerly from Palm Creek Bridge.

The road reaches the southernmost boundary of the Park a few yards easterly from a fine blackbutt tree conspicuously marked 43 over N.P.R.

This road has been named Lady Carrington Road, and was, upon 2nd October, 1886, formally inspected, and declared opened by Lady Carrington, who was accompanied by His Excellency the Right Honorable Baron Carrington, Governor of the Colony, Honorable Mr. Baring, and Captain Brook, H.M.S. "Opal." The Park Trust upon that occasion was represented by several of the trustees and myself as chairman of the Trust.

From Lady Carrington Road a pathway has been made, branching a few yards northerly from a place known as "The Curve," about three-quarters of a mile southerly from Bola Creek Bridge and leading to a very fine forest, consisting principally of gigantic blackbutt trees. The trees near the path have girth measurement up to 25 feet at the height of 5 feet from the ground, and attain in some cases to the height of nearly 200 feet. This pathway will shortly be continued north-easterly around the north-westerly slopes of "The Island," and across Bola Creek, until it rejoins Lady Carrington Road, near the confluence of that creek with Port Hacking River. †

There will thus be opened, both for pedestrians and equestrians, another beautiful part of the Park, and a pleasant alternative or return route formed. This path has been named the "Forest Path."

About midway between the Bola Creek Bridge and the Palm Creek Bridge, and a short distance southerly beyond the junction of the "Forest Path," a line for a road, to be named "Waterfalls Road," from Lady Carrington Road to Waterfall Railway Station has been marked out, and is now being cleared for formation. It will open out some bold and varied scenery, including "the Waterfalls" at Waterfall Creek. The lower waterfall has a sheer fall of 111 feet, and the upper—a few yards westerly from the lower—46 feet. From the summit of the land at the easterly fall an uninterrupted view is obtained of a fine forest in the valley of the creek, which forest extends across the main Port Hacking River.

At three-quarters of a mile westerly above "the Falls," and for the whole of its course below, Waterfall Creek is a permanent brook with a succession of fine pools of pure fresh water. One of those pools, about a quarter of a mile above the falls, affords an excellent bathing place with a clear, smooth rock bottom and a miniature sandy beach.

One mile and a half westerly from the falls this road will join the main Illawarra Road at Waterfall Railway Station, at 720 feet above sea-level, and about 700 feet above the water-level of Port Hacking River at the crossing of "Waterfalls Road." From the immediate vicinity of Waterfall Station an excellent view is obtained of that most conspicuous landmark, "Mount Westmacott," three-quarters of a mile distant westerly, and upon which, at the altitude of 880 feet, is erected a trigonometrical station beacon. Between that mountain and the railway station a gorge intervenes, the base of which is about 600 feet below the trigonometrical station.

Another road is in course of formation † which will shorten by 3 miles the access from Audley to Port Hacking Heads: to the beautiful, hard white sand beaches of Jibbon and Yarmouth, to the lovely ocean inlet of Wattamolla, and to Marly ocean beach. Towards the construction of this road the directors of the "Yarmouth Estate" have contributed £100.

The part of the road entirely new branches easterly from the present road, from Audley towards Clifton, at 3 miles from the dam. At half a mile from that road the south-west arm creek will be crossed at a flat rock immediately below the confluence of a small creek. This crossing will be made thoroughly safe for riding or driving by filling the small holes with concrete. † Just below the crossing there is a good bathing place, with fresh water.

After crossing South-west Arm Creek the road ascends to the Coast Range by easy grades near the right bank of a fine creek, fitly named Cascade Creek, as it falls over two small cascades. Half a mile from the crossing-place over South-west Arm Creek the line for road passes within a few yards of the lower cascade, to which a footpath is made. A second footpath from the road is made to a fine bathing-place in the creek, about 200 yards below the lower cascade. Three-quarters of a mile easterly from this cascade the road joins the Main Coast Road from Port Hacking to Clifton, at about half a mile southerly from "Saddle Trigonometrical Station," 5½ miles southerly from Jibbon Beach, and 2½ miles westerly from Wattamolla Inlet. The work has so far progressed that, at the end of April, 1887, † it will, it is expected, be practicable to drive a buggy from Loftus Station, via the dam at "Audley," to Jibbon Beach.

Since the date of the last report (31 August, 1885) the road to the Deer Park, formerly cleared only, has been improved and made easily practicable for vehicular traffic. From this road several very beautiful and extensive views are obtainable of the wide parts of Port Hacking River, in the directions of North-west Arm and Gynea Bay.

During the past year progress has been made towards construction of the intended masonry dam across Port Hacking River, about a quarter of a mile below the Upper Peach Trees. This work is intended to conserve a fine sheet of water, about 1½ mile in length.

The dam at Audley has been strengthened and maintained in a satisfactory condition. During the past year it has withstood several heavy freshets.

The work of clearing and keeping clear Port Hacking River and Kangaroo Creek (both navigable fresh water) fallen timber, &c., has been continued efficiently by Park employees.

Since the date of the last report, the Park boundary fence, extending from Woronora River to Port Hacking River, has been commenced and completed. †

The boundaries common to Mr. Simpson's land and the Park have also been fenced by Mr. Simpson, and the Park Trust has paid half the cost.

Upon the area of 60 acres purchased by the Government as an addition to the Park, and referred to in the report of 31st August, 1885, a cottage is in course of erection § as a residence and head quarters of one of the Park rangers.

During the current year six of the employees have been appointed special constables, with a view to the preservation of the birds, and the prevention of removal of, or injury to, the trees and plants, indigenous or otherwise, growing on the Park.

Further progress has also been made in the work of under-scrubbing the land easterly from the Illawarra railway line, between Sutherland and Loftus Heights and south-westerly from the latter, in extension to the area of 230 acres cleared by the Trust. This work has been done by men known as "the unemployed," paid by the Government, and working under the supervision of Government appointees.

Some of the land cleared at Loftus Heights has been stumped and grubbed, preparatory to ploughing, harrowing, sowing with grass-seed, and rolling. Shortly there will be ready for the purposes of military encampments and manœuvres about 2,000 acres of gently undulating land, at altitudes varying from about 250 feet to about 600 feet above sea level. The land in part is cleared and the rest under-scrubbed. || This extensive area is situated northerly from Loftus Railway Station to Sutherland, and southerly from the same place nearly two miles; it is bounded on the west and north-west by the main Illawarra railway for 3½ miles, and is intersected, to the extent of about a mile and a half, by the branch railway from Loftus Junction to Loftus Station, it includes Loftus Heights, and is partly bounded upon the east and south-east by steep rocky declivities. Upon the land there are commanding positions for military signalling purposes, to St. Leonards, Middle and Outer South Heads of Port Jackson, Waverley, Randwick, Peakhurst, Hurstville, the shores of Botany Bay, of Jibbon Beach, and to the ocean, &c.

"Loftus Heights" is said to be equal for purposes of military manœuvres to any ground set apart for the purpose in the world. Intersecting the central and northerly parts of the area are several small permanent creeks of fresh water. Tanks of large capacity also furnish an unfailing supply of fresh water. Two of the tanks are supplied by permanent springs.

During Easter, in 1886, the annual military encampment was held at Loftus Heights; the troops of all arms exceeded in number those at any previous military encampment in the Colony, and upwards of 30,000 persons visited the Park to witness the manœuvres.

* The red cedar is one of the very few trees indigenous to Australia, which sheds its leaves in the winter.

† This work has since been done.

‡ The Holt-Sutherland Company has, since the close of the year 1886, paid half the cost of this fence along the boundaries common to that estate and the National Park.

|| Since completed.

§ The under-scrubbing has recently been completed by "the unemployed."

Hotel to be erected at Loftus Heights

Arrangements are in progress for the erection of a commodious and handsome hotel upon an excellent site upon the higher ground near Loftus Station, which will contain upon its completion, ample and excellent accommodation for visitors and at reasonable prices

Deer

The deer presented by the Trustees of the Parramatta Park in 1885 have increased in number, and with their progeny are thriving at the Deer Park. Five red deer, a very valuable donation from E. S. Cox, Esq., of "Fern Hill," were added in November, 1886, and are also doing well

Park Guide map

For convenient reference in illustration of this Report, a small guide map drawn to scale of 1 mile to 1 inch is herewith

Your obedient servant,
JOHN ROBERTSON,
Chairman

SCHEDULE to Third Report of National Park Trust.

| Funds received since dedication of Park | | Estimated value of improvements, boats, tools, appliances, &c., on 31st December, 1886, exclusive of works by the men known as "the unemployed" | |
|---|----------------|---|---|
| | | £ s d | £ s d. |
| To 31st August, 1885 (<i>vide</i> Schedule to second Report dated 31st August, 1885, and ordered by the Legislative Council to be printed, 10th June, 1886*) | | | |
| For general improvements | £11,500 0 0 | | Pavilions (two) 500 0 0 |
| For clearing land and snagging | 1,250 0 0 | | Furniture and fittings in pavilions 100 0 0 |
| For enclosing National Park† | 1,500 0 0 | | Caretaker's cottage 200 0 0 |
| Subscriptions towards cost of dam below "Audley" (Hon T Holt, £100; Hon Sir J. Robertson, £50; J Lucas, Esq., £50; W Bradley, Esq., £50) | 250 0 0 | | Cottages for working overseer, carpenter, and labourers 400 0 0 |
| Special credit towards purchase of steam launch, &c | 200 0 0 | | Stables, stores, and outhouses 200 0 0 |
| For completion of dam below "Audley" | 500 0 0 | | Forge, smithy, tools, and plant 300 0 0 |
| For road from southerly end of contract No 5 to southernmost boundary of Park, including bridge over Bola Creek, &c | 1,200 0 0 | | Dam below "Audley" 2,500 0 0 |
| For dam across Port Hacking River above "The Peach Trees" | 300 0 0 | | Tramming wall, Port Hacking River, below dam at "Audley" 100 0 0 |
| Miscellaneous funds, availed of for general improvements | 344 4 9 | | Boat house and jetties 100 0 0 |
| Bank of New Zealand o/d, 31st August, 1885 | 188 15 11 | | Ship, built of wood, with galvanized iron roof, for repairing steam launch and boats 100 0 0 |
| General total to 31st August, 1885 | 17,233 0 8 | | Dock, Port Hacking River, below dam below "Audley" 100 0 0 |
| Since 31st August, 1885, to 31st December, 1886 — | | | Steam launch 150 0 0 |
| For general improvements — | | | Boats and punts 150 0 0 |
| Estimates in Chief, 1886 | 3,000 0 0 | | Roads, bridges, and pathways 9,000 0 0 |
| Bank of New Zealand o/d, 31st December, 1886 | 59 19 7 | | Excavation of water-tanks 50 0 0 |
| Miscellaneous funds, availed of for general improvements — | | | Clearing on flats near main camp, 10 acres 100 0 0 |
| Messrs Rowe and Smith, for royalty at rate of 1/6 per 1,000 on bricks made on the National Park for Illawarra Railway purposes | 202 1 0 | | Clearing on Loftus Heights, 230 acres 1,200 0 0 |
| Mr Stephen Smith, for royalty at rate of 2/- per 100, on bricks made on the National Park for Illawarra Railway purposes | 10 10 0 | | Under scrubbing within deer park, about 60 acres 100 0 0 |
| Sundry individuals — Occupation fees, National Park, in connection with Illawarra Railway works | 30 18 0 | | Fencing, including Park boundary along Holt Sutherland Estate and Simpson's land 600 0 0 |
| Sundry individuals, for authorities to sell temperance refreshments, Military Encampment, Easter, 1886 | 8 0 0 | | Waggons and drays 130 0 0 |
| G. Kiss, net proceeds of sale of two houses on account of National Park Trust | 34 15 0 | | Hoises 60 0 0 |
| | 3,346 3 7 | | Clearing Port Hacking River and Kangaroo Creek of fallen timber, &c., above dam at Audley 1,000 0 0 |
| Contribution by Reform Land Investment and Building Co (Yarmouth Estate), towards road from dam at "Audley" to Jibbon Beach, expended for works of that road | 100 0 0 | | Sundries, about 310 0 0 |
| General total to 31st December, 1886 | 20,679 4 3† | | |
| Unexpended balances, 31st December, 1886 — | | | |
| Vote for completion of dam below "Audley" | 3 3 6 | | |
| Vote for dam across Port Hacking River above "The Peach Trees" | 5 6 0 | | |
| Vote for enclosing National Park | 102 3 11 | | |
| | 110 13 5 | | |
| Difference, being the total expenditure, 1st October, 1879, to 31st December, 1886 | £ 20,568 10 10 | | Total estimated value £ 17,500 0 0 |

* Copy herewith

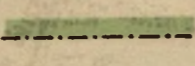
† Under special authority of Parliament (item 330 of Appropriation Act of 1884) £1,000 of this sum has been expended for general improvements

‡ Carting, maintenance of roads &c have been covered by this sum since October, 1879

[Map]

INDEX GUIDE MAP Shewing THE NATIONAL PARK

and access thereto
COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND
New South Wales.
June, 1888

The Park Boundary is shewn thus 

Photolithographed at the Government Printing Office
Transferred to stone and printed at the Surveyor General's Office, Sydney N.S.W.
July 88



SOUTH

PACIFIC

OCEAN

THE NATIONAL PARK

36320 ACRES

SCALE 80 CHAINS TO ONE INCH.
MILES 1 1/4 1/2 3/4 0 1 2 3 4
CHAINS 100 80 60 40 20 0 100 200 300 320 CHAINS

Compiled & drawn by P.B. Jones, Metropolitan & Coast District Survey Office, Sydney.

W. Freeman, Chief Draftsman, J.W. Deering, District Surveyor.

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

PUBLIC PARKS.

(RETURN SHOWING AMOUNT ALLOTTED TO EACH FOR YEAR 1888.)

*Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 20 November, 1888.**[Laid upon the Table of the House, in accordance with promise made by the Honorable Secretary for Lands, in answer to Question No. 7 in Votes and Proceedings No. 10 of the 14th November, 1888.]*

RETURN showing the Parks which have received a share of the Vote for this year, and the amount allotted to each.

| Name of Park or Reserve | Locality | Amount | Name of Park or Reserve | Locality | Amount. |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|---|----------------------|---------|
| Section No. 8 | Armidale | £ 50 | Morpeth Park | Morpeth | £ 50 |
| Botanical Gardens | Albury | 50 | Moama Recreation Reserve..... | Moama | 25 |
| Adelong Crossing | Adelong | 50 | Mount Victoria Recreation Reserve. | Mount Victoria..... | 30 |
| Ballina Park | Ballina | 25 | Mount Piddington Recreation Reserve | do | 30 |
| Clements Park | do | 25 | Muswellbrook Park | Muswellbrook | 50 |
| Gladstone Park | Balmain | 100 | Marrickville Park | Marrickville | 75 |
| Balranald Park | Balranald | 50 | Dangar Park | Narrabri West | 30 |
| Wentworth Park | Bathurst | 25 | Newcastle Recreation Reserve | Newcastle | 150 |
| Botanic Gardens | do | 50 | Nowra Recreation and Show Ground | Nowra | 25 |
| Victoria Park | do | 50 | Shoalhaven Park and Recreation Ground | do | 30 |
| Carrington Park | do | 25 | Oberon Park | Oberon | 25 |
| Macquarie Park | do | 25 | Cook, Robertson, and Wentworth Parks | Orange | 100 |
| Market Square | do | 25 | Parramatta Park | Parramatta | 500 |
| Gwydir Park | Bingera | 25 | Parkes Recreation and Reservoir Reserve | Parkes | 50 |
| Govett's Leap | Blackheath | 25 | Paterson Park | Paterson | 25 |
| Bowna Park | Bowna | 40 | Plattsburg Park | Plattsburg | 50 |
| Booralee Park | Botany | 50 | Qurindi Park | Qurindi | 50 |
| Burwood Park | Burwood | 50 | Queanbeyan Recreation Reserve | Queanbeyan | 50 |
| Richmond Park | Casino | 50 | Reserve opposite Asylum | Randwick | 25 |
| Carrington Recreation Reserve | Carrington..... | 50 | Bream-street Reserve | do | 50 |
| Coogee Bay Reserve | Coogee | 75 | Writtle Park | do | 25 |
| Camden Reserve | Camden | 25 | Randwick Park | do | 50 |
| Cressy-street Gardens | Denihquin | 50 | Raymond Terrace Recreation Reserves | Raymond Terrace..... | 25 |
| Dungog Recreation Reserve | Dungog | 25 | Redfern Park | Redfern | 100 |
| Dubbo Park | Dubbo | 50 | Richmond Park | Richmond | 50 |
| Botanical Gardens | Forbes | 25 | Barrangarry Park | Robertson | 25 |
| Victoria Square..... | do | 25 | Burdekin Park | Singleton | 50 |
| Cricket Reserve..... | do | 25 | Recreation Reserve (Section 55) | Tamworth | 25 |
| North Goulburn Recreation Reserve | Goulburn | 25 | Cricket Reserve..... | do | 50 |
| Victoria Park | do | 25 | The Square | do | 25 |
| Belmore Square..... | do | 25 | Waratah Recreation Reserve | Waratah | 75 |
| Gosford Park | Gosford | 25 | Botanic Reserve | do | 75 |
| Granville Park | Granville | 40 | Warialda Recreation Reserve | Warialda | 30 |
| Sussex-street Recreation Reserve..... | Grafton | 50 | Wallsend Park | Wallsend | 50 |
| Grenfell Recreation Reserve | Grenfell | 25 | Varna Park | Waverley | 75 |
| Greta Park..... | Greta | 25 | Mount Carmel Park | Waterloo | 75 |
| Gunning Park | Gunning | 42 | Willans' Hill Park | Wagga Wagga | 50 |
| Gregory Park | Hamilton | 50 | Rygate Park | Wellington | 40 |
| Beronia Park | Hunter's Hill and Gladesville. | 50 | M'Quade Park | Windsor..... | 25 |
| Katoomba Recreation Reserves | Katoomba | 75 | River Park..... | do | 25 |
| North Kiama Park | Kiama | 50 | Islington Park | Wickham | 50 |
| North and South Lawson Parks | Lawson | 40 | Wickham Park | do | 50 |
| Lismore Park | Lismore | 30 | Wynyard Park | Wynyard Square | 50 |
| Moore Park | Liverpool | 25 | Wingham Recreation Reserve..... | Wingham | 25 |
| Lambton Recreation Reserve | Lambton | 50 | Stuart Park | Wollongong | 50 |
| M'Lean Park | M'Lean | 30 | Young Park | Young | 30 |
| South Steyne | Manly | 100 | Victoria Park..... | Yass | 50 |
| Various Reserves | do | 50 | West Maitland Park | West Maitland | 75 |
| Marengo Recreation Reserve | Marengo | 30 | East Maitland Park | East Maitland | 75 |
| Macdonaldtown Park | Macdonaldtown | 75 | Hill End Recreation Reserve | Hill End | 50 |
| Moree Park | Moree | 25 | | | |
| | | | | Total £ | 4,972 |

Department of Lands, 14 November, 1888

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

COMMON FOR MUSWELLBROOK.
(CORRESPONDENCE IN REFERENCE TO DEDICATION OF.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 25 October, 1888.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 7th June, 1888, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“(1.) Copies of all correspondence, minutes, plans, and papers relating to the purchase of land at or near to Muswellbrook for the purpose of a Common, and all papers relating to the dedication of the same as a Common.”

“(2.) Copies of all correspondence, minutes, plans, and papers relating to the dedication and ultimate resumption of the land which was formerly dedicated as a Common for Muswellbrook, together with all reports and plans in reference to the proposed subdivision and sale of same.”

(Mr. J. P. Abbott.)

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No. 1.

Minute of The Secretary for Mines.

27 February, 1885.

A DEPUTATION, consisting of the Mayor and Aldermen of the town of Muswellbrook, waited upon me to-day and pointed out that the residents of Muswellbrook had a Common at the present time of 1,187 acres and also a temporary Common of 1,321 acres, in all 2,508 acres, which does not adjoin the town, but is a considerable distance from it, and consequently of very little value to the people. The Common is separated from the town by land of Hall's Estate. This is to be sold, by direction of the Court of Equity, on the 14th March next, and the deputation represented to me that if the portion containing 954 acres of land was bought by the Government and dedicated for a Common for the use of the people of Muswellbrook, the people and the trustees would be quite willing that the Common should be resumed and sold, as also the temporary Common, and that the price which these would realise would be far in excess of the cost of the 954 acres. I do not think the Government ought for one moment to purchase land for the purpose of making a Common; but in this case, as I think the existing Common and the temporary Common would when sold realise far more than would be paid for the land asked for, there would be no danger of establishing a precedent by purchasing the 954 acres. I would recommend that it should be purchased at a price to be fixed by me, on condition that the Municipal Council give a letter requesting that that course be adopted (but the Council is not to be informed of the price), and stating that they are willing that the present temporary and permanent Common shall be sold and the proceeds of both paid over to the Government, and also that the trustees shall make a similar request in writing under their corporate seal, and the Town Clerk should be asked to procure these letters.

J. P. ABBOTT.

For the Cabinet. Approved, 27/2/85. Mr. T. F. Waller may be authorised to purchase the 954 acres for the Government at a price not exceeding 35s. an acre.—J. P. ABBOTT, 9/3/85.

No. 2.

The Mayor of Muswellbrook to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Municipal Council Chambers, Muswellbrook, 6 March, 1885.

The Messrs. Hall having advertised the sale of the St. Hellier's Estate on the 14th of the present month, I have the honor, by the direction of the Council, to urge upon the Government the importance of purchasing the block of land, being lot 3, and containing 931 acres, adjoining the town, for a permanent Common.

The Council are quite willing that the permanent and temporary Commons already granted should be sold, and the proceeds of both handed over to the Government.

I have, &c.,
S. J. DOWELL,
Mayor.

Instruct Mr. Waller, in terms of the Minister's minute of this date.—H.W., 9/3/85. When price of land is known, ask the Colonial Treasurer to provide the amount out of Advance Vote. Mr. Waller is to receive the commission usually allowed in such cases.—H.W., 9/3/85.

No. 3.

The Under Secretary for Mines to T. F. Waller, Esq.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 9 March, 1885.

With reference to your interview with the Honorable the Minister for Mines, in reference to the proposed purchase of St. Hellier's Estate at Muswellbrook, I am now directed by Mr. Abbott to authorise you to purchase the 954 acres embracing the estate on behalf of the Government.

You will be allowed the usual commission in such cases.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 4.

The Under Secretary for Mines to T. F. Waller, Esq.

Dear Sir,

Department of Mines, 9 March, 1885.

With reference to the matter of the purchase of St. Hellier's Estate at Muswellbrook, the price to be paid per acre is not to exceed 35s. an acre.

Yours, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD.

No. 5.

T. F. Waller, Esq., to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

90, Pitt-street, Sydney, 16 March, 1885.

I have the honor to acknowledge with thanks your favour dated 9th instant, and to state that, in compliance with the instructions therein contained, I attended the sale of the St. Hellier's Estate at Muswellbrook on the 14th instant, and that the block of land containing 931 (not 934) acres was withdrawn at £2 12s. per acre, that sum not coming up to the reserve of the Master in Equity.

Having ascertained that an offer would be submitted to the Master through the auctioneer, I, after consultation with Mr. H. Wood, waited on the Master, and requested him not to accept any offer prior to your return, to which request he assented.

Trusting that my action may meet with your approval, and awaiting your further instructions,—

I have, &c.,
T. F. WALLER.

Submitted.—A.B., 18/3/85. The Under Secretary for Mines. Submitted.—H.W., 18/3/85.
The sum of £2 15s. per acre may be offered for the land.—J. P. ABBOTT, 9/3/85.

No. 6.

J. McElhone, Esq., M.P., to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Sydney, 16 March, 1885.

I have the honor to forward you telegram received by me this evening in reference to sale of Hall's land.

I fancy the price that Mr. Cook offered for the 900 and odd acres is higher than you told me you had instructed some one to buy at; and it also appears that there is a reserve on it.

Yours, &c.,
J. McELHONE.

Submitted.—A.B., 21/3/85. The Under Secretary for Mines. Shall Mr. McElhone, M.P., be informed of action taken?—H.W., 21/3/85. No.—J. P. ABBOTT, 23/3/85.

[Enclosure.]

Telegram from the Mayor of Muswellbrook to J. McElhone, Esq., M.P.

16 March, 1885.

LAND *re* Common did not realise reserve price. Cook offered auctioneers £2 10s. per acre. See Abbott at once; induce him offer more. Do your best for us.

STEPHEN J. DOWELL,
Mayor.

No. 7.

Telegram from the Mayor, Muswellbrook, to The Secretary for Mines.

17 March, 1885.

LAND *re* Common not sold on Saturday. Did not come up to reserve. Auctioneers were offered, after sale, £2 10s. per acre. Can you make advance above that to secure the land for purpose asked? The people here are very anxious about the matter, this being their only chance. Your influence will be received with applause.

S. J. DOWELL,
Mayor.

No. 8.

The Chief Inspector of Stock to T. F. Waller, Esq.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Stock Branch, Sydney, 20 March, 1885.

Referring to your letter of the 16th instant, I have to inform you that the Minister for Mines has agreed to give £2 15s. per acre for the 931 acres of the St. Hellier's Estate, Muswellbrook.

I have, &c.,
ALEX. BRUCE,
Chief Inspector of Stock.

No. 9.

No. 9.

T. F. Waller, Esq., to The Secretary for Mines.

Re Hall & Hall's Estate.

Sir,

90, Pitt-street, Sydney, 20 March, 1885.

I have the honor to state, in accordance with the instructions received from you, that I called upon the solicitors of the above estate, who requested me to submit my offer in writing to the auctioneers, which I have done, and now send you copy of offer.

I have, &c.,

T. F. WALLER.

Submitted.—A.B., 20/3/85. The Under Secretary for Mines.

[Enclosure.]

Re Hall & Hall's Estate.

Gentlemen,

90, Pitt-street, Sydney, 20 March, 1885.

I have the honor, on behalf of the Government of New South Wales, to offer the sum of £2 15s. per acre for all that piece of land, containing (say) 931 acres, as per plan prepared by you, and being part of H. Dumaresq's grant of 940 acres, and which was offered by you at auction as lot 3 at Muswellbrook on the 14th instant and passed in, the bidding not having realised the reserve. I have further, at the request of Messrs. Laurence & Rich, to request that you will be good enough at your earliest convenience to submit this offer to them.

I have, &c.,

T. F. WALLER.

Messrs. Richardson & Wrench.

No. 10.

T. F. Waller, Esq., to The Secretary for Mines.

Hall v. Hall.

Sir,

90, Pitt-street, Sydney, 23 March, 1885.

I have the honor to forward herewith the attached copy of letter received this day from Messrs. Richardson & Wrench, and to wait your instructions.

I have, &c.,

T. F. WALLER.

Submitted.—A.B., 24/3/85. Mr. Waller may be authorised to offer £3 5s. for the land.—
J. P. ABBOTT, 24/3/85. The Chief Inspector of Stock.—H.W., 24/3/85.

[Enclosure.]

Hall v. Hall.—Land near Muswellbrook.

Dear Sir,

90, Pitt-street, Sydney, 23 March, 1885.

We duly received your favour of 20th instant, and at once communicated its contents to Messrs. Laurence & Rich, solicitors in the above suit, for submission to the Master in Equity. Since then we have received an offer for the same land of £3 per acre, the reserve price, from Mr. Thomas Cook, which offer was also submitted for approval.

We have now been instructed to state that unless your clients, the Government of New South Wales, are prepared to authorise you to exceed Mr. Cook's offer per acre, as above mentioned, such increased offer to be lodged with us before 4 o'clock to-morrow (Tuesday) afternoon, our directions are to close the sale with Mr. Cook, at the price named—viz., £3 per acre.

Waiting your immediate reply,—
T. F. Waller, Esq.

We remain, &c.,

RICHARDSON & WRENCH.

No. 11.

The Under Secretary for Mines to T. F. Waller, Esq.

Sir,

Department of Mines, 24 March, 1885.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of yesterday, enclosing a copy of a communication from Messrs. Richardson & Wrench, stating that £3 per acre had been offered for the land at Muswellbrook belonging to Hall's estate,—I am now directed by the Secretary for Mines to authorise you to offer £3 5s. per acre.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 12.

T. F. Waller, Esq., to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Hall v. Hall.

Sir,

90, Pitt-street, Sydney, 25 March, 1885.

I have the honor to acknowledge your favour of the 24th instant and to attach herewith copy of my offer of £3 5s. an acre for the land in question.

I have, &c.,

T. F. WALLER.

[Enclosure.]

Hall v. Hall.

Dear Sirs,

90, Pitt-street, Sydney, 24 March, 1885.

Acknowledging yours of the 23rd instant, I have now the honor on behalf of the Government to offer you the sum of £3 5s. per acre for the 931 acres as referred to in mine of the 20th instant.

Messrs. Richardson & Wrench.

I am, &c.,

T. F. WALLER.

No. 13.

Telegram from Mr. T. Cook to The Secretary for Mines.

Scone, 30 March, 1885.

Just received your telegram; am going Sydney to-night; consider I have been badly treated about purchase Muswellbrook land.

THOMAS COOK.

Put with papers as to proposed purchase of Hall's land at Muswellbrook.—J. P. ABBOTT, 31/3/85.

No. 14.

Messrs. Richardson & Wrench to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

98, Pitt-street, Sydney, 1 April, 1885.

Your agent, Mr. T. F. Waller, having purchased under your directions the 931-acre block of land, situated at or near Muswellbrook, for the price of £3 12s. per acre cash, we have the honor to forward herein for your signature a form of contract prescribed by His Honor the Master in Equity, which we shall be glad to have returned to us duly completed at your early convenience.

Yours, &c.,

RICHARDSON & WRENCH.

Inform Messrs. Richardson & Wrench that I am quite willing to abide by the offer of Mr. Waller, but that I will sign no contract based on the conditions.—J. P. ABBOTT.

[Enclosure.]

In the Supreme Court of New South Wales—In Equity.

Between Matthew Smith Hall and William Henry Mackenzie, the elder, plaintiffs; and Matthew Henry Hall and others, defendants.

PARTICULARS and conditions of sale of 931 acres of land, situate at and near Muswellbrook, in the Colony of New South Wales. To be sold in one lot by Richardson & Wrench, at the rooms, Pitt-street, Sydney. Private contract, 1st April, 1885. Pursuant to a decree of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, in its Equitable Jurisdiction, made on the 22nd day of August, 1879, in the above cause.

CONDITIONS.

1. The purchaser is at the time of sale to subscribe his name and address to his bidding in the sale-book of the auctioneers; and the abstract of title, and all written notices and communications, and summonses, are to be deemed duly delivered to and served upon the purchaser by being left for him with the auctioneers, unless or until he is represented by a solicitor in Sydney.

2. Upon signing this contract the purchaser shall pay down to the auctioneers a cash deposit of £25 per centum on his purchase money, and the residue of the purchase money as in the terms hereinafter mentioned.

3. The plaintiffs' solicitors shall within fourteen days after the sale prepare and deliver to the purchaser or his solicitor an abstract of the title to the property purchased, and they shall not be called upon to abstract or make copies of or produce or procure a covenant to produce any deeds or evidences of title whatsoever in support of the title to the property purchased other than what are now in possession of the parties to the suit or their solicitors, and no objection shall be made to any deed or deeds (if any) which shall appear to have been executed under power of attorney. The properties are sold subject to the existing tenancies or occupancies, and to the reservations in the original grants.

4. All attested and other copies and evidences of title which the purchaser shall require, and which the plaintiffs' solicitors shall be able to obtain, shall be procured at the purchaser's expense.

5. A statement in writing of all objections and requisitions to or on the title shall be delivered to the plaintiffs' solicitors within ten days from the delivery of the abstract, and all objections and requisitions not so taken and made shall be deemed to be waived, and in this respect time shall be deemed the essence of the contract.

6. No error or misdescription of the property sold shall annul the sale, but a compensation shall be made to or by the purchaser as the case may require, and the amount of such compensation shall be determined by the Master in Equity.

7. No purchaser shall require the vendors to assist in making or repairing dividing fences.

8. If the plaintiffs' solicitors shall be unable or unwilling to remove any objections or requisitions which the purchaser shall be entitled to make under these conditions, the Master in Equity shall be at liberty to rescind the contract, notwithstanding the plaintiffs' solicitors may have replied to any objections or requisitions made by any purchaser, and upon the Master so rescinding any contract, the purchaser shall receive back his deposit, but shall not be entitled to claim any damages, costs, charges, or expenses whatsoever, incurred by him in and about the contract or investigation of title or otherwise.

9. The purchaser shall bear his own expenses of a conveyance.

10. Each purchaser shall, within fourteen days after the plaintiffs' solicitors shall have answered the objections and requisitions (if any) to the title, or if no such objection or requisition be taken or made then within twenty-eight days after the day of sale, tender to the plaintiffs' solicitors a conveyance for execution.

11. If the purchaser shall fail to comply with these conditions, or any of them, all moneys which he shall have paid on account of his purchase shall be absolutely forfeited to the vendors, and the property purchased by such purchaser may be resold, and the purchaser shall be held responsible for the deficiency, if any, in the price, which may be obtained upon such resale, and for all costs and expenses occasioned by such default.

Terms of sale.—That upon signing this contract the purchaser shall pay into the hands of the auctioneers a cash deposit equal to one-fourth of the purchase money, and shall pay the balance thereof into Court to the credit of this cause upon the execution of the conveyance.

Subject to the preceding conditions and terms of sale, I hereby agree to and do purchase the block of land, containing 931 acres, situated at or near Muswellbrook, described as lot 3, at an attempted sale by auction at Muswellbrook, by order of the Master in Equity for the sum of £3 12s. per acre.

No. 15.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Messrs. Richardson & Wrench.

Gentlemen,

Department of Mines, 2 April, 1885.

With reference to your letter of yesterday's date, respecting the purchase of land at Muswellbrook, I am directed by the Minister for Mines to inform you that he is quite willing to abide by the offer of Mr. Waller, but that he will sign no contract based on the conditions.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 16.

No. 16.

Messrs. Richardson & Wrench to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

98, Pitt-street, Sydney, 8 April, 1885.

Referring to your letter of 2nd instant, respecting the purchase of land at Muswellbrook, in which you state the Honorable the Minister for Mines could not sign the conditions of sale tendered, we have the honor to advise that the Master in Equity directs that we respectfully inform the Under Secretary for Mines that, inasmuch as all the properties realised in this suit have been sold under the same conditions as handed to you, it is required that the contract be signed and delivered to us by 11 o'clock on Saturday, 11th instant, failing which delivery to us, Mr. Cook, who is willing to sign them, and the sale to him will be confirmed, and therefore the land will be lost to the Government.

We have, &c.,

RICHARDSON & WRENCH.

No. 17.

Telegram from Mr. W. Clendining to The Secretary for Mines.

Muswellbrook, 9 April, 1885.

KINDLY let me know if purchase of Common is completed. We are very anxious. Have been expecting letter.

W. CLENDINING.

No. 18.

Messrs. Richardson & Wrench to The Secretary for Mines.

Muswellbrook Land.

Sir,

98, Pitt-street, Sydney, 13 April, 1885.

When I saw you on Friday last I understood you to say that as you had till 10 o'clock the following morning to sign contract I might expect to hear from you in the matter by that time. Saturday went by and to-day's business time is nearly up, and as yet we have not heard from you in this vexed question. What do you intend to do? Our position is not an agreeable one, as in equity proceedings we are bound to carry out instructions to the letter, and we are now directed to advise the Master in Equity that the matter remains as last reported. Our letter would not reach his office in time to-day; we therefore wait, hoping to get a reply from you by 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Yours, &c.,

RICHARDSON & WRENCH.

Ask the Minister by telegram whether it is his wish that the Crown Solicitor should sign the contract *re* purchase of land at Muswellbrook. Mr. Wrench wants to send report to the Master in Equity.—H.W., 14/4/85.

No. 19.

Telegram to The Secretary for Mines.

14 April, 1885.

MR. WRENCH wants to send report to Master in Equity *re* purchase land at Muswellbrook. Is it your wish that the Crown Solicitor sign the contract?

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 20.

Telegram from The Secretary for Mines.

Gunnedah, 15 April, 1885.

I THINK the Crown Solicitor may, if he likes, sign the contract, but I do not care whether it is signed or not. Send all my letters to Wingen, and let me know about contract.

J. P. ABBOTT.

I have seen the Crown Solicitor and explained this case to him, but he declines to sign the contract.—A.B., 15/4/85. The Under Secretary for Mines. Inform Messrs. Richardson & Wrench and send telegram to the Minister.—H.W., 15/4/85.

No. 21.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Messrs. Richardson & Wrench.

Re purchase of land at Muswellbrook.

Gentlemen,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 15 April, 1885.

In accordance with your suggestion and the sanction of the Honorable the Minister, application was made to the Crown Solicitor to sign the contract, which he declined to do.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

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No. 22.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to The Secretary for Mines.

Sydney, 15 April, 1885.

SAW Crown Solicitor and explained case. He declined to sign contract.

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 23.

Messrs. Richardson & Wrench to The Secretary for Mines.

Re Hall *v.* Hall.

Sir,

98, Pitt-street, Sydney, 17 April, 1885.

We have at this moment received a note from His Honor the Master in Equity, of which the following is a copy, viz. :—

Hall *v.* Hall.

Memorandum for Messrs. Richardson & Wrench.

Supreme Court, 17 April, 1885.

If the Government are unwilling to sign a written contract, as required by the conditions of sale under which the Court is selling, I authorise you to complete a contract with Mr. Cook at his last offer.

J. BARTON,
Master in Equity.

Please inform us of your intentions, in order that we may at once give effect to the Master's instructions, should you still decline to sign the conditions of purchase and sale submitted in our reports of the 1st instant.

We have, &c.,

RICHARDSON & WRENCH.

Inform Messrs. Richardson & Wrench that, inasmuch as the Master in Equity required that the contract should be signed and delivered to them by 11 o'clock on the 11th instant, and that failing such delivery the land would be sold to Mr. Cook, that I regarded the non-delivery of that contract as an end of the negotiations for the purchase of the land, and that the contract was terminated by the Master in Equity.—J. P. ABBOTT, 21/4/85.

No. 24.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Messrs. Richardson & Wrench.

Gentlemen,

Department of Mines, 21 April, 1885.

Referring to your letter of the 17th instant, *re* purchase of land at Muswellbrook, I have the honor, by direction of the Secretary for Mines, to inform you that inasmuch as the Master in Equity required that the contract should be signed and delivered to you by 11 o'clock on the 11th instant, and that failing such delivery the land would be sold to Mr. Cook, he regards the non-delivery of that contract as an end to the negotiations for the purchase of the land, and that the contract was terminated by the Master in Equity.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 25.

J. McElhone, Esq., M.P., to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Sydney, 25 April, 1885.

Enclosed I send you telegram from S. J. Dowell, Mayor of Muswellbrook, and will feel obliged if you will cause him to be advised as to the purchase of Hall's land for a Common.

Yours, &c.,

J. McELHONE.

Inform Mr. McElhone that the purchase of the land at Muswellbrook has fallen through, because the Government would not sign the terms and conditions of sale proposed by the Master in Equity.—J. P. ABBOTT, 27/4/85.

[Enclosure.]

Telegram.

KINDLY inquire if land for Common is settled; no word from Mr. Abbott yet.

S. J. DOWELL.

No. 26.

The Under Secretary for Mines to John McElhone, Esq., M.P.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 27 April, 1885.

With reference to your letter of the 25th instant respecting the purchase of Hall's land for a Common, I am directed by the Secretary for Mines to inform you that the purchase of the land at Muswellbrook, to which you refer, has fallen through, as the Government would not sign the terms and conditions of sale proposed by the Master in Equity.

2. Mr. S. J. Dowell has been informed to the same effect.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 27.

No. 27.

Messrs. Richardson & Wrench to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

98, Pitt-street, Sydney, 15 May, 1885.

The Master in Equity having instructed us to sell by public auction the 931 acres of land near Muswellbrook, about which we were in negotiation with your Department a few weeks since, we have now the honor to enclose copy of our advertisement of the sale, which you will notice is fixed for Friday next, the 22nd instant.

Yours, &c.,

RICHARDSON & WRENCH.

Telegram sent to the Secretary for Mines as follows :—" Hall's land, Muswellbrook, advertised for sale, Friday next ; shall Mr. Waller bid, and up to what price ?"

[Enclosure.]

(Copy of advertisement.)

In Equity.

Hall's Estate, known as St. Hellier's, at Muswellbrook.

Lot 3.—931a., granted to H. Dumaresq, adjoining the Great Northern Railway, close to the town of Muswellbrook, will be sold pursuant to a decree of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in its Equitable Jurisdiction, made in the case of Hall and another *versus* Hall and others, with the approval of the Master in Equity, by RICHARDSON & WRENCH, at the Rooms, Pitt-street, Sydney, on Friday, 22nd May, at 11.30 a.m.

Plan on view at the rooms of the auctioneers, Sydney, and at the office of R. G. D. Fitzgerald, Esq., solicitor, Muswellbrook.

Solicitors for Vendors,

LAURENCE & RICH,

35, Castlereagh-street, Sydney.

No. 28.

Memorandum by the Borough Council, Muswellbrook.

WE, the Mayor and Treasurer of the Muswellbrook Council, undertake to refund to the Government out of the Municipal funds, any money paid by the Government for Hall's land in excess of £3 5s. per acre.

S. J. DOWELL, Mayor.

W. CLENDINING, Treasurer.

Mr. Waller may be instructed to bid for the land at the sale to-morrow. The limit to which Mr. Waller would have been authorised to bid on behalf of the Government, but for the undertaking herewith is £3 5s., but in view of this undertaking he may be instructed to bid up to any amount sanctioned by the Mayor and Treasurer of the borough of Muswellbrook. These gentlemen seem to think £3 12s. should be the limit, but they will be present, and if they desire to increase the rate in order to secure the land they will instruct Mr. Waller. Mr. Waller may be authorised to pay any deposit that may be demanded under the conditions of sale.—H.W., 21/5/85. Approved.—J.N., 27/5/85.

No. 29.

The Under Secretary for Mines to T. F. Waller, Esq.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 21 May, 1885.

With reference to your personal inquiry to the sale of Hall's Estate, Muswellbrook, by Messrs. Richardson & Wrench, I have the honor to request that you will attend and bid for same on behalf of the Government up to £3 12s. per acre, and if a deposit is required please give your own cheque.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 30.

T. F. Waller, Esq., to The Secretary for Mines.

Re Hall *v.* Hall.

Sir,

90, Pitt-street, Sydney, 22 May, 1885.

I have the honor to acknowledge yours of the 21st instant, and to inform you that I attended the sale and purchased the property at £3 1s. per acre, and paid the auctioneers a cash deposit of £709 17s. 9d. for which I shall feel obliged for a cheque.

I instructed the auctioneers to send you the contract of sale for signature.

I have, &c.,

T. F. WALLER.

Ask the Colonial Treasurer to make an advance from his advance vote of the sum of £709 17s. 9d. to pay deposit on the land purchased by Mr. Waller as agent for the Government. It is intended that the land so purchased shall be exchanged for other land which is to be sold to recoup the outlay.—H.W., 23/5/85.

Submitted for approval, and that the Crown Solicitor may be asked to prepare conveyance, &c.—H.W., 27/5/85. Submitted. Approved.—J.N., 27/5/85.

No. 31.

The Under Secretary for Mines to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Sir, Department of Mines, Sydney, 23 May, 1885.
Mr. T. F. Waller, of 90, Pitt-street, having purchased at auction yesterday from Messrs. Richardson & Wrench, on behalf of the Government, 931 acres of land known as Hall's Estate, at Muswellbrook, at £3 1s. per acre, and paid the auctioneers a cash deposit of £709 17s. 9d., I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to move the Colonial Treasurer to advance this sum to me from his Advance Vote for payment to Mr. Waller.

It is intended that the land purchased shall be exchanged for other land, which is to be sold to recoup the outlay.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 32.

The Chief Inspector of Stock to T. F. Waller, Esq.

Sir, Department of Mines, Stock Branch, Sydney, 23 May, 1885.
I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, reporting purchase of Hall's Estate at £3 1s. per acre, and that you had paid deposit of £709 17s. 9d.

The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade has been asked to advance that sum for payment to you.

I have, &c.,
ALEX. BRUCE,
Chief Inspector of Stock.

No. 33.

The Under Secretary for Mines to The Crown Solicitor.

Sir, Sydney, 27 May, 1885.
Mr. T. F. Waller, of 90, Pitt-street, having purchased from Messrs. Richardson & Wrench, at auction, on Friday last, on behalf of the Government, Hall's Estate, known as St. Hellier's, at Muswellbrook, being lot No. 3, containing 931 acres, at £3 1s. per acre, I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to prepare the necessary conveyance, &c.

The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade has been asked to pay to Mr. Waller the sum of £709 17s. 9d., being amount of deposit paid to the auctioneers by Mr. Waller at the sale.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 34.

T. F. Waller, Esq., to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Re Hall's Estate.

Sir, 90, Pitt-street, Sydney, 2 June, 1885.
I have the honor to request that you will let me have a cheque for £709 17s. 9d., deposit money paid by me on the 22nd ultimo, for land at Muswellbrook purchased by the Government.

I have, &c.,
T. F. WALLER.

£709 17s. 9d. paid to Mr. Waller to day, 4/6/85. Receipt to Accountant.—E.W., 5/6/85.

No. 35.

The Chief Inspector of Stock to T. F. Waller, Esq.

Sir, Department of Mines, Stock Branch, Sydney, 2 June, 1885.
Referring to your letter of this date, requesting cheque for £709 17s. 9d., being the amount of deposit money paid by you in connection with the purchase of Hall's Estate, I have the honor to inform you that in all probability the amount will be payable to-morrow.

I have, &c.,
ALEX. BRUCE,
Chief Inspector of Stock.

No. 36.

The Council Clerk, Muswellbrook, to J. McElhone, Esq., M.P.

Sir, Muswellbrook, 17 June, 1885.
I am directed by the Mayor respectfully to ask you to go to the Stock Branch of the Mines Department, and see if you can get the Municipal Council appointed caretakers of the 931 acres of land lately purchased by the Government for a Common for the people of Muswellbrook.

The reason why this application is made is that at present the Municipal Council has no control over the said land, and it is now overstocked with every person's horses and cattle, which is a great injustice to the ratepayers.

Trusting you will use your influence in the above matter on their behalf,—

I have, &c.,
J. STAFFORD,
Council Clerk.

No. 37.

J. McElhone, Esq., M.P., to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Sydney, 18 June, 1885.
I have the honor to forward you a letter from the Council Clerk, Muswellbrook, in reference to appointing the Council caretakers of Hall's land, lately bought for a Common for Muswellbrook, and will feel obliged if you will send the necessary authority to Mr. Stafford.

Yours, &c.,
J. McELHONE.

Inform the writer that until there is a conveyance of the land to the Crown I can in no way interfere.—J. P. ABBOTT, 20/6/85.

No. 38.

The Crown Solicitor to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Hall's Estate.—Sale to the Queen.

Sir,

Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 20 June, 1885.

With reference to the purchase by your Department of 931 acres of land at Muswellbrook as a Common, I have the honor to inform you that the solicitors for the vendors have furnished me with a description, prepared by Mr. Licensed-Surveyor Binstead, of the land purchased, which I forward herewith, and request that you will inform if the land so described is identical with that intended to be purchased, and also whether it is within the 954 acres originally granted to Dumaresq.

See Enclosure A.

It would appear, from the plan of subdivision in the possession of the vendors' solicitors, Messrs. Laurence & Rich, that there is a surplus of about 20 acres over and above the original area of the grant, and it should be stated whether the description sent herewith embraces any part, and if so, how much, of that surplus.

Under the terms of the contract, a conveyance should be tendered to the vendors for execution by the 23rd instant; and I would therefore ask that the matter may receive your earliest attention, and that the desired information may be furnished to me not later than the date mentioned.

I have, &c.,
JOHN WILLIAMS,
Crown Solicitor.

No. 39.

The Chief Inspector of Stock to J. McElhone, Esq., M.P.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Stock Branch, Sydney, 22 June, 1885.

I have the honor, by direction of the Minister for Mines, to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 20th instant requesting that the Municipal Council of Muswellbrook may be appointed caretakers of the land purchased for a Common, and to inform you that until there is a conveyance to the Crown he can in no way interfere.

I have, &c.,
ALEX. BRUCE,
Chief Inspector of Stock.

No. 40.

The Crown Solicitor to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Land at Muswellbrook purchased for a Common.

Sir,

Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 25 June, 1885.

I have the honor to inform you that it is proposed to settle this matter on Monday next, the 29th instant.

The order of Court under which the land was sold directs that the purchase money is to be paid into Court.

Would you, therefore, be so good as to have the sum of £2,129 13s. 3d., being the balance of purchase money, available for payment on the day mentioned, by causing the same to be placed to the credit of my public account.

I have, &c.,
JOHN WILLIAMS,
Crown Solicitor.

It is recommended that the Treasury be asked to pay this sum to the credit of the Crown Solicitor's Public Account.—A.B., 26/6/85. Submitted for approval.—H.W., 26/6/85. Approved. The Treasury may be informed the purchase was made with the approval of the Cabinet.—J. P. ABBOTT, 26/6/85.

No. 41.

The Under Secretary for Mines to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Sir,

Department of Mines, 26 June, 1885.

The Crown Solicitor having reported that the balance of the purchase money for the land at Muswellbrook, known as Hall's Estate, must be paid by Monday, 29th instant, I am directed by the Secretary for Mines to request that you will be good enough to move the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer to cause the sum of £2,129 13s. 3d. to be placed to the credit of the Crown Solicitor's Public Account, so that it may be available on the day named.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 42.

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No. 42.

The Crown Solicitor to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Hall to The Queen.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that this matter has been completed, and to return herewith the papers herein.

Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 9 July, 1885.

I have, &c.,

JOHN WILLIAMS,

Crown Solicitor.

No. 43.

Minute of the Secretary for Mines.

Muswellbrook Common.

27 July, 1885.

A PERMANENT Common was dedicated for the town of Muswellbrook, on the 25th August, 1865, containing 1,187 acres, and a temporary Common was gazetted on the 15th November, 1867, containing 1,321 acres; or in all 2,508 acres, which if sold, it is thought, would realise 30s. per acre, or a total of £3,762.

The Common was not conveniently situated for the use of the townspeople, and upon the representation of the Borough Council that these lands could be sold, and that they would probably realise the price stated, the Government purchased 954 acres of land adjoining the town for the sum of £2,839 11s., but before doing so I obtained the consent of the Council, who were the trustees, to relinquish all claim to the lands firstly mentioned. I would therefore suggest—(1) That the temporary Common should be subdivided for sale and then cancelled, and with the Common sold as hereinafter mentioned. (2) That as the trusts of the Common cannot reasonably be carried out, by reason of the distance of the Common from the town, that such land shall be exchanged for the 954 acres purchased by the Government, and that then the Common shall be subdivided and sold at auction. The upset price of the land, both permanent and temporary Common, should be at least 30s. an acre. The course proposed can be adopted under the 105th section of 48 Vic. No. 18. The Crown Solicitor may be asked to furnish a description from the conveyance, which put with the papers and send all to the Lands Department for action, which is urgent in view of the meeting of Parliament.

J. P. ABBOTT.

The Crown Solicitor.—H.W., B.C., 28/7/85. Description herewith.—J. WILLIAMS, Crown See Enclosure A. Solicitor. The Under Secretary for Mines, B.C., 29/7/85. The Under Secretary for Lands.—H.W., B.C., 30/7/85. The Common, both permanent and temporary, may be dealt with under section 105 of Crown Lands Act of 1884.—C.O., 14/8/85. Approved.—J.S.F., 18/8/85.

No. 44.

Executive Council Minute.

Subject:—Proposed revocation of dedication and reservation.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 16 September, 1885.

It is recommended to His Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council, that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, a notice be published in the *Government Gazette* proposing to revoke the dedication and reservation of the permanent and temporary Common at Muswellbrook, containing 1,187 acres, and 1,321 acres respectively, with a view to the alienation of the areas mentioned, a Common in lieu thereof having been purchased by the Crown.

JAMES S. FARNELL.

The Executive Council advise that the dedication and reservation of the land referred to, to the purpose specified, be revoked in terms of the Act referred to.—ALEXANDER C. BUDGE, Clerk of the Council. Approved.—G.L., 22/9/85.

No. 45.

Gazette Notice.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF THE PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY COMMONS AT MUSWELLBROOK.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 6 October, 1885.

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication and reservation of the permanent and temporary Commons at Muswellbrook, hereunder described, with a view to the alienation of the land, a Common in lieu thereof having been purchased by the Crown.

[Ms. 85-19,259]

JAMES S. FARNELL.

Descriptions:

Permanent Common, Muswellbrook, dedicated 25th August, 1865.

County of Durham, parish of Rowan, area 1,187 acres: Commencing on the south boundary of portion No. 19, parish of Russell, at a point bearing westerly and distant 6 chains 60 links from its south-east corner; bounded thence on the north by a line partly part of the south boundary of that portion and the south boundaries of portions Nos. 21 and 17, same parish, bearing south 89 degrees 27 minutes west 73 chains 40 links; thence on the west by the east boundary of H. Dumaresq's portion of 680 acres, parish of Rowan, bearing south 50 minutes east 162 chains 55 links to the north boundary of Muswellbrook temporary Common, notified 15th November, 1867; thence on the south by part of that north boundary east to the north-east corner of the Common; thence on the east by a line partly forming the west boundary of portion No. 13 bearing north 1 degree west, to the point of commencement—shown on plan catalogued D. 147-1,557, Surveyor-General's Office.

Temporary

Temporary Common, Muswellbrook, notified 15th November, 1867.

County of Durham, parish of Rowan, area 1,321 acres, near Muswellbrook: Commencing on the western boundary of E. Sparke's 2,000 acres, at the north-eastern corner of G. Bowman's 603 acres; and bounded thence on the south by a line partly forming the northern boundaries of that land and G. Bowman's 614 acres bearing west 1 degree 3 minutes north 159 chains 80 links; on the west by a line bearing north 39 degrees east 1 chain 63 links to the south-eastern corner of E. S. Dumaresq's 837 acres, and by the eastern boundary of that land bearing north 15 minutes east 80 chains 52 links; on the north by part of the southern boundary of H. Dumaresq's 2,180 acres and the southern boundary of H. Dumaresq's 680 acres, bearing east 45 minutes north 84 chains 58 links to the south-eastern corner of the last-mentioned land; and thence by a line bearing east to its intersection with the northerly prolongation of the western boundary of E. Sparke's 2,000 acres aforesaid; and on the east by that prolongation and part of that boundary, being in all a line bearing south 1 degree east, to the point of commencement.

No. 46.

The Council Clerk, Muswellbrook, to T. Hungerford, Esq., M.P.

Sir,

Council Chambers, Muswellbrook, 23 November, 1885.

I have the honor, by direction of the Municipal Council, respectfully to request you will, in conjunction with R. G. D. Fitzgerald, Esq., M.P., wait upon the Minister for Mines, and urge upon him the necessity of completing the purchase and dedication of the land lately bought by the Government for the use of a Town Common for the people of Muswellbrook.

The reason why this matter should receive immediate attention is that the land is overstocked, and unused for the purpose intended, there being no one in charge of same.

Trusting you will kindly attend to the above.

I have, &c.,

J. STAFFORD,

Council Clerk.

The Chief Inspector of Stock,—How does this stand?—H.W., 26/11/85. The papers in this case were forwarded to the Lands Department on the 30th July last, with a view to the necessary steps being taken for the sale of portion of the temporary Common.—A.B., 28/11/85.

The Under Secretary for Mines,—Will the Under Secretary for Lands favour me with the papers *re* the purchase of the within mentioned land.—H.W., B.C., 12/12/85. Papers herewith, as requested.—R.H.D. (*for* U. S. Lands), B.C., 14 Dec., 1885.

NOTE.—The Executive minute of 16 September last, does not dedicate the land purchased for a Common. It may, perhaps, be open to question whether there is power to dedicate land that has been purchased by the Crown, but it is thought the late Minister intended that such land should, if possible, be dedicated.—H.W., 14/12/85.

The original commonage having been cancelled, will the Under Secretary for Lands be good enough to cause the necessary steps to notify the new Common to be taken as early as possible. See note.—H.W., B.C., 14 December, 1885.

Perhaps it would be well to seek the advice of the Crown Law Officers as to whether lands purchased by the Crown are Crown Lands within the meaning of section 4 of the Crown Lands Act. It has hitherto been held that they are not.—C.O., 19/7/86.

I think this land after purchase by the Crown vests in Her Majesty; and may be treated as Crown Lands, and may therefore be dedicated as a Common.—H.C., 19/7/86.

Submitted that the resumption of the permanent and temporary Common at Muswellbrook be now carried out under the 105 section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, the necessary preliminary action prescribed by that section having been taken.—C.O., 24/7/86. Approved.—H.C., 26/7/86.

No. 47.

The Chief Inspector of Stock to T. Hungerford, Esq., M.P.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 14 December, 1885.

With reference to the letter presented by you from Mr. Joseph Stafford, Council Clerk, Muswellbrook, urging the necessity for completing the purchase and dedicating the land recently purchased for commonage at Muswellbrook, I have the honor to inform you that the necessary steps are being taken by the Lands Department for the notification of the land as a Common. A notice appeared in the *Government Gazette* of the 9th October last, respecting the revocation of the dedication and reservation of the permanent and temporary Commons at Muswellbrook.

The Lands Department has been asked to expedite the action as much as possible

I have, &c.,

ALEX. BRUCE,

Chief Inspector of Stock.

No. 48.

Executive Council Minute.

Resumption under the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 31 July, 1886.

It is recommended to His Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council that the dedication and reservation of the permanent and temporary Commons at Muswellbrook, containing 1,187 acres and 1,321 acres respectively, and herein described, be now revoked, under the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, as proposed in the *Government Gazette* of the 6th October, 1885, the necessary preliminary action prescribed by that section having been taken.

HENRY COPELAND.

The Executive Council approve of the recommendation herein set forth, and advise that the necessary notices be issued.—A. C. BUDGE, Clerk of the Council. Approved.—CARRINGTON, 3/8/86.

No. 49.

No. 49.

Proclamation, dated 1st September, 1886.

New South Wales, } Proclamation by His Excellency The Right Honorable CHARLES ROBERT, BARON
to wit. } CARRINGTON, a Member of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight
(L.S.) } Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George,
CARRINGTON, } Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of New South Wales and its
Governor. } Dependencies.

WHEREAS under the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, power is given for the revocation of any dedication or reservation, wholly or in part: Now, therefore, I, CHARLES ROBERT, BARON CARRINGTON, Governor of the Colony of New South Wales aforesaid, with the advice of the Executive Council, declare that all preliminary action in connection with the proposed resumption of the permanent and temporary Commons at Muswellbrook, area 1,187 acres and 1,321 acres respectively, hereunder described, has been taken, and hereby proclaim that the lands in question are resumed.

[Ms. 86-14,907]

Given under my Hand and Seal, at Government House, Sydney, this first day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, and in the fiftieth year of Her Majesty's Reign.

By His Excellency's Command,

HENRY COPELAND.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

Descriptions:

Permanent Common, Muswellbrook, dedicated 25th August, 1865.

County of Durham, parish of Rowan, area 1,187 acres: Commencing on the south boundary of portion 19, parish of Russell, at a point bearing westerly and distant 6 chains 60 links from its south-east corner; bounded thence on the north by a line partly part of the south boundary of that portion and the south boundaries of portions 21 and 17, same parish, bearing south 89 degrees 27 minutes west 73 chains 40 links; thence on the west by the east boundary of H. Dumaresq's portion of 680 acres, parish of Rowan, bearing south 50 minutes east 162 chains 55 links to the north boundary of Muswellbrook temporary Common, notified 15th November, 1867; thence on the south by part of that north boundary east to the north-east corner of the Common; thence on the east by a line partly forming the west boundary of portion 13, bearing north 1 degree west, to the point of commencement,—shown on plan catalogued D. 147-1,557, Surveyor-General's Office.

Temporary Common, Muswellbrook, notified 15th November, 1867.

County of Durham, parish of Rowan, area 1,321 acres, near Muswellbrook: Commencing on the western boundary of E. Sparke's 2,000 acres, at the north-eastern corner of G. Bowman's 603 acres; and bounded thence on the south by a line partly forming the northern boundaries of that land and G. Bowman's 614 acres, bearing west 1 degree 3 minutes north 159 chains 80 links; on the west by a line bearing north 39 degrees east 1 chain 63 links to the south-eastern corner of E. S. Dumaresq's 837 acres, and by the eastern boundary of that land bearing north 15 minutes east 80 chains 52 links; on the north by part of the southern boundary of H. Dumaresq's 2,180 acres and the southern boundary of H. Dumaresq's 680 acres, bearing east 45 minutes north 84 chains 58 links to the south-eastern corner of the last-mentioned land; and thence by a line bearing east to its intersection with the northerly prolongation of the western boundary of E. Sparke's 2,000 acres aforesaid; and on the east by that prolongation and part of that boundary, being in all a line bearing south 1 degree east, to the point of commencement.

No. 50.

The Council Clerk, Muswellbrook, to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Municipal Council Chambers, Muswellbrook, 8 February, 1887.

Would you kindly inform me at your earliest convenience if Hall's land, on the east boundary of this municipality, purchased by the Government, has been dedicated as a Common for Muswellbrook, if so, please say date.

Yours, &c.,

J. STAFFORD,
Council Clerk.

This might be referred to the Department of Lands to obtain the information asked for.—A.B., 11/2/87. The Under Secretary for Mines. Approved.—H.W., 12/2/87. The Under Secretary for Lands.—H.W., B.C., 12/2/87.

No. 51.

The Council Clerk, Muswellbrook, to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir, Municipal Council Chambers, Muswellbrook, 30 March, 1887.

In September last the Municipal Council was gazetted trustees for land purchased by the Government as a Common for Muswellbrook, would you kindly inform me if the said land has been dedicated as a Common and gazetted, if so, please say date.

I have, &c.,

J. STAFFORD,
Council Clerk.

The District Surveyor at Maitland for description for dedication.—R.H.D. (for U.S. Lands), B.C., 26 April, 1887. Mr. Surveyor Tritton. For survey of the land, connection to be made with corner of the portion or portions of which it may form part. Urgent.—J. W. ALWORTH, D.S. Surveyed, and plan transmitted with my letter of 13 June, 1887.—J. L. TRITTON, Surveyor.

No. 52.

The Council Clerk, Muswellbrook, to R. G. D. Fitzgerald, Esq., M.P.

Sir,

Council Chambers, Muswellbrook, 9 May, 1887.

I have the honor, by direction of the Mayor, respectfully to request you to inquire at the Lands Department if the land (Hall's) purchased as a Common for Muswellbrook, has been dedicated for that purpose, if so, on what date.

On the 8th February I wrote to the Mines Department, asking the same question; on the 12th received reply, referred to Lands Department for information.

Not receiving any further communication, on the 30th March I wrote to Lands Department on the matter, but up to present time have received no reply.

I have, &c.,
J. STAFFORD,
Council Clerk.

The papers are under reference to the District Surveyor for a description of the land to be dedicated, and his attention will be drawn to the matter.—C.O., 12/5/87. Inform, 12/5/87.

No. 53.

Report of Mr. Surveyor J. L. Tritton.

Sir,

Muswellbrook, 13 June, 1887.

I have the honor to transmit herewith a plan of one portion of land, containing 924 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres (now 906 acres), in the parish of Rowan, county of Durham, surveyed, in accordance with your instructions, for the purpose of being dedicated as a permanent Common for the town of Muswellbrook.

The land embraces all that portion of Dumaresq's 954 acres north of the Great Northern Railway. I found one or two of the old marks on the northern, a few on the western, and a great number on the eastern boundaries of the grant. The north-west, the north-east, and south-east corners have been located as near as possible in their original positions.

Connections have been made to the cemetery, sale-yards, &c., within the town area, and to my recent survey of the old Commons—in fact the same azimuth was used.

The area is rather less than was supposed, being only 923 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres. The variation of survey was determined and found to be 9° 15' 5".

Instead of numbering the block, I have marked the corners common, as I thought that course to be the most expedient.

I have, &c.,
JAMES L. TRITTON,
Surveyor.

The necessary survey having been effected, a description for the dedication of the site for a permanent Common is enclosed. The survey excludes from the land resumed an area of 17 acres 2 roods 30 perches, measured as a site for a rifle range. It is recommended that the dedication of the permanent Common and rifle range be made concurrent.—J. W. ALLWORTH, District Surveyor, 24 October, 1887.

The Under Secretary for Lands submitted as to whether the rifle range should be dedicated, or merely reserved from sale, and placed under the temporary control of the military authorities. I beg to suggest that in such cases—*i.e.*, country towns—such lands should not be dedicated. In many cases the military spirit is of a changing transitory, if not indeed ephemeral, character.—R.H.D., 8/11/87.

Reserve.—T.G., 5/12/87.

No. 54.

Mr. W. Davison to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Muswellbrook, 26 May, 1888.

As Mayor of the town, I wish to call your attention to the gross injustice that you, as Minister for Lands, are allowing to take place in this district. It is in reference to the Common lands that have been surveyed in six 40-acre blocks, and the remainder reserved as a timber reserve. Now, if you persist in carrying this out, it will be a great evil, and the consequence will be that Mr. Campbell will purchase the six blocks, and have over 2,000 acres free, while there are several people in this district searching for a selection, and cannot find any ground to select. Now, as representative of the voice of the people of this town, and a ratepayer of the Colony, I would suggest the following for your earnest consideration, and show us people that you are trying to legislate for the good of the country:—First, that a portion of the land should be leased in 200-acre blocks, and that no person should be allowed to lease more than two blocks, and that no employé should be allowed to lease any of the land, and the remainder should be thrown open to selection in 80-acre blocks. By so doing you will be doing your duty to the country at large and conferring a great favour to the people of this district.

Yours, &c.,
W. DAVISON.

No. 55.

Mr. W. Davison to J. McElhone, Esq., M.P.

Sir,

Muswellbrook, 26 May, 1888.

You being the senior Member for the Upper Hunter, I take the liberty of writing to you to bring under your notice a gross injustice which is about to take place in our district. The old Common that has been resumed from the people of Muswellbrook is surveyed in six 40-acre blocks, and it has been reported to me that the balance is to be reserved as a timber reserve. Now the evil of this is that Mr. Campbell will purchase the six blocks, and will have the use of over 2,000 acres of land that should be leased in four small blocks. The opinion of the people is that it is not required as a timber reserve, as all the best timber is cut, and that it should be thrown open for selection in 100-acre blocks, or leased
in

in 200-acre blocks, and that no person should be allowed to lease more than two blocks. There is no land near the town open for selection, and we are hemmed in on all sides by that class of people called squatters. Now in the interest of the people of this district and the Colony at large, I beg of you to use your influence with the Minister for Lands to have some alteration made that will suit the people. By doing so you will be conferring a boon to the district.

Yours, &c.,
WILLIAM DAVISON.

No. 56.

J. McElhone, Esq., M.P., to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Sydney, 2 June, 1888.

Enclosed I send you a letter from Mr. W. Davison, of Muswellbrook, suggesting that the Common at Muswellbrook, about to be sold by auction, should be thrown open for selection or leased in small blocks, in view of the fact that the town is hemmed in by large estates, and there is no land near the town available for selection.

Yours, &c.,
J. McELHONE.

Let me have report at once as to what is proposed to be done in regard to subdivision and sale of this Common.—T.G., 7 June, 1888.

[*Enclosure A to Nos. 38 and 43.*]

DESCRIPTION from Indenture of Conveyance, dated 6th July, 1885, from Matthew Smith Hall to Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria. Registered 16th July, 1885, No. 765, Book 314.

COMMON AT MUSWELLBROOK.

ALL that piece or parcel of land, containing by admeasurement 931 acres or thereabouts, situated in the parish of Rowan, county of Durham, and Colony of New South Wales, being lot 3 of the Hall Estate, St. Hellier's, as per plan exhibited at sale of March, 1885, and forming part of 954 acres originally granted to H. Dumaresq: Commencing at the intersection of the eastern boundary of the town of Muswellbrook Reserve with the north-eastern side of the Great Northern Railway Reserve; and bounded thence on the west by the town of Muswellbrook Reserve, bearing northerly 81 chains 28 links, to the north-east corner of said town of Muswellbrook Reserve; thence again on the west by a line dividing it from 954 acres originally granted to H. Dumaresq, bearing northerly 40 chains 9 links; thence on the north by the northern boundary of aforesaid 954 acres granted to H. Dumaresq, bearing easterly 80 chains 37 links; thence on the east by a line dividing it from F. Forbes' grant, bearing southerly 120 chains 38 links to Muswellbrook or creek; thence on the south-west, south, and south-east by the right bank of Muswellbrook or creek, bearing north-westerly, westerly, and south-westerly downwards to its intersection with the north-western side of the Great Northern Railway Reserve; and thence on the south-east and south-west by the northern side of said Great Northern Railway Reserve, bearing south-westerly and north-westerly to the point of commencement.

[Plan.]

[1s. 3d.]

ENCLOSURE B TO N^o 15.

PLAN OF 1 PORTION
County of Durham, Parish of Rowan,
LAND DISTRICT OF MUSCLEBROOK, LAND BOARD DIST. OF MAITLAND.
Proposed to be dedicated as a Permanent Common for the Town of Musclebrook.

E.S. Dumaresq
837 ac

Revised Gaz. 7th Sep '86
Temporary Common
Titled 15th Nov 1867.
80722

XII
Thomas S. Hall

X
George Bowman
614 ac ex rd

now Thomas Cook
633 ac

Henry Dumaresq

now
Thomas Cook
754 ac

Francis Forbes

now
A and E Bowman

1024 ac

Spire at St. Albans Church

TOWN OF
MUSCLEBROOK

Suburban Area

Town Area

from Musclebrook

Sale Yard

PT. MUSCLEBROOK AREA

Suburban Area

Town Area

Sale Yard

PT. MUSCLEBROOK AREA

Suburban Area

Town Area

Sale Yard

PT. MUSCLEBROOK AREA

Suburban Area

Town Area

Sale Yard

PT. MUSCLEBROOK AREA

Suburban Area

Town Area

Sale Yard

PT. MUSCLEBROOK AREA

Suburban Area

Town Area

Sale Yard

PT. MUSCLEBROOK AREA

Suburban Area

Town Area

Sale Yard

from Musclebrook

Sale Yard

PT. MUSCLEBROOK AREA

Suburban Area

Town Area

Sale Yard

PT. MUSCLEBROOK AREA

Suburban Area

Town Area

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Sale Yard

PT. MUSCLEBROOK AREA

Suburban Area

Town Area

Sale Yard

PT. MUSCLEBROOK AREA

Suburban Area

Town Area

Sale Yard

(Sig. 89-)

Survey completed 9th June, 1887

Transmitted to the Dis. Sur. with letter of 13th June, 1887. N^o 36

James L. Tritton
Lic^o Sur.

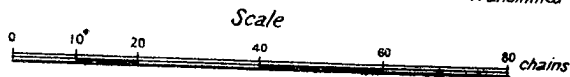


PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHED AT THE GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE,
SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

TEREMIAH RESERVE, COUNTY DENISON.

(PETITION FROM CERTAIN SELECTORS PRAYING THAT RESERVE MAY BE THROWN OPEN FOR SELECTION.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 15 November, 1888.

Memorial to the Honorable the Speaker and Members of Parliament of the Colony of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled.

The Memorial of the undersigned Selectors and intending Selectors and others interested in the progress and settlement of the people on the lands,—

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :—

1. That induced by the advertisement declaring the reserves on the Teremiah Reserve, county Denison, to be open for selection on this, the 1st day of November, A.D. 1888, your Memorialists have come from long distances at great expense and loss of time to select.

2. That your Memorialists learn that the lands were cut up into special area reserves, and a minimum price of from £2 to £4 an acre placed thereon.

3. That such is inimical to and bars *bona fide* settlement, inasmuch as the areas are so small and the price so high as to prevent family selection and settlement of that class—the family selector, farmers, and wine-growers, and small graziers—which it is to the interests of the district and colony should be encouraged rather than otherwise to settle on the lands.

4. That the manner in which the lands have been cut up and the price is most exceptionable, and can only have been done in the interest of the pastoral lessee, who has already secured the greater portion of the run in various ways.

5. That had timely notice been previously given of the intention of Government to so deal with the reserve much unnecessary loss of time and money would have been saved to your Memorialists.

6. That under the surrounding circumstances your Memorialists respectfully pray that your Honorable House will be pleased to cause an inquiry to be made, and call upon the Department to explain, and if possible not to ratify the selections which this day have been made, pending the fullest inquiry; and your Memorialists further respectfully pray that your Honorable House may take such steps as may be deemed best to prevent a recurrence of such administration as herein complained of, as opposed to the best interests of the colony and in the interests of the run lessee only.

And your Memorialists will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 56 signatures.]

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC (LOCAL VETO) BILL.
(PETITION IN FAVOUR OF)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 6 November, 1888.

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

Your Petitioners, in meeting assembled at Balmain, recognising the enormous evils everywhere resulting from the traffic in intoxicating liquors, and the injustice of forcing public-houses upon unwilling communities, humbly pray that your Honorable House will, with as little delay as possible, pass into law the Bill introduced by Mr. Hutchison, M.P., entitled "A Bill to enable Parliamentary electors in their various districts to veto all Liquor Licenses."

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

For and on behalf of the meeting,

FRANK J. SMITH,
Chairman.

Similar Petitions were received :—

On 7th November, from public meeting held in St. Peter's Schoolroom, Forbes-street, Sydney ; 1 signature.

On 8th November, from public meeting held at Parramatta ; 1 signature.

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC (LOCAL VETO) BILL.
(PETITIONS IN FAVOUR OF.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 14 November, 1888.

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

Your Petitioners, in meeting assembled at Granville, recognizing the enormous evils everywhere resulting from the traffic in intoxicating liquors, and the injustice of forcing public-houses upon unwilling communities, humbly pray that your Honorable House will, with as little delay as possible, pass into law the Bill introduced by Mr. Hutchison, M.P., entitled "A Bill to enable Parliamentary electors in their various districts to veto all Liquor Licenses."

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

For and on behalf of the meeting,

JOHN NOBBS,
Chairman.

A similar Petition was received :—

On 15th November, from members of Lifeboat Lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars,
located at George-street North, Sydney; 2 signatures.

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC (LOCAL VETO) BILL.
(PETITION IN FAVOUR OF.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 20 November, 1888.

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

Your Petitioners, in meeting assembled at Ryde, recognising the enormous evils everywhere resulting from the traffic in intoxicating liquors, and the injustice of forcing public-houses upon unwilling communities, humbly pray that your Honorable House will, with as little delay as possible, pass into law the Bill introduced by Mr. Hutchison, M.P., entitled "A Bill to enable Parliamentary electors in their various districts to veto all Liquor licenses."

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

For and on behalf of the meeting,
JAMES ROSS,
Mayor of Ryde, Chairman.

A similar Petition was received:—

On 22nd November, from members of the Ivanhoe Lodge, No. 118, of the Independent Order of Good Templars, located at Coonamble.

[2 signatures.]

f

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC (LOCAL VETO) BILL.

(PETITION IN FAVOUR OF.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 4 December, 1888.

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

Your Petitioners, the members of "Good Intent" Division of the Sons of Temperance, located at Pitt-street, with a total membership of 79, recognizing the enormous evils everywhere resulting from the traffic in intoxicating liquors, and the injustice of forcing public-houses upon unwilling communities, humbly pray that your Honorable House will, with as little delay as possible, pass into law the Bill introduced by Mr. Hutchison, M.P., entitled "A Bill to enable Parliamentary electors in their various districts to veto all Liquor licenses."

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

Signed on behalf of the Lodge.

[2 signatures.]

Similar Petitions were received:—

- 4 December, 1888, from Members of "Florence Nightingale" Division, Daughters of Temperance, located at Temperance Hall, Pitt-street. Two signatures.
- Do from Members of "Star of the South" Division, Daughters of Temperance, located at Temperance Hall, Pitt-street. Two signatures.
- Do from Members of the "We Strive to Save" Lodge 164, located at the Presbyterian School-room, Hay-street, Sydney. Two signatures.
- Do from Meeting assembled at Ashfield. One signature.
- Do from Meeting assembled at Marrickville. One signature.
- Do from Members of the "Multum in Parvo" Lodge, of the Independent Order of Good Templars, located at Hinton. Two signatures.
- Do from Members of the "Pride of the West" Lodge, of the Independent Order of Good Templars located at Bathurst. Two signatures.
- Do from Members, resident supporters, and sympathisers, of the "Light of the Valley" Lodge, of the Independent Order of Good Templars located at Dungowan. Thirty-six signatures.
- Do from Members of "Nil Desperandum" Lodge 483, of the Independent Order of Good Templars, located at Borambil. Two signatures.
- Do from Members of "Oak Leaf" Lodge, of the Independent Order of Good Templars, located at Kiama. Two signatures.
- Do from Members of "Nil Desperandum" Lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars, located at North Willoughby. Two signatures.
- Do from Members of "Hero" Lodge, of the Independent Order of Good Templars, located at Numba. Two signatures.
- Do from Members of "Hope of Mittagong" Lodge, of the Independent Order of Good Templars, located at Mittagong. Two signatures.
- Do from Members of the "Hope of Enfield" Lodge, of the Independent Order of Good Templars, located at Enfield. Two signatures.
- Do from Members of "Hope Ahead" Lodge, of the Independent Order of Good Templars, located at Mudgee. Three signatures.
- Do from Members of "Evening Star" Lodge, of the Independent Order of Good Templars, located at Parading Ground. Two signatures.
- Do from Members of the "Rosebud" Lodge, of the Independent Order of Good Templars, located at Lambton. Eighteen signatures.
- Do from Members of "Pride of Jesmond" Lodge, of the Independent Order of Good Templars, located at Jesmond. Twenty-six signatures.
- Do from Members of St. Paul's, Redfern, Branch of the Church of England Temperance Society. One signature.
- Do from Public Meeting assembled in the Town Hall, Leichhardt. One signature.

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC (LOCAL VETO) BILL.
(PETITION IN FAVOUR OF.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 20 December, 1888.

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

Your Petitioners, the members of the "Excelsior Tent" of the Independent Order of Rechabites, Leichhardt, Sydney, recognizing the enormous evils everywhere resulting in the traffic in intoxicating liquors, and the injustice of forcing public-houses upon unwilling communities, humbly pray that your Honorable House will, with as little delay as possible, pass into law the Bill introduced by Mr. Hutchison, entitled "A Bill to enable Parliamentary Electors, in their various districts, to veto all liquor licenses."

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

[2 signatures on behalf of the members.]

Dated this 29th day of November, 1888.

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

LOCAL OPTION VOTE.
(PETITION FROM WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 8 November, 1888.

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned, members of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and others,—

HUMBLY SHOWETH :—

That your Petitioners are fully impressed with the necessity of altering the present system of taking the local option vote at Municipal Elections.

At present the vote is taken at the same time as that for Aldermen of the Municipality, and in many instances said votes are taken at public-houses which has the effect of causing the local option vote to be overlooked.

Your Petitioners therefore respectfully pray that a separate day be set apart for recording the local option vote, and that the same be taken at the Town Hall, or other voting place, in each Municipality; and your Petitioners would point out that this alteration in the manner of taking the vote will entail no extra expense, the duties being performed by the Municipal Officers and the extra presiding officers, and poll-clerks dispensed with.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

[Here follow 493 signatures.]

1888-9.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

VITAL STATISTICS,

1887.

ANNUAL REPORT

FROM

THE GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN, ON VITAL STATISTICS.

Presented in accordance with Resolutions of both Houses of Parliament.



SYDNEY: CHARLES POTTER, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1889.

1888-9.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

VITAL STATISTICS.

THE GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN TO THE HONORABLE THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

TRANSMITTING ABSTRACTS OF

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS,

FOR THE YEAR 1887.

Sir,

Statistician's Department, Sydney, 27th September, 1888.

I have the honor to submit to you a Report on the Vital Statistics of the Colony, together with detailed Abstracts of Births, Marriages and Deaths, for the year 1887, compiled from Returns received from the Registrar General, being the thirty-second year since the present system of Registration was established early in 1856, under the provisions of the Act of Council 19 Victoria No. 34.

The estimated population of New South Wales on the 31st December, 1887, was 1,042,919 persons Population. giving an increase of 40,953, or 4.09 per cent., on the estimated population of the previous year. Of this increase 23,788 resulted from the excess of births over deaths, and the balance, 17,165, was the number by which the arrivals exceeded the departures. The number of males was reckoned to be 574,012 and of females 468,907, or 55.04 per cent. and 44.96 per cent. respectively of the total. Much the same relative proportion in favour of males has been maintained for many years past.

The following Table shows how the estimate of increase for the twelve months was made up:—

ESTIMATED POPULATION of the Colony of New South Wales for the year 1887.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---|---------|----------|--------|---------|----------|-----------|
| Births during the year 1887 | 18,901 | 18,335 | 37,236 | | | |
| Arrivals by sea | 49,593* | 18,102 | 67,695 | | | |
| Deaths during the same period..... | 7,776 | 5,672 | 13,448 | 68,404 | 36,437 | 104,841 |
| Recorded departures by sea | 32,163† | 11,926 | 44,089 | | | |
| Allowance for unrecorded departures (estimated)... | 5,796 | 555 | 6,351 | | | |
| | | | | 45,735 | 18,153 | 63,888 |
| Increase by excess of Births and Immigration over Deaths and Emigration | | | | 22,669 | 18,284 | 40,953 |
| Estimated population, 31st December, 1886..... | | | | 551,343 | 450,623 | 1,001,966 |
| Estimated Population, 31st December, 1887 | | | | 574,012 | 468,907 | 1,042,919 |

* Including 4,436 Chinese. † Including 2,773 Chinese.

Of the total population, 1,042,919, it is estimated that 350,866 were residing in Sydney and Suburbs, and 692,053 in the Country Districts; from which it would appear that 33.64 per cent., or more than a third of the inhabitants dwell within the metropolitan boundaries. The tendency of population to increase more rapidly in and around the capital city of the Colony than in the country districts, has been very noticeable during the last few years. In 1861 the per centage of the population of the Colony living in the metropolis was 26.70; in 1871, 26.73; in 1881, it had risen to 29.40; and in 1887, it was 33.64, as stated above.

ESTIMATED POPULATION of Sydney, Suburbs, and Country Districts at the end of 1887,

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Sydney | 69,418 | 56,432 | 125,850 |
| Suburbs... .. | 112,444 | 112,572 | 225,016 |
| Country... .. | 392,150 | 299,903 | 692,053 |
| | <u>574,012</u> | <u>468,907</u> | <u>1,042,919</u> |

The

The growth of population year by year in each of these divisions may be traced by comparing the following figures:—

POPULATION at the end of each year—1877 to 1887.

| Year. | Sydney. | Suburbs. | Country. | New South Wales |
|------------|---------|----------|----------|-----------------|
| 1877 | 91,008 | 91,317 | 461,382 | 643,707 |
| 1878 | 94,228 | 98,718 | 478,942 | 671,888 |
| 1879 | 98,824 | 109,448 | 501,187 | 709,459 |
| 1880 | 102,161 | 118,010 | 521,722 | 741,893 |
| 1881 | 106,578 | 128,714 | 543,398 | 778,690 |
| 1882 | 110,112 | 138,119 | 562,602 | 810,833 |
| 1883 | 115,847 | 152,950 | 588,947 | 857,744 |
| 1884 | 121,441 | 167,760 | 614,747 | 903,948 |
| 1885 | 122,910 | 191,635 | 643,369 | 957,914 |
| 1886 | 124,379 | 209,919 | 667,668 | 1,001,966 |
| 1887 | 125,850 | 225,016 | 692,053 | 1,042,919 |

The yearly increase in the number of persons living within the city boundaries appears small compared with the rapid development of the suburbs. This is to be accounted for in a great measure by the fact that as years roll on an increased area of the city becomes devoted to business, especially in Bourke, Brisbane, and Macquarie Wards, and a large number of families are of necessity forced to move out into the suburbs.

The number of marriages celebrated in the Colony during 1887 amounted to 7,590, being 221 less than in the previous year.

There were 37,236 births registered, showing an increase of 952 on the record of 1886.

The number of deaths was 13,448, as against 14,587 during the preceding twelve months, which shows a decrease of 1,139.

Comparison of the records of 1886 and 1887 is afforded by the following tables:—

Marriages,
Births, and
Deaths.

1886. TABLE showing the MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS registered in the Colony of New South Wales during each quarter of the year 1886.

| Quarter ended— | Marriages. | - Births. | | | Deaths. | | |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------|----------|--------|---------|----------|--------|
| | | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| Sydney— | | | | | | | |
| 31 March | 612 | 479 | 474 | 953 | 310 | 262 | 572 |
| 30 June | 580 | 484 | 465 | 949 | 289 | 229 | 518 |
| 30 September | 522 | 534 | 447 | 981 | 321 | 224 | 545 |
| 31 December | 450 | 491 | 460 | 951 | 346 | 243 | 589 |
| Total | 2,164 | 1,988 | 1,846 | 3,834 | 1,266 | 958 | 2,224 |
| Suburbs— | | | | | | | |
| 31 March | 431 | 1,111 | 1,062 | 2,173 | 533 | 470 | 1,003 |
| 30 June | 420 | 1,177 | 1,078 | 2,255 | 576 | 462 | 1,038 |
| 30 September | 412 | 1,295 | 1,205 | 2,500 | 428 | 419 | 847 |
| 31 December | 342 | 1,231 | 1,136 | 2,367 | 623 | 534 | 1,157 |
| Total | 1,605 | 4,814 | 4,481 | 9,295 | 2,160 | 1,885 | 4,045 |
| Country— | | | | | | | |
| 31 March | 1,102 | 2,747 | 2,578 | 5,325 | 1,306 | 837 | 2,143 |
| 30 June | 1,069 | 2,948 | 2,824 | 5,772 | 1,302 | 862 | 2,164 |
| 30 September | 984 | 3,103 | 3,008 | 6,111 | 1,185 | 743 | 1,928 |
| 31 December | 887 | 3,100 | 2,847 | 5,947 | 1,282 | 801 | 2,083 |
| Total | 4,042 | 11,898 | 11,257 | 23,155 | 5,075 | 3,243 | 8,318 |
| New South Wales— | | | | | | | |
| 31 March | 2,145 | 4,337 | 4,114 | 8,451 | 2,149 | 1,569 | 3,718 |
| 30 June | 2,069 | 4,609 | 4,367 | 8,976 | 2,167 | 1,553 | 3,720 |
| 30 September | 1,918 | 4,932 | 4,660 | 9,592 | 1,934 | 1,386 | 3,320 |
| 31 December | 1,679 | 4,822 | 4,443 | 9,265 | 2,251 | 1,578 | 3,829 |
| Total | 7,811 | 18,700 | 17,584 | 36,284 | 8,501 | 6,086 | 14,587 |

TABLE showing the MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS, registered in the Colony of New South Wales 1887. during each quarter of the year 1887.

| Quarter ended— | Marriages. | Births. | | | Deaths. | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| | | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| Sydney— | | | | | | | |
| 31 March | 513 | 468 | 495 | 963 | 300 | 250 | 550 |
| 30 June | 496 | 505 | 478 | 983 | 271 | 208 | 479 |
| 30 September | 457 | 508 | 501 | 1,009 | 238 | 156 | 394 |
| 31 December | 405 | 400 | 422 | 822 | 291 | 228 | 519 |
| Total | 1,931 | 1,881 | 1,896 | 3,777 | 1,100 | 842 | 1,942 |
| Suburbs— | | | | | | | |
| 31 March | 379 | 1,194 | 1,145 | 2,339 | 571 | 478 | 1,049 |
| 30 June | 410 | 1,209 | 1,239 | 2,448 | 464 | 393 | 857 |
| 30 September | 397 | 1,252 | 1,294 | 2,546 | 354 | 293 | 647 |
| 31 December | 396 | 1,165 | 1,145 | 2,310 | 574 | 477 | 1,051 |
| Total | 1,582 | 4,820 | 4,823 | 9,643 | 1,963 | 1,641 | 3,604 |
| Country Districts— | | | | | | | |
| 31 March | 1,058 | 3,003 | 2,770 | 5,773 | 1,469 | 912 | 2,381 |
| 30 June | 1,038 | 2,914 | 2,838 | 5,752 | 1,137 | 889 | 2,026 |
| 30 September | 970 | 3,225 | 3,110 | 6,335 | 1,055 | 709 | 1,764 |
| 31 December | 1,011 | 3,058 | 2,898 | 5,956 | 1,052 | 679 | 1,731 |
| Total | 4,077 | 12,200 | 11,616 | 23,816 | 4,713 | 3,189 | 7,902 |
| New South Wales— | | | | | | | |
| 31 March | 1,950 | 4,665 | 4,410 | 9,075 | 2,340 | 1,640 | 3,980 |
| 30 June | 1,944 | 4,628 | 4,555 | 9,183 | 1,872 | 1,490 | 3,362 |
| 30 September | 1,824 | 4,985 | 4,905 | 9,890 | 1,647 | 1,158 | 2,805 |
| 31 December | 1,872 | 4,623 | 4,465 | 9,088 | 1,917 | 1,384 | 3,301 |
| Total | 7,590 | 18,901 | 18,335 | 37,236 | 7,776 | 5,672 | 13,448 |

MARRIAGES.

The number of marriages celebrated during the year was 7,590, being, as before stated, 221 less than were registered in 1886. The ratio per 1,000 of the estimated mean population is 7.42 which is a decline of .55 on the ratio of the previous year. The average rate for the ten years 1877 to 1886 was 8.20.

Of the marriages in 1887 there were performed,—

| | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|----|---------------|-----------|
| In Sydney | 1,931 | or | 25.44 | per cent. |
| Suburbs | 1,582 | ” | 20.84 | ” |
| Country | 4,077 | ” | 53.72 | ” |
| | <u>7,590</u> | | <u>100.00</u> | |

From which it will be seen that 46.28 per cent., or nearly half, of the marriages in the Colony are solemnized in the Metropolis.

In ratio to population the city of Sydney gives 15.43; the Suburbs 7.27; and the Country 6.00 per 1,000; the averages for the previous decade being 16.62, 7.54, and 6.70 respectively. The foregoing Marriage-rate ratios are of *marriages* to estimated population; the ratios of *persons* married would of course be double in each case.

TABLE showing the number of MARRIAGES registered in the Colony of New South Wales during each Quarter of the years 1878 to 1887.

| | Estimated Population at the middle of the year. | 31 March. | 30 June. | 30 Sept. | 31 Dec. | Total. | Ratio per 1,000 living. | |
|--------------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------|
| Sydney | 1878..... | 92,618 | 358 | 386 | 350 | 324 | 1,418 | 15.31 |
| | 1879..... | 96,526 | 341 | 350 | 342 | 384 | 1,417 | 14.68 |
| | 1880..... | 100,492 | 416 | 398 | 381 | 408 | 1,603 | 15.95 |
| | 1881..... | 104,369 | 437 | 471 | 470 | 449 | 1,827 | 17.50 |
| | 1882..... | 108,345 | 493 | 513 | 477 | 470 | 1,953 | 18.02 |
| | 1883..... | 112,979 | 499 | 537 | 481 | 522 | 2,039 | 18.05 |
| | 1884..... | 118,644 | 518 | 498 | 487 | 496 | 1,999 | 16.85 |
| | 1885..... | 122,175 | 496 | 559 | 517 | 543 | 2,115 | 17.31 |
| | 1886..... | 123,645 | 612 | 580 | 522 | 450 | 2,164 | 17.50 |
| | 1887..... | 125,115 | 513 | 496 | 457 | 465 | 1,931 | 15.43 |
| | | <u>4,683</u> | <u>4,788</u> | <u>4,484</u> | <u>4,511</u> | <u>18,466</u> | | |

MARRIAGES—continued

| | Estimated Population at the middle of the year. | 31 March. | 30 June. | 30 Sept. | 31 Dec. | Total. | Ratio per 1,000 living. | |
|-----------------------|---|-----------|----------|----------|---------|--------|-------------------------|------|
| Suburbs | 1878..... | 95,017 | 158 | 149 | 172 | 153 | 632 | 6.65 |
| | 1879..... | 104,083 | 214 | 187 | 183 | 165 | 749 | 7.20 |
| | 1880..... | 113,729 | 181 | 162 | 206 | 181 | 730 | 6.42 |
| | 1881..... | 123,362 | 203 | 216 | 204 | 225 | 848 | 6.87 |
| | 1882..... | 133,416 | 259 | 293 | 275 | 282 | 1,109 | 8.31 |
| | 1883..... | 145,534 | 319 | 356 | 292 | 276 | 1,243 | 8.54 |
| | 1884..... | 160,355 | 357 | 368 | 343 | 357 | 1,425 | 8.89 |
| | 1885..... | 179,698 | 389 | 356 | 358 | 361 | 1,464 | 8.15 |
| | 1886..... | 200,777 | 431 | 420 | 412 | 342 | 1,605 | 7.97 |
| | 1887..... | 217,468 | 379 | 410 | 397 | 396 | 1,582. | 7.27 |
| | | 2,890 | 2,917 | 2,842 | 2,738 | 11,387 | | |
| Country District..... | 1878..... | 470,162 | 812 | 828 | 815 | 812 | 3,267 | 6.95 |
| | 1879..... | 490,064 | 812 | 813 | 847 | 753 | 3,225 | 6.58 |
| | 1880..... | 511,454 | 851 | 822 | 746 | 820 | 3,239 | 6.33 |
| | 1881..... | 532,560 | 881 | 945 | 888 | 895 | 3,609 | 6.78 |
| | 1882..... | 553,000 | 957 | 987 | 965 | 977 | 3,886 | 7.02 |
| | 1883..... | 575,774 | 1,081 | 989 | 1,054 | 999 | 4,123 | 7.16 |
| | 1884..... | 601,847 | 1,090 | 997 | 1,011 | 960 | 4,058 | 6.74 |
| | 1885..... | 629,058 | 980 | 1,046 | 1,023 | 990 | 4,039 | 6.42 |
| | 1886..... | 655,518 | 1,102 | 1,069 | 984 | 887 | 4,042 | 6.17 |
| | 1887..... | 679,860 | 1,058 | 1,038 | 970 | 1,011 | 4,077 | 6.00 |
| | | 9,624 | 9,534 | 9,393 | 9,104 | 37,565 | | |
| New South Wales | 1878..... | 657,797 | 1,328 | 1,363 | 1,337 | 1,289 | 5,317 | 8.08 |
| | 1879..... | 690,673 | 1,367 | 1,350 | 1,372 | 1,302 | 5,391 | 7.80 |
| | 1880..... | 725,675 | 1,448 | 1,382 | 1,333 | 1,409 | 5,572 | 7.68 |
| | 1881..... | 760,291 | 1,521 | 1,632 | 1,562 | 1,569 | 6,284 | 8.26 |
| | 1882..... | 794,761 | 1,709 | 1,793 | 1,717 | 1,729 | 6,948 | 8.74 |
| | 1883..... | 834,287 | 1,899 | 1,882 | 1,827 | 1,797 | 7,405 | 8.87 |
| | 1884..... | 880,846 | 1,965 | 1,863 | 1,841 | 1,813 | 7,482 | 8.49 |
| | 1885..... | 930,931 | 1,865 | 1,961 | 1,898 | 1,894 | 7,618 | 8.18 |
| | 1886..... | 979,940 | 2,145 | 2,069 | 1,918 | 1,679 | 7,811 | 7.97 |
| | 1887..... | 1,022,443 | 1,950 | 1,944 | 1,824 | 1,872 | 7,590 | 7.42 |
| | | 17,197 | 17,239 | 16,629 | 16,353 | 67,418 | | |

Marriages by each Denomination.

The number of marriages celebrated by the different religious denominations and at Registrars' offices in 1887, together with their respective percentages to the total number of marriages, will be found to be as follows:—Church of England, 3,056 (40.26 per cent.); Roman Catholic, 1,221 (16.09); Presbyterian, 1,030 (13.57); Wesleyan, 770 (10.15); Congregational, 536 (7.06); Primitive Methodist, 227 (2.99); Baptist, 120 (1.58); nine other denominations, 122 (1.61); and by Registrars, 508 (6.69). Compared with the figures of the previous year, the largest increase was in the number of Church of England marriages. The Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, and Wesleyan Denominations each show a decline—most marked in the record of the Presbyterian.

The Table hereunder gives the number of marriages performed by the clergy of various denominations and by Registrars throughout the Colony for each year since 1877, and immediately after will be found a Comparative Table for 1886 and 1887, with percentages, &c.

| Denomination. | 1877. | 1878. | 1879. | 1880. | 1881. | 1882. | 1883. | 1884. | 1885. | 1886. | 1887. |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Church of England .. | 1,869 | 2,098 | 2,182 | 2,252 | 2,487 | 2,768 | 2,949 | 2,893 | 2,990 | 2,987 | 3,056 |
| Roman Catholic .. | 990 | 1,009 | 982 | 1,021 | 1,171 | 1,315 | 1,414 | 1,448 | 1,258 | 1,323 | 1,221 |
| Presbyterian .. | 854 | 821 | 722 | 768 | 872 | 955 | 950 | 1,009 | 1,155 | 1,147 | 1,030 |
| Wesleyan .. | 509 | 556 | 605 | 618 | 651 | 704 | 712 | 759 | 739 | 832 | 770 |
| Primitive Methodist .. | 110 | 94 | 111 | 101 | 146 | 134 | 157 | 165 | 193 | 207 | 227 |
| Congregational .. | 243 | 291 | 331 | 364 | 433 | 516 | 565 | 484 | 532 | 551 | 536 |
| Baptist .. | 70 | 89 | 90 | 93 | 85 | 79 | 101 | 117 | 137 | 120 | 120 |
| Unitarian .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 1 |
| Hebrew .. | 20 | 20 | 22 | 17 | 27 | 22 | 24 | 27 | 27 | 18 | 27 |
| Protestant Episcopal .. | 3 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Catholic and Apostolic .. | 3 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| German Evangelical .. | 20 | 11 | 13 | 9 | 13 | 14 | 10 | 18 | 26 | 17 | 20 |
| Christians .. | 3 | 11 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 31 | 34 |
| Welsh Church .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Independent (unconnected) .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Free Christian Church .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Friends .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Salvation Army .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Bible Christians .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Anglo-Israelitic .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Free Church of England .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Franco-Australian Mission .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| New Church .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Registrars' Offices .. | 303 | 309 | 322 | 318 | 392 | 434 | 486 | 537 | 510 | 533 | 508 |
| | 4,994 | 5,317 | 5,391 | 5,572 | 6,284 | 6,948 | 7,405 | 7,482 | 7,618 | 7,811 | 7,590 |

MARRIAGE Table of Increase and Decrease.

| Denomination. | 1886. | 1887. | 1886 per cent. | 1887 per cent. | Increase | Decrease. |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|-------------------|-------------------|----------|-----------|
| Church of England... | 2,987 | 3,056 | 38'24 | 40'26 | 2.02 | ..... |
| Roman Catholic | 1,323 | 1,221 | 16'94 | 16 09 | ..... | 0'85 |
| Presbyterian | 1,147 | 1,030 | 14 68 | 13'57 | ..... | 1'11 |
| Wesleyan | 832 | 770 | 10 65 | 10 15 | ... | 0'50 |
| Primitive Methodist | 207 | 227 | 2'65 | 2'99 | 0 34 | ... |
| Congregational | 554 | 536 | 7 09 | 7'06 | ..... | 0 03 |
| Baptist | 120 | 120 | 1'54 | 1'58 | 0'04 | ..... |
| Hebrew | 18 | 27 | 0'23 | 0 36 | 0'13 | ..... |
| German Evangelical | 17 | 20 | 0'22 | 0'27 | 0'05 | ..... |
| Christians... | 31 | 34 | 0 40 | 0'45 | 0'05 | ..... |
| Independent (unconnected) | 21 | 26 | 0'27 | 0'34 | 0'07 | ..... |
| Friends ..... | ..... | 1 | ..... | 0 01 | 0'01 | ..... |
| Salvation Army | 11 | 10 | 0'14 | 0'13 | ..... | 0'01 |
| Free Church of England | 3 | ..... | 0'04 | ..... | ..... | 0'04 |
| Unitarian | 7 | 1 | 0 09 | 0'01 | ..... | 0'08 |
| Franco-Australian Mission ..... | ..... | 2 | ..... | 0'03 | 0 03 | ..... |
| New Church ..... | ..... | 1 | ..... | 0 01 | 0 01 | ..... |
| Registrar's Offices | 533 | 508 | 6'82 | 6'69 | ..... | 0'13 |
| | 7,811 | 7,590 | 100'00 | 100'00 | 2'75 | 2'75 |

The number of persons who contracted marriage during the year was 15,180. Of these 6,980 Bachelors, were described as bachelors, 6,924 as spinsters, 606 as widowers, and 655 as widows. There were also 4 spinsters, &c. divorced men, and 11 divorced women who again entered into the matrimonial state.

Of the total number married 2,092, or 13'78 per cent were under the age of 21 years, and of these Minors. 181 were males, and 1,911 females (2'38 and 25'18 per cent. respectively). Comparing the number of minors married in Sydney, suburbs, and country districts with the total number of persons married in each of these divisions, the following percentages are arrived at:—9'58, 11'38, and 16'70. Early marriages therefore appear to be more prevalent in the country than in the metropolis, and, although the proportion of such marriages has been declining for some years past, the year 1887 presents a slightly higher record than 1886.

| Year. | Marriages | Minors. | | | Percentage | | |
|------------|-----------|---------|----------|--------|------------|----------|--------|
| | | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| 1877 | 4,994 | 170 | 1,512 | 1,682 | 3 40 | 30 28 | 16 84 |
| 1878 | 5,317 | 138 | 1,497 | 1,635 | 2 59 | 28 15 | 15'37 |
| 1879 | 5,391 | 125 | 1,463 | 1,588 | 2'32 | 27'14 | 14'73 |
| 1880 | 5 572 | 126 | 1,545 | 1,671 | 2'26 | 27 73 | 14 99 |
| 1881 | 6,281 | 149 | 1,660 | 1,809 | 2'37 | 26 41 | 14 39 |
| 1882 | 6,948 | 159 | 1 955 | 2,114 | 2'29 | 28 14 | 15 21 |
| 1883 | 7,405 | 203 | 2,086 | 2,289 | 2'74 | 28 17 | 15'45 |
| 1884 | 7,482 | 190 | 1,957 | 2,147 | 2'54 | 26 16 | 14 35 |
| 1885 | 7,618 | 207 | 1,949 | 2,156 | 2'72 | 25 58 | 14 15 |
| 1886 | 7,811 | 187 | 1,806 | 1,993 | 2 39 | 23'12 | 12 76 |
| 1887 | 7,590 | 181 | 1,911 | 2,092 | 2 38 | 25'18 | 13 78 |

The following Tables give the conditions of the parties and the number of minors married during the years 1886 and 1887:—

TABLE OF BACHELORS, SPINSTERS, &C.

| | No. of Marriages. | Bachelors. | Spinsters. | Widowers. | Widows. | Divorced Men. | Divorced Women. |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|-----------|---------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1886. | | | | | | | |
| Sydney | 2,164 | 1,962 | 1,934 | 199 | 225 | 3 | 5 |
| Suburbs | 1,605 | 1,450 | 1,479 | 155 | 124 | .. | 2 |
| Country | 4,042 | 3,725 | 3,739 | 312 | 302 | 5 | 1 |
| Total for 1886 | 7,811 | 7,137 | 7,152 | 666 | 651 | 8 | 8 |
| 1887. | | | | | | | |
| Sydney | 1,931 | 1 756 | 1,744 | 173 | 181 | 2 | 6 |
| Suburbs | 1,582 | 1,438 | 1,469 | 144 | 111 | ... | 2 |
| Country | 4,077 | 3,786 | 3,711 | 289 | 363 | 2 | 3 |
| Total for 1887 | 7,590 | 6,980 | 6,924 | 606 | 655 | 4 | 11 |

TABLE OF MINORS.

| | 1886. | | | | 1887. | | | |
|---------------|------------|---------|----------|--------|------------|---------|----------|--------|
| | Marriages. | Minors. | | | Marriages. | Minors. | | |
| | | Males. | Females. | Total. | | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| Sydney | 2,164 | 33 | 362 | 395 | 1,931 | 37 | 333 | 370 |
| Suburbs | 1,605 | 32 | 307 | 339 | 1,582 | 28 | 332 | 360 |
| Country | 4,042 | 122 | 1,137 | 1,259 | 4,077 | 116 | 1,246 | 1,362 |
| | 7,811 | 187 | 1,806 | 1,993 | 7 590 | 181 | 1,911 | 2,092 |

Twelve male and forty-six female minors were unable to sign their names.

TABLE of MINORS who signed by mark.

| | 1886. | | | 1887. | | |
|--------------|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| Sydney | 2 | 8 | 10 | 4 | 11 | 15 |
| Suburbs..... | ..... | 6 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| Country..... | 7 | 36 | 43 | 7 | 28 | 35 |
| Totals | 9 | 50 | 59 | 12 | 46 | 58 |

Marks.

Out of the total 15,180 persons married during 1887, there were 531, or 3·50 per cent., who affixed their marks to the Registers (231 males, or 3·04 per cent., and 300 females, or 3·95 per cent.

Thus of the total of those who failed to sign their names the percentage of males was 43·5, and of females 56·5. This disparity may be due in some measure to a difference in education of the two sexes, but there is reason to believe that timidity and nervousness on the part of some of the brides is a very important factor in bringing about the above result.

The suburbs of Sydney stand more favourably than either the city or country districts, the percentages of marks to total signatures being—in the city, 2·85; suburbs, 1·23; and country, 4·68, with 3·5 as the mean, as before stated. From the report of the Registrar-General of England, for 1886, it would appear that, with a marriage roll of 196,071 for the year, the percentage of those signing by mark was 10·5, or 9·6 for men and 11·5 for women.

| | Marriages. | Signatures. | | | Marks. | | | Marks per cent. |
|----------------------|------------|-------------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|-----------------|
| | | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | |
| 1886. | | | | | | | | |
| Sydney | 2,164 | 2,108 | 2,063 | 4,171 | 56 | 101 | 157 | 3·63 |
| Suburbs | 1,605 | 1,578 | 1,571 | 3,149 | 27 | 34 | 61 | 1·90 |
| Country | 4,042 | 3,831 | 3,849 | 7,680 | 211 | 193 | 404 | 5·00 |
| Totals for 1886..... | 7,811 | 7,517 | 7,483 | 15,000 | 294 | 328 | 622 | 3·98 |
| 1887. | | | | | | | | |
| Sydney | 1,931 | 1,891 | 1,861 | 3,752 | 40 | 70 | 110 | 2·85 |
| Suburbs | 1,582 | 1,572 | 1,553 | 3,125 | 10 | 29 | 39 | 1·23 |
| Country | 4,077 | 3,896 | 3,876 | 7,772 | 181 | 201 | 382 | 4·68 |
| Totals for 1887..... | 7,590 | 7,359 | 7,290 | 14,649 | 231 | 300 | 531 | 3·50 |

The next three tables give the numbers of marriages in the city, suburbs, and country districts; the numbers of persons signing by mark (males and females) in each of these divisions; and the rates per cent. of persons so signing, for a period of twenty-two years. The great improvement noticeable year by year in the educational status of the people is most remarkable and very gratifying.

MARRIAGES from 1866 to 1887.

| Year. | Sydney. | Suburbs. | Country. | Total, N.S.W. | Year. | Sydney. | Suburbs. | Country. | Total, N.S.W. |
|-----------|---------|----------|----------|---------------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|---------------|
| 1866..... | 1,042 | 212 | 2,208 | 3,462 | 1877..... | 1,343 | 556 | 3,095 | 4,994 |
| 1867..... | 1,077 | 257 | 2,092 | 3,426 | 1878..... | 1,418 | 632 | 3,207 | 5,317 |
| 1868..... | 1,192 | 253 | 2,291 | 3,736 | 1879..... | 1,417 | 749 | 3,225 | 5,391 |
| 1869..... | 1,275 | 281 | 2,243 | 3,799 | 1880..... | 1,603 | 730 | 3,239 | 5,572 |
| 1870..... | 1,235 | 243 | 2,370 | 3,848 | 1881..... | 1,827 | 848 | 3,609 | 6,284 |
| 1871..... | 1,216 | 214 | 2,523 | 3,953 | 1882..... | 1,953 | 1,109 | 3,886 | 6,948 |
| 1872..... | 1,055 | 286 | 2,584 | 3,925 | 1883..... | 2,039 | 1,243 | 4,123 | 7,405 |
| 1873..... | 1,258 | 316 | 2,810 | 4,384 | 1884..... | 1,999 | 1,425 | 4,058 | 7,482 |
| 1874..... | 1,224 | 313 | 2,806 | 4,343 | 1885..... | 2,115 | 1,464 | 4,039 | 7,618 |
| 1875..... | 1,232 | 426 | 2,947 | 4,605 | 1886..... | 2,164 | 1,605 | 4,042 | 7,811 |
| 1876..... | 1,264 | 463 | 2,903 | 4,630 | 1887..... | 1,931 | 1,582 | 4,077 | 7,590 |

NUMBER of Persons signing Marriage Register with Marks, 1866 to 1887.

| Year. | City. | | | Suburbs. | | | Country. | | | Colony. | | |
|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|----------|--------|----------|----------|--------|---------|----------|--------|
| | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| 1866 ... | 144 | 266 | 410 | 21 | 27 | 48 | 414 | 626 | 1,040 | 579 | 919 | 1,498 |
| 1867 ... | 103 | 217 | 320 | 22 | 41 | 63 | 382 | 526 | 908 | 597 | 784 | 1,291 |
| 1868 ... | 140 | 256 | 396 | 26 | 40 | 66 | 446 | 597 | 1,043 | 612 | 893 | 1,505 |
| 1869 ... | 134 | 262 | 396 | 31 | 42 | 73 | 408 | 581 | 989 | 573 | 885 | 1,458 |
| 1870 ... | 112 | 252 | 364 | 24 | 26 | 50 | 432 | 557 | 989 | 568 | 835 | 1,403 |
| 1871 ... | 123 | 216 | 339 | 22 | 25 | 47 | 428 | 527 | 955 | 573 | 768 | 1,341 |
| 1872 ... | 83 | 159 | 242 | 18 | 29 | 47 | 363 | 417 | 780 | 464 | 605 | 1,069 |
| 1873 ... | 106 | 164 | 270 | 22 | 31 | 53 | 439 | 490 | 929 | 567 | 685 | 1,252 |
| 1874 ... | 79 | 146 | 225 | 21 | 25 | 46 | 358 | 410 | 768 | 458 | 581 | 1,039 |
| 1875 ... | 106 | 157 | 263 | 9 | 19 | 28 | 385 | 453 | 838 | 500 | 629 | 1,129 |
| 1876 ... | 72 | 121 | 193 | 12 | 21 | 33 | 359 | 385 | 744 | 443 | 527 | 970 |
| 1877 ... | 77 | 146 | 223 | 29 | 36 | 65 | 316 | 371 | 687 | 422 | 553 | 975 |
| 1878 ... | 84 | 119 | 203 | 26 | 32 | 58 | 300 | 302 | 602 | 410 | 453 | 863 |
| 1879 ... | 83 | 99 | 182 | 34 | 31 | 65 | 253 | 318 | 571 | 370 | 448 | 818 |
| 1880 ... | 83 | 128 | 211 | 27 | 31 | 58 | 228 | 246 | 474 | 338 | 405 | 743 |
| 1881 ... | 57 | 141 | 198 | 32 | 40 | 72 | 258 | 344 | 602 | 347 | 525 | 872 |
| 1882 ... | 101 | 140 | 241 | 31 | 46 | 77 | 222 | 242 | 464 | 354 | 428 | 782 |
| 1883 ... | 81 | 122 | 203 | 45 | 54 | 99 | 293 | 308 | 601 | 419 | 484 | 903 |
| 1884 ... | 59 | 84 | 143 | 41 | 49 | 90 | 250 | 300 | 550 | 350 | 433 | 783 |
| 1885 ... | 66 | 93 | 159 | 28 | 52 | 80 | 234 | 250 | 484 | 328 | 395 | 723 |
| 1886 ... | 56 | 101 | 157 | 27 | 34 | 61 | 211 | 193 | 404 | 294 | 328 | 622 |
| 1887 ... | 40 | 70 | 110 | 10 | 29 | 39 | 181 | 201 | 382 | 231 | 300 | 531 |

PERCENTAGE of PERSONS MARRIED signing Register with Marks to total Signatures, 1866 to 1887.

| Year. | City. | Suburbs. | Country. | Colony. | Year. | City. | Suburbs. | Country. | Colony. |
|------------|-------|----------|----------|---------|------------|-------|----------|----------|---------|
| 1866 | 19'67 | 11'32 | 23'55 | 21'63 | 1877 | 8'30 | 5'85 | 11'10 | 9'76 |
| 1867 | 14'86 | 12'25 | 21'70 | 18'84 | 1878 | 7'16 | 4'59 | 9'21 | 8'10 |
| 1868 | 16'61 | 13'04 | 22'76 | 20'14 | 1879 | 6'42 | 4'34 | 8'85 | 7'58 |
| 1869 | 15'53 | 12'99 | 22'05 | 19'19 | 1880 | 6'58 | 3'97 | 7'31 | 6'66 |
| 1870 | 14'74 | 10'29 | 20'86 | 18'23 | 1881 | 5'41 | 4'24 | 8'34 | 6'94 |
| 1871 | 13'94 | 10'98 | 18'92 | 16'96 | 1882 | 6'17 | 3'47 | 6'00 | 5'63 |
| 1872 | 11'47 | 8'22 | 15'09 | 13'62 | 1883 | 5'00 | 4'00 | 7'28 | 6'10 |
| 1873 | 10'73 | 8'38 | 16'53 | 14'26 | 1884 | 3'60 | 3'12 | 6'77 | 5'23 |
| 1874 | 10'12 | 7'93 | 15'85 | 11'96 | 1885 | 3'76 | 2'03 | 5'99 | 4'74 |
| 1875 | 10'67 | 3'28 | 14'21 | 12'26 | 1886 | 3'63 | 1'90 | 5'00 | 3'98 |
| 1876 | 7'63 | 3'56 | 16'71 | 10'47 | 1887 | 2'85 | 1'23 | 4'68 | 3'50 |

BIRTHS.

The number of births registered in the Colony during the year.1887 was 37,236, being 952 in excess of the record for the previous year. The births of males amounted to 18,901, and of females 18,335, or 50·76 and 49·24 per cent. respectively. The birth-rate of the Colony per 1,000 of estimated population was 36·42, which is 0·61 less than in 1886 and 1·62 below the ten years' average (38·04). The respective birth-rates in Sydney, suburbs, and the country districts were 30·19, 44·34, and 35·03; it will be seen therefore that the city is much behind and the suburbs considerably in advance of the rate for the whole Colony. The average rates for the decennial period were as follows:—City, 35·28; suburbs, 42·84; and country, 37·30.

BIRTHS.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. | Ratio per 1,000 of Population. |
|---------------|--------|----------|--------|--------------------------------|
| Sydney | 1,881 | 1,896 | 3,777 | 30·19 |
| Suburbs | 4,820 | 4,823 | 9,643 | 44·34 |
| Country | 12,200 | 11,616 | 23,816 | 35·03 |
| | 18,901 | 18,335 | 37,236 | 36·42 |

The following table gives the number of births registered in each quarter of the year for the last ten years, distinguishing those in Sydney, suburbs, and country districts:—

TABLE showing the number of BIRTHS registered in the Colony of New South Wales during each Quarter of the years 1878 to 1887.

| | Estimated Population at the middle of the year. | 31 March. | 30 June. | 30 Sept. | 31 Dec. | Total. | Ratio per 1,000 living. | |
|------------------------|---|-----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|-------------------------|-------|
| Sydney | 1878 | 92,618 | 846 | 851 | 956 | 831 | 3,484 | 37'62 |
| | 1879 | 96,526 | 857 | 943 | 1,007 | 907 | 3,714 | 38'48 |
| | 1880 | 100,492 | 870 | 985 | 960 | 920 | 3,735 | 37'17 |
| | 1881 | 104,369 | 938 | 920 | 946 | 937 | 3,741 | 35'84 |
| | 1882 | 108,345 | 955 | 961 | 959 | 879 | 3,754 | 34'65 |
| | 1883 | 112,979 | 943 | 929 | 926 | 958 | 3,756 | 33'24 |
| | 1884 | 118,644 | 1,075 | 1,052 | 1,061 | 941 | 4,129 | 34'80 |
| | 1885 | 122,175 | 971 | 943 | 1,045 | 927 | 3,886 | 31'81 |
| | 1886 | 123,645 | 953 | 949 | 981 | 951 | 3,834 | 31'01 |
| | 1887 | 125,115 | 963 | 983 | 1,009 | 822 | 3,777 | 30'19 |
| | | 9,371 | 9,516 | 9,850 | 9,073 | 37,810 | | |
| Suburbs..... | 1878 | 95,017 | 854 | 900 | 1,014 | 906 | 3,674 | 38'67 |
| | 1879 | 104,083 | 955 | 1,009 | 1,130 | 1,053 | 4,147 | 39'84 |
| | 1880 | 113,729 | 1,026 | 1,197 | 1,182 | 1,214 | 4,619 | 40'61 |
| | 1881 | 123,362 | 1,178 | 1,250 | 1,387 | 1,356 | 5,171 | 41'92 |
| | 1882 | 133,416 | 1,383 | 1,458 | 1,532 | 1,503 | 5,876 | 44'04 |
| | 1883 | 145,534 | 1,518 | 1,647 | 1,650 | 1,719 | 6,534 | 44'90 |
| | 1884 | 160,355 | 1,806 | 1,969 | 2,098 | 1,870 | 7,743 | 48'29 |
| | 1885 | 179,698 | 1,973 | 2,088 | 2,269 | 2,050 | 8,380 | 46'63 |
| | 1886 | 200,777 | 2,173 | 2,255 | 2,500 | 2,367 | 9,295 | 46'29 |
| | 1887 | 217,468 | 2,339 | 2,448 | 2,546 | 2,310 | 9,643 | 44'34 |
| | | 15,205 | 16,221 | 17,308 | 16,348 | 65,082 | | |
| Country Districts..... | 1878 | 470,162 | 4,262 | 4,414 | 5,006 | 4,488 | 18,170 | 38'65 |
| | 1879 | 490,064 | 4,419 | 4,639 | 5,127 | 4,887 | 19,072 | 38'92 |
| | 1880 | 511,454 | 4,694 | 4,934 | 5,088 | 5,092 | 19,808 | 38'73 |
| | 1881 | 532,560 | 4,860 | 4,813 | 5,181 | 5,227 | 20,081 | 37'71 |
| | 1882 | 553,000 | 4,857 | 4,854 | 5,336 | 5,025 | 20,072 | 36'30 |
| | 1883 | 575,774 | 4,917 | 5,179 | 5,424 | 5,471 | 20,991 | 36'46 |
| | 1884 | 601,847 | 5,260 | 5,422 | 6,001 | 5,391 | 22,074 | 36'68 |
| | 1885 | 629,058 | 5,234 | 5,477 | 6,342 | 5,724 | 22,777 | 36'21 |
| | 1886 | 655,518 | 5,325 | 5,772 | 6,111 | 5,947 | 23,155 | 35'32 |
| | 1887 | 679,860 | 5,773 | 5,752 | 6,335 | 5,956 | 23,816 | 35'03 |
| | | 49,601 | 51,256 | 55,951 | 53,208 | 210,016 | | |
| New South Wales | 1878 | 657,797 | 5,962 | 6,165 | 6,976 | 6,225 | 25,328 | 38'50 |
| | 1879 | 690,673 | 6,231 | 6,591 | 7,264 | 6,847 | 26,933 | 38'99 |
| | 1880 | 725,675 | 6,590 | 7,116 | 7,230 | 7,226 | 28,162 | 38'81 |
| | 1881 | 760,291 | 6,976 | 6,983 | 7,514 | 7,520 | 28,993 | 38'13 |
| | 1882 | 794,761 | 7,195 | 7,273 | 7,827 | 7,407 | 29,702 | 37'37 |
| | 1883 | 834,287 | 7,378 | 7,755 | 8,000 | 8,148 | 31,281 | 37'49 |
| | 1884 | 880,846 | 8,141 | 8,443 | 9,160 | 8,202 | 33,946 | 38'54 |
| | 1885 | 930,931 | 8,178 | 8,508 | 9,656 | 8,701 | 35,043 | 37'64 |
| | 1886 | 979,940 | 8,451 | 8,976 | 9,592 | 9,265 | 36,284 | 37'03 |
| | 1887 | 1,022,443 | 9,075 | 9,183 | 9,890 | 9,088 | 37,236 | 36'42 |
| | | 74,177 | 76,993 | 83,109 | 78,629 | 312,908 | | |

There were 1,711 illegitimate births registered in the Colony during the year 1887, viz, 828 of males and 883 of females. The percentage of these births to the total number was 4.59. The number recorded in Sydney was 496; in the suburbs 377; and in the country districts, 838. In proportion to the total number of births in each of these divisions the percentages of illegitimate births were as follows—Sydney, 13.13, suburbs, 3.91, country, 3.52. The high rate for Sydney is to be accounted for by the large number of these births registered from the Benevolent Asylum, which institution probably accommodates many cases from all parts of the Colony. The total number of children born at the Benevolent Asylum during the year was 247 (128 males and 119 females), of whom 193 (102 males, 91 females) were illegitimate.

TABLE showing the number of children born out of WEDLOCK in the Colony of New South Wales, from 1st January, 1878, to 31st December, 1887.

| Year | Sydney | | | Suburbs | | | Country Districts | | | Total, N S W | | | |
|------|--------|---------|-------|---------|---------|-------|-------------------|---------|-------|--------------|---------|--------|-----------------------------|
| | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females | Total | Percent age of Total Births |
| 1878 | 165 | 152 | 317 | 54 | 54 | 108 | 317 | 279 | 596 | 536 | 485 | 1,021 | 4.03 |
| 1879 | 195 | 194 | 389 | 65 | 52 | 117 | 345 | 364 | 709 | 605 | 610 | 1,215 | 4.51 |
| 1880 | 204 | 207 | 411 | 69 | 81 | 150 | 351 | 314 | 665 | 624 | 602 | 1,226 | 4.35 |
| 1881 | 203 | 222 | 425 | 84 | 83 | 167 | 353 | 318 | 671 | 640 | 623 | 1,263 | 4.36 |
| 1882 | 220 | 220 | 440 | 75 | 86 | 161 | 340 | 320 | 660 | 635 | 626 | 1,261 | 4.24 |
| 1883 | 240 | 199 | 439 | 118 | 119 | 237 | 342 | 300 | 642 | 700 | 618 | 1,318 | 4.21 |
| 1884 | 272 | 255 | 527 | 132 | 127 | 259 | 340 | 369 | 709 | 744 | 751 | 1,495 | 4.40 |
| 1885 | 266 | 263 | 529 | 171 | 145 | 316 | 383 | 384 | 767 | 820 | 792 | 1,612 | 4.60 |
| 1886 | 278 | 255 | 533 | 188 | 184 | 372 | 372 | 410 | 782 | 838 | 849 | 1,687 | 4.65 |
| 1887 | 245 | 251 | 496 | 197 | 180 | 377 | 393 | 445 | 838 | 835 | 876 | 1,711 | 4.59 |
| | 2,288 | 2,218 | 4,506 | 1,153 | 1,111 | 2,264 | 3,536 | 3,503 | 7,039 | 6,977 | 6,832 | 13,809 | |

NOTE—The Benevolent Asylum is in Sydney

During the year there was one case of triplets, which occurred at Wollongong. Twins numbered 310 cases, comprising 294 males and 325 females, in all 619 children, one other being still-born. The number of children born as triplets and twins forms 1.67 per cent of the total number of births.

Twins and Triplets.

| Sydney Suburbs Country | Triplets | | | | Twins | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------|---------|-------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | No of Cases | Males | Females | Total | No of Cases | Males | Females | Total |
| | | 1 | 3 | | 3 | 25 84 201 | 27 75 192 | 23 92 210 | 50 167* 402 |
| | 1 | 3 | | 3 | 310 | 294 | 325 | 619 |

* One still born

TABLE showing the number of TRIPLETS and TWINS born in the Colony of New South Wales, from 1st January, 1878, to 31st December, 1887

| Year | Triplets | | | | Twins | | | |
|------|-------------|-------|---------|-------|-------------|-------|---------|-------|
| | No of Cases | Males | Females | Total | No of Cases | Males | Females | Total |
| 1878 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4† | 196 | 195 | 197 | 392 |
| 1879 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 203 | 206 | 198 | 404† |
| 1880 | | | | | 224 | 230 | 218 | 448 |
| 1881 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 12 | 224 | 219 | 227 | 446† |
| 1882 | | | | | 213 | 217 | 208 | 425* |
| 1883 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 287 | 277 | 297 | 574 |
| 1884 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 288 | 277 | 295 | 572§ |
| 1885 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 306 | 305 | 307 | 612 |
| 1886 | 1 | | 3 | 3 | 330 | 284 | 373 | 657† |
| 1887 | 1 | 3 | | 3 | 310 | 294 | 325 | 619* |
| | 18 | 29 | 23 | 52 | 2,581 | 2,504 | 2,645 | 5,149 |

* One still born † Two still born ‡ Three still born § Four still born

As stated in the foregoing table, there were 2,581 cases of twins and 18 cases of triplets during the ten years 1878-87. The total number of confinements recorded in this period was 310,306. It follows, therefore, that one mother in every 120 gave birth to twins, and one mother in every 17,239 was delivered of three children at a birth.

DEATHS

DEATHS.

From the registers for 1887, it appears that not only were there fewer deaths than in any year since 1883, but that the rate of mortality per 1,000 of the estimated population was lower than it has been since 1871. The number of deaths recorded in the Colony was 13,448, being 1,139 less than in 1886, and 1,834 below the total of 1885. Deaths of males numbered 7,776, and of females 5,672; the percentage being 57.82 and 42.18 respectively; so that the male deaths were 15.64 per cent. in excess of the female. But as the male population of the Colony is much larger than the female, the death-rates per 1,000 living (13.82 for males, and 12.34 for females) do not show such a vast difference in the mortality of the two sexes, although, the male rate is undoubtedly the higher of the two. (See Table on next page.)

Death-rate.

The death-rate for the Colony per 1,000 was 13.15, which is lower by 1.73 than that of the previous year, and 2.42 under the average of the decade (15.57.) The rate for Sydney was 15.52, which is 2.47 under that of the preceding twelve months, and also 6.86 lower than the average of the previous ten years, (22.38.) The suburbs show a death-rate of 16.57, and here is found a difference of 3.58 in favour of the year under consideration, as compared with 1886; the average was 18.47, or 1.90 higher. In the country districts the rate was 11.62, which is a decrease of 1.07 on the rate of the previous year, and 1.86 under the average (13.48.) Consideration of the foregoing figures indicates that the past year has been an unusually healthy one, not only in the Metropolis, but generally throughout the Colony.

DEATHS.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. | Ratio per 1,000 living. |
|---------------|--------|----------|--------|-------------------------|
| Sydney | 1,100 | 842 | 1,942 | 15.52 |
| Suburbs | 1,963 | 1,641 | 3,604 | 16.57 |
| Country | 4,713 | 3,189 | 7,902 | 11.62 |
| | 7,776 | 5,672 | 13,448 | 13.15 |

TABLE showing the number of DEATHS registered in the Colony of New South Wales, during each Quarter of the Years 1878 to 1887.

| | Estimated Population at the middle of each year. | 31 March. | 30 June. | 30 Sept. | 31 December. | Total. | Ratio per 1,000 living. | |
|-------------------------|--|-----------|----------|----------|--------------|---------|-------------------------|-------|
| Sydney | 1878 | 92,618 | 644 | 584 | 540 | 553 | 2,321 | 25.06 |
| | 1879 | 96,526 | 624 | 530 | 468 | 644 | 2,266 | 23.47 |
| | 1880 | 100,492 | 590 | 540 | 680 | 930 | 2,740 | 27.26 |
| | 1881 | 104,369 | 600 | 520 | 530 | 596 | 2,246 | 21.52 |
| | 1882 | 108,345 | 684 | 614 | 604 | 623 | 2,525 | 23.30 |
| | 1883 | 112,979 | 558 | 524 | 503 | 648 | 2,233 | 19.76 |
| | 1884 | 118,644 | 634 | 579 | 574 | 748 | 2,535 | 21.37 |
| | 1885 | 122,175 | 721 | 604 | 637 | 674 | 2,636 | 21.58 |
| | 1886 | 123,645 | 572 | 518 | 545 | 589 | 2,224 | 17.99 |
| | 1887 | 125,115 | 550 | 479 | 394 | 519 | 1,942 | 15.52 |
| | | 6,177 | 5,492 | 5,475 | 6,524 | 23,668 | | |
| Suburbs | 1878 | 95,017 | 414 | 481 | 349 | 407 | 1,651 | 17.37 |
| | 1879 | 104,083 | 405 | 428 | 346 | 469 | 1,648 | 15.83 |
| | 1880 | 113,729 | 498 | 460 | 465 | 757 | 2,180 | 19.17 |
| | 1881 | 123,362 | 637 | 502 | 428 | 539 | 2,106 | 17.07 |
| | 1882 | 133,416 | 667 | 604 | 526 | 700 | 2,497 | 18.71 |
| | 1883 | 145,534 | 617 | 690 | 574 | 834 | 2,715 | 18.65 |
| | 1884 | 160,355 | 839 | 798 | 703 | 1,051 | 3,391 | 21.15 |
| | 1885 | 179,698 | 966 | 895 | 853 | 1,143 | 3,857 | 21.46 |
| | 1886 | 200,777 | 1,003 | 1,038 | 847 | 1,157 | 4,045 | 20.15 |
| | 1887 | 217,468 | 1,049 | 857 | 647 | 1,051 | 3,604 | 16.57 |
| | | 7,095 | 6,753 | 5,738 | 8,108 | 27,694 | | |
| Country Districts | 1878 | 470,162 | 1,895 | 1,953 | 1,447 | 1,496 | 6,791 | 14.44 |
| | 1879 | 490,064 | 1,828 | 1,605 | 1,418 | 1,435 | 6,286 | 12.83 |
| | 1880 | 511,454 | 1,589 | 1,621 | 1,426 | 1,675 | 6,311 | 12.34 |
| | 1881 | 532,560 | 1,932 | 1,803 | 1,650 | 1,799 | 7,184 | 13.49 |
| | 1882 | 553,000 | 2,134 | 2,072 | 1,781 | 1,807 | 7,794 | 14.09 |
| | 1883 | 575,774 | 1,950 | 1,867 | 1,713 | 1,771 | 7,301 | 12.68 |
| | 1884 | 601,847 | 2,226 | 2,225 | 1,849 | 1,994 | 8,294 | 13.78 |
| | 1885 | 629,058 | 2,237 | 2,251 | 2,096 | 2,205 | 8,789 | 13.97 |
| | 1886 | 655,518 | 2,143 | 2,164 | 1,928 | 2,083 | 8,318 | 12.69 |
| | 1887 | 679,860 | 2,381 | 2,026 | 1,764 | 1,731 | 7,902 | 11.62 |
| | | 20,315 | 19,587 | 17,072 | 17,996 | 74,970 | | |
| New South Wales | 1878 | 657,797 | 2,953 | 3,018 | 2,336 | 2,456 | 10,763 | 16.36 |
| | 1879 | 690,673 | 2,857 | 2,563 | 2,232 | 2,548 | 10,200 | 14.77 |
| | 1880 | 725,675 | 2,677 | 2,621 | 2,571 | 3,362 | 11,231 | 15.48 |
| | 1881 | 760,291 | 3,169 | 2,825 | 2,608 | 2,934 | 11,536 | 15.17 |
| | 1882 | 794,761 | 3,485 | 3,290 | 2,911 | 3,130 | 12,816 | 16.12 |
| | 1883 | 834,287 | 3,125 | 3,081 | 2,790 | 3,253 | 12,249 | 14.68 |
| | 1884 | 880,846 | 3,699 | 3,602 | 3,126 | 3,793 | 14,220 | 16.14 |
| | 1885 | 930,931 | 3,924 | 3,750 | 3,586 | 4,022 | 15,282 | 16.41 |
| | 1886 | 979,940 | 3,718 | 3,720 | 3,320 | 3,829 | 14,587 | 14.88 |
| | 1887 | 1,022,443 | 3,980 | 3,362 | 2,805 | 3,301 | 13,448 | 13.15 |
| | | 33,587 | 31,832 | 28,285 | 32,628 | 126,332 | | |

TABLE comparing the MALE and FEMALE MORTALITY in New South Wales, during the years 1877 to 1887.

| | Estimated Population at the middle of each year. | No. of Deaths. | Ratio per 1,000 living | Proportion of Male to Female rate. (Female rate taken as 100.) |
|-------------------------|--|----------------|------------------------|--|
| 1877..... { Males | 341,921 | 5,877 | 17.19 | 147 |
| { Females | 287,022 | 3,992 | 13.91 | 100 |
| 1878..... { Males | 357,977 | 6,284 | 17.55 | 140 |
| { Females | 299,820 | 4,479 | 14.94 | 100 |
| 1879..... { Males | 376,275 | 6,082 | 16.16 | 148 |
| { Females | 314,398 | 4,118 | 13.10 | 100 |
| 1880..... { Males | 396,101 | 6,638 | 16.76 | 144 |
| { Females | 329,574 | 4,593 | 13.94 | 100 |
| 1881..... { Males | 416,110 | 6,753 | 16.23 | 141 |
| { Females | 344,181 | 4,783 | 13.90 | 100 |
| 1882..... { Males | 435,129 | 7,596 | 17.46 | 145 |
| { Females | 359,632 | 5,220 | 14.51 | 100 |
| 1883..... { Males | 456,660 | 7,116 | 15.58 | 139 |
| { Females | 377,627 | 5,133 | 13.59 | 100 |
| 1884..... { Males | 482,790 | 8,325 | 17.24 | 141 |
| { Females | 398,056 | 5,895 | 14.81 | 100 |
| 1885..... { Males | 511,551 | 8,900 | 17.40 | 139 |
| { Females | 419,379 | 6,382 | 15.22 | 100 |
| 1886..... { Males | 539,438 | 8,501 | 15.76 | 140 |
| { Females | 440,501 | 6,086 | 13.82 | 100 |
| 1887..... { Males | 562,678 | 7,776 | 13.82 | 137 |
| { Females | 459,765 | 5,672 | 12.34 | 100 |

The death-rate in the suburbs of Sydney was higher than in the city itself, or in the country districts, but on the other hand the birth-rate was also higher, and as a natural consequence the mortality of infants helped largely to swell the number of deaths.

| | Birth-rate. | Death-rate. | Excess of Birth-rate, |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Sydney | 30.19 | 15.52 | 14.67 |
| Suburbs | 44.34 | 16.57 | 27.77 |
| Country | 35.03 | 11.62 | 23.41 |

Taking Sydney and suburbs as a whole for the purposes of comparison with the rest of the Colony, the following figures are arrived at:—

| | Birth-rate. | Death-rate. | Excess of Birth-rate. |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Metropolis (Sydney and Suburbs) | 39.17 | 16.19 | 22.98 |
| Country Districts... | 35.03 | 11.62 | 23.41 |

From which it appears that while the death-rate was higher in the metropolis than in the country districts, the birth-rate was also higher, and so the natural increase by excess of births over deaths was at nearly the same rate (although slightly in favour of the country) in both these divisions of the Colony. In the metropolis the births exceeded the deaths by 7,874, being an increase at the rate of 22.98 per 1,000 of the population, and in the country districts the increase was 15,914, or 23.41 per 1,000. That the increase in the latter should be numerically, about twice as much as in the former, and yet at nearly the same rate is explained by the fact that the population of the country districts is about double that of the metropolis.

EXCESS OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS in Colony, City, Suburbs, and Country, 1871-87.

| Year. | Colony. | | | City. | | | Suburbs. | | | Country. | | |
|-------|---------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|----------|----------|--------|----------|----------|--------|
| | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| 1871 | 6,444 | 7,292 | 13,736 | 664 | 733 | 1,397 | 861 | 857 | 1,718 | 4,919 | 5,702 | 10,621 |
| 1872 | 5,834 | 6,948 | 12,782 | 485 | 584 | 1,069 | 727 | 794 | 1,521 | 4,622 | 5,570 | 10,192 |
| 1873 | 6,353 | 7,480 | 13,833 | 546 | 719 | 1,265 | 915 | 851 | 1,766 | 4,892 | 5,910 | 10,802 |
| 1874 | 6,301 | 7,225 | 13,526 | 525 | 519 | 1,044 | 827 | 761 | 1,588 | 4,949 | 5,945 | 10,894 |
| 1875 | 5,135 | 6,622 | 11,757 | 209 | 280 | 489 | 651 | 610 | 1,261 | 4,275 | 5,732 | 10,007 |
| 1876 | 5,283 | 6,822 | 12,105 | 376 | 443 | 819 | 667 | 706 | 1,373 | 4,240 | 5,673 | 9,913 |
| 1877 | 6,415 | 7,567 | 13,982 | 638 | 761 | 1,399 | 987 | 938 | 1,925 | 4,790 | 5,868 | 10,658 |
| 1878 | 6,798 | 7,767 | 14,565 | 511 | 652 | 1,163 | 991 | 1,032 | 2,023 | 5,296 | 6,083 | 11,379 |
| 1879 | 7,758 | 8,975 | 16,733 | 633 | 815 | 1,448 | 1,276 | 1,223 | 2,499 | 5,849 | 6,937 | 12,786 |
| 1880 | 7,786 | 9,145 | 16,931 | 390 | 605 | 995 | 1,185 | 1,254 | 2,439 | 6,211 | 7,286 | 13,497 |
| 1881 | 8,138 | 9,319 | 17,457 | 632 | 863 | 1,495 | 1,616 | 1,449 | 3,065 | 5,890 | 7,007 | 12,897 |
| 1882 | 7,491 | 9,395 | 16,886 | 466 | 763 | 1,229 | 1,632 | 1,747 | 3,379 | 5,393 | 6,885 | 12,278 |
| 1883 | 8,898 | 10,134 | 19,032 | 728 | 795 | 1,523 | 1,857 | 1,962 | 3,819 | 6,313 | 7,377 | 13,690 |
| 1884 | 9,092 | 10,634 | 19,726 | 705 | 889 | 1,594 | 2,130 | 2,222 | 4,352 | 6,257 | 7,523 | 13,780 |
| 1885 | 9,039 | 10,722 | 19,761 | 480 | 770 | 1,250 | 2,266 | 2,257 | 4,523 | 6,293 | 7,695 | 13,988 |
| 1886 | 10,199 | 11,498 | 21,697 | 722 | 888 | 1,610 | 2,654 | 2,596 | 5,250 | 6,823 | 8,014 | 14,837 |
| 1887 | 11,125 | 12,663 | 23,788 | 781 | 1,054 | 1,835 | 2,857 | 3,182 | 6,039 | 7,487 | 8,427 | 15,914 |

Infantile mortality.

The Table of Infantile Mortality shows that out of the total number of deaths for the year (13,448), 5,620, or 41.79 per cent., were of children under 5 years of age. The percentage of these deaths to total deaths in each of the divisions was as follows:—Sydney, 39.65; suburbs, 50.72; country, 38.24; these figures being lower than in the previous year by 1.67, 2.43, and 0.53 respectively; and also lower than the ten years average by 1.66, 4.04, and 1.95.

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1878-87.

| | New South Wales. | | | Sydney. | | | Suburbs. | | | Country Districts. | | |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---|---------------|-----------------------|---|---------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------|-----------------------|---|
| | Total Deaths. | Deaths under 5 years. | Percentage of Deaths under 5 years to total Deaths. | Total Deaths. | Deaths under 5 years. | Percentage of Deaths under 5 years to total Deaths. | Total Deaths. | Deaths under 5 years. | Percentage of Deaths under 5 years to total Deaths. | Total Deaths. | Deaths under 5 years. | Percentage of Deaths under 5 years to total Deaths. |
| 1878 | 10,763 | 4,884 | 45.38 | 2,321 | 1,022 | 44.03 | 1,651 | 920 | 55.72 | 6,791 | 2,942 | 43.32 |
| 1879 | 10,200 | 4,369 | 42.83 | 2,266 | 899 | 39.67 | 1,648 | 902 | 54.73 | 6,286 | 2,568 | 40.85 |
| 1880 | 11,231 | 4,910 | 43.72 | 2,740 | 1,293 | 47.19 | 2,180 | 1,276 | 58.53 | 6,311 | 2,341 | 37.09 |
| 1881 | 11,536 | 4,889 | 42.38 | 2,246 | 848 | 37.76 | 2,106 | 1,147 | 54.46 | 7,184 | 2,894 | 40.28 |
| 1882 | 12,816 | 5,452 | 42.54 | 2,525 | 990 | 39.21 | 2,497 | 1,355 | 54.26 | 7,794 | 3,107 | 39.86 |
| 1883 | 12,249 | 5,304 | 43.30 | 2,233 | 940 | 42.09 | 2,715 | 1,455 | 53.59 | 7,301 | 2,909 | 39.84 |
| 1884 | 14,220 | 6,228 | 43.80 | 2,535 | 1,053 | 41.54 | 3,391 | 1,838 | 54.20 | 8,294 | 3,337 | 40.23 |
| 1885 | 15,282 | 6,612 | 43.27 | 2,636 | 1,043 | 39.57 | 3,857 | 2,091 | 54.21 | 8,789 | 3,478 | 39.57 |
| 1886 | 14,587 | 6,294 | 43.15 | 2,224 | 919 | 41.32 | 4,045 | 2,150 | 53.15 | 8,318 | 3,225 | 38.77 |
| 1887 | 13,448 | 5,620 | 41.79 | 1,942 | 770 | 39.65 | 3,604 | 1,828 | 50.72 | 7,902 | 3,022 | 38.24 |
| | 126,332 | 54,562 | | 23,668 | 9,777 | | 27,694 | 14,962 | | 74,970 | 29,823 | |
| Mean of 10 years | 12,633 | 5,456 | 43.19 | 2,367 | 978 | 41.32 | 2,769 | 1,496 | 54.03 | 7,497 | 2,982 | 39.77 |

From the above table it would appear that the mortality of infants was very much greater in the suburbs of Sydney than in the city itself, or in the country districts; and while this is so to a considerable extent, the difference is not so great as shown by the above figures, for before drawing a comparison it is necessary to take into consideration the high birth-rate of the suburbs, and also the larger proportion of young children who reside therein. The death-rate per 1,000 of the mean population of children under 5 years of age living in Sydney was 50.50; in the suburbs 57.05, and in the country 30.82. The rates in both Sydney and suburbs were higher than in the rest of the Colony, and from this may be gathered the fact that the metropolis is not so favourable to the fostering of infant life as the country.

The numbers of deaths of persons both under and over 5 years of age, compared with the estimated numbers living at each of these periods of life, give the following death-rates from 1871 to 1887.

| | Under 5 years. | | | | Over 5 years. | | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|--------|----------|----------|-------------------------------|-------|----------|----------|
| | Per 1,000 of mean population. | | | | Per 1,000 of mean population. | | | |
| | Colony. | City. | Suburbs. | Country. | Colony. | City. | Suburbs. | Country. |
| 1871 | 32.56 | 65.35 | 47.57 | 24.00 | 8.70 | 12.87 | 7.79 | 7.97 |
| 1872 | 37.16 | 69.26 | 46.95 | 29.58 | 9.68 | 14.89 | 7.64 | 9.31 |
| 1873 | 32.97 | 59.91 | 46.02 | 25.84 | 10.28 | 15.79 | 8.53 | 9.44 |
| 1874 | 41.37 | 76.51 | 59.18 | 32.07 | 10.31 | 16.30 | 8.65 | 9.38 |
| 1875 | 53.64 | 105.64 | 80.35 | 40.37 | 11.81 | 19.43 | 11.23 | 10.35 |
| 1876 | 49.66 | 86.55 | 80.71 | 38.52 | 12.78 | 19.70 | 11.02 | 11.71 |
| 1877 | 44.41 | 67.42 | 61.56 | 37.83 | 10.47 | 15.38 | 7.91 | 9.98 |
| 1878 | 49.39 | 82.08 | 73.91 | 39.77 | 10.51 | 16.20 | 8.85 | 9.71 |
| 1879 | 42.75 | 69.34 | 67.13 | 33.88 | 9.90 | 16.35 | 8.22 | 8.97 |
| 1880 | 45.83 | 95.30 | 86.99 | 31.62 | 10.21 | 16.61 | 9.12 | 9.07 |
| 1881 | 43.63 | 61.79 | 71.00 | 35.21 | 10.25 | 15.42 | 8.94 | 9.52 |
| 1882 | 46.61 | 70.27 | 74.93 | 36.66 | 10.86 | 16.38 | 9.90 | 10.00 |
| 1883 | 43.46 | 65.32 | 73.48 | 33.12 | 9.75 | 13.11 | 10.02 | 9.00 |
| 1884 | 48.92 | 71.49 | 82.22 | 36.98 | 10.60 | 14.26 | 11.25 | 9.68 |
| 1885 | 49.86 | 69.59 | 81.50 | 37.84 | 10.86 | 14.86 | 11.46 | 9.89 |
| 1886 | 45.42 | 60.91 | 74.92 | 34.03 | 9.86 | 12.02 | 11.01 | 9.08 |
| 1887 | 38.66 | 50.50 | 57.05 | 30.82 | 8.92 | 10.67 | 9.58 | 8.39 |
| Mean | 43.90 | 72.19 | 68.56 | 34.01 | 10.34 | 15.31 | 9.48 | 9.49 |

Deaths of children under 1 year of age.

The majority of children who die under the age of 5 are really under the age of 1 year. The following table gives the number who died in the city, suburbs, and country, during each year since 1871, together with the number per thousand as compared with the births.

DEATHS

DEATHS of CHILDREN under 1 year of age, 1871-87.

| Year. | New South Wales. | | Sydney. | | Suburbs. | | Country. | |
|---------|------------------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|-------------------|
| | Total. | Per 1,000 births. | Total. | Per 1,000 births. | Total. | Per 1,000 births. | Total. | Per 1,000 births. |
| 1871... | 1,812 | 89.9 | 467 | 156.7 | 318 | 122.2 | 1,027 | 70.5 |
| 1872... | 2,116 | 104.4 | 507 | 176.1 | 339 | 139.1 | 1,270 | 85.0 |
| 1873... | 1,985 | 92.5 | 487 | 158.8 | 341 | 123.4 | 1,157 | 74.0 |
| 1874... | 2,428 | 109.4 | 588 | 188.4 | 403 | 144.6 | 1,437 | 88.3 |
| 1875... | 2,695 | 119.6 | 613 | 193.8 | 461 | 158.5 | 1,621 | 98.4 |
| 1876... | 2,629 | 112.8 | 561 | 169.4 | 521 | 170.3 | 1,547 | 91.3 |
| 1877... | 2,785 | 116.7 | 562 | 165.3 | 476 | 146.6 | 1,747 | 101.5 |
| 1878... | 3,126 | 123.4 | 650 | 186.5 | 591 | 160.8 | 1,885 | 103.7 |
| 1879... | 2,886 | 107.1 | 612 | 164.7 | 594 | 143.2 | 1,680 | 88.0 |
| 1880... | 3,200 | 113.6 | 785 | 210.1 | 821 | 177.7 | 1,594 | 80.4 |
| 1881... | 3,341 | 115.2 | 608 | 162.5 | 836 | 161.6 | 1,897 | 94.4 |
| 1882... | 3,897 | 131.2 | 737 | 196.3 | 1,028 | 174.9 | 2,132 | 106.2 |
| 1883... | 3,590 | 114.7 | 668 | 177.8 | 1,012 | 154.8 | 1,910 | 90.9 |
| 1884... | 4,285 | 126.2 | 769 | 186.2 | 1,272 | 164.2 | 2,244 | 101.6 |
| 1885... | 4,596 | 131.1 | 780 | 200.7 | 1,512 | 180.4 | 2,304 | 101.1 |
| 1886... | 4,635 | 127.7 | 702 | 183.1 | 1,573 | 169.2 | 2,360 | 101.9 |
| 1887... | 3,945 | 105.9 | 573 | 151.7 | 1,317 | 136.6 | 2,055 | 86.3 |

The following tables show the numbers of deaths at all ages for the years 1886 and 1887, distinguishing those which occurred in Sydney, Suburbs, and Country Districts:—

TABLE showing the DEATHS at all ages, in Sydney, Suburbs, and Country Districts, for the year ended 1886. 31st December, 1886.

| | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 to 80 years. | 80 to 85 years. | 85 to 90 years. | 90 to 95 years. | 95 to 100 years. | 100 years and upwards. | Age not specified. | Total. |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Males— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sydney | 394 | 62 | 17 | 9 | 9 | 26 | 13 | 22 | 67 | 95 | 80 | 67 | 73 | 65 | 77 | 48 | 40 | 32 | 28 | 27 | 5 | 8 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 1,266 |
| Suburbs | 854 | 205 | 41 | 25 | 22 | 46 | 34 | 43 | 76 | 96 | 82 | 91 | 80 | 91 | 65 | 70 | 61 | 66 | 45 | 31 | 19 | 13 | 2 | .. | .. | 2 | 2,160 |
| Country Districts | 1287 | 250 | 108 | 59 | 31 | 125 | 85 | 116 | 183 | 206 | 192 | 216 | 187 | 225 | 261 | 265 | 228 | 257 | 260 | 250 | 129 | 88 | 17 | 14 | 3 | 33 | 5,075 |
| Total | 2535 | 517 | 166 | 93 | 62 | 197 | 132 | 181 | 326 | 397 | 354 | 374 | 340 | 381 | 403 | 383 | 329 | 355 | 333 | 308 | 153 | 109 | 19 | 14 | 3 | 37 | 8,501 |
| Females— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sydney | 308 | 71 | 19 | 17 | 13 | 16 | 12 | 22 | 34 | 47 | 39 | 52 | 57 | 57 | 44 | 31 | 24 | 33 | 18 | 27 | 13 | 5 | 4 | .. | 1 | .. | 958 |
| Suburbs | 719 | 180 | 53 | 32 | 19 | 48 | 26 | 50 | 82 | 84 | 80 | 63 | 54 | 53 | 63 | 47 | 57 | 59 | 41 | 40 | 16 | 12 | 5 | 1 | .. | 1 | 1,885 |
| Country Districts | 1073 | 245 | 71 | 55 | 46 | 121 | 58 | 96 | 133 | 147 | 117 | 128 | 93 | 103 | 98 | 86 | 107 | 123 | 109 | 108 | 73 | 30 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 3,243 |
| Total | 2100 | 496 | 143 | 104 | 78 | 179 | 96 | 168 | 249 | 278 | 236 | 243 | 204 | 213 | 205 | 164 | 188 | 215 | 163 | 175 | 102 | 47 | 17 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 6,086 |
| Total, both sexes. | 4635 | 1013 | 309 | 197 | 140 | 376 | 228 | 349 | 575 | 675 | 590 | 617 | 544 | 594 | 608 | 547 | 517 | 570 | 501 | 483 | 255 | 156 | 36 | 21 | 5 | 46 | 14,587 |

TABLE showing the DEATHS at all ages, in Sydney, Suburbs, and Country Districts, for the year ended 1887. 31st December, 1887.

| | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 to 80 years. | 80 to 85 years. | 85 to 90 years. | 90 to 95 years. | 95 to 100 years. | 100 years and upwards. | Age not specified. | Total. |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Males— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sydney | 298 | 57 | 20 | 13 | 10 | 25 | 13 | 26 | 37 | 75 | 76 | 59 | 59 | 59 | 66 | 56 | 40 | 42 | 33 | 19 | 12 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 3 | 1,100 |
| Suburbs | 705 | 167 | 42 | 44 | 19 | 65 | 21 | 33 | 79 | 84 | 97 | 76 | 75 | 76 | 62 | 85 | 62 | 63 | 52 | 37 | 10 | 7 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 1,963 |
| Country | 1120 | 241 | 117 | 77 | 52 | 160 | 101 | 121 | 167 | 181 | 180 | 198 | 169 | 213 | 239 | 220 | 246 | 216 | 220 | 210 | 121 | 64 | 22 | 5 | 2 | 51 | 4,713 |
| Total | 2123 | 465 | 179 | 134 | 81 | 250 | 135 | 180 | 283 | 340 | 353 | 333 | 303 | 348 | 367 | 361 | 248 | 321 | 305 | 266 | 143 | 72 | 24 | 6 | 2 | 54 | 7,776 |
| Females— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sydney | 275 | 63 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 15 | 9 | 29 | 41 | 52 | 41 | 32 | 35 | 41 | 37 | 23 | 40 | 19 | 14 | 20 | 12 | 5 | 3 | .. | .. | 2 | 842 |
| Suburbs | 612 | 146 | 40 | 28 | 25 | 50 | 23 | 34 | 64 | 66 | 61 | 66 | 54 | 59 | 50 | 52 | 46 | 38 | 37 | 39 | 29 | 17 | 3 | .. | .. | 2 | 1,641 |
| Country | 935 | 261 | 104 | 54 | 61 | 129 | 86 | 117 | 114 | 131 | 123 | 101 | 116 | 91 | 90 | 107 | 90 | 139 | 123 | 114 | 52 | 29 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3,139 |
| Total | 1822 | 470 | 156 | 92 | 99 | 194 | 118 | 180 | 219 | 249 | 230 | 199 | 205 | 191 | 177 | 182 | 176 | 196 | 174 | 173 | 93 | 51 | 17 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 5,672 |
| Total, both sexes. | 3945 | 935 | 335 | 226 | 179 | 444 | 253 | 360 | 502 | 589 | 583 | 532 | 508 | 539 | 544 | 543 | 524 | 517 | 479 | 439 | 236 | 123 | 41 | 8 | 4 | 60 | 13,448 |

BIRTHS and DEATHS registered in each Ward of the City of Sydney, from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1886.

Sydney, 1886.

| Wards. | Births. | | | Deaths. | | | | | | Total Deaths. |
|--|---------|----------|--------|----------------|----------|--------|----------------|----------|--------|---------------|
| | | | | Under 5 years. | | | Above 5 years. | | | |
| | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | |
| 1.—Gipps | 183 | 181 | 364 | 32 | 34 | 66 | 70 | 57 | 127 | 193 |
| 2.—Bourke | 34 | 27 | 61 | 10 | 7 | 17 | 42 | 9 | 51 | 68 |
| 3.—Brisbane | 67 | 48 | 115 | 10 | 14 | 24 | 26 | 17 | 43 | 67 |
| 4.—Macquarie | 101 | 95 | 196 | 19 | 13 | 32 | 32 | 14 | 46 | 78 |
| 5.—Cook | 545 | 542 | 1,087 | 131 | 111 | 242 | 129 | 111 | 240 | 482 |
| 6.—Fitzroy | 296 | 278 | 574 | 56 | 53 | 109 | 82 | 71 | 153 | 262 |
| 7.—Phillip | 200 | 174 | 374 | 73 | 42 | 115 | 38 | 53 | 91 | 206 |
| 8.—Denison | 411 | 350 | 761 | 106 | 95 | 201 | 75 | 68 | 143 | 344 |
| Sydney Hospital (Bourke)..... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 4 | 9 | 230 | 87 | 317 | 326 |
| Hyde Park Asylum (Bourke)* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| St. Vincent's Hospital (Fitzroy) | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | 34 | 21 | 55 | 57 |
| Sydney Gaol (Fitzroy) | 3 | 3 | 6 | ... | 1 | 1 | 13 | 5 | 18 | 19 |
| Lunatic Reception House (Fitzroy)... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 2 | 6 | 6 |
| Benevolent Asylum (Phillip) | 148 | 148 | 296 | 47 | 54 | 101 | ... | 4 | 4 | 105 |
| Totals | 1,988 | 1,846 | 3,834 | 491 | 428 | 919 | 775 | 530 | 1,305 | 2,224 |

* For two months only—during February the inmates of this Asylum were removed to Newington, Parramatta River.

BIRTHS and DEATHS registered in each Ward of the City of Sydney, from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1887.

Sydney, 1887.

| Wards. | Births. | | | Deaths. | | | | | | Total Deaths. |
|--|---------|----------|--------|----------------|----------|--------|----------------|----------|--------|---------------|
| | | | | Under 5 years. | | | Above 5 years. | | | |
| | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | |
| 1.—Gipps | 179 | 179 | 358 | 29 | 29 | 58 | 55 | 48 | 103 | 161 |
| 2.—Bourke | 28 | 31 | 59 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 42 | 13 | 55 | 63 |
| 3.—Brisbane | 72 | 83 | 155 | 7 | 18 | 25 | 22 | 16 | 38 | 63 |
| 4.—Macquarie... .. | 99 | 103 | 202 | 11 | 15 | 26 | 19 | 24 | 43 | 69 |
| 5.—Cook | 550 | 540 | 1,090 | 105 | 94 | 199 | 110 | 116 | 226 | 425 |
| 6.—Fitzroy | 280 | 280 | 560 | 39 | 41 | 80 | 73 | 56 | 129 | 209 |
| 7.—Phillip | 174 | 201 | 375 | 54 | 40 | 94 | 67 | 46 | 113 | 207 |
| 8.—Denison..... | 368 | 358 | 726 | 97 | 92 | 189 | 81 | 62 | 143 | 332 |
| Sydney Hospital (Bourke) | ... | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 187 | 59 | 246 | 251 |
| St. Vincent's Hospital (Fitzroy) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34 | 21 | 55 | 55 |
| Sydney Gaol (Fitzroy) | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 14 | 16 |
| Lunatic Reception House (Fitzroy)... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | 5 | 5 |
| Benevolent Asylum (Phillip) | 128 | 119 | 247 | 45 | 39 | 84 | ... | 2 | 2 | 86 |
| Totals..... | 1,881 | 1,896 | 3,777 | 398 | 372 | 770 | 702 | 470 | 1,172 | 1,942 |

BIRTHS and DEATHS registered in each of the Registry Districts forming the Metropolitan Division during the year 1886. Metropolis 1886.

| Districts. | Estimated Population 30th June, 1886. | Births. | | | Deaths. | | | Total Deaths. | Deaths per 1,000 of Population. |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|----------|--------|---------|----------|--------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| | | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | | |
| SYDNEY | 123,645 | 1,837 | 1,695 | 3,532 | 931 | 769 | 1,700 | 1,700 | 13'75 |
| SUBURBS— | | | | | | | | | |
| North | 43,108 | 507 | 463 | 970 | 194 | 202 | 396 | 878 | 20'37 |
| Western | | 216 | 210 | 426 | 78 | 80 | 158 | | |
| | | 416 | 398 | 814 | 173 | 151 | 324 | | |
| West | 29,295 | 342 | 312 | 654 | 136 | 137 | 273 | 574 | 19'59 |
| Central | | 114 | 101 | 215 | 47 | 45 | 92 | | |
| | | 112 | 99 | 211 | 60 | 49 | 109 | | |
| | | 112 | 117 | 229 | 45 | 55 | 100 | | |
| East | 38,155 | 400 | 395 | 795 | 180 | 180 | 360 | 774 | 20'29 |
| Central | | 72 | 78 | 150 | 29 | 30 | 59 | | |
| | | 420 | 419 | 839 | 189 | 166 | 355 | | |
| Eastern | 32,476 | 369 | 312 | 681 | 132 | 102 | 234 | 450 | 13'86 |
| | | 69 | 50 | 119 | 28 | 16 | 44 | | |
| | | 129 | 128 | 257 | 40 | 39 | 79 | | |
| | | 123 | 120 | 243 | 38 | 55 | 93 | | |
| Western | 40,371 | 190 | 185 | 375 | 73 | 60 | 133 | 680 | 16'84 |
| | | 216 | 194 | 410 | 82 | 61 | 143 | | |
| and | | 21 | 23 | 44 | 14 | 5 | 19 | | |
| Southern | | 29 | 36 | 65 | 9 | 13 | 22 | | |
| | | 231 | 222 | 453 | 88 | 81 | 169 | | |
| | 201 | 176 | 377 | 60 | 71 | 131 | | | |
| | 111 | 85 | 196 | 38 | 25 | 63 | | | |
| North | 17,372 | 346 | 300 | 646 | 114 | 90 | 204 | 243 | 13'99 |
| Shore | | 68 | 58 | 126 | 26 | 13 | 39 | | |
| Sydney | | | | | 235 | 91 | 326 | 524 | |
| | | | | | | 11 | 11 | | |
| | | | | | 36 | 21 | 57 | | |
| | | 3 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 6 | 19 | | |
| | | | | | 4 | 2 | 6 | | |
| | | 148 | 148 | 296 | 47 | 58 | 105 | | |
| Suburbs | | | | | 36 | 21 | 57 | 446 | |
| | | | | | 9 | 10 | 19 | | |
| | | | | | 126 | 63 | 189 | | |
| | | | | | 84 | 35 | 119 | | |
| | | | | | 30 | 27 | 57 | | |
| | | | | | 2 | 3 | 5 | | |
| Total, Sydney | 123,645 | 1,988 | 1,846 | 3,834 | 1,266 | 958 | 2,224 | 2,224 | 17'99 |
| Total, Suburbs | 200,777 | 4,814 | 4,481 | 9,295 | 2,160 | 1,885 | 4,045 | 4,045 | 20'15 |
| Total, Metropolis | 324,422 | 6,802 | 6,327 | 13,129 | 3,426 | 2,843 | 6,269 | 6,269 | 19'32 |

Metropolis, 1887. BIRTHS and DEATHS Registered in each of the Registry Districts forming the Metropolitan Division during the year 1887.

| Districts. | Approximate Population at middle of 1887. | Births. | | | Deaths. | | | Total Deaths. | Deaths per 1,000 of Population. |
|-------------------------|---|---------|----------|--------|---------|----------|--------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| | | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | | |
| SYDNEY | 125,115 | 1,750 | 1,775 | 3,525 | 817 | 712 | 1,529 | 1,529 | 12'22 |
| SUBURBS— | | | | | | | | | |
| North | 46,691 | 495 | 507 | 1,002 | 143 | 132 | 275 | 674 | 14'43 |
| Western | | 219 | 207 | 426 | 59 | 56 | 115 | | |
| | | 404 | 434 | 838 | 135 | 149 | 284 | | |
| West | 31,730 | 347 | 323 | 670 | 128 | 118 | 246 | 485 | 15'28 |
| Central | | 122 | 128 | 250 | 34 | 33 | 67 | | |
| | | 117 | 113 | 230 | 37 | 35 | 72 | | |
| East | 41,327 | 368 | 382 | 750 | 171 | 149 | 320 | 687 | 16'65 |
| Central | | 61 | 74 | 135 | 30 | 28 | 58 | | |
| | | 437 | 420 | 857 | 174 | 135 | 309 | | |
| Eastern | 35,176 | 354 | 341 | 695 | 120 | 113 | 233 | 447 | 12'71 |
| | | 60 | 60 | 120 | 20 | 16 | 36 | | |
| | | 146 | 154 | 300 | 44 | 50 | 94 | | |
| | | 117 | 137 | 254 | 46 | 38 | 84 | | |
| Western | 43,727 | 206 | 169 | 375 | 57 | 57 | 114 | 620 | 14'18 |
| | | 211 | 218 | 429 | 69 | 46 | 115 | | |
| and | | 27 | 26 | 53 | 17 | 8 | 25 | | |
| Southern | | 37 | 38 | 75 | 5 | 8 | 13 | | |
| | | 75 | 88 | 163 | 28 | 28 | 56 | | |
| | | 201 | 243 | 444 | 70 | 68 | 138 | | |
| | | 176 | 185 | 361 | 56 | 70 | 126 | | |
| North | 18,817 | 367 | 327 | 694 | 95 | 84 | 179 | 213 | 11'32 |
| Shore | | 63 | 57 | 120 | 20 | 14 | 34 | | |
| Sydney | | | 1 | 1 | 191 | 60 | 251 | 413 | |
| | | | | | 34 | 21 | 55 | | |
| | | 3 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 16 | | |
| | | | | | 4 | 1 | 5 | | |
| | | 128 | 119 | 247 | 45 | 41 | 86 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Suburbs | | | | | 36 | 19 | 55 | 478 | |
| | | | | | 16 | 8 | 24 | | |
| | | | | | 137 | 66 | 203 | | |
| | | | | | 115 | 35 | 150 | | |
| | | | | | 18 | 15 | 33 | | |
| | | | | | 8 | 5 | 13 | | |
| Total Sydney | 125,115 | 1,881 | 1,896 | 3,777 | 1,100 | 842 | 1,942 | 1,942 | 15'52 |
| Total, Suburbs | 217,468 | 4,820 | 4,823 | 9,643 | 1,963 | 1,641 | 3,604 | 3,604 | 16'57 |
| Total, Metropolis... .. | 342,583 | 6,701 | 6,719 | 13,420 | 3,063 | 2,483 | 5,546 | 5,546 | 16'19 |

* Includes Alexandria and Botany. † Includes part of Canterbury Electorate not incorporated and not comprised in other sub-districts. ‡ Includes Hurstville.

SYDNEY AND SUBURBS.

| | 1886. | | | 1887. | | |
|--|---------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------|------------------|
| | Deaths. | | | Deaths. | | |
| | Under 1 year. | Total under 5 years. | Total, all ages. | Under 1 year. | Total under 5 years. | Total, all ages. |
| SYDNEY | 702 | 919 | 2,224 | 573 | 770 | 1,942 |
| SUBURBS— | | | | | | |
| North-Western. { Balmain | } 384 | 542 | 954 | 285 | 409 | 753 |
| { Leichhardt | | | | | | |
| { Glebe | | | | | | |
| West Central. { Newtown | } 265 | 360 | 763 | 214 | 292 | 688 |
| { St. Peters | | | | | | |
| { Camperdown | | | | | | |
| East Central. { Redfern | } 319 | 458 | 893 | 294 | 424 | 837 |
| { Darlington | | | | | | |
| { Waterloo | | | | | | |
| Eastern. { Paddington | } 195 | 238 | 450 | 170 | 229 | 447 |
| { Randwick | | | | | | |
| { Waverley | | | | | | |
| { Woollahra | | | | | | |
| Western and Southern. { Ashfield | } 313 | 427 | 737 | 269 | 361 | 653 |
| { Burwood | | | | | | |
| { Canterbury | | | | | | |
| { Five Dock | | | | | | |
| { Hurstville | | | | | | |
| { Kogarah | | | | | | |
| { Marrickville | | | | | | |
| { Petersham | | | | | | |
| { West Botany | | | | | | |
| North Shore. { St. Leonards | } 97 | 125 | 248 | 85 | 113 | 226 |
| { Manly | | | | | | |
| Metropolis | 2,275 | 3,069 | 6,269 | 1,890 | 2,598 | 5,546 |

In the foregoing table the deaths in hospitals, asylums, &c., are included. The numbers of persons who died during 1886 and 1887 in the various public institutions in Sydney, Leichhardt, Glebe, Camperdown, Waterloo, Ashfield, and Manly are notified in the two preceding tables. On comparing the figures for 1887 with those of 1886 the general healthiness of last year is manifest. There were fewer deaths of infants under the age of one year, fewer deaths of children under five, and fewer deaths altogether in the city and in each division of the suburbs of Sydney.

The death-rates of the Metropolis since 1881, the year of the last census, are given below:—

SYDNEY AND SUBURBS, 1881-1887.

| | Death-rate per 1,000 of Estimated Population. | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 1881. | 1882. | 1883. | 1884. | 1885. | 1886. | 1887. |
| Sydney | 21'52 | 23'30 | 19'76 | 21'37 | 21'58 | 17'99 | 15'52 |
| Suburbs— | | | | | | | |
| North-western | 17'31 | 19'14 | 18'41 | 20'83 | 21'56 | 22'13 | 16'13 |
| West Central | 17'85 | 21'38 | 22'34 | 28'81 | 28'38 | 26'45 | 21'68 |
| East Central | 19'89 | 19'77 | 21'11 | 25'06 | 25'24 | 23'40 | 20'25 |
| Eastern | 14'92 | 15'86 | 16'92 | 17'39 | 17'92 | 13'86 | 12'71 |
| Western and Southern | 16'28 | 19'09 | 18'20 | 18'18 | 17'79 | 18'25 | 14'93 |
| North Shore | 14'92 | 16'05 | 12'83 | 14'86 | 16'40 | 14'28 | 12'01 |
| Metropolis | 19'11 | 20'77 | 19'14 | 21'24 | 21'51 | 19'32 | 16'19 |

Some of the above rates are higher than the average for the Metropolis, being influenced more or less by the numbers of deaths in public institutions.

SYDNEY, 1877-1887.

| WARDS. | Percentage of— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--|--|
| | Deaths under 5 years to total Deaths in each Ward. | | | | | | | | | | | Deaths under 5 years to Births in each Ward. | | | | | | | | | | | Total Deaths to Births in each Ward. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1877. | 1878. | 1879. | 1880. | 1881. | 1882. | 1883. | 1884. | 1885. | 1886. | 1887. | 1877. | 1878. | 1879. | 1880. | 1881. | 1882. | 1883. | 1884. | 1885. | 1886. | 1887. | 1877. | 1878. | 1879. | 1880. | 1881. | 1882. | 1883. | 1884. | 1885. | 1886. | 1887. | | |
| Gipps | 51'40 | 43'30 | 38'17 | 57'72 | 42'64 | 45'68 | 45'68 | 46'53 | 42'27 | 34'20 | 36'02 | 22'66 | 24'25 | 16'94 | 36'60 | 22'52 | 23'44 | 18'73 | 25'13 | 25'20 | 18'13 | 16'20 | 44'09 | 56'00 | 44'39 | 63'40 | 52'82 | 51'30 | 41'01 | 54'01 | 59'62 | 53'02 | 44'97 | | |
| Bourke | 43'75 | 46'51 | 26'30 | 34'04 | 27'91 | 28'57 | 34'15 | 22'77 | 20'41 | 25'00 | 12'70 | 35'00 | 31'75 | 25'74 | 30'48 | 25'26 | 30'77 | 36'36 | 28'39 | 28'57 | 27'87 | 13'56 | 80'00 | 68'25 | 96'04 | 89'52 | 90'53 | 107'69 | 106'49 | 124'69 | 140'00 | 111'47 | 106'78 | | |
| Brisbane ... | 41'10 | 52'38 | 44'60 | 48'54 | 45'04 | 41'13 | 39'42 | 38'68 | 42'53 | 35'82 | 39'68 | 29'13 | 30'43 | 27'55 | 36'72 | 31'05 | 27'13 | 25'79 | 21'69 | 25'17 | 20'87 | 16'13 | 70'87 | 58'10 | 61'77 | 75'66 | 68'95 | 65'96 | 65'41 | 56'08 | 59'18 | 58'26 | 40'64 | | |
| Macquarie ... | 48'61 | 51'65 | 48'25 | 52'06 | 46'85 | 41'18 | 44'63 | 46'56 | 44'95 | 41'02 | 37'68 | 24'65 | 29'77 | 26'44 | 39'61 | 26'27 | 23'33 | 22'98 | 26'29 | 22'58 | 16'33 | 12'87 | 50'70 | 57'63 | 54'79 | 76'08 | 56'08 | 56'67 | 51'49 | 56'46 | 50'23 | 39'80 | 34'16 | | |
| Cook | 52'25 | 55'45 | 54'48 | 57'68 | 49'39 | 48'28 | 51'61 | 52'93 | 48'23 | 50'21 | 46'82 | 20'56 | 26'67 | 23'12 | 31'96 | 19'98 | 25'62 | 23'44 | 24'68 | 26'17 | 22'26 | 18'26 | 39'35 | 48'09 | 42'44 | 55'41 | 40'45 | 53'07 | 45'43 | 46'63 | 54'25 | 44'34 | 38'99 | | |
| Fitzroy | 45'33 | 45'88 | 43'37 | 53'43 | 41'46 | 48'16 | 45'09 | 46'39 | 47'15 | 41'60 | 38'28 | 21'41 | 26'78 | 22'08 | 30'20 | 20'44 | 24'84 | 22'00 | 24'32 | 27'44 | 18'99 | 14'28 | 47'24 | 58'37 | 50'92 | 56'53 | 49'30 | 51'58 | 48'80 | 52'43 | 58'19 | 45'64 | 37'32 | | |
| Phillip | 48'35 | 51'61 | 45'20 | 51'22 | 51'41 | 52'12 | 50'48 | 52'50 | 54'59 | 55'82 | 45'41 | 25'81 | 29'24 | 23'57 | 31'74 | 21'98 | 28'74 | 25'18 | 24'25 | 28'46 | 30'75 | 25'07 | 53'37 | 56'66 | 52'14 | 61'96 | 42'75 | 55'14 | 49'88 | 46'19 | 52'14 | 55'08 | 55'20 | | |
| Denison | 54'03 | 56'42 | 51'84 | 60'96 | 55'48 | 53'46 | 61'29 | 63'38 | 55'77 | 58'43 | 56'93 | 25'00 | 32'94 | 27'34 | 38'25 | 23'58 | 27'93 | 29'27 | 27'95 | 28'45 | 26'41 | 26'03 | 46'27 | 58'38 | 52'73 | 62'75 | 42'50 | 52'24 | 47'75 | 44'10 | 51'00 | 45'20 | 45'73 | | |

N.B.—The Births and Deaths in Public Institutions are not included in these calculations

SYDNEY AND SUBURBS, 1878-1887.

| Districts | Percentage of— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Deaths under 5 years to total Deaths. | | | | | | | | | | Deaths under 5 years to Births. | | | | | | | | | | Total Deaths to Births. | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1878. | 1879. | 1880. | 1881. | 1882. | 1883. | 1884. | 1885. | 1886. | 1887. | 1878. | 1879. | 1880. | 1881. | 1882. | 1883. | 1884. | 1885. | 1886. | 1887. | 1878. | 1879. | 1880. | 1881. | 1882. | 1883. | 1884. | 1885. | 1886. | 1887. |
| SYDNEY | 44'00 | 39'67 | 47'19 | 37'76 | 39'21 | 42'09 | 41'54 | 39'57 | 41'32 | 39'65 | 29'33 | 24'20 | 34'62 | 22'67 | 26'37 | 25'03 | 25'50 | 26'84 | 23'97 | 20'39 | 66'62 | 61'01 | 73'36 | 60'04 | 67'26 | 59'45 | 61'39 | 67'83 | 58'01 | 51'42 |
| SUBURBS. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| North-western— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Balmain | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Leichhardt | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Glebe | 58'31 | 55'15 | 59'60 | 60'89 | 56'73 | 55'68 | 59'59 | 59'13 | 56'81 | 54'32 | 26'12 | 20'16 | 27'59 | 22'60 | 24'01 | 21'28 | 23'15 | 23'35 | 24'52 | 18'05 | 44'80 | 36'56 | 46'29 | 37'11 | 42'32 | 38'21 | 38'84 | 39'49 | 43'17 | 33'23 |
| West Central— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Newtown... .. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| St. Peters | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Camperdown | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Macedonaldtown | 51'36 | 55'60 | 58'33 | 58'54 | 56'18 | 40'33 | 41'74 | 41'13 | 47'18 | 42'44 | 25'24 | 25'74 | 27'04 | 24'17 | 28'02 | 20'05 | 24'93 | 25'08 | 27'50 | 20'61 | 49'14 | 46'30 | 46'36 | 41'29 | 49'86 | 49'71 | 59'72 | 60'98 | 58'29 | 48'55 |
| East Central— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Redfern | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Darlington | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Waterloo... .. | 62'78 | 57'85 | 62'89 | 56'25 | 61'82 | 59'23 | 56'20 | 55'22 | 51'29 | 50'66 | 28'11 | 24'18 | 28'22 | 23'56 | 25'24 | 26'47 | 27'31 | 28'88 | 25'67 | 24'34 | 44'78 | 41'80 | 44'87 | 41'88 | 40'82 | 44'68 | 48'71 | 52'30 | 50'06 | 48'05 |
| Eastern— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Paddington | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Randwick | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Waverley | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Woollahra | 53'39 | 53'25 | 56'81 | 47'08 | 45'76 | 50'97 | 56'33 | 54'32 | 52'89 | 51'23 | 22'60 | 20'06 | 33'38 | 20'22 | 18'97 | 21'49 | 22'91 | 23'31 | 18'31 | 16'73 | 42'33 | 37'67 | 58'77 | 42'96 | 41'45 | 42'17 | 40'67 | 42'91 | 34'61 | 32'65 |
| Western and Southern— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ashfield | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Burwood | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Canterbury | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Five Dock | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kogarah | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Marrickville | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Petersham | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| West Botany | 50'00 | 53'36 | 56'00 | 54'15 | 51'58 | 60'36 | 60'25 | 57'54 | 57'94 | 55'28 | 23'33 | 20'78 | 25'92 | 22'70 | 20'98 | 23'97 | 23'52 | 23'99 | 22'24 | 17'74 | 46'65 | 38'95 | 46'30 | 41'91 | 40'67 | 39'71 | 39'03 | 41'70 | 38'38 | 32'09 |
| North Shore— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| St. Leonards | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Manly | 49'57 | 45'00 | 50'00 | 37'72 | 45'13 | 45'88 | 45'02 | 64'31 | 50'40 | 50'00 | 20'07 | 16'67 | 19'89 | 15'75 | 19'05 | 15'35 | 15'89 | 24'89 | 16'19 | 13'88 | 40'48 | 37'07 | 39'78 | 41'75 | 42'21 | 33'46 | 35'28 | 38'69 | 32'12 | 27'77 |
| Total, Metropolis... | 48'89 | 46'01 | 52'21 | 45'84 | 46'69 | 48'40 | 48'78 | 48'27 | 48'95 | 46'84 | 27'13 | 22'91 | 30'75 | 22'38 | 24'35 | 23'27 | 24'35 | 25'55 | 23'27 | 19'36 | 55'49 | 49'79 | 58'89 | 48'83 | 52'15 | 48'09 | 49'91 | 52'93 | 47'75 | 41'33 |

Causes of
Death.

The system of classifying causes of death proposed by the late Dr. William Farr, C.B., F.R.S., in conjunction with Dr. Marc d'Espine, which was in vogue in the United Kingdom, and in the Colonies for over a quarter of a century, has within the last few years been abandoned in favour of one arranged by Dr. William Ogle (Dr. Farr's successor at the General Register Office, London), upon the basis of a mode of classification determined upon by a joint committee appointed by the Royal College of Physicians, London; and whilst this latter includes a few important deviations from the former, the changes on the whole are in the direction of more extensive exemplification, so that the admirable system of Dr. Farr still forms the groundwork of the new classification. The principal differences between the old and the new systems are as follows:—Class I, entitled "Zymotic Diseases," is now designated "Specific Febrile, or Zymotic Diseases," and "Parasitic and Dietic Diseases," separate classes (II and III) under the new arrangement were formerly included in this class. "Miasmatic Diseases" (Class I, order I), with the exception of quinsy, croup, carbuncle and rheumatism (which will be found, the three first with local and the latter with constitutional diseases) have been subdivided, and now appear under the heads of "Miasmatic," "Diarrhoeal," "Malarial," and "Septic" diseases. "Constitutional Diseases,"—This class is now numbered IV instead of II, and combines, with some additions under one heading, all those complaints with a few exceptions, which formerly appeared under the two divisions "Diathetic and Tubercular Diseases" (Orders 1 and 2). The diseases excised from this class are:—Dropsy, mortification, tumour, polypus and abscess, which now appear in Class VIII, a new class entitled "Ill-defined and not Specified Causes," whilst those added are—rheumatism and purpura from "Zymotic Diseases," and diabetes mellitus from "Local Diseases." Class IV (Developmental Diseases) now Class V, has been considerably reduced, dentition being transferred to "Diseases of the Digestive System," paramenia to "Diseases of the Organs of Generation," childbirth to "Diseases of Parturition" (all in Class VI—Local Diseases), and atrophy and debility to "Ill-defined Causes" (Class VIII.) "Local Diseases" (formerly Class III, but now Class VI), appear under eleven subdivisions, those added being "Diseases of the Organs of Special Sense," and "Diseases of the Lymphatic System and Ductless Glands," all of which were formerly grouped in other orders under the same class, and "Diseases of Parturition" taken from "Developmental Diseases," and now exemplified under six heads instead of one. "Diseases of the Organs of Generation" have been supplemented by the addition of paramenia from "Developmental Diseases." The class "Violent Deaths" remains the same. Several of the comprehensive heads under the old system have been subdivided, so that many diseases which were formerly grouped now appear separately; this is specially noticeable in regard to diseases of the brain, heart, stomach and reproductive organs.

The number of deaths of males and females at each age from the various causes of death in Sydney, suburbs and country districts, will be found in the appendix tables, but a list is here given of the principal causes of death in New South Wales during 1887, arranged in order of fatality:—

| | No. of Deaths. | | No. of Deaths. |
|--|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| Phthisis | 977 | Childbirth and Puerperal Fever | 173 |
| Accidents | 903 | Endocarditis, Valvular Disease, and Peri- carditis | 173 |
| Atrophy, debility (infants)... .. | 756 | Paralysis | 172 |
| Old Age | 689 | Bright's Disease | 135 |
| Convulsions | 654 | Tubercular Meningitis (Hydrocephalus)... .. | 126 |
| Heart Disease (exclusive of pericarditis and aneurism) | 634 | Congestion of the Lungs | 122 |
| Diarrhoea | 609 | Suicides | 121 |
| Bronchitis | 594 | Intemperance | 105 |
| Pneumonia | 517 | Dysentery | 101 |
| Enteritis | 438 | Peritonitis | 93 |
| Typhoid (Enteric Fever) | 427 | Malformations | 90 |
| Cancer | 354 | Scarlet Fever | 74 |
| Premature Birth | 349 | Insanity | 72 |
| Liver Diseases | 261 | Epilepsy | 72 |
| Apoplexy | 258 | Diseases of Spinal Cord | 67 |
| Dentition | 253 | Dropsy | 64 |
| Tabes Mesenterica | 227 | Found Drowned | 63 |
| Diphtheria | 217 | Tuberculosis, Scrofula, &c. | 62 |
| Inflammation of the Brain | 208 | Cholera | 59 |
| Croup... .. | 206 | Aneurism | 58 |
| Whooping Cough | 205 | Asthma | 57 |
| Diseases of the Urinary System (exclusive of Bright's Disease) | 174 | Syphilis | 53 |
| | | Measles | 51 |

From the foregoing it will be seen that the number of deaths from phthisis in the Colony during 1887 was greater than from any other disease.

There were thirteen deaths from small-pox, all of which occurred at the Quarantine Station, at the north head of Port Jackson; three of the victims were under the age of 5 years, and all were from the passengers and crew of one steamer which was quarantined there some weeks.

Violent deaths were very numerous, especially in the country. An explosion in a coal mine at Bulli, about 45 miles south of Sydney, occasioned the deaths of eighty-one men and boys.

For purposes of comparison, the causes of death as far back as 1881 have been re-arranged in classes according to the new system, and will be found in the following table. A fuller table, giving the number of persons of each sex who died from each cause of death during a series of years, is given in the Appendix:—

TABLE showing the percentage of Deaths to Total Deaths, and also the Rate of Mortality per 1,000 living in New South Wales, from the several Classes of Diseases, for the Years 1881 to 1887.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | 1881. | | | 1882. | | | 1883. | | | 1884. | | | 1885. | | | 1886. | | | 1887. | | |
|--|---------|--------------|-------------------|---------|--------------|-------------------|---------|--------------|-------------------|---------|--------------|-------------------|---------|--------------|-------------------|---------|--------------|-------------------|---------|--------------|-------------------|
| | Deaths. | Per-centage. | Per 1,000 living. | Deaths. | Per-centage. | Per 1,000 living. | Deaths. | Per-centage. | Per 1,000 living. | Deaths. | Per-centage. | Per 1,000 living. | Deaths. | Per-centage. | Per 1,000 living. | Deaths. | Per-centage. | Per 1,000 living. | Deaths. | Per-centage. | Per 1,000 living. |
| Specific Febrile or Zymotic Diseases | 1,705 | 14'78 | 2'24 | 2,084 | 16'26 | 2'62 | 1,818 | 14'84 | 2'18 | 2,362 | 16'61 | 2'68 | 2,382 | 15'59 | 2'56 | 2,315 | 15'87 | 2'36 | 1,978 | 14'71 | 1'93 |
| Parasitic Diseases..... | 48 | '42 | '06 | 54 | '42 | '07 | 51 | '42 | '06 | 66 | '47 | '08 | 89 | '58 | '09 | 82 | '56 | '08 | 61 | '45 | '06 |
| Dietic Diseases | 222 | 1'92 | '29 | 265 | 2'07 | '33 | 172 | 1'40 | '20 | 198 | 1'39 | '22 | 211 | 1'38 | '23 | 198 | 1'36 | '20 | 179 | 1'33 | '17 |
| Constitutional Diseases | 1,420 | 12'31 | 1'87 | 1,440 | 11'24 | 1'81 | 1,517 | 12'38 | 1'82 | 1,640 | 11'53 | 1'86 | 1,837 | 12'02 | 1'97 | 1,980 | 13'57 | 2'02 | 1,896 | 14'10 | 1'85 |
| Developmental Diseases | 1,016 | 8'81 | 1'34 | 1,220 | 9'52 | 1'53 | 1,232 | 10'06 | 1'48 | 1,270 | 8'93 | 1'44 | 1,326 | 8'68 | 1'42 | 1,285 | 8'81 | 1'31 | 1,128 | 8'39 | 1'10 |
| Local Diseases | 5,194 | 45'02 | 6'83 | 5,760 | 44'94 | 7'25 | 5,492 | 44'84 | 6'58 | 6,339 | 44'58 | 7'20 | 6,951 | 45'48 | 7'47 | 6,482 | 44'44 | 6'61 | 6,110 | 45'43 | 5'97 |
| Violence | 906 | 7'85 | 1'19 | 904 | 7'05 | 1'14 | 850 | 6'94 | 1'02 | 990 | 6'96 | 1'12 | 1,106 | 7'24 | 1'19 | 1,083 | 7'42 | 1'11 | 1,148 | 8'54 | 1'12 |
| Ill-defined and not Specified Causes | 1,025 | 8'89 | 1'35 | 1,089 | 8'50 | 1'37 | 1,117 | 9'12 | 1'34 | 1,355 | 9'53 | 1'54 | 1,380 | 9'03 | 1'48 | 1,162 | 7'97 | 1'19 | 948 | 7'05 | '93 |
| | 11,536 | 100'00 | 15'17 | 12,816 | 100'00 | 16'12 | 12,249 | 100'00 | 14'68 | 14,220 | 100'00 | 16'14 | 15,282 | 100'00 | 16'41 | 14,587 | 100'00 | 14'88 | 13,448 | 100'00 | 13'15 |

RAINFALL.

The total rainfall last year, as recorded at the Sydney Observatory, was slightly over 60 inches which is $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches above the average of the preceding twenty-eight years. There was a greater amount of rain during 1887 than in any year since 1879. The rainfall in Sydney since 1877 was as follows:— 1877, $59\frac{1}{2}$ inches; 1878, $49\frac{3}{4}$ inches; 1879, $63\frac{1}{2}$ inches; 1880, $29\frac{1}{2}$ inches; 1881, 40 inches; 1882, $42\frac{1}{4}$ inches; 1883, 47 inches; 1884, 44 inches; 1885, 40 inches; 1886, $39\frac{1}{2}$ inches; 1887, 60 inches.

The two following tables give the numbers of births and deaths in Sydney and suburbs, together with the mean temperature, the mean height of barometer, and the rainfall during each month of the years 1886 and 1887:—

BIRTHS and DEATHS in the City and Suburbs of Sydney, together with the Mean Temperature in the Shade, Mean Height of Barometer, and the Rainfall, during each month of the year 1886.

| Month. | Births. | | | Deaths. | | | Mean Temperature. | Mean Height of Barometer. | Rain. | |
|----------------------|---------|----------|--------|---------|----------|--------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| | City. | Suburbs. | Total. | City. | Suburbs. | Total. | | | Depth. | Days. |
| January | 289 | 706 | 995 | 200 | 360 | 560 | 72·8 | 30·035 | Inches. 2·76 | 14 |
| February | 315 | 703 | 1,018 | 185 | 321 | 506 | 72·7 | 29·913 | 0·73 | 6 |
| March..... | 349 | 764 | 1,113 | 187 | 322 | 509 | 65·8 | 30·110 | 5·47 | 10 |
| April | 304 | 738 | 1,042 | 160 | 313 | 473 | 65·4 | ·071 | 3·00 | 13 |
| May | 302 | 755 | 1,057 | 184 | 393 | 577 | 58·6 | ·123 | 2·64 | 11 |
| June | 343 | 762 | 1,105 | 174 | 332 | 506 | 53·7 | ·324 | 2·10 | 18 |
| July | 309 | 817 | 1,126 | 162 | 304 | 466 | 53·8 | ·231 | 5·54 | 18 |
| August | 345 | 882 | 1,227 | 209 | 262 | 471 | 55·9 | 29·937 | 2·17 | 14 |
| September | 327 | 801 | 1,128 | 174 | 281 | 455 | 58·9 | 30·108 | 0·77 | 7 |
| October | 332 | 798 | 1,130 | 170 | 297 | 467 | 63·5 | 29·872 | 5·53 | 11 |
| November | 327 | 837 | 1,164 | 216 | 396 | 612 | 68·8 | 30·025 | 4·37 | 14 |
| December | 292 | 732 | 1,024 | 203 | 464 | 667 | 69·2 | 29·994 | 4·34 | 15 |
| Mean of 12 months... | 319 | 775 | 1,094 | 185 | 337 | 522 | 63·3 | 30·062 | 3·28 | 13 |

BIRTHS and DEATHS in the City and Suburbs of Sydney, together with the Mean Temperature in the Shade, Mean Height of Barometer, and Rainfall, during each month of the year 1887.

| Month. | Births. | | | Deaths. | | | Mean Temperature. | Mean Height of Barometer. | Rain. | |
|----------------------|---------|----------|-------------------|---------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| | City. | Suburbs. | Total Metropolis. | City. | Suburbs. | Total Metropolis. | | | Depth. | Days. |
| January | 335 | 749 | 1,084 | 200 | 415 | 615 | 73·2 | 29·908 | Inches. 6·30 | 19 |
| February | 294 | 789 | 1,083 | 140 | 303 | 443 | 70·8 | ·958 | 4·41 | 18 |
| March..... | 334 | 804 | 1,138 | 210 | 336 | 546 | 71·2 | 30·046 | 2·87 | 17 |
| April | 316 | 769 | 1,085 | 147 | 327 | 474 | 65·2 | ·212 | 7·12 | 23 |
| May | 323 | 796 | 1,119 | 187 | 251 | 438 | 56·5 | ·131 | 9·20 | 16 |
| June | 344 | 878 | 1,222 | 145 | 280 | 425 | 53·1 | 29·955 | 5·53 | 15 |
| July | 305 | 880 | 1,185 | 130 | 215 | 345 | 53·9 | 30·057 | 3·64 | 10 |
| August | 368 | 864 | 1,232 | 150 | 213 | 363 | 54·8 | ·216 | 7·33 | 7 |
| September | 336 | 803 | 1,139 | 114 | 220 | 334 | 57·7 | 29·961 | 1·57 | 10 |
| October | 294 | 776 | 1,070 | 146 | 326 | 472 | 63·8 | ·973 | 1·36 | 12 |
| November | 285 | 804 | 1,089 | 188 | 351 | 539 | 64·3 | 30·036 | 5·67 | 17 |
| December | 243 | 726 | 969 | 185 | 379 | 564 | 69·0 | ·073 | 5·15 | 15 |
| Mean of 12 months... | 315 | 803 | 1,118 | 162 | 301 | 463 | 62·8 | 30·044 | 5·01 | 16 |

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

T. A. COGHLAN,

Government Statistician.

APPENDIX.

A.

TABLE showing the number of MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS registered in the Colony of New South Wales during the Year ended 31st December, 1886.

| District. | Marriages. | Births. | | | Deaths. | | |
|--------------------|------------|---------|----------|--------|---------|----------|--------|
| | | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| Sydney | 2,164 | 1,988 | 1,846 | 3,834 | 1,266 | 958 | 2,224 |
| Suburban | 1,605 | 4,814 | 4,481 | 9,295 | 2,160 | 1,885 | 4,045 |
| Metropolitan | 3,769 | 6,802 | 6,327 | 13,129 | 3,426 | 2,843 | 6,269 |
| Country | 4,042 | 11,898 | 11,257 | 23,155 | 5,075 | 3,243 | 8,318 |
| Total | 7,811 | 18,700 | 17,584 | 36,284 | 8,501 | 6,086 | 14,587 |

B.

TABLE showing the number of MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS registered in each District of the Colony of New South Wales during the Year ended 31st December, 1886.

| District. | Popula- tion, Census, 1881. | 'Mar- riages. | Total. | | Births. | | | | Deaths. | | Excess of Births over Deaths.* |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------|---------|-----------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-----|---------|-----|---|
| | | | Births. | Deaths. | Including Illegitimate Births. | | Illegitimate Births. | | M. | F. | |
| | | | | | M. | F. | M. | F. | | | |
| I.—NORTH EASTERN. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Casino | 9,266 | { 28 | 170 | 48 | 82 | 88 | 1 | 2 | 28 | 20 | 122 |
| Lismore | | | 480 | 102 | 255 | 225 | 5 | 6 | 67 | 35 | 378 |
| 2. Tweed River..... | 7,744 | { 8 | 79 | 18 | 43 | 36 | 2 | ... | 15 | 3 | 61 |
| 3. Grafton | | | 294 | 110 | 148 | 146 | 4 | 5 | 68 | 42 | 184 |
| Maclean | 7,123 | { 31 | 200 | 42 | 102 | 98 | 2 | 1 | 27 | 15 | 158 |
| Ulmarra | | | 92 | 16 | 52 | 40 | ... | ... | 7 | 9 | 76 |
| 4. Kempsey | 7,123 | { 70 | 281 | 69 | 139 | 142 | 2 | 5 | 40 | 29 | 212 |
| Bellinger River | | | 44 | 33 | 22 | 22 | ... | 2 | 20 | 13 | 11 |
| Nambucca River | 9,309 | { 11 | 54 | 9 | 24 | 30 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 45 |
| 5. Port Macquarie | | | 103 | 30 | 46 | 57 | ... | 1 | 12 | 18 | 73 |
| 6. Taree | 9,309 | { 52 | 383 | 95 | 182 | 198 | 6 | 4 | 53 | 42 | 285 |
| Copeland | | | 13 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 2 | ... | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| 7. Stroud | 5,945 | { 17 | 117 | 36 | 59 | 58 | 1 | 4 | 23 | 13 | 81 |
| 8. Dungog | | | 98 | 24 | 53 | 45 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 14 | 74 |
| 9. Clarence Town..... | 5,945 | { 3 | 54 | 13 | 23 | 31 | 1 | ... | 8 | 5 | 41 |
| 10. Paterson | | | 83 | 22 | 44 | 39 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 8 | 61 |
| 11. Raymond Terrace | 5,643 | { 25 | 98 | 27 | 50 | 48 | ... | 1 | 13 | 14 | 71 |
| 12. Maitland (East) | 4,103 | { 34 | 137 | 31 | 73 | 64 | 3 | 4 | 17 | 14 | 106 |
| Maitland (West) | 5,703 | { 75 | 330 | 155 | 159 | 171 | 9 | 10 | 81 | 74 | 175 |
| Hunter | 11,321 | { ... | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 4 |
| Minmi | | | 8 | 108 | 37 | 54 | 54 | 1 | ... | 23 | 14 | 71 |
| Greta | 4,944 | { 12 | 141 | 47 | 67 | 74 | 1 | ... | 25 | 22 | 94 |
| 13. Morpeth | | | 27 | 154 | 57 | 69 | 65 | 1 | 3 | 32 | 25 | 97 |
| 14. Patrick's Plains | 7,021 | { 65 | 289 | 65 | 141 | 148 | 5 | 5 | 32 | 33 | 224 |
| 15. Muswellbrook | 11,321 | { 17 | 66 | 22 | 35 | 31 | 2 | ... | 12 | 10 | 44 |
| Denman | | | 6 | 33 | 3 | 17 | 16 | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | 30 |
| 16. Scone..... | 11,321 | { 15 | 99 | 28 | 52 | 47 | ... | 1 | 11 | 17 | 71 |
| 17. Murrurundi | | | 17 | 60 | 20 | 29 | 31 | 1 | ... | 10 | 10 | 40 |
| Total ..... | ..... | 727 | 4,062 | 1,167 | 2,051 | 2,011 | 53 | 57 | 658 | 509 | 2,895 |
| II.—NORTH MIDLAND. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Tenterfield | 4,855 | { 37 | 222 | 59 | 132 | 90 | 5 | 2 | 43 | 16 | 163 |
| 2. Glen Innes | 6,900 | { 46 | 246 | 70 | 120 | 126 | 3 | 6 | 40 | 30 | 176 |
| Emmaville | | | 11 | 112 | 31 | 56 | 56 | ... | 2 | 20 | 11 | 81 |
| 3. Inverell..... | 7,186 | { 52 | 300 | 79 | 174 | 126 | 3 | 6 | 54 | 25 | 221 |
| 4. Armidale | 15,222 | { 85 | 377 | 96 | 187 | 190 | 6 | 10 | 45 | 51 | 281 |
| Walcha | | | 14 | 116 | 26 | 57 | 59 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 12 | 90 |
| Uralla | 15,222 | { 13 | 112 | 30 | 67 | 45 | 4 | 1 | 21 | 9 | 82 |
| Bundarra | | | 9 | 52 | 12 | 27 | 25 | 1 | ... | 5 | 7 | 40 |
| Total ..... | ..... | 267 | 1,537 | 403 | 820 | 717 | 26 | 31 | 242 | 161 | 1,134 |

B—continued.

| District. | Population, Census, 1881. | Mar- riages. | Total. | | Births. | | | | Deaths. | | Excess of Births over Deaths.* |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-----|---------|-------|---|
| | | | Births. | Deaths. | Including Illegitimate Births. | | Illegitimate Births. | | M. | F. | |
| | | | | | M. | F. | M. | F. | | | |
| III.—NORTH-WESTERN. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Tamworth..... | 13,238 | 60 | 304 | 106 | 156 | 148 | 7 | 6 | 61 | 45 | 198 |
| Manilla..... | | 1 | 53 | 19 | 21 | 32 | 2 | ... | 8 | 11 | 34 |
| Gunnedah..... | | 22 | 188 | 44 | 94 | 94 | 7 | 8 | 26 | 18 | 144 |
| Quirindi..... | | 16 | 96 | 32 | 47 | 49 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 17 | 64 |
| Barraba..... | 4 | 37 | 4 | 19 | 18 | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 33 | |
| 2. Nundle..... | 5,490 | ... | 53 | 14 | 33 | 20 | ... | ... | 12 | 2 | 39 |
| 3. Warialda..... | | 3 | 104 | 15 | 54 | 50 | 4 | ... | 9 | 6 | 89 |
| Moree..... | | 15 | 112 | 39 | 56 | 56 | 5 | 1 | 26 | 13 | 73 |
| Bingera..... | 7 | 67 | 13 | 34 | 33 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 54 | |
| 4. Cassilis..... | 13,004 | 6 | 48 | 15 | 16 | 32 | ... | ... | 10 | 5 | 33 |
| Merriwa..... | | 6 | 45 | 18 | 17 | 28 | ... | ... | 10 | 8 | 27 |
| 5. Dubbo..... | | 52 | 427 | 119 | 227 | 200 | 4 | 8 | 75 | 44 | 308 |
| Nyngan..... | | 13 | 58 | 25 | 35 | 23 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 10 | 33 |
| 6. Coonabarabran..... | 2,219 | 20 | 77 | 23 | 43 | 34 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 13 | 54 |
| Coonamble..... | | 19 | 145 | 39 | 70 | 75 | 4 | 5 | 25 | 14 | 106 |
| 7. Molong..... | 6,877 | 27 | 250 | 48 | 127 | 123 | 4 | 8 | 30 | 18 | 202 |
| 8. Forbes..... | | 38 | 157 | 54 | 75 | 82 | 4 | 7 | 37 | 17 | 103 |
| Condoblin..... | 7,759 | 10 | 43 | 12 | 20 | 23 | 2 | ... | 6 | 6 | 31 |
| Parkes..... | | 10 | 84 | 27 | 35 | 49 | ... | 1 | 15 | 12 | 57 |
| Nymagee..... | | 13 | 72 | 33 | 47 | 25 | 1 | 3 | 25 | 8 | 39 |
| 9. Walgett..... | 3,459 | 8 | 75 | 23 | 43 | 32 | 7 | 2 | 17 | 6 | 52 |
| 10. Narrabri..... | | 16 | 194 | 53 | 98 | 96 | 1 | 3 | 33 | 20 | 141 |
| Total..... | ..... | 366 | 2,689 | 775 | 1,367 | 1,322 | 59 | 60 | 478 | 297 | 1,914 |
| IV.—METROPOLITAN. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City of Sydney..... | 123,645 | 2,164 | 3,834 | 2,224 ^a | 1,988 | 1,846 | 278 | 255 | 1,266 | 958 | 1,610 |
| Suburbs— | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Balmain..... | 43,108 | 175 | 970 | 396 | 507 | 463 | 13 | 8 | 194 | 202 | 574 |
| Leichhardt..... | | 71 | 426 | 215 ^b | 216 | 210 | 5 | 5 | 114 | 101 | 211 |
| Glebe..... | | 164 | 814 | 343 ^c | 416 | 398 | 26 | 26 | 182 | 161 | 471 |
| Newtown..... | | 222 | 654 | 273 | 342 | 312 | 27 | 33 | 136 | 137 | 381 |
| St. Peters..... | 29,295 | 48 | 215 | 92 | 114 | 101 | 4 | 7 | 47 | 45 | 123 |
| Camperdown..... | | 5 | 211 | 298 ^d | 112 | 99 | 7 | 3 | 186 | 112 | - 87 |
| Macdonaldtown..... | | 11 | 229 | 100 | 112 | 117 | 6 | 6 | 45 | 55 | 129 |
| Redfern..... | 38,155 | 72 | 795 | 360 | 400 | 395 | 25 | 22 | 180 | 180 | 435 |
| Darlington..... | | 11 | 150 | 59 | 72 | 78 | 4 | 3 | 29 | 30 | 91 |
| Waterloo..... | | 104 | 839 | 474 ^e | 420 | 419 | 19 | 17 | 273 | 201 | 365 |
| Paddington..... | | 111 | 681 | 234 | 369 | 312 | 20 | 19 | 132 | 102 | 447 |
| Randwick..... | 32,476 | 23 | 119 | 44 | 69 | 50 | 2 | ... | 28 | 16 | 75 |
| Waverley..... | | 59 | 257 | 79 | 129 | 128 | 1 | 6 | 40 | 39 | 178 |
| Woollahra..... | | 75 | 243 | 93 | 123 | 120 | 4 | 1 | 38 | 55 | 150 |
| Ashfield..... | 40,371 | 71 | 375 | 190 ^f | 190 | 185 | 1 | 4 | 103 | 87 | 185 |
| Burwood..... | | 88 | 410 | 143 | 216 | 194 | 6 | 4 | 82 | 61 | 267 |
| Canterbury..... | | 15 | 44 | 19 | 21 | 23 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 5 | 25 |
| Five Dock..... | | 10 | 65 | 22 | 29 | 36 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 13 | 43 |
| Marrickville..... | 17,372 | 43 | 453 | 169 | 231 | 222 | 4 | 6 | 88 | 81 | 284 |
| Petersham..... | | 81 | 377 | 131 | 201 | 176 | 3 | 3 | 60 | 71 | 246 |
| West Botany..... | | 21 | 196 | 63 | 111 | 85 | 2 | 2 | 38 | 25 | 133 |
| St. Leonards..... | 17,372 | 104 | 646 | 204 | 346 | 300 | 4 | 5 | 114 | 90 | 442 |
| Manly..... | | 21 | 126 | 44 ^g | 68 | 58 | 2 | 1 | 28 | 16 | 82 |
| Total..... | ..... | 3,769 | 13,129 | 6,269 | 6,802 | 6,327 | 466 | 439 | 3,426 | 2,843 | 6,860 |
| V.—EAST MIDLAND. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Newcastle..... | 15,596 | 289 | 928 | 381 | 477 | 451 | 22 | 14 | 206 | 175 | 547 |
| Hamilton..... | 14,773 | 42 | 258 | 72 | 131 | 127 | 3 | 6 | 39 | 33 | 186 |
| Lambton..... | | 50 | 425 | 146 | 224 | 201 | 7 | 7 | 91 | 55 | 279 |
| Wallsend..... | | 77 | 365 | 114 | 184 | 181 | 3 | 4 | 70 | 44 | 251 |
| 2. Wollombi..... | | 3 | 40 | 5 | 11 | 29 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 35 |
| Millfield..... | 5,334 | ... | 49 | 5 | 24 | 25 | ... | 2 | 1 | 4 | 41 |
| Wiseman's Ferry..... | | ... | 24 | 4 | 14 | 10 | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 20 |
| 3. M'Donald River..... | | 3 | 36 | 3 | 20 | 16 | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | 33 |
| 4. Gosford..... | 8,699 | 18 | 204 | 57 | 120 | 84 | ... | 3 | 42 | 15 | 147 |
| 5. Windsor..... | | 32 | 207 | 77 | 105 | 102 | 2 | 5 | 46 | 31 | 130 |
| 6. Richmond..... | | 17 | 103 | 32 | 47 | 56 | 3 | 4 | 14 | 18 | 71 |
| 7. Penrith..... | 6,031 | 37 | 271 | 99 | 143 | 128 | 6 | 3 | 56 | 43 | 172 |
| 8. Parramatta..... | 8,432 | 93 | 435 | 383 ^h | 208 | 227 | 4 | 10 | 255 | 128 | 52 |
| Central Cumberland..... | | 55 | 515 | 330 ⁱ | 266 | 249 | 7 | 10 | 195 | 135 | 185 |
| Granville..... | | ... | 8 | ... | 4 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| 9. Ryde..... | 15,256 | 30 | 244 | 156 ^j | 122 | 122 | 2 | 7 | 100 | 56 | 88 |
| 10. Liverpool..... | | 17 | 179 | 305 ^k | 95 | 84 | 4 | 3 | 285 | 20 | - 126 |
| 11. Campbelltown..... | | 18 | 96 | 26 | 46 | 50 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 14 | 70 |
| 12. Camden..... | 15,723 | 18 | 110 | 36 | 58 | 52 | 2 | ... | 23 | 13 | 74 |
| 13. Picton..... | | 11 | 91 | 46 | 38 | 53 | 1 | 1 | 30 | 16 | 45 |
| Total..... | ..... | 810 | 4,588 | 2,277 | 2,337 | 2,251 | 70 | 84 | 1,469 | 808 | 2,311 |

B—continued.

| District. | Popula- tion, Census, 1881. | Mar- riages. | Total. | | Births. | | | | Deaths. | | Excess of Births over Deaths. |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|-----------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-----|---------|-----|--|
| | | | Births. | Deaths. | Including Illegitimate Births. | | Illegitimate Births. | | M. | F. | |
| | | | | | M. | F. | M. | F. | | | |
| VI.—WEST-MIDLAND. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Carcoar | 10,482 | { 72 | 359 | 122 | 205 | 154 | 8 | 2 | 69 | 53 | 237 |
| 2. Cowra | | { 27 | 188 | 53 | 100 | 85 | 4 | 2 | 34 | 19 | 135 |
| 3. Lithgow | 8,673 | { 43 | 356 | 97 | 169 | 187 | 2 | 3 | 45 | 52 | 259 |
| 4. Bathurst | | { 106 | 359 | 206 | 210 | 149 | 13 | 5 | 112 | 94 | 153 |
| Macquarie East | 12,828 | { 31 | 264 | 85 | 131 | 133 | 4 | 7 | 55 | 30 | 179 |
| West | | { 19 | 148 | 46 | 78 | 70 | 2 | 3 | 23 | 23 | 102 |
| Oberon | | { 3 | 43 | 14 | 17 | 26 | ... | ... | 8 | 6 | 29 |
| 5. Sofala | 9,472 | { 5 | 52 | 32 | 27 | 25 | 2 | ... | 23 | 9 | 20 |
| 6. Orange | | { 82 | 443 | 156 | 231 | 212 | 8 | 9 | 81 | 75 | 289 |
| 7. Wellington | 6,034 | { 28 | 173 | 56 | 88 | 85 | ... | 4 | 23 | 33 | 117 |
| 8. Tambaroora | | { ... | 10 | 7 | 5 | 5 | ... | 1 | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| Hill End | 17,977 | { 6 | 27 | 12 | 10 | 17 | ... | 1 | 9 | 3 | 15 |
| 9. Mudgee | | { 53 | 264 | 120 | 131 | 133 | 6 | 6 | 83 | 37 | 144 |
| Gulgong ..... | ..... | { 17 | 86 | 34 | 37 | 49 | ... | 1 | 17 | 17 | 52 |
| 10. Rylstone | | { 10 | 100 | 16 | 64 | 36 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 10 | 84 |
| Total ..... | ..... | 502 | 2,872 | 1,056 | 1,503 | 1,369 | 50 | 45 | 594 | 462 | 1,816 |
| VII.—SOUTH-WESTERN. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Wollongong | 7,209 | { 45 | 255 | 95 | 132 | 123 | 4 | ... | 55 | 40 | 160 |
| Woonoona | | { 13 | 183 | 51 | 92 | 91 | ... | 3 | 28 | 23 | 132 |
| 2. Kiama | 5,735 | { 48 | 200 | 62 | 101 | 99 | 3 | 2 | 37 | 25 | 138 |
| 3. Berrima | | { 58 | 274 | 83 | 137 | 137 | ... | 4 | 52 | 31 | 191 |
| Robertson | { 9 | 85 | 16 | 44 | 41 | 1 | ... | 11 | 5 | 69 | |
| 4. Shoalhaven | 8,393 | { 44 | 225 | 50 | 122 | 103 | 2 | 1 | 29 | 21 | 175 |
| Broughton Creek | | { 4 | 41 | 12 | 19 | 22 | ... | 1 | 4 | 8 | 29 |
| 5. Milton | { 23 | 70 | 20 | 32 | 38 | ... | ... | 12 | 8 | 50 | |
| 6. Moruya | 11,484 | { 28 | 157 | 38 | 90 | 67 | ... | ... | 20 | 18 | 119 |
| 7. Eden | | { 12 | 81 | 43 | 46 | 35 | ... | ... | 33 | 10 | 38 |
| 8. Bega | { 38 | 249 | 49 | 129 | 120 | 4 | 6 | 27 | 22 | 200 | |
| Total ..... | ..... | 322 | 1,820 | 519 | 944 | 876 | 14 | 17 | 308 | 211 | 1,301 |
| VIII.—SOUTH-MIDLAND. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Braidwood | 6,948 | { 24 | 179 | 50 | 99 | 80 | 3 | 5 | 28 | 22 | 129 |
| 2. Cooma | | { 54 | 290 | 80 | 145 | 145 | 7 | 2 | 47 | 33 | 210 |
| Nimitybelle | 10,751 | { 1 | 18 | 4 | 6 | 12 | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 14 |
| 3. Bombala | | { 19 | 106 | 31 | 61 | 45 | 2 | 3 | 19 | 12 | 75 |
| Delegate | { 5 | 25 | 5 | 14 | 11 | ... | ... | 1 | 4 | 20 | |
| 4. Goulburn | 17,204 | { 116 | 359 | 165 | 181 | 178 | 9 | 9 | 86 | 79 | 194 |
| Argyle | | { 36 | 315 | 85 | 162 | 153 | 2 | 4 | 45 | 40 | 230 |
| Crookwell | { 19 | 74 | 26 | 39 | 35 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 18 | 48 | |
| 5. Albury | 5,715 | { 58 | 216 | 130 | 114 | 102 | 3 | 3 | 77 | 53 | 86 |
| Hume | | { 33 | 218 | 42 | 111 | 107 | 3 | 3 | 25 | 17 | 176 |
| Corowa | { 21 | 107 | 36 | 55 | 52 | ... | 2 | 21 | 15 | 71 | |
| 6. Gundagai | 6,531 | { 26 | 150 | 51 | 78 | 72 | 4 | 4 | 30 | 21 | 99 |
| Adelong | | { 14 | 108 | 28 | 53 | 55 | 4 | 4 | 17 | 11 | 80 |
| Cootamundra | { 37 | 142 | 49 | 68 | 74 | 1 | 5 | 28 | 21 | 93 | |
| 7. Tumut | 6,685 | { 27 | 119 | 44 | 60 | 59 | 1 | 1 | 29 | 15 | 75 |
| 8. Yass | | 7,893 | { 34 | 144 | 54 | 85 | 59 | 2 | 2 | 35 | 19 | 90 |
| Gunning | { 17 | | 86 | 20 | 41 | 45 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 8 | 66 |
| 9. Queanbeyan | 5,459 | { 42 | 281 | 136 | 143 | 138 | 6 | 5 | 87 | 49 | 145 |
| 10. Burrowa | | { 16 | 104 | 38 | 48 | 56 | 4 | ... | 21 | 17 | 66 |
| Grenfell | 5,546 | { 16 | 134 | 37 | 72 | 62 | 3 | 1 | 21 | 16 | 97 |
| Barnedman | | { 2 | 15 | 3 | 8 | 7 | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 12 |
| Temora | | { 10 | 82 | 36 | 36 | 46 | 1 | 2 | 19 | 17 | 46 |
| 11. Young | 11,850 | { 53 | 309 | 106 | 169 | 140 | 5 | 6 | 62 | 44 | 203 |
| Murrumburrah | | { 14 | 125 | 28 | 62 | 63 | 1 | 1 | 22 | 6 | 97 |
| Total ..... | ..... | 694 | 3,706 | 1,284 | 1,910 | 1,796 | 66 | 65 | 746 | 538 | 2,422 |

B—continued.

| District. | Popula- tion, Census, 1881. | Mar- riages. | Total. | | Births. | | | | Deaths. | | Excess of Births over Deaths.* |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|-----------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|-----|---------|-------|---|
| | | | Births. | Deaths. | Including Illegitimate Births. | | Illegitimate Births. | | M. | F. | |
| | | | | | M. | F. | M. | F. | | | |
| IX.—SOUTH-WESTERN. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Deniliquin | 8,908 | 25 | 130 | 73 | 66 | 64 | 3 | 5 | 50 | 23 | 57 |
| Jerilderie | | | 6 | 48 | 19 | 25 | 23 | ... | ... | 15 | 4 |
| 2. Moama | 8,135 | 9 | 55 | 27 | 23 | 32 | ... | ... | 17 | 10 | 28 |
| 3. Moulamein | | | 2 | 13 | 10 | 6 | 7 | ... | 1 | 8 | 2 | 3 |
| 4. Balranald | 8,125 | 5 | 47 | 19 | 25 | 22 | ... | 2 | 14 | 5 | 28 |
| 5. Bourke | | | 32 | 218 | 116 | 102 | 116 | 8 | 15 | 82 | 34 | 102 |
| Brewarrina | 8,125 | 4 | 62 | 13 | 31 | 31 | 1 | ... | 8 | 5 | 49 |
| Barrington | | | ... | 16 | 12 | 8 | 8 | ... | ... | 6 | 6 | 4 |
| Cobar | †..... | 19 | 95 | 39 | 54 | 41 | 2 | 1 | 24 | 15 | 56 |
| 6. Hay | | | 40 | 218 | 74 | 118 | 100 | 2 | 8 | 52 | 22 | 144 |
| Hillston | †..... | 9 | 115 | 36 | 59 | 56 | 3 | 4 | 31 | 5 | 79 |
| 7. Wentworth | | | 26 | 107 | 38 | 60 | 47 | 1 | 1 | 28 | 10 | 69 |
| Silverton | 6,194 | 41 | 76 | 70 | 38 | 38 | 1 | 2 | 57 | 13 | 6 |
| 8. Wilcannia | | | 20 | 78 | 57 | 42 | 36 | 1 | ... | 42 | 15 | 21 |
| Milparinka | 8 | 22 | 16 | 9 | 13 | 1 | ... | 13 | 3 | 6 | |
| Menindie | | | 3 | 31 | 15 | 17 | 14 | ... | 2 | 10 | 5 | 16 |
| 9. Wagga | 18,347 | 64 | 282 | 85 | 148 | 134 | 7 | 5 | 46 | 39 | 197 |
| Loftus | | | 11 | 99 | 29 | 52 | 47 | 1 | 3 | 15 | 14 | 70 |
| Narandera | 26 | 123 | 61 | 61 | 62 | 3 | 2 | 42 | 19 | 62 | |
| Urana | | | 4 | 46 | 28 | 22 | 24 | ... | ... | 20 | 8 | 18 |
| Total ..... | ..... | 354 | 1,881 | 837 | 966 | 915 | 34 | 51 | 580 | 257 | 1,044 |
| GRAND TOTAL ..... | ..... | 7,811 | 36,284 | 14,587 | 18,700 | 17,584 | 838 | 849 | 8,501 | 6,086 | 21,697 |

* In cases where the minus sign (—) is prefixed to any number, it implies that the deaths exceeded the births by that number.

† Included in Balranald.

* 524 of these deaths took place in Public Institutions, viz.:—At the Sydney Hospital, 326 (235 males, 91 females); Hyde Park Asylum, 11 (females); St. Vincent's Hospital, 57 (36 males, 21 females); Sydney Gaol, 19 (13 males, 6 females); Lunatic Reception House, 6 (4 males, 2 females); and at the Benevolent Asylum, 105 (47 males, 58 females). † Including 57 deaths (36 males, 21 females) at the Lunatic Asylum, Callan Park, Leichhardt. ‡ Children's Hospital, Glebe, 19 (9 males, 10 females). ‡ Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown, 189 (126 males, 63 females). ‡ Little Bay Hospital, Waterloo, 119 (84 males, 35 females). ‡ Infants' Home, Ashfield, 57 (30 males, 27 females). ‡ Quarantine Station, North Head, Manly, 5 (2 males, 3 females). ‡ Of these deaths, 36 (29 males, 7 females) occurred at the Parramatta Hospital; 179 (males) at the Benevolent Asylum; and 47 (29 males, 18 females) at the Asylum for the Insane, Parramatta. ‡ 78 deaths (all females) at the Newington Asylum, in addition to 11 at the Hyde Park Asylum, Sydney, before the inmates were removed to Newington. ‡ Gladesville Asylum for the Insane, Ryde, 64 deaths (47 males, 17 females). ‡ Benevolent Asylum, Liverpool, 246 deaths (all males). ‡ The deaths of 27 persons (23 males, 4 females) who perished in the wreck of the s.s. "Ly-ee-moon" at Green Cape, district of Eden, are included in this total.

C.

MARRIAGES, 1886.

| denomination. | New South Wales. | | | | Sydney. | | | | Suburbs. | | | | Country. | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------|-----|-------|-----------------|--------|-----|-------|-----------------|--------|-----|-------|-----------------|--------|-----|-------|
| | Mar- riages. | Marks. | | | Mar- riages. | Marks. | | | Mar- riages. | Marks. | | | Mar- riages. | Marks. | | |
| | | M. | F. | Total | | M. | F. | Total | | M. | F. | Total | | M. | F. | Total |
| Church of England..... | 2,987 | 84 | 105 | 169 | 941 | 15 | 39 | 54 | 519 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 1,527 | 66 | 58 | 124 |
| Roman Catholic | 1,323 | 86 | 76 | 162 | 376 | 23 | 30 | 53 | 197 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 750 | 57 | 40 | 97 |
| Presbyterian..... | 1,147 | 38 | 44 | 82 | 274 | 7 | 11 | 18 | 203 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 670 | 30 | 30 | 60 |
| Wesleyan | 832 | 28 | 29 | 57 | 82 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 199 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 551 | 23 | 22 | 45 |
| Primitive Methodist | 207 | 7 | 10 | 17 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | 69 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 133 | 6 | 8 | 14 |
| Congregational..... | 554 | 12 | 17 | 29 | 337 | 7 | 14 | 21 | 172 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 45 | 3 | ... | 3 |
| Baptist | 120 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 28 | ... | ... | ... | 26 | 2 | ... | 2 | 66 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Hebrew..... | 18 | ... | 1 | 1 | 12 | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... |
| German Evangelical | 17 | ... | 1 | 1 | 8 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 8 | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Christians | 31 | ... | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 8 | ... | 1 | 1 | 22 | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Unitarians | 7 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Friends | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Salvation Army | 11 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | ... | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Independent (unconnected) | 21 | 1 | 2 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Free Church of England | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... |
| Registrars' Offices | 533 | 31 | 36 | 67 | 93 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 201 | 8 | 8 | 16 | 239 | 21 | 26 | 47 |
| Total | 7,811 | 294 | 328 | 622 | 2,164 | 56 | 101 | 157 | 1,605 | 27 | 34 | 61 | 4,042 | 211 | 193 | 404 |

D 1.

DEATHS from all causes, of MALES, at different ages, in NEW SOUTH WALES, from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1886.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| CLASS I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chicken-pox | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Measles | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Scarlet Fever | 33 | 1 | 11 | 6 | 6 | ... | 24 | 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Influenza | 14 | 3 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Whooping Cough | 105 | 64 | 22 | 13 | 2 | ... | 101 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diphtheria | 78 | 7 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 48 | 21 | 6 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever | 6 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Simple Continued Fever | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Typhoid, Enteric Fever | 325 | 11 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 27 | 26 | 28 | 41 | 63 | 60 | 28 | 18 | 12 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| | 567 | 87 | 49 | 41 | 21 | 13 | 211 | 61 | 36 | 44 | 63 | 61 | 29 | 19 | 14 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... |
| ORDER 2.—DIARRHŒAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cholera | 34 | 17 | 8 | 1 | 1 | ... | 27 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diarrhœa | 404 | 281 | 69 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 358 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 1 | 17 | ... |
| Dysentery | 91 | 30 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 46 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 1 |
| | 520 | 328 | 87 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 431 | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 8 | 11 | 16 | 7 | 21 | 1 |
| ORDER 3.—MALARIAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remittent Fever | 7 | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Intermittent Fever (Ague) | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 9 | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 5.—VENEREAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Syphilis | 44 | 37 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 38 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Gonorrhœa, Stricture of Urethra | 11 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | ... | ... |
| | 55 | 37 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 38 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | ... | ... |
| ORDER 6.—SEPTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Phagedœna | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Erysipelas | 19 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 3 | 2 | 3 | ... | ... | ... |
| Pyæmia, Septicæmia | 23 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 | ... | 1 | 2 | 4 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| | 43 | 5 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 6 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 3 | ... | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | ... |
| Total Class I | 1,203 | 458 | 139 | 51 | 26 | 16 | 690 | 63 | 42 | 52 | 71 | 66 | 35 | 29 | 22 | 21 | 16 | 18 | 17 | 23 | 14 | 23 | 1 |
| CLASS II.—PARASITIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trush | 27 | 27 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hydatids | 14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Others from animal parasites | 2 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total Class II | 43 | 27 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 29 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| CLASS III.—DIETETIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Starvation, want of Breast Milk | 46 | 27 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 |
| Intemperance— a Chronic Alcoholism | 72 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 10 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 14 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 1 | ... | 2 |
| b Delirium Tremens | 22 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| c Opium smoking | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total Class III | 141 | 27 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 11 | 14 | 8 | 17 | 13 | 13 | 16 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 4 |

* Including privation, lost in the bush, &c.

CAUSES OF DEATH, NEW SOUTH WALES, 1886 (MALES)—*continued.*

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
|------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|

CLASS VI.—LOCAL DISEASES—*continued.*

ORDER 11.—DISEASES OF THE INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-----|----|----|----|-------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Carbuncle | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Phlegmon, Cellulitis | 3 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Ulcer, Bedsores | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Eczema | 7 | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. |
| | 13 | 7 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 8 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. |
| Total, Class VI | 3,677 | 1,084 | 258 | 83 | 52 | 27 | 1,504 | 77 | 34 | 43 | 77 | 91 | 109 | 169 | 156 | 193 | 226 | 222 | 191 | 215 | 169 | 192 | 9 |

CLASS VII.—VIOLENCE.

ORDER 1.—ACCIDENT OR NEGLIGENCE.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Fractures, Contusions | 319 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 19 | 10 | 18 | 19 | 33 | 38 | 25 | 35 | 18 | 26 | 26 | 9 | 19 | 10 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| Gunshot Wounds | 18 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Cuts, &c. | 11 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Burns, Scalds..... | 49 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 32 | 3 | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | .. | 2 | 1 | 3 | .. |
| Sunstroke | 32 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 | .. | 1 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Lightning | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Poison | 9 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 |
| Bite of Snake or Insect | 3 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Drowning | 169 | .. | 10 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 21 | 19 | 16 | 6 | 26 | 18 | 19 | 12 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 2 | .. | 2 | .. |
| Suffocation | 43 | 14 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 15 | 1 | .. | 1 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. |
| Otherwise | 16 | 5 | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | 8 | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 670 | 33 | 24 | 21 | 10 | 14 | 102 | 39 | 42 | 35 | 66 | 72 | 56 | 58 | 34 | 42 | 39 | 21 | 26 | 14 | 11 | 9 | 4 |

ORDER 2.—HOMICIDE.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Murder | 7 | 4 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Manslaughter..... | 7 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 14 | 4 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 5 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

ORDER 3.—SUICIDE.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Gunshot Wounds | 24 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. |
| Cut, Stab | 12 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Poison | 14 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Drowning | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Hanging | 23 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. |
| Otherwise | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| | 82 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 6 | 12 | 10 | 5 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | .. |

ORDER 4.—EXECUTION.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Hanging | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
|---------------|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|

ORDER 5.—VIOLENT DEATHS NOT CLASSED. (OPEN VERDICTS)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Found Drowned | 67 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 11 | 8 | 7 | .. | 8 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | .. |
| Otherwise | 9 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 76 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 5 | 3 | 10 | 7 | 12 | 10 | 8 | .. | 8 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | .. |
| Total, Class VII | 844 | 37 | 24 | 21 | 11 | 14 | 107 | 39 | 42 | 43 | 77 | 89 | 77 | 72 | 56 | 63 | 57 | 28 | 36 | 21 | 15 | 11 | 11 |

CLASS VIII.—ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CAUSES.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-----|-----|----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Dropsy | 33 | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 2 | .. | .. |
| Atrophy, Debility, Inanition | 498 | 457 | 38 | 2 | 1 | 498 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Mortification | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Tumour | 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Abscess | 8 | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. |
| Other ill-defined and not specified causes | 73 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 5 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 11 | 16 | 3 | .. | .. | .. | 9 | .. |
| Total, Class VIII | 620 | 461 | 40 | 3 | 1 | 505 | 1 | .. | 3 | 1 | 6 | 10 | 5 | 8 | 14 | 15 | 20 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 10 | .. |
| TOTAL, ALL CLASSES | 8,501 | 2,535 | 517 | 166 | 93 | 62 | 3,373 | 197 | 132 | 181 | 326 | 397 | 354 | 374 | 340 | 381 | 403 | 383 | 329 | 355 | 333 | 606 | 37 |

D 2.

DEATHS from all causes, of FEMALES, at different ages, in NEW SOUTH WALES, from 1st January to 31st December, 1886.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| CLASS I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Measles | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Scarlet Fever | 55 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 12 | 2 | 37 | 14 | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Influenza | 15 | 8 | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | 12 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Whooping Cough | 139 | 88 | 29 | 11 | 7 | 2 | 137 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Mumps | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diphtheria | 62 | 6 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 13 | 40 | 16 | 3 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever..... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Simple Continued Fever | 6 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Typhoid, Enteric Fever... | 266 | 11 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 28 | 24 | 25 | 44 | 37 | 31 | 32 | 15 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 3 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... |
| | 551 | 120 | 57 | 33 | 31 | 21 | 262 | 58 | 32 | 44 | 40 | 32 | 34 | 16 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 4 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... |
| ORDER 2.—DIARRHOEAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cholera | 23 | 11 | 7 | ... | 2 | 1 | 21 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diarrhoea | 354 | 239 | 63 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 312 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | ... | 4 | 3 | 5 | 7 | ... |
| Dysentery | 48 | 17 | 3 | 1 | 1 | ... | 22 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | ... | 1 | 5 | ... | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 | ... |
| | 425 | 267 | 73 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 355 | 3 | ... | ... | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 12 | 7 | 4 | 10 | 9 | ... |
| ORDER 3.—MALARIAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remittent Fever | 9 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Intermittent Fever (Ague) | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| | 12 | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 4 | 2 | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... |
| ORDER 4.—ZOOGENOUS DISEASE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Splenic Fever | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 5.—VENEREAL DISEASE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Syphilis | 32 | 26 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 29 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 6.—SEPTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Phagedæna..... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Erysipelas | 17 | 3 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | 6 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | ... |
| Pyæmia, Septicæmia | 16 | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Puerperal Fever..... | 56 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 16 | 17 | 11 | 8 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 91 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... | 11 | ... | 3 | 18 | 20 | 13 | 12 | 6 | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | ... |
| Total, Class I..... | 1,112 | 422 | 135 | 43 | 38 | 23 | 661 | 63 | 33 | 47 | 62 | 56 | 51 | 35 | 15 | 12 | 16 | 18 | 11 | 6 | 12 | 14 | ... |
| CLASS II.—PARASITIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thrush | 32 | 30 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 32 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hydatids | 7 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class II..... | 39 | 31 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 33 | 2 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| CLASS III.—DIETETIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Starvation, Want of breast milk | 25 | 23 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Intemperance— a Chronic Alcoholism | 28 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| b Delirium Tremens.. | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| c Opium smoking.... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class III | 57 | 23 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 | ... | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | ... | 2 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... |

CAUSES OF DEATH, NEW SOUTH WALES, 1886 (FEMALES)—continued.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| CLASS VI.—LOCAL DISEASES—continued. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 10.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF LOCOMOTION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caries, Necrosis | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Arthritis, Ostitis, Periostitis | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 11.—DISEASES OF THE INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carbuncle | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Lupus | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Ulcer, Bedsores | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... |
| Eczema | 10 | 8 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Pemphigus | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 20 | 10 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 12 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Total, Class VI | 2,805 | 811 | 257 | 73 | 46 | 38 | 1,225 | 79 | 34 | 63 | 103 | 121 | 113 | 139 | 119 | 127 | 129 | 92 | 125 | 129 | 85 | 120 | 2 |
| CLASS VII.—VIOLENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—ACCIDENT OR NEGLIGENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fractures, Contusions | 38 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 | ... | ... | 5 | ... | ... |
| Gunshot Wounds | 5 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cuts, &c. | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Burns, Scalds | 65 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 25 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | ... | 3 | 1 | ... |
| Sunstroke | 5 | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | 4 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Lightning | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Poison | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Bite of Snake or Insect | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Drowning | 41 | ... | 9 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 16 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Suffocation | 17 | 15 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 16 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Otherwise | 11 | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 5 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| | 192 | 24 | 16 | 12 | 13 | 12 | 77 | 21 | 15 | 15 | 11 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 1 |
| ORDER 2.—HOMICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Murder | 24 | 16 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 17 | ... | ... | 2 | 3 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Manslaughter | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 25 | 16 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 17 | ... | ... | 2 | 3 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| ORDER 3.—SUICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gunshot Wounds | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Poison | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Drowning | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hanging | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 13 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 6 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 5.—VIOLENT DEATHS NOT CLASSED (OPEN VERDICTS). | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Found Drowned | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Otherwise | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Total, Class VII | 239 | 40 | 17 | 12 | 13 | 12 | 94 | 21 | 15 | 18 | 20 | 12 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 10 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 2 |
| CLASS VIII.—ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CAUSES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dropsy | 29 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | ... | 7 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 3 | 1 | ... | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 | ... |
| Atrophy, Debility, Inanition | 473 | 434 | 36 | 2 | 1 | ... | 473 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Mortification | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Tumour | 4 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Abscess | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hæmorrhage | 4 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other ill-defined and not specified causes | 26 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Total, Class VIII | 542 | 441 | 39 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 487 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| TOTAL, ALL CLASSES | 6,086 | 2,100 | 496 | 143 | 104 | 78 | 2,921 | 179 | 96 | 168 | 249 | 278 | 236 | 243 | 204 | 213 | 205 | 164 | 188 | 215 | 168 | 350 | 9 |

E 1.

DEATHS from all causes, of MALES, at different ages, in SYDNEY, from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1886.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. Ages not specified. |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| CLASS I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scarlet Fever | 8 | ... | 1 | 3 | 2 | ... | 6 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Whooping Cough | 9 | 6 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 8 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diphtheria | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Typhoid, Enteric Fever... | 30 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 1 | 2 | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class I | 53 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 19 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 2.—DIARRHOEAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cholera | 5 | 3 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diarrhoea | 51 | 38 | 7 | ... | ... | ... | 45 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 |
| Dysentery | 5 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Total, Class I | 61 | 43 | 7 | ... | 1 | ... | 51 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| ORDER 5.—VENEREAL DISEASE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Syphilis | 24 | 23 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 6.—SEPTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erysipelas | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Pyæmia, Septicæmia..... | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class I | 5 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class I | 143 | 73 | 10 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 94 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| CLASS II.—PARASITIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thrush | 6 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hydatids | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class II..... | 9 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| CLASS III.—DIETETIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Starvation, want of Breast Milk..... | 3 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Intemperance— α Chronic Alcoholism | 17 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 4 | ... | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| β Delirium Tremens... | 11 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 4 | 2 | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class III ... | 31 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | 1 | 8 | 6 | ... | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| CLASS IV.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatism of Heart..... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Rheumatism | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Gout | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Cancer, Malignant disease | 23 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 1 | ... | 4 | ... | ... | 1 |
| Tabes Mesenterica | 14 | 10 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | 14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Tubercular Meningitis (Acute Hydrocephalus) | 20 | 10 | 8 | ... | ... | 1 | 19 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Phthisis | 140 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 5 | 19 | 27 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 12 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 4 | ... | ... | ... |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis, Scrofula, &c. | 9 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Purpura, Hæmorrhagic Diathesis | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Anæmia, Chlorosis, Leucocythæmia | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diabetes Mellitus | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class IV ... | 216 | 22 | 12 | ... | ... | 2 | 36 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 21 | 34 | 21 | 23 | 20 | 13 | 17 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 1 |
| CLASS V.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Premature Birth | 26 | 26 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Atelectasis | 4 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cyanosis | 5 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Spina Bifida | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Imperforate Anus | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other Congénital defects | 4 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| Old Age | 11 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class V | 53 | 42 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 42 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 7 |

CAUSES OF DEATH, SYDNEY, 1886 (MALES)—*continued.*

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| CLASS VI.—LOCAL DISEASES—<i>continued.</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 8.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF GENERATION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pelvic Abscess | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Perineal Abscess | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 10.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF LOCOMOTION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caries, Necrosis | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Arthritis, Ostitis, Periostitis | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 11.—DISEASES OF THE INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carbuncle | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Phlegmon, Cellulitis | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class VI | 544 | 158 | 32 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 205 | 12 | 6 | 6 | 19 | 23 | 31 | 22 | 32 | 29 | 40 | 32 | 22 | 20 | 15 | 29 | 1 |
| CLASS VII.—VIOLENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—ACCIDENT OR NEGLIGENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fractures, Contusions | 71 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 4 | ... | ... |
| Gunshot Wounds | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cuts, &c. | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Burns, Scalds. | 8 | 1 | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Sunstroke | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Poison | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Drowning | 17 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Suffocation | 4 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Otherwise | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 113 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 14 | 14 | 9 | 12 | 8 | 10 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 5 | ... | ... |
| ORDER 2.—HOMICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Murder | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Manslaughter | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 9 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 3.—SUICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gunshot Wounds | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cut, Stab. | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Drowning | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hanging | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| | 18 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 | ... | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 4.—EXECUTION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hanging | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 5.—VIOLENT DEATHS NOT CLASSED. (OPEN VERDICTS.) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Found Drowned. | 28 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | ... | 4 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Otherwise | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 31 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 4 | ... | 4 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class VII | 172 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 14 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 19 | 20 | 20 | 19 | 13 | 13 | 14 | 3 | 11 | 3 | 7 | 1 | ... |
| CLASS VIII.—ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CAUSES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dropsy | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Atrophy, Debility, Inanition | 89 | 83 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | 89 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Abscess | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other ill-defined and not specified causes | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Total, Class VIII | 98 | 84 | 7 | ... | ... | ... | 91 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| TOTAL, ALL CLASSES | 1,266 | 394 | 62 | 17 | 9 | 9 | 491 | 26 | 13 | 22 | 67 | 95 | 80 | 67 | 73 | 65 | 77 | 48 | 40 | 32 | 28 | 40 | 2 |

E 2.

DEATHS from all causes, of FEMALES, at different ages, in SYDNEY, from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1886.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| CLASS I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scarlet Fever | 14 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Whooping Cough | 18 | 12 | 4 | ... | ... | 1 | 17 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diphtheria | 4 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Typhoid, Enteric Fever... | 39 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 5 | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| | 75 | 14 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 32 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| ORDER 2.—DIARRHOEAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cholera | 3 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diarrhoea | 51 | 30 | 7 | 2 | 1 | ... | 40 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | ... |
| Dysentery | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| | 56 | 31 | 9 | 2 | 1 | ... | 43 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | 2 | ... |
| ORDER 3.—MALARIAL DISEASE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remittent Fever | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 5.—VENEREAL DISEASE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Syphilis | 9 | 9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 6.—SEPTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erysipelas | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Puerperal Fever..... | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class I | 149 | 54 | 18 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 84 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | ... | 2 | 2 | 3 | ... |
| CLASS II.—PARASITIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thrush | 7 | 6 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hydatids..... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class II..... | 9 | 7 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 8 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| CLASS III.—DIETETIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Starvation, want of Breast Milk..... | 3 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Intemperance— a Chronic Alcoholism | 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| b Delirium Tremens... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class III | 14 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | ... | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| CLASS IV.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rheumatism | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Gout | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Cancer, Malignant disease | 33 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... |
| Tabes Mesenterica | 12 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... | 12 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Tubercular Meningitis (Acute Hydrocephalus) | 10 | 5 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 8 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Phthisis | 65 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 11 | 11 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis, Scrofula, &c. | 7 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 4 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Purpura, Haemorrhagic Diathesis | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Anæmia, Chlorosis, Leucocythæmia | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class IV | 135 | 16 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 26 | ... | 3 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 14 | 9 | 16 | 22 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 | ... |
| CLASS V.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Premature Birth | 29 | 29 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 29 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cyanosis | 6 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Spina Bifida | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other Congenital defects. | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Old Age | 19 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | 3 | 13 | ... |
| Total, Class V..... | 56 | 37 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | 3 | 13 | ... | ... |

CAUSES OF DEATH, SYDNEY, 1886 (FEMALES)—continued.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| CLASS VI.—LOCAL DISEASES—continued. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 8.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF GENERATION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ovarian Disease..... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diseases of Uterus and Vagina..... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Disorders of Menstruation..... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Pelvic Abscess..... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 9.—DISEASES OF PARTURITION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Abortion, Miscarriage..... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Puerperal Mania..... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Puerperal Convulsions..... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Placenta Prævia, Flooding..... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other Accidents of Child-birth..... | 13 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 22 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 11.—DISEASES OF THE INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carbuncle..... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Eczema..... | 3 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 4 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class VI..... | 174 | 111 | 42 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 180 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 13 | 21 | 17 | 29 | 38 | 29 | 28 | 23 | 19 | 23 | 11 | 26 | ... |
| CLASS VII.—VIOLENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—ACCIDENT OR NEGLIGENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fractures, Contusions..... | 9 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... |
| Burns, Scalds..... | 9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Drowning..... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Suffocation..... | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Otherwise..... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 25 | 3 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 1 | ... | 3 | 2 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 3 | ... | 4 | ... |
| ORDER 2.—HOMICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Murder..... | 3 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Manslaughter..... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 4 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 3.—SUICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Poison..... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hanging..... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 5.—VIOLENT DEATHS NOT CLASSED (OPEN VERDICTS). | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Found Drowned..... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Otherwise..... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class VII..... | 34 | 6 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 1 | ... | 3 | 4 | ... | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | ... | 1 | 3 | ... | 4 | ... |
| CLASS VIII.—ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CAUSES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dropsy..... | 5 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Atrophy, Debility, Inanition..... | 79 | 73 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | 79 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Tumour..... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Abscess..... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other ill-defined and not specified causes..... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class VIII..... | 87 | 74 | 6 | 1 | ... | ... | 81 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| TOTAL, ALL CLASSES | 958 | 308 | 71 | 19 | 17 | 13 | 428 | 10 | 12 | 22 | 34 | 47 | 39 | 52 | 57 | 57 | 44 | 31 | 24 | 33 | 18 | 50 | ... |

F 1.

DEATHS from all causes, of MALES, at different ages, in the SUBURBS OF SYDNEY, from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1886.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| CLASS I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Measles | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Scarlet Fever | 14 | ... | 4 | 2 | 2 | ... | 8 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Influenza | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Whooping Cough | 42 | 24 | 12 | 5 | ... | ... | 41 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diphtheria | 24 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 16 | 6 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Typhoid, Enteric Fever... | 128 | 3 | ... | 1 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 17 | 16 | 24 | 25 | 10 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| | 210 | 30 | 22 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 75 | 18 | 19 | 16 | 24 | 25 | 10 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 2.—DIARRHOEAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cholera | 10 | 5 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | 9 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diarrhoea | 163 | 123 | 31 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 157 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... |
| Dysentery | 11 | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 184 | 135 | 35 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 173 | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... |
| ORDER 5.—VENEREAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Syphilis | 17 | 14 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 15 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Gonorrhoea, Stricture of Urethra | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| | 19 | 14 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 15 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 6.—SEPTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erysipelas | 6 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Pyæmia, Septicæmia | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 10 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class I..... | 423 | 181 | 58 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 265 | 18 | 20 | 19 | 26 | 27 | 13 | 11 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | ... | 2 | ... |
| CLASS II.—PARASITIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thrush | 5 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hydatids | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Others from Animal Parasites | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class II..... | 9 | 5 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 6 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| CLASS III.—DIETETIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Starvation, Want of Breast Milk | 15 | 14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Intemperance— a Chronic Alcoholism | 9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| b Delirium Tremens.. .. | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class III | 27 | 14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| CLASS IV.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatism of Heart | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Rheumatism | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Gout | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Cancer, Malignant disease | 40 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | ... |
| Tabes Mesenterica | 54 | 45 | 7 | 1 | ... | ... | 53 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Tubercular Meningitis (Acute Hydrocephalus) | 29 | 13 | 11 | 4 | 1 | ... | 29 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Phthisis | 174 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | 7 | 22 | 31 | 27 | 18 | 20 | 18 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | ... |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis, Scrofula, &c.... | 9 | 5 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 6 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Purpura, Hæmorrhagic Diathesis | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Anæmia, Chlorosis, Leucocythæmia | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diabetes Mellitus | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Leprosy | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class IV | 333 | 65 | 20 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 92 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 23 | 37 | 33 | 24 | 23 | 26 | 11 | 21 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 5 | ... |

CAUSES OF DEATH, SUBURBS, 1886 (MALES)—continued.

Table with multiple columns for age groups (Under 1 year, 1 to 2 years, etc.) and rows for various causes of death. The table is organized into classes: CLASS V.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES, CLASS VI.—LOCAL DISEASES (with sub-orders 1-5), and includes a total row for each class. The columns include 'Total all ages', 'Under 1 year', '1 to 2 years', '2 to 3 years', '3 to 4 years', '4 to 5 years', 'Total under 5 years', '5 to 10 years', '10 to 15 years', '15 to 20 years', '20 to 25 years', '25 to 30 years', '30 to 35 years', '35 to 40 years', '40 to 45 years', '45 to 50 years', '50 to 55 years', '55 to 60 years', '60 to 65 years', '65 to 70 years', '70 to 75 years', '75 years and upwards', and 'Ages not specified'.

F 2.

DEATHS from all causes, of FEMALES, at different ages, in the SUBURBS OF SYDNEY, from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1886.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| CLASS I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Measles | 2 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Scarlet Fever | 26 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 17 | 8 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Influenza | 4 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Whooping Cough | 49 | 29 | 11 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 48 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Mumps | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diphtheria | 11 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Simple Continued Fever | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Typhoid, Enteric Fever | 102 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | 7 | 8 | 11 | 17 | 17 | 10 | 16 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 199 | 38 | 20 | 13 | 13 | 6 | 90 | 19 | 12 | 17 | 18 | 11 | 16 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 2.—DIARRHOEAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cholera | 4 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... |
| Diarrhoea | 156 | 117 | 27 | 3 | 1 | ... | 148 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Dysentery | 8 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| | 168 | 118 | 29 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 152 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | ... | 1 | 3 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | ... |
| ORDER 3.—MALARIAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remittent Fever | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Intermittent Fever (Ague) | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| ORDER 5.—VENEREAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Syphilis | 14 | 11 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 6.—SEPTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Phagedæna | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Erysipelas | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Pyæmia, Septicæmia | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Puerperal Fever | 16 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 4 | 6 | 4 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 27 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Total, Class I | 410 | 168 | 53 | 16 | 14 | 7 | 258 | 21 | 12 | 18 | 23 | 19 | 24 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | ... | 1 | 5 | ... |
| CLASS II.—PARASITIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thrush | 5 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hydatids | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class II | 6 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| CLASS III.—DIETETIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Starvation, Want of Breast Milk | 15 | 15 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Chronic Alcoholism | 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Total, Class III | 23 | 15 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| CLASS IV.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatism of Heart | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Rheumatism | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Gout | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Rickets | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cancer, Malignant disease | 57 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 10 | 14 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Tabes Mesenterica | 51 | 37 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 51 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Tubercular Meningitis (Acute Hydrocephalus) | 19 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 1 | ... | 17 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Phthisis | 137 | 3 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 5 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 19 | 25 | 20 | 16 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 4 | ... | 2 | ... |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis, Scrofula, &c. | 12 | 1 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 1 | ... | 3 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Purpura, Hæmorrhagic Diathesis | 4 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Anæmia, Chlorosis, Leucocythæmia | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class IV | 295 | 51 | 23 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 82 | 6 | 1 | 13 | 20 | 31 | 24 | 19 | 18 | 14 | 19 | 21 | 10 | 11 | 3 | 3 | ... |

G 1.

DEATHS from all causes, of MALES, at different ages, in the COUNTRY DISTRICTS, from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1886.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| CLASS I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chicken-pox | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Scarlet Fever | 11 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 2 | ... | 10 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Influenza | 13 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Whooping Cough | 54 | 34 | 9 | 7 | 2 | ... | 52 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diphtheria | 48 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 28 | 14 | 3 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever .. | 6 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Simple Continued Fever... | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Typhoid, Enteric Fever... | 167 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 1 | ... | 18 | 17 | 10 | 23 | 33 | 25 | 17 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| | 304 | 50 | 24 | 26 | 12 | 5 | 117 | 36 | 15 | 26 | 33 | 26 | 18 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... |
| ORDER 2.—DIARRHOEAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cholera | 19 | 9 | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | 14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diarrhoea | 190 | 120 | 31 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 156 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 13 | ... | ... |
| Dysentery | 75 | 21 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 37 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 1 | ... |
| | 284 | 150 | 45 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 207 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 15 | 6 | 17 | 1 |
| ORDER 3.—MALARIAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remittent Fever | 7 | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Intermittent Fever (Ague) | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 9 | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 5.—VENEREAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Syphilis | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Gonorrhoea, Stricture of Urethra | 9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 12 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 6.—SEPTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Phagedæna | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Erysipelas | 10 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Pyæmia, Septicæmia ... | 17 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| | 28 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... |
| Total, Class I | 637 | 204 | 71 | 34 | 15 | 7 | 331 | 38 | 20 | 31 | 38 | 29 | 20 | 16 | 13 | 13 | 9 | 13 | 14 | 19 | 13 | 19 | 1 |
| CLASS II.—PARASITIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thrush | 16 | 16 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hydatids | 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Others from Animal Parasites | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class II..... | 25 | 16 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 17 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| CLASS III.—DIETETIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Starvation, want of Breast Milk | 28 | 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 |
| Intemperance— a Chronic Alcoholism | 46 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... |
| b Delirium Tremens.. | 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| c Opium Smoking .. | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class III .. | 83 | 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 8 | 12 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 4 | ... |

CAUSES OF DEATH, COUNTRY DISTRICTS, 1886 (MALES)—*continued.*

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. | |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----|
| CLASS VI.—LOCAL DISEASES—<i>continued.</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 11.—DISEASES OF THE INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carbuncle | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Phlegmon, Cellulitis..... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Ulcer, Bedsores..... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Eczema | 5 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | 9 | 5 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 6 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Total, Class VI | 2,193 | 603 | 120 | 57 | 34 | 14 | 828 | 47 | 20 | 29 | 38 | 47 | 53 | 97 | 81 | 118 | 144 | 150 | 120 | 147 | 124 | 133 | 8 | |
| CLASS VII.—VIOLENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—ACCIDENT OR NEGLIGENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fractures, Contusions ... | 221 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 7 | 15 | 15 | 26 | 23 | 17 | 21 | 12 | 15 | 20 | 6 | 13 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 2 | |
| Gunshot Wounds | 14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 4 | ... | 1 | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | |
| Cuts, &c..... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Burns, Scalds | 31 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 17 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | 3 | ... | |
| Sunstroke | 30 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | ... | 1 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Lightning | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Poison | 7 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | |
| Bite of Snake or Insect... | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Drowning | 140 | ... | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 17 | 12 | 4 | 19 | 15 | 17 | 11 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | |
| Suffocation..... | 33 | 8 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 9 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | |
| Otherwise | 12 | 4 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 6 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | 496 | 22 | 18 | 14 | 7 | 8 | 69 | 30 | 34 | 28 | 48 | 51 | 44 | 42 | 22 | 29 | 33 | 18 | 19 | 11 | 5 | 9 | 4 | |
| ORDER 2.—HOMICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Murder | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| ORDER 3.—SUICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gunshot Wounds | 14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | |
| Cut, Stab | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Poison | 11 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 3 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Drowning | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Hanging | 12 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Otherwise | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | |
| | 49 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | |
| ORDER 4.—EXECUTION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hanging | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| ORDER 5.—VIOLENT DEATHS NOT CLASSED. (OPEN VERDICTS.) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Found Drowned | 33 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 3 | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 4 | |
| Otherwise | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | 36 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 4 | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 4 | |
| Total, Class VII.... | 584 | 23 | 18 | 14 | 7 | 8 | 70 | 30 | 34 | 31 | 52 | 61 | 52 | 47 | 39 | 39 | 41 | 22 | 22 | 17 | 7 | 10 | 10 | |
| CLASS VIII.—ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CAUSES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dropsy | 27 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 2 | ... | ... | ... |
| Atrophy, Debility, Inanition | 221 | 202 | 17 | 1 | 1 | ... | 221 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Mortification | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | |
| Tumour | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Abscess | 5 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Other ill-defined and not specified causes | 58 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 14 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | |
| Total, Class VIII.... | 316 | 203 | 17 | 1 | 1 | ... | 222 | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 3 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 12 | 11 | 18 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 8 | |
| TOTAL, ALL CLASSES... | 5,075 | 1,287 | 250 | 108 | 59 | 31 | 1,735 | 125 | 85 | 116 | 183 | 206 | 192 | 216 | 187 | 225 | 261 | 265 | 228 | 257 | 260 | 501 | 33 | |

G 2.

DEATHS from all causes, of FEMALES, at different ages, in the COUNTRY DISTRICTS, from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1886.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| CLASS I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Measles | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Scarlet Fever..... | 15 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Influenza | 11 | 6 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 8 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Whooping Cough..... | 72 | 47 | 14 | 7 | 4 | ... | 72 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diphtheria | 47 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 27 | 15 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Simple Continued Fever | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Typhoid, Enteric Fever.. | 125 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 20 | 15 | 11 | 19 | 15 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... |
| Total, Class I | 277 | 68 | 28 | 18 | 13 | 13 | 140 | 36 | 15 | 19 | 16 | 15 | 12 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | ... |
| ORDER 2.—DIARRHOEAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cholera | 16 | 9 | 4 | ... | 2 | ... | 15 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diarrhoea | 147 | 92 | 29 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 124 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | ... | ... |
| Dysentery | 38 | 17 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | 21 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | ... | ... |
| Total, Class I | 201 | 118 | 35 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 160 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 4 | ... | ... |
| ORDER 3.—MALARIAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remittent Fever | 7 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Intermittent Fever (Ague) | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Total, Class I | 9 | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| ORDER 4.—ZOOGENOUS DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Splenic Fever | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 5.—VENEREAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Syphilis | 9 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 6.—SEPTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erysipelas | 12 | 2 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | 5 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Pyæmia, Septicæmia..... | 10 | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | 7 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Puerperal Fever | 34 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class I | 56 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | 9 | ... | 2 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 3 | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Total, Class I | 533 | 200 | 64 | 23 | 18 | 14 | 319 | 39 | 15 | 21 | 29 | 28 | 21 | 18 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 13 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 6 | ... |
| CLASS II.—PARASITIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thrush | 20 | 19 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 20 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hydatids | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class II | 24 | 19 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 20 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| CLASS III.—DIETETIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Starvation, Want of Breast Milk | 7 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 |
| Intemperance— a Chronic Alcoholism | 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| b Delirium Tremens... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| c Opium smoking ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class III ... | 20 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | ... | 3 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... |

CAUSES OF DEATH, COUNTRY DISTRICTS, 1886 (FEMALES)—*continued.*

| CAUSES OF DEATH | Total all ages | Under 1 year | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years | 3 to 4 years | 4 to 5 years | Total und. 5 years. | 5 to 10 years | 10 to 15 years | 15 to 20 years | 20 to 25 years | 25 to 30 years | 30 to 35 years | 35 to 40 years | 40 to 45 years | 45 to 50 years | 50 to 55 years | 55 to 60 years | 60 to 65 years | 65 to 70 years | 70 to 75 years | 75 years and upwards | Areas not specified |
|--|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| CLASS IV.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatism of Heart | 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Rheumatism | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Gout | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Rickets | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cancer, Malignant disease | 72 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 12 | 4 | 7 | ... |
| Tabes Mesenterica | 60 | 49 | 11 | ... | ... | ... | 60 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Tubercular Meningitis (Acute Hydrocephalus) | 19 | 8 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | 14 | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Phthisis | 176 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 9 | ... | 3 | 17 | 23 | 38 | 17 | 16 | 14 | 9 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 | ... |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis, Scrofula, &c. | 12 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 10 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Purpura, Hæmorrhagic Diathesis | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Anæmia, Chlorosis, Leucocythæmia | 6 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diabetes Mellitus | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class IV | 370 | 72 | 20 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 97 | 7 | 6 | 20 | 31 | 43 | 24 | 24 | 19 | 18 | 20 | 17 | 10 | 18 | 5 | 11 | ... |
| CLASS V.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Premature Birth | 70 | 70 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 70 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Atelectasis | 11 | 11 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cyanosis | 10 | 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Spina Bifida | 3 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other Congenital defects | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Old Age | 223 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 13 | 30 | 41 | 137 | ... |
| Total, Class V. | 319 | 96 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 96 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 13 | 30 | 41 | 137 | ... |
| CLASS VI.—LOCAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Inflammation of Brain or its Membranes | 50 | 23 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 41 | 1 | 1 | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Apoplexy | 44 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 2 | ... |
| Softening of Brain | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | 2 | ... |
| Hemiplegia, Brain Paralysis | 35 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 9 | ... |
| Insanity, General Paralysis of Insane | 17 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Epilepsy | 21 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Convulsions | 207 | 168 | 28 | 7 | ... | ... | 203 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Laryngismus Stridulus | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Idiopathic Tetanus | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Paraplegia, Diseases of Spinal Cord | 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Others (Brain Disease, undefined) | 11 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Order 1. | 400 | 196 | 37 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 243 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 14 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 16 | 11 | 9 | 15 | 10 | 13 | ... |
| ORDER 2.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF SPECIAL SENSE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Otitis, Otorrhœa, Disease of the Ear | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Epistaxis, Disease of the Nose | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Order 2. | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 3.—DISEASES OF THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Endocarditis, Valvular Disease | 21 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | 2 | ... | 3 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | 4 | 3 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Pericarditis | 4 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hypertrophy of Heart | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Angina Pectoris | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Syncope | 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | 3 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Aneurism | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Senile Gangrene | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Embolism, Thrombosis | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Others (Heart Disease, undefined) | 107 | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | 4 | ... | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 16 | 14 | 11 | 7 | ... |
| Total, Order 3. | 158 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | ... | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 15 | 10 | 14 | 10 | 12 | 23 | 19 | 12 | 8 | ... |

CAUSES OF DEATH, COUNTRY DISTRICTS, 1886 (FEMALES)—continued.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | CLASS VI.—LOCAL DISEASES—continued. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | | Under 1 year | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards | Ages not specified. |
| ORDER 4.—DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Laryngitis | 8 | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Croup | 46 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 30 | 14 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Others of Larynx and Trachea | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Asthma, Emphysema | 12 | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | 2 | 1 | 2 | .. | |
| Bronchitis | 186 | 74 | 20 | 8 | 3 | .. | 105 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 10 | 9 | 13 | 19 | .. | |
| Pneumonia | 179 | 39 | 17 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 69 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 11 | 12 | 6 | 12 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 6 | |
| Congestion of Lungs | 39 | 16 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 29 | 2 | .. | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | |
| Pleurisy | 19 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | |
| Others (Lung Disease not specified) | 9 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 2 | 3 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | |
| | 500 | 133 | 50 | 22 | 17 | 13 | 241 | 34 | 7 | 12 | 8 | 16 | 15 | 18 | 12 | 18 | 16 | 12 | 20 | 21 | 21 | 28 | 1 |
| ORDER 5.—DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stomatitis | 3 | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Dentition | 83 | 52 | 28 | 3 | .. | .. | 83 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Sore Throat, Quinsy | 2 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Dyspepsia | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Hæmatemesis | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Melæna | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | |
| Diseases of Stomach | 15 | 8 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 9 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | |
| Enteritis | 71 | 38 | 10 | 1 | .. | 1 | 50 | 3 | .. | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 6 | .. | |
| Ulceration of Intestine | 5 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Ileus, Obstruction of Intestine | 10 | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Intussusception | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Hernia | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | |
| Fistula | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Peritonitis | 30 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | |
| Ascites | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | |
| Gall-stones | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Cirrhosis of Liver | 8 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | |
| Hepatitis | 15 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | 2 | .. | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Jaundice | 13 | 6 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 7 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Other Diseases of Liver | 26 | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | .. | 3 | .. | |
| Others | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| | 299 | 113 | 43 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 164 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 14 | 16 | 6 | 15 | 13 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 11 | .. |
| ORDER 6.—DISEASES OF THE LYMPHATIC SYSTEM AND DUCTLESS GLANDS. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diseases of Spleen | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| ORDER 7.—DISEASES OF THE URINARY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nephritis | 6 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Bright's Disease (Nephria) | 17 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | |
| Uræmia | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Diseases of Bladder and of Prostate | 3 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | |
| Others (Kidney Disease undefined) | 7 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | |
| | 39 | 1 | 3 | .. | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | .. | |
| ORDER 8.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF GENERATION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ovarian Disease | 8 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Diseases of Uterus and Vagina | 11 | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Disorders of Menstruation | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Pelvic Abscess | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| | 24 | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | 4 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | |
| ORDER 9.—DISEASES OF PARTURITION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Abortion, Miscarriage | 12 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Puerperal Mania | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Puerperal Convulsions | 11 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Placenta Prævia, Flooding | 11 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Phlegmasia Dolens | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Other Accidents of Child-birth | 53 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 3 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 8 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| | 90 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8 | 9 | 19 | 24 | 18 | 10 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |

CAUSES OF DEATH, COUNTRY DISTRICTS, 1886 (FEMALES)—*continued.*

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| CLASS VI.—LOCAL DISEASES—<i>continued.</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 10.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF LOCOMOTION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caries, Necrosis..... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Arthritis, Ostitis, Periostitis | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 11.—DISEASES OF THE INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lupus..... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Ulcer, Bedsores..... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... |
| Eczema | 5 | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 10 | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... |
| Total, Class VI | 1529 | 455 | 188 | 36 | 23 | 20 | 672 | 53 | 21 | 40 | 56 | 67 | 65 | 80 | 54 | 66 | 62 | 47 | 67 | 65 | 50 | 63 | 1 |
| CLASS VII.—VIOLENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—ACCIDENT OR NEGLIGENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fractures, Contusions ... | 23 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | 3 | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Gunshot Wounds | 5 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cuts, &c. | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Burns, Scalds | 50 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 21 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | 2 | 1 |
| Sunstroke | 5 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | 4 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Lightning | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Poison | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Bite of Snake or Insect... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Drowning | 36 | ... | 8 | ... | 3 | 3 | 14 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Suffocation..... | 6 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Otherwise | 8 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| | 141 | 14 | 12 | 8 | 10 | 11 | 55 | 19 | 13 | 12 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| ORDER 2.—HOMICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Murder | 13 | 9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| ORDER 3.—SUICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gunshot Wounds | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Poison..... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Drowning | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hanging..... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 4 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 5.—VIOLENT DEATHS NOT CLASSED. (OPEN VERDICTS.) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Found Drowned | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Otherwise | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Total, Class VII | 168 | 23 | 12 | 8 | 10 | 11 | 64 | 19 | 13 | 14 | 12 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| CLASS VIII.—ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CAUSES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dropsy | 20 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| Atrophy, Debility, Inanition..... | 210 | 200 | 8 | 1 | 1 | ... | 210 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Mortification | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Tumour | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Abscess | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hæmorrhage | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other ill-defined and not specified causes | 22 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Total, Class VIII | 260 | 203 | 10 | 1 | 3 | ... | 217 | 1 | 3 | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| TOTAL, ALL CLASSES | 3,243 | 1,073 | 245 | 71 | 55 | 46 | 1490 | 121 | 58 | 96 | 133 | 147 | 117 | 128 | 93 | 103 | 98 | 86 | 107 | 123 | 109 | 226 | 8 |

H.

SUMMARY of DEATHS registered in the Colony of New South Wales during each month of the Year 1886, classified under the heads of the several causes of Death.

26-H

57

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | January. | | February. | | March. | | April. | | May. | | June. | | July. | | August. | | September. | | October. | | November. | | December. | | Total. | | Grand Total. | Percentage of Total Deaths of the Year. | |
|---|----------|----------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|---------|----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------------|---|-----|
| | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | | | |
| Order CLASS I.—SPECIFIC FEBBILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Miasmatic Diseases—(Scarlatina, Diphtheria, Fevers, &c.) | 49 | 52 | 64 | 51 | 56 | 45 | 68 | 56 | 69 | 68 | 45 | 40 | 38 | 46 | 39 | 32 | 24 | 31 | 26 | 28 | 36 | 40 | 53 | 62 | 567 | 551 | 1,118 | 7.66 | |
| 2. Diarrhœal Diseases—(Cholera, Diarrhœa, and Dysentery) | 86 | 67 | 43 | 53 | 48 | 39 | 42 | 41 | 41 | 44 | 28 | 11 | 13 | 7 | 12 | 11 | 15 | 12 | 30 | 17 | 52 | 40 | 119 | 83 | 529 | 425 | 954 | 6.54 | |
| 3. Malarial Diseases—(Remittent Fever, Ague) | 4 | ... | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 12 | 21 | .14 | |
| 4. Zoogenous Diseases—(Hydrophobia, Effects of Vaccination, &c.) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 5. Venereal Diseases—(Syphilis, Stricture of Urethra, &c.) | 3 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 8 | ... | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 55 | 32 | 87 | .60 | |
| 6. Septic Diseases—Erysipelas, Pyæmia, Puerperal Fever, &c.) | 4 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 13 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 11 | 43 | 91 | 134 | .92 | |
| Total | 146 | 130 | 117 | 112 | 111 | 90 | 115 | 111 | 122 | 120 | 81 | 61 | 61 | 68 | 60 | 59 | 47 | 59 | 65 | 55 | 97 | 89 | 181 | 158 | 1203 | 1112 | | | |
| CLASS II.—PARASITIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thrush, Hydatid Disease, Worms, &c. | 8 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 43 | 39 | 82 | .56 | | |
| CLASS III.—DIETETIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Want of Breast Milk, Scurvy, Intemperance, &c. | 19 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 10 | 5 | 16 | ... | 10 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 12 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 11 | 2 | 17 | 4 | 11 | 11 | 141 | 57 | 198 | 1.36 | |
| CLASS IV.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rheumatism, Cancer, Tabes Mesenterica, Phthisis, Diabetes, &c. | 96 | 76 | 85 | 64 | 97 | 73 | 116 | 75 | 97 | 64 | 103 | 64 | 89 | 73 | 80 | 54 | 91 | 49 | 105 | 70 | 107 | 68 | 114 | 70 | 1180 | 800 | 1,980 | 13.57 | |
| CLASS V.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Premature Birth, Malformation, Old Age | 65 | 35 | 55 | 40 | 60 | 41 | 69 | 38 | 64 | 58 | 80 | 44 | 100 | 32 | 57 | 49 | 65 | 44 | 64 | 33 | 65 | 41 | 49 | 37 | 793 | 492 | 1,285 | 8.81 | |
| CLASS VI.—LOCAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Diseases of the Nervous System—(Apoplexy, Insanity, Convulsions, &c.) | 108 | 82 | 91 | 53 | 90 | 58 | 84 | 64 | 99 | 66 | 93 | 55 | 73 | 55 | 80 | 58 | 90 | 50 | 91 | 46 | 109 | 53 | 81 | 71 | 1089 | 711 | 1,800 | 12.34 | |
| 2. Diseases of the Organs of Special Sense—(Otitis, Epistaxis, &c.) | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 5 | 5 | 10 | .07 | |
| 3. Diseases of the Circulatory System—(Pericarditis, Aneurism, Heart Disease, &c.) | 43 | 29 | 33 | 15 | 31 | 25 | 45 | 23 | 37 | 30 | 41 | 36 | 47 | 31 | 48 | 31 | 42 | 24 | 30 | 32 | 41 | 36 | 53 | 21 | 491 | 333 | 824 | 5.65 | |
| 4. Diseases of the Respiratory System—(Bronchitis, Pneumonia, &c.) | 58 | 54 | 51 | 40 | 79 | 45 | 75 | 60 | 99 | 93 | 123 | 83 | 118 | 103 | 111 | 91 | 117 | 83 | 98 | 70 | 71 | 43 | 69 | 69 | 1069 | 834 | 1,903 | 13.05 | |
| 5. Diseases of the Digestive System—(Enteritis, Hernia, Liver Disease, &c.) | 84 | 82 | 65 | 60 | 58 | 56 | 73 | 46 | 63 | 34 | 50 | 28 | 46 | 41 | 42 | 36 | 56 | 43 | 57 | 36 | 77 | 57 | 97 | 84 | 768 | 603 | 1,371 | 9.40 | |
| 6. Diseases of the Lymphatic System and Ductless Glands | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 6 | 5 | 11 | .07 |
| 7. Diseases of the Urinary System—(Bright's Disease, Uræmia, &c.) | 16 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 22 | 11 | 22 | 7 | 15 | 11 | 19 | 12 | 16 | 7 | 27 | 11 | 18 | 8 | 16 | 9 | 20 | 5 | 21 | 8 | 217 | 105 | 322 | 2.21 | |
| 8. Diseases of the Organs of Generation—(Ovarian Diseases, Diseases of Testes, &c.) | 1 | 4 | ... | 2 | ... | 3 | 1 | 6 | ... | 6 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | 3 | 5 | ... | 5 | ... | 3 | 7 | 45 | 52 | .36 | |
| 9. Diseases of Parturition—(Childbirth) | ... | 5 | ... | 10 | ... | 9 | ... | 14 | ... | 9 | ... | 13 | ... | 14 | ... | 18 | ... | 12 | ... | 12 | ... | 9 | ... | 10 | ... | 135 | 135 | .92 | |
| 10. Diseases of the Organs of Locomotion—(Caries, Arthritis, &c.) | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 3 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 9 | 21 | .14 |
| 11. Diseases of the Integumentary System—(Carbuncle, Eczema, &c.) | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | ... | 3 | ... | 2 | 13 | 20 | 33 | .23 | |
| Total | 311 | 264 | 251 | 190 | 233 | 212 | 304 | 222 | 313 | 255 | 334 | 235 | 305 | 257 | 311 | 248 | 326 | 225 | 298 | 213 | 319 | 213 | 322 | 271 | 3677 | 2805 | | | |
| CLASS VII.—VIOLENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Accident or Negligence | 71 | 24 | 45 | 24 | 63 | 18 | 35 | 14 | 56 | 16 | 71 | 18 | 48 | 17 | 51 | 12 | 51 | 13 | 47 | 9 | 60 | 13 | 72 | 14 | 670 | 192 | 862 | 5.91 | |
| 2. Homicide | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | ... | 3 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 4 | 7 | 2 | ... | 1 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 25 | 39 | .27 | |
| 3. Suicide | 9 | ... | 3 | ... | 7 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | ... | 7 | 2 | 14 | ... | 5 | 2 | 82 | 13 | 95 | .65 | |
| 4. Execution | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | .01 | |
| 5. Violent Deaths not classed | 11 | ... | 8 | 1 | 6 | ... | 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 6 | ... | 5 | ... | 4 | ... | 1 | ... | 5 | ... | 11 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 76 | 9 | 85 | .58 | |
| Total | 91 | 24 | 60 | 26 | 76 | 24 | 48 | 21 | 69 | 18 | 81 | 20 | 65 | 19 | 62 | 21 | 59 | 13 | 61 | 16 | 86 | 18 | 86 | 19 | 844 | 239 | | | |
| CLASS VIII.—ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CAUSES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dropsy, Debility, Tumour, and others ill-defined or not specified | 68 | 56 | 60 | 42 | 56 | 50 | 45 | 49 | 41 | 47 | 40 | 35 | 42 | 27 | 47 | 34 | 38 | 31 | 41 | 53 | 77 | 50 | 65 | 68 | 620 | 542 | 1,162 | 7.97 | |
| Totals from all causes | 804 | 597 | 641 | 480 | 699 | 496 | 718 | 520 | 717 | 573 | 730 | 463 | 673 | 488 | 631 | 474 | 636 | 426 | 648 | 444 | 773 | 488 | 831 | 637 | 8501 | 6086 | 14,587 | 100.00 | |

I.

TABLE showing the DEATHS which have occurred from the Causes stated, in each of the several WARDS of the CITY of SYDNEY, from 1st January to 31st December, 1886, distinguishing those under Five years of age.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Gipps. | | Bourke. | | Brisbane. | | Macquarie. | | Cook. | | Fitzroy. | | Phillip. | | Denison. | | Public In-stitutions. | | Total Deaths from each Cause in Sydney. | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|-------|---------|-------|-----------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|----------|-------|----------|-------|----------|-------|-----------------------|-------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | 1886. | 1885. | 1884. | 1883. | 1882. | 1881. | 1880. | 1879. | 1878. | 1877. |
| CLASS 1.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Small-pox | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| 2. Chicken-pox | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 10 | 1 | 6 | 144 | 1 | ... | ... |
| 3. Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 4. Epidemic Rose-rash | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 5. Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | ... | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | 22 | 20 | 21 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 16 | 13 | 3 | 4 |
| 6. Typhus | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 7. Relapsing Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 8. Influenza | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 9. Whooping-cough | 5 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 1 | 1 | ... | 3 | ... | 5 | 1 | 4 | ... | 27 | 4 | 33 | 3 | 13 | 16 | 48 | 3 | 92 | 15 |
| 10. Mumps | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 11. Diphtheria | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | 10 | 23 | 11 | 13 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 12 | 17 | 20 |
| 12. Cerebro-spinal Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 13. Simple Continued Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 14. Typhoid, Enteric Fever | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 9 | 1 | 10 | ... | 3 | ... | 4 | 1 | 36 | 69 | 93 | 100 | 77 | 96 | 58 | 54 | 77 | 103 | 61 |
| | 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 18 | 14 | 5 | 11 | 5 | 4 | 11 | 6 | 36 | 128 | 140 | 168 | 106 | 137 | 100 | 273 | 107 | 216 | 104 | |
| ORDER 2.—DIARRHOEAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Cholera | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 8 | 19 | 14 | 19 | 16 | 13 | 19 | 24 | 15 | 16 | |
| 2. Diarrhoea | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | ... | 27 | ... | 10 | 3 | 13 | 2 | 18 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 102 | 172 | 144 | 117 | 184 | 141 | 173 | 158 | 147 | 157 | |
| 3. Dysentery | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 7 | 18 | 12 | 8 | 14 | 11 | 23 | 29 | 35 | 12 | |
| | 7 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | ... | 29 | 3 | 12 | 3 | 14 | 2 | 21 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 117 | 209 | 170 | 144 | 214 | 165 | 215 | 211 | 200 | 185 | |
| ORDER 3.—MALARIAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Remittent Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | ... | 1 |
| 2. Ague | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 1 | |
| ORDER 5.—VENERFAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Syphilis | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 23 | 1 | 33 | 27 | 21 | 13 | 17 | 5 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 9 | | |
| 2. Gonorrhœa, Stricture of Urethra | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 23 | 1 | 33 | 27 | 25 | 13 | 18 | 5 | 20 | 13 | 10 | 12 | | |

ORDER 6.—SEPTIC DISEASES.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 1. Phagedæna | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 11 |
| 2. Erysipelas | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 8 | 12 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 5 | |
| 3. Pyæmia, Septicæmia..... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 6 | 4 | 4 | .. | 2 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 2 | |
| 4. Puerperal Fever | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 6 | 4 | .. | .. | 2 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 2 | |

Total, Class I.....

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|---|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 13 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 50 | 20 | 17 | 18 | 20 | 7 | 36 | 9 | 32 | 40 | 292 | 395 | 386 | 276 | 386 | 290 | 531 | 349 | 442 | 320 |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|---|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

CLASS II.—PARASITIC DISEASES.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| 1. Thrush | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 6 | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | 13 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| 2. Others from Vegetable Parasites | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| 3. Hydatids | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 2 | .. | 2 | .. | 5 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| 4. Others from Animal Parasites | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 3 | .. | 2 | 2 | .. | 5 | .. | .. | 1 |

Total, Class II.....

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|---|----|---|---|----|---|---|----|---|----|---|
| 2 | 6 | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | 2 | 3 | 18 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 3 | 11 | 7 | 12 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|---|----|---|---|----|---|---|----|---|----|---|

CLASS III.—DIETETIC DISEASES.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| 1. Starvation, Want of Breast Milk | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | 6 | 3 | 10 | 22 | 25 | 18 | 6 | 13 | 24 | 31 | | |
| 2. Scurvy | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 3 | 3 | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | 11 | 27 | 29 | 20 | 30 | 39 | 46 | 23 | 23 | 31 | 37 | |
| 3. Intemperance... { <i>a.</i> Chronic Alcoholism..... <i>b.</i> Delirium Tremens | 2 | .. | 2 | .. | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | 11 | 27 | 29 | 20 | 30 | 39 | 46 | 23 | 23 | 31 | 37 | |
| 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | 7 | 12 | 3 | 14 | 5 | 21 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 16 | 8 | 2 |

Total, Class III.....

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | .. | 3 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 18 | 45 | 35 | 44 | 57 | 85 | 78 | 43 | 52 | 63 | 70 |
|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|

CLASS IV.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatism of the Heart .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 6 | 17 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 16 | 13 | 12 |
| 2. Rheumatism | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | 4 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 4 |
| 3. Gout | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 15 | 3 | .. | 4 | .. | 7 | .. | 19 | 56 | 51 | 41 | 49 | 56 | 44 | 53 | 47 | 41 | 33 |
| 4. Rickets | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 3 | .. | 4 | .. | 4 | .. | 26 | 41 | 55 | 49 | 40 | 41 | 51 | 59 | 61 | 41 | |
| 5. Cancer, Malignant Disease | .. | 3 | 2 | .. | 2 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 4 | .. | 7 | .. | 30 | 9 | 18 | 14 | 7 | 9 | 15 | 9 | 11 | 7 | |
| 6. Tabes Mesenterica | 2 | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 2 | .. | 4 | .. | 63 | 205 | 282 | 231 | 227 | 281 | 234 | 212 | 237 | 176 | 166 |
| 7. Tubercular Meningitis (Acute Hydrocephalus) ... | 2 | .. | 2 | .. | 7 | 1 | 6 | 53 | 1 | 30 | 9 | .. | 20 | 1 | .. | 30 | 9 | 18 | 14 | 7 | 9 | 15 | 9 | 11 | 7 |
| 8. Phthisis | 15 | .. | 2 | .. | 7 | 1 | 6 | 53 | 1 | 30 | 9 | .. | 20 | 1 | .. | 30 | 9 | 18 | 14 | 7 | 9 | 15 | 9 | 11 | 7 |
| 9. Other forms of Tuberculosis, Scrofula, &c. | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | 3 | .. | 6 | .. | 6 | 16 | 13 | 10 | 8 | 11 | 6 | 13 | 9 | 11 | 16 |
| 10. Purpura, Hæmorrhagic Diathesis | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | .. | 2 | .. | 4 | |
| 11. Anæmia, Chlorosis, Leucocythæmia | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 |
| 12. Diabetes Mellitus | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 4 | .. | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 |

Total, Class IV.....

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 5 | 20 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 9 | 21 | 72 | 11 | 36 | 6 | 20 | 10 | 29 | 1 | 90 | 351 | 425 | 375 | 361 | 409 | 351 | 360 | 389 | 319 | 286 |
|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

CLASS V.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1. Premature Birth | 6 | .. | 1 | 1 | 2 | .. | 16 | 5 | 6 | 7 | .. | 11 | .. | 55 | 67 | 56 | 55 | 54 | 42 | 52 | 42 | 57 | 48 | | |
| 2. Atelectasis | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 |
| 3. Cyanosis | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 3 | .. | 11 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 11 | 7 | 10 | 3 | 9 | 6 | | |
| 4. Spina Bifida | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 3 | 2 | | |
| 5. Imperforate Anus | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 6. Cleft Palate, Harelip | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 7. Other Congenital Defects | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | 10 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 11 | 5 | 10 | 3 | 8 | 6 | | |
| 8. Old Age | 6 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | .. | 3 | .. | 30 | 91 | 105 | 77 | 62 | 63 | 68 | 76 | 78 | 56 | | |

Total, Class V.....

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|---|----|---|----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 9 | 6 | 2 | .. | 3 | 4 | 1 | 21 | 10 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 10 | 2 | 15 | 3 | 109 | 167 | 178 | 147 | 138 | 118 | 140 | 124 | 155 | 118 |
|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|---|----|---|----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

*These headings were not in use under the old classification.

DEATHS in the several Wards of the City of Sydney, 1886—continued.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Gipps. | | Bourke. | | Brisbane. | | Macquarie. | | Cook. | | Fitzroy. | | Phillip. | | Denison. | | Public In-stitutions. | | Total Deaths from each Cause in Sydney. | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|-------|---------|-------|-----------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|----------|-------|----------|-------|----------|-------|-----------------------|-------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | 1886. | 1885. | 1884. | 1883. | 1882. | 1881. | 1880. | 1879. | 1878. | 1877. |
| CLASS VI.—LOCAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER I.—DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Inflammation of Brain, or its Membranes..... | 2 | 1 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 5 | 3 | 7 | ... | 6 | ... | 9 | ... | 1 | ... | 38 | 63 | 59 | 41 | 48 | 48 | 53 | 53 | 52 | 50 |
| 2. Apoplexy | ... | 8 | ... | 3 | ... | 2 | ... | 5 | ... | 6 | ... | 7 | ... | 4 | ... | 6 | ... | 7 | 48 | 82 | 53 | 52 | 57 | 74 | 47 | 54 | 57 | 61 |
| 3. Softening of Brain | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 4 | * | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 4. Hemiplegia, Paralysis | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 4 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 15 | 34 | 25 | 24 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 34 | 20 | 40 | |
| 5. Paralysis Agitans | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | * | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 6. Insanity, General Paralysis of Insane | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | ... | 4 | 2 | ... | 2 | 2 | |
| 7. Chorea | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | |
| 8. Epilepsy | ... | 4 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 8 | 19 | 24 | 13 | 20 | 27 | 17 | 13 | 17 | 12 | |
| 9. Convulsions | 9 | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | 5 | ... | 23 | ... | 11 | ... | 17 | ... | 37 | 1 | 8 | 114 | 126 | 155 | 134 | 110 | 114 | 157 | 118 | 116 | 79 | |
| 10. Laryngismus Stridulus | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 11. Idiopathic Tetanus | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | * | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 12. Paraplegia, Diseases of Spinal Cord | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | 3 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 15 | * | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 13. Brain Disease (undefined) | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | 5 | 13 | 25 | 32 | 38 | 31 | 37 | 45 | 46 | 46 | 34 | |
| | 13 | 19 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 29 | 18 | 18 | 15 | 23 | 10 | 48 | 14 | 9 | 20 | 265 | 351 | 349 | 302 | 295 | 331 | 357 | 318 | 310 | 278 |
| ORDER 2.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF SPECIAL SENSE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Otitis, Otorrhœa, Disease of the Ear | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | * | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 2. Epistaxis, Disease of the Nose | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | * | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 3. Ophthalmia, Disease of the Eye | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | * | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| ORDER 3.—DISEASES OF THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Endocarditis, Valvular Disease | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 10 | ... | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | 6 | ... | 23 | 49 | * | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 2. Pericarditis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 7 | 11 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 5 | |
| 3. Hypertrophy of Heart..... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | * | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 4. Angina Pectoris | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | * | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 5. Syncope | ... | 3 | ... | 4 | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | 3 | ... | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 22 | 22 | * | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 6. Aneurism | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 10 | |
| 7. Semle Gangrene | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | * | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 8. Embolism, Thrombosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 3 | * | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 9. Phlebitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | * | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 10. Varicose Veins | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | * | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 11. Heart Disease (undefined) | ... | 7 | ... | 4 | ... | 1 | ... | 4 | ... | 12 | ... | 8 | ... | 14 | ... | 13 | 1 | 11 | 75 | 100 | 94 | 130 | 129 | 89 | 128 | 121 | 102 | 84 |
| | ... | 15 | ... | 8 | ... | 6 | ... | 7 | ... | 31 | ... | 18 | ... | 18 | ... | 21 | 1 | 46 | 171 | 118 | 115 | 144 | 143 | 104 | 140 | 135 | 117 | 99 |

DEATHS in the several Wards of the City of Sydney, 1886—*continued.*

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Gipps. | | Bourke. | | Brisbane. | | Macquarie. | | Cook. | | Fitzroy. | | Phillip. | | Denison. | | Public Institutions. | | Total Deaths from each Cause in Sydney. | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|-------|---------|-------|-----------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|----------|-------|----------|-------|----------|-------|----------------------|-------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----|
| | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | 1886. | 1885. | 1884. | 1883. | 1882. | 1881. | 1880. | 1879. | 1878. | 1877. | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 8.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF GENERATION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Ovarian Disease | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 3 | .. | 4 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. |
| 2. Diseases of the Uterus and Vagina | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| 3. Disorders of Menstruation | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 3 | .. | 1 | 5 | 1 | .. | 3 | 1 | 5 | .. | |
| 4. Pelvic Abscess | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | ..* | 3 | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | |
| 5. Perineal Abscess | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | ..* | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| 6. Diseases of Testes, Penis, Scrotum, &c. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..* | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Total for Order 8. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | 9 | 3 | 10 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 6 | .. | |
| ORDER 9.—DISEASES OF PARTURITION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Abortion, Miscarriage | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | ..* | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| 2. Puerperal Mania | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | ..* | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| 3. Puerperal Convulsions | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | ..* | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| 4. Placenta Prævia, Flooding | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 3 | ..* | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| 5. Phlegmasia Dolens | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | ..* | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| 6. Other Accidents of Childbirth | .. | 2 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | 13 | 13 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 17 | 20 | 8 | 13 | 18 | | |
| Total for Order 9. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | 7 | .. | 2 | .. | 3 | .. | 3 | .. | 2 | .. | 22 | 13 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 17 | 20 | 8 | 13 | 18 | | |
| ORDER 10.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF LOCOMOTION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Caries, Necrosis | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | .. | 2 | .. | |
| 2. Arthritis, Ostitis, Periostitis | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| Total for Order 10. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 | | |
| ORDER 11.—DISEASES OF THE INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Carbuncle | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | .. | |
| 2. Phlegmon, Cellulitis | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | ..* | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| 3. Lupus | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..* | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| 4. Ulcer, Bedsores | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | .. | 2 | |
| 5. Eczema | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | .. | 7 | 3 | .. | 2 | |
| 6. Pemphigus | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..* | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Total for Order 11. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 12 | 5 | 2 | | |
| Total, Class VI | 31 | 71 | 5 | 21 | 14 | 24 | 14 | 30 | 101 | 117 | 46 | 74 | 54 | 56 | 103 | 71 | 17 | 169 | 1,018 | 1,136 | 1,083 | 993 | 1,101 | 982 | 1,221 | 1,024 | 992 | 881 | |

| CLASS VII.—VIOLENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| ORDER 1.—ACCIDENT OR NEGLIGENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Fractures, Contusions | 5 | 1 | 6 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | 5 | 2 | 1 | ... | 3 | ... | 6 | ... | 48 | 80 | 94 | 64 | 57 | 68 | 90 | 66 | 44 | 51 | 40 | |
| 2. Gunshot Wounds .. | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 4 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 3. Cuts, &c | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 3 | ... | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | ... | 3 | 6 | 1 | |
| 4. Burns, Scalds | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | 3 | 11 | 17 | 16 | 9 | 3 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 11 | 16 | 6 | 4 | |
| 4a. Sunstroke | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 4b. Lightning .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 3 | 1 | ... | |
| 5. Poison | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 5a. Bite of Snake or Insect | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 6. Drowning | 5 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | ... | 5 | 1 | 1 | 19 | 24 | 19 | 15 | 17 | 12 | 8 | 15 | 4 | 15 | 8 | |
| 7. Suffocation | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 10 | 4 | 11 | 8 | ... | |
| 8. Otherwise (Blood Poisoning, Shock, &c.) | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | |
| Total, Class VII | 4 | 10 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 11 | 5 | 68 | 138 | 156 | 108 | 87 | 111 | 137 | 109 | 84 | 98 | 75 | | |
| ORDER 2.—HOMICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Murder | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 6 | ... | |
| 1a. Manslaughter | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 | ... | |
| 2. Justifiable Homicide | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 3 | 13 | 10 | 8 | 15 | 12 | 9 | 12 | 9 | 10 | 7 | ... | |
| ORDER 3.—SUICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Gunshot Wounds | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | ... | 4 | 4 | |
| 2. Cut, Stab | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | ... | 2 | 4 | ... | 1 | 1 | |
| 3. Poison | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 4. Drowning | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | |
| 5. Hanging | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 6. Otherwise (Falls from high places, &c.) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Total, Class VII | 1 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 5 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 4 | 20 | 21 | 18 | 16 | 11 | 13 | 11 | 9 | 7 | 10 | | |
| ORDER 4.—EXECUTION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Judicial Hanging | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| ORDER 5.—VIOLENT DEATHS NOT CLASSED, (OPEN VERDICTS.) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Found Drowned | ... | 8 | ... | 6 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 12 | ... | ... | 29 | 18 | 14 | 10 | 12 | 23 | 10 | 18 | 13 | 12 | 3 | |
| 2. Otherwise | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 12 | ... | 3 | 34 | 20 | 16 | 15 | 16 | 27 | 15 | 20 | 19 | 15 | ... | |
| Total, Class VII | 4 | 19 | 1 | 17 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 4 | 14 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 28 | 5 | 79 | 206 | 209 | 151 | 133 | 150 | 187 | 149 | 122 | 134 | 107 |
| CLASS VIII.—ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CAUSES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Dropsy | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 8 | 28 | 41 | 27 | 31 | 29 | 38 | 29 | 28 | 47 | ... | |
| 2. Atrophy, Debility, Inanition .. | 4 | ... | 3 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | 39 | ... | 20 | ... | 23 | ... | 35 | ... | 41 | ... | 168 | 190 | 194 | 161 | 147 | 144 | 173 | 129 | 123 | 114 |
| 3. Mortification | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 4. Tumour | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 12 | 9 | 5 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 5 | 11 | 9 | ... | |
| 5. Abscess | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 2 | ... | |
| 6. Hæmorrhage | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 7. Sudden (cause unascertained) .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 8. Other ill-defined and not specified causes | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 6 | 23 | 60 | 58 | 49 | 51 | 60 | 29 | 38 | 38 | ... | |
| Total, Class VIII | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 40 | 3 | 21 | ... | 24 | ... | 35 | 2 | 41 | ... | 185 | 260 | 309 | 256 | 248 | 237 | 285 | 199 | 204 | 210 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 66 | 127 | 17 | 51 | 24 | 43 | 32 | 46 | 242 | 240 | 109 | 153 | 115 | 91 | 201 | 143 | 113 | 411 | 2,224 | 2,636 | 2,535 | 2,233 | 2,525 | 2,246 | 2,740 | 2,266 | 2,321 | 2,000 |

* These headings were not in use under the old classification

APPENDIX—1887.

A.

NUMBER OF MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS registered in New South Wales during the Year 1887.

| Districts. | Marriages. | Births. | | | Deaths. | | |
|--------------------|------------|---------|----------|--------|---------|----------|--------|
| | | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| Sydney | 1,931 | 1,881 | 1,896 | 3,777 | 1,100 | 842 | 1,942 |
| Suburban | 1,582 | 4,820 | 4,823 | 9,643 | 1,963 | 1,641 | 3,604 |
| Metropolitan | 3,513 | 6,701 | 6,719 | 13,420 | 3,063 | 2,483 | 5,546 |
| Country | 4,077 | 12,200 | 11,616 | 23,816 | 4,713 | 3,189 | 7,902 |
| Total | 7,590 | 18,901 | 18,335 | 37,236 | 7,776 | 5,672 | 13,448 |

B.

TABLE showing the number of MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS registered in each District of the Colony of New South Wales during the Year ended 31st December, 1887.

| District. | Popula- tion, Census, 1881. | Mar- riages. | Total. | | Births. | | | | Deaths. | | Excess of Births over Deaths.* |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|-----------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-----|---------|-----|---|
| | | | Births. | Deaths. | Including Illegitimate Births. | | Illegitimate Births. | | M. | F. | |
| | | | | | M. | F. | M. | F. | | | |
| I.—NORTH-EASTERN. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Casino | 9,266 | { 20 | 160 | 50 | 88 | 72 | 2 | 2 | 26 | 24 | 110 |
| Lismore | | | 64 | 467 | 96 | 243 | 224 | 2 | 5 | 62 | 34 | 371 |
| 2. Tweed River..... | 7,744 | { 10 | 69 | 13 | 34 | 35 | ... | ... | 10 | 3 | 56 |
| 3. Grafton | | | 65 | 348 | 77 | 195 | 153 | 5 | 6 | 65 | 22 | 271 |
| Maclean | 7,744 | { 17 | 191 | 39 | 95 | 96 | 2 | 3 | 26 | 13 | 152 |
| Ulmarra | | | 4 | 119 | 15 | 65 | 54 | 2 | ... | 8 | 7 | 104 |
| 4. Kempsey | 7,123 | { 6 | 54 | 11 | 31 | 23 | ... | ... | 7 | 4 | 43 |
| Bellingher River | | | 59 | 305 | 72 | 182 | 123 | 4 | 4 | 43 | 29 | 233 |
| Nambucca River | 7,123 | { 3 | 60 | 8 | 30 | 20 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 52 |
| 5. Port Macquarie | | | 20 | 106 | 33 | 51 | 55 | ... | 2 | 20 | 13 | 73 |
| 6. Taree | 9,309 | { 60 | 381 | 72 | 192 | 189 | 1 | 6 | 39 | 33 | 309 |
| Copeland | | | 2 | 33 | 6 | 17 | 16 | 1 | ... | 1 | 5 | 27 |
| 7. Stroud | 9,309 | { 16 | 118 | 26 | 65 | 53 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 12 | 92 |
| 8. Dungog | | | 15 | 114 | 27 | 58 | 56 | ... | 1 | 15 | 12 | 87 |
| 9. Clarence Town..... | 5,945 | { 6 | 50 | 13 | 22 | 28 | 2 | ... | 5 | 8 | 37 |
| 10. Paterson | | | 10 | 90 | 22 | 41 | 49 | ... | ... | 9 | 13 | 68 |
| 11. Raymond Terrace | 5,643 | 22 | 103 | 30 | 58 | 45 | 2 | ... | 20 | 10 | 73 |
| 12. Maitland (East) | 4,103 | 42 | 125 | 36 | 67 | 58 | 8 | 2 | 24 | 12 | 89 |
| Maitland (West) | 5,703 | 79 | 328 | 147 | 171 | 157 | 10 | 12 | 81 | 66 | 181 |
| Upper Hunter..... | 5,703 | { 1 | 4 | ... | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Minmi | | | 13 | 145 | 28 | 75 | 70 | 1 | ... | 19 | 9 | 117 |
| Greta..... | 4,944 | { 17 | 143 | 36 | 63 | 80 | ... | 3 | 16 | 20 | 107 |
| 13. Morpeth | | | 23 | 153 | 50 | 69 | 85 | ... | 1 | 32 | 18 | 103 |
| 14. Singleton | 7,021 | 40 | 265 | 63 | 133 | 132 | 6 | 6 | 32 | 31 | 202 |
| 15. Muswellbrook | 7,021 | { 26 | 95 | 34 | 45 | 50 | 3 | 1 | 17 | 17 | 61 |
| Denman | | | 1 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 16. Scone..... | 11,321 | { 17 | 121 | 28 | 53 | 68 | ... | 3 | 15 | 13 | 93 |
| 17. Murrurundi | | | 10 | 57 | 20 | 26 | 31 | 1 | ... | 10 | 10 | 37 |
| Total ..... | ..... | 668 | 4,210 | 1,055 | 2,175 | 2,035 | 55 | 60 | 611 | 444 | 3,155 |
| II.—NORTH-MIDLAND. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Tenterfield | 4,855 | { 47 | 238 | 82 | 129 | 109 | 4 | 2 | 43 | 39 | 156 |
| Drake | | | 1 | 22 | 10 | 8 | 14 | ... | ... | 5 | 5 | 12 |
| 2. Glen Innes | 6,900 | { 46 | 270 | 57 | 121 | 149 | 3 | 4 | 37 | 20 | 213 |
| Emmaville | | | 11 | 106 | 36 | 56 | 50 | 1 | 5 | 23 | 13 | 70 |
| 3. Inverell..... | 7,186 | { 37 | 331 | 79 | 177 | 154 | 7 | 6 | 48 | 31 | 252 |
| 4. Armidale | | | 80 | 370 | 103 | 187 | 183 | 5 | 6 | 56 | 47 | 267 |
| Walcha | 15,222 | { 11 | 121 | 28 | 68 | 53 | 3 | 4 | 16 | 12 | 93 |
| Uralla | | | 15 | 107 | 26 | 53 | 54 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 12 | 81 |
| Bundarra | 15,222 | { 9 | 46 | 6 | 22 | 24 | ... | 3 | 4 | 2 | 40 |
| Total | | | | 257 | 1,611 | 427 | 821 | 790 | 25 | 32 | 245 | 181 | 1,184 |

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS REGISTERED IN DISTRICTS, 1887—continued.

| District. | Population, Census, 1881. | Mar- riages. | Total. | | Births. | | | | Deaths. | | Excess of Births over Deaths.* | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-----|---------|-------|---|-----|
| | | | Births. | Deaths. | Including Illegitimate Births. | | Illegitimate Births. | | M. | F. | | |
| | | | | | M. | F. | M. | F. | | | | |
| III.—NORTH-WESTERN. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Tamworth..... | 13,233 | 64 | 300 | 90 | 156 | 144 | 9 | 5 | 54 | 36 | 210 | |
| Manilla..... | | 2 | 45 | 11 | 20 | 25 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 34 | |
| Gunnedah..... | | 22 | 176 | 43 | 87 | 89 | 3 | 4 | 27 | 16 | 133 | |
| Quirindi..... | | 16 | 105 | 22 | 55 | 50 | 2 | 3 | 16 | 6 | 83 | |
| Barraba..... | | 6 | 46 | 4 | 26 | 20 | ... | 1 | 2 | 2 | 42 | |
| 2. Nundle..... | | 1 | 43 | 11 | 15 | 28 | ... | ... | 7 | 4 | 32 | |
| 3. Warialda..... | | 5,490 | 11 | 96 | 25 | 43 | 53 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 11 | 71 |
| Moree..... | | | 12 | 113 | 34 | 60 | 53 | ... | 3 | 16 | 18 | 79 |
| Bingara..... | | | 13 | 69 | 14 | 26 | 43 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 55 |
| 4. Cassilis..... | | 13,004 | 4 | 58 | 4 | 32 | 26 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 54 |
| Merriwa..... | | | 11 | 33 | 12 | 19 | 14 | ... | ... | 6 | 6 | 21 |
| 5. Dubbo..... | | | 84 | 457 | 109 | 254 | 203 | 5 | 14 | 70 | 39 | 348 |
| Nyngan..... | | 6 | 84 | 31 | 45 | 39 | 3 | 1 | 20 | 11 | 53 | |
| 6. Coonabarabran..... | 2,219 | 10 | 87 | 25 | 41 | 46 | 5 | 4 | 14 | 11 | 62 | |
| Coonamble..... | | 26 | 135 | 40 | 71 | 64 | 3 | 2 | 29 | 11 | 95 | |
| 7. Molong..... | 6,877 | 22 | 265 | 58 | 135 | 130 | 1 | 8 | 29 | 29 | 207 | |
| 8. Forbes..... | | 38 | 166 | 60 | 83 | 83 | 8 | 5 | 40 | 20 | 106 | |
| Condobolin..... | | 6 | 33 | 14 | 20 | 13 | 1 | ... | 12 | 2 | 19 | |
| Parkes..... | 7,759 | 14 | 101 | 28 | 47 | 54 | 4 | 4 | 17 | 11 | 73 | |
| Nymagee..... | | 17 | 76 | 24 | 33 | 43 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 9 | 52 | |
| 9. Walgett..... | 3,490 | 18 | 82 | 38 | 37 | 45 | ... | 1 | 29 | 9 | 44 | |
| 10. Narrabri..... | | 26 | 185 | 68 | 93 | 92 | 4 | 6 | 40 | 23 | 117 | |
| Total ..... | ..... | 429 | 2,755 | 765 | 1,398 | 1,357 | 55 | 74 | 469 | 296 | 1,990 | |
| IV.—METROPOLITAN. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City of Sydney | 125,115 | 1,931 | 3,777 | 1,942 ^a | 1,881 | 1,896 | 245 | 251 | 1,100 | 842 | 1,835 | |
| Suburbs— | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Balmain..... | 46,691 | 180 | 1,002 | 275 | 495 | 507 | 11 | 10 | 143 | 132 | 727 | |
| Leichhardt..... | | 68 | 426 | 170 ^b | 219 | 207 | 2 | 5 | 95 | 75 | 256 | |
| Glebe..... | | 116 | 838 | 308 ^c | 404 | 434 | 18 | 37 | 151 | 157 | 530 | |
| Newtown..... | 31,730 | 207 | 670 | 246 | 347 | 323 | 28 | 20 | 128 | 118 | 424 | |
| St. Peters..... | | 42 | 250 | 67 | 122 | 128 | 4 | 4 | 34 | 33 | 183 | |
| Camperdown..... | | 8 | 230 | 275 ^d | 117 | 113 | 5 | 11 | 174 | 101 | — 45 | |
| Macdonaldtown..... | 41,327 | 23 | 267 | 100 | 148 | 119 | 9 | 9 | 52 | 48 | 167 | |
| Redfern..... | | 113 | 750 | 320 | 368 | 382 | 22 | 13 | 171 | 140 | 430 | |
| Darlington..... | | 17 | 135 | 58 | 61 | 74 | 4 | 6 | 30 | 28 | 77 | |
| Waterloo..... | 35,176 | 109 | 857 | 459 ^e | 437 | 420 | 21 | 21 | 289 | 170 | 398 | |
| Paddington..... | | 101 | 695 | 233 | 354 | 341 | 15 | 7 | 120 | 113 | 462 | |
| Randwick..... | | 37 | 120 | 36 | 60 | 60 | 1 | ... | 20 | 16 | 84 | |
| Waverley..... | 43,727 | 51 | 300 | 94 | 146 | 154 | 7 | 7 | 44 | 50 | 206 | |
| Woollahra..... | | 73 | 254 | 84 | 117 | 137 | 2 | 4 | 46 | 38 | 170 | |
| Ashfield..... | | 57 | 375 | 147 ^f | 206 | 169 | ... | 7 | 75 | 72 | 228 | |
| Burwood..... | 18,817 | 77 | 429 | 115 | 211 | 218 | 10 | 3 | 69 | 46 | 314 | |
| Canterbury..... | | 14 | 53 | 25 | 27 | 26 | ... | 2 | 17 | 8 | 28 | |
| Five Dock..... | | 4 | 75 | 13 | 37 | 38 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 62 | |
| Kogarah..... | 18,817 | 20 | 163 | 56 | 75 | 88 | 2 | 2 | 28 | 28 | 107 | |
| Marrickville..... | | 65 | 444 | 138 | 201 | 243 | 7 | 1 | 70 | 68 | 306 | |
| Petersham..... | | 71 | 361 | 126 | 176 | 185 | 2 | 6 | 56 | 70 | 235 | |
| West Botany..... | 18,817 | 4 | 135 | 33 | 62 | 73 | 1 | 1 | 23 | 10 | 102 | |
| St. Leonards..... | | 91 | 694 | 179 | 367 | 327 | 17 | 9 | 95 | 84 | 515 | |
| Manly..... | 34 | 120 | 47 ^g | 63 | 57 | 1 | 1 | 28 | 19 | 73 | | |
| Total ..... | ..... | 3,513 | 13,420 | 5,546 | 6,701 | 6,719 | 435 | 438 | 3,063 | 2,483 | 7,874 | |
| V.—EAST-MIDLAND. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Newcastle..... | 15,596 | 298 | 910 | 374 | 435 | 475 | 23 | 21 | 211 | 163 | 536 | |
| Waratah..... | 14,773 | ... | 10 | 4 | 6 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 6 | |
| Hamilton..... | | 33 | 244 | 75 | 125 | 119 | 1 | 2 | 44 | 31 | 169 | |
| Adamstown..... | | 10 | 73 | 24 | 38 | 35 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 14 | 49 | |
| Lambton..... | 5,334 | 54 | 411 | 133 | 228 | 183 | 3 | 5 | 75 | 58 | 278 | |
| Wallsend..... | | 71 | 332 | 99 | 175 | 157 | 6 | 7 | 50 | 49 | 233 | |
| Glebeland..... | | 6 | 70 | 19 | 42 | 28 | ... | ... | 11 | 8 | 51 | |
| 2. Wollombi..... | 5,334 | 7 | 38 | 10 | 15 | 23 | ... | ... | 6 | 4 | 28 | |
| Millfield..... | | 6 | 30 | 12 | 17 | 13 | ... | ... | 3 | 9 | 18 | |
| Wiseman's Ferry..... | | 2 | 19 | 5 | 11 | 8 | ... | 1 | 4 | 1 | 14 | |
| 3. St. Alban's..... | 8,699 | 3 | 22 | 5 | 13 | 9 | ... | ... | 3 | 2 | 17 | |
| 4. Gosford..... | | 20 | 178 | 44 | 101 | 77 | 3 | 7 | 25 | 19 | 134 | |
| 5. Windsor..... | | 28 | 213 | 84 | 117 | 96 | 2 | 3 | 43 | 41 | 129 | |
| 6. Richmond..... | 6,031 | 11 | 92 | 35 | 53 | 39 | 1 | ... | 18 | 17 | 57 | |
| 7. Penrith..... | | 45 | 302 | 106 | 162 | 140 | 3 | 15 | 59 | 47 | 196 | |
| Springwood..... | ... | ... | 5 | 1 | ... | 5 | ... | 1 | ... | 4 | | |

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS REGISTERED IN DISTRICTS, 1887—continued.

| District. | Population, Census, 1881. | Mar- riages. | Total. | | Births. | | | | Deaths. | | Excess of Births over Deaths.* |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------|------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-----|---------|-----|---|
| | | | Births. | Deaths. | Including Illegitimate Births. | | Illegitimate Births. | | M. | F. | |
| | | | | | M. | F. | M. | F. | | | |
| V.—EAST-MIDLAND—continued. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. Parramatta | 8,432 | 92 | 321 | 370 ^h | 162 | 159 | 4 | 7 | 228 | 142 | -49 |
| Central Cumberland | | 53 | 508 | 211 ⁱ | 265 | 243 | 5 | 7 | 79 | 132 | 297 |
| Granville | | 16 | 113 | 21 | 49 | 64 | ... | 3 | 10 | 11 | 92 |
| 9. Ryde | 15,256 | 36 | 231 | 119 ^j | 123 | 108 | 6 | 2 | 71 | 48 | 112 |
| Prospect | | 2 | 20 | 2 | 10 | 10 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 18 |
| 10. Liverpool | | 17 | 186 | 214 ^k | 97 | 89 | 2 | 4 | 191 | 23 | -28 |
| 11. Campbelltown | | 2 | 144 | 46 | 71 | 73 | 1 | 3 | 25 | 21 | 98 |
| 12. Camden | 15,723 | 15 | 99 | 27 | 50 | 49 | 2 | 1 | 19 | 8 | 72 |
| 13. Picton | | 13 | 103 | 49 | 47 | 56 | 1 | 1 | 25 | 24 | 54 |
| Total ..... | ..... | 840 | 4,674 | 2,089 | 2,412 | 2,262 | 64 | 90 | 1,212 | 877 | 2,585 |
| VI.—WEST-MIDLAND. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Carcoar | 10,482 | 26 | 281 | 74 | 143 | 138 | 11 | 4 | 44 | 30 | 207 |
| Blayney | | 37 | 184 | 66 | 90 | 94 | 4 | 2 | 34 | 32 | 118 |
| 2. Cowra | 8,673 | 17 | 110 | 32 | 52 | 58 | 4 | 1 | 17 | 15 | 78 |
| Lithgow | | 44 | 375 | 95 | 186 | 189 | 6 | 3 | 54 | 41 | 280 |
| Mitchell | | 2 | 49 | 9 | 29 | 20 | 1 | ... | 2 | 7 | 40 |
| 4. Bathurst | 12,828 | 95 | 340 | 123 | 187 | 153 | 5 | 9 | 73 | 50 | 217 |
| East Macquarie | | 20 | 189 | 42 | 93 | 96 | ... | 4 | 22 | 20 | 147 |
| West Macquarie | | 12 | 124 | 46 | 65 | 59 | ... | 3 | 32 | 14 | 78 |
| Oberon | | 11 | 63 | 15 | 30 | 33 | 1 | ... | 12 | 3 | 48 |
| 5. Sofala | 9,472 | 7 | 51 | 15 | 28 | 23 | 1 | ... | 9 | 6 | 36 |
| Orange | | 99 | 408 | 133 | 214 | 194 | 4 | 12 | 75 | 58 | 275 |
| 7. Wellington | 6,034 | 31 | 236 | 48 | 126 | 110 | 8 | 5 | 28 | 20 | 188 |
| 8. Tambaroora | 17,977 | 2 | 10 | 4 | 6 | 4 | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 6 |
| Hill End | | 5 | 25 | 12 | 16 | 9 | 1 | ... | 6 | 6 | 13 |
| Mudgee | | 41 | 295 | 70 | 146 | 149 | 6 | 7 | 49 | 21 | 225 |
| Gulgong | | 19 | 90 | 34 | 38 | 52 | 5 | 5 | 16 | 18 | 56 |
| 10. Rylstone ..... | ..... | 17 | 83 | 27 | 39 | 44 | 1 | 1 | 17 | 10 | 56 |
| Total ..... | ..... | 485 | 2,913 | 845 | 1,488 | 1,425 | 58 | 56 | 494 | 351 | 2,068 |
| VII.—SOUTH-MIDLAND. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Braidwood | 6,948 | 27 | 180 | 57 | 85 | 95 | 2 | 7 | 34 | 23 | 123 |
| 2. Cooma | 10,751 | 53 | 310 | 85 | 149 | 161 | 2 | 13 | 45 | 40 | 225 |
| Nimitybelle | | 3 | 38 | 9 | 18 | 20 | 1 | ... | 6 | 3 | 29 |
| 3. Bombala ..... | ..... | 12 | 124 | 31 | 71 | 53 | 3 | 1 | 19 | 12 | 93 |
| Delegate | | 6 | 28 | 9 | 16 | 12 | 2 | ... | 5 | 4 | 19 |
| 4. Goulburn | 17,204 | 106 | 405 | 157 | 216 | 189 | 11 | 11 | 80 | 77 | 248 |
| Argyle | | 21 | 243 | 70 | 118 | 125 | 3 | 5 | 42 | 28 | 173 |
| Taralga | | 2 | 22 | 10 | 12 | 10 | ... | ... | 5 | 5 | 12 |
| Crookwell | | 29 | 91 | 32 | 45 | 46 | 2 | 1 | 16 | 16 | 59 |
| 5. Albury | 5,715 | 62 | 236 | 122 | 137 | 99 | 8 | 6 | 73 | 49 | 114 |
| Hume | 9,281 | 24 | 211 | 41 | 109 | 102 | 3 | 2 | 26 | 15 | 170 |
| Corowa | | 18 | 123 | 47 | 71 | 52 | 2 | 3 | 28 | 19 | 76 |
| 6. Gundagai | 6,531 | 25 | 151 | 74 | 71 | 80 | 1 | 2 | 42 | 32 | 77 |
| Adelong | | 13 | 89 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 3 | 2 | 22 | 21 | 46 |
| Cootamundra | | 18 | 149 | 33 | 82 | 67 | ... | 1 | 20 | 13 | 116 |
| 7. Tumut | 6,685 | 25 | 117 | 38 | 69 | 48 | 2 | 1 | 26 | 12 | 79 |
| 8. Yass | 7,893 | 37 | 190 | 64 | 95 | 95 | 5 | 3 | 38 | 26 | 126 |
| Gunning | | 18 | 84 | 27 | 42 | 42 | 1 | 3 | 18 | 9 | 57 |
| 9. Queanbeyan | 5,459 | 19 | 196 | 59 | 81 | 115 | 5 | 5 | 32 | 27 | 137 |
| Bungendore | | 7 | 75 | 16 | 40 | 35 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 59 |
| 10. Burrowa | 4,306 | 18 | 131 | 36 | 65 | 66 | 1 | 2 | 20 | 16 | 95 |
| Grenfell | 5,546 | 22 | 129 | 50 | 70 | 59 | 3 | 2 | 35 | 15 | 79 |
| Barmedman | | ... | 11 | 1 | 4 | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 10 |
| Temora | | 10 | 72 | 31 | 33 | 39 | 1 | 2 | 17 | 14 | 41 |
| 11. Young | 11,850 | 53 | 303 | 67 | 154 | 149 | 7 | 6 | 41 | 26 | 236 |
| Murrumburrah | | 13 | 110 | 27 | 64 | 46 | 1 | 1 | 22 | 5 | 83 |
| Total ..... | ..... | 641 | 3,818 | 1,236 | 1,961 | 1,857 | 71 | 80 | 721 | 515 | 2,582 |
| VIII.—SOUTH-EASTERN. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Wollongong | 7,209 | 52 | 283 | 80 | 143 | 140 | 3 | 1 | 44 | 36 | 203 |
| Woonona | | 16 | 158 | 135 ^l | 78 | 80 | 2 | 1 | 112 | 23 | 23 |
| 2. Kiama | 5,735 | 41 | 183 | 65 | 95 | 88 | 2 | 1 | 33 | 32 | 118 |
| Berrima | | 68 | 284 | 92 | 146 | 138 | 2 | 2 | 48 | 44 | 192 |
| Robertson | | 9 | 64 | 11 | 29 | 35 | ... | ... | 6 | 5 | 53 |
| 4. Shoalhaven | 8,393 | 35 | 205 | 51 | 104 | 101 | 2 | 2 | 30 | 21 | 154 |
| 5. Milton | | 15 | 90 | 33 | 52 | 38 | 2 | ... | 17 | 16 | 57 |
| Broughton Creek | | 10 | 61 | 15 | 31 | 30 | 1 | ... | 8 | 7 | 46 |
| 6. Moruya ..... | ..... | 21 | 144 | 45 | 68 | 76 | ... | 3 | 29 | 16 | 99 |
| 7. Eden | | 10 | 81 | 20 | 44 | 37 | ... | 1 | 14 | 6 | 61 |
| 8. Bega | 11,484 | 43 | 290 | 61 | 139 | 151 | 2 | 4 | 29 | 32 | 229 |
| Total ..... | ..... | 320 | 1,843 | 608 | 929 | 914 | 16 | 15 | 370 | 238 | 1,235 |

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS REGISTERED IN DISTRICTS, 1887—continued.

| District. | Popula- tion, Census, 1881. | Mar- riages. | Total. | | Births. | | | | Deaths. | | Excess of Births over Deaths.* |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|-----------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|-----|---------|-------|---|
| | | | Births. | Deaths. | Including Illegitimate Births. | | Illegitimate Births. | | M. | F. | |
| | | | | | M. | F. | M. | F. | | | |
| IX.—SOUTH-WESTERN. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Deniliquin | 8,908 | 24 | 122 | 63 | 69 | 53 | 3 | 4 | 33 | 30 | 59 |
| Jerilderie | | 5 | 32 | 13 | 18 | 14 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 3 | 19 |
| Lyttleton | | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| 2. Moama | 8,135 | 10 | 55 | 15 | 34 | 21 | ... | ... | 7 | 8 | 40 |
| 3. Moulamein | | 4 | 15 | 3 | 7 | 8 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 12 |
| 4. Balranald | 8,125 | 20 | 43 | 23 | 22 | 21 | ... | ... | 16 | 7 | 20 |
| Mossgiel | | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... |
| 5. Bourke | 8,125 | 44 | 199 | 102 | 106 | 93 | 12 | 7 | 77 | 25 | 97 |
| Brewarrina | | 11 | 37 | 26 | 19 | 18 | ... | 2 | 16 | 10 | 11 |
| Barrington | | ... | 17 | 4 | 9 | 8 | ... | 1 | 2 | 2 | 13 |
| 6. Hay | †..... | 58 | 204 | 95 | 106 | 98 | 4 | 3 | 61 | 34 | 109 |
| Hillston | †..... | 13 | 119 | 34 | 52 | 67 | 2 | 1 | 21 | 13 | 85 |
| 7. Wentworth | 6,194 | 28 | 112 | 44 | 60 | 52 | 1 | ... | 36 | 8 | 68 |
| Silverton | | 36 | 124 | 82 | 53 | 71 | 5 | 5 | 52 | 30 | 42 |
| Broken Hill | | 16 | 50 | 24 | 23 | 27 | ... | 1 | 15 | 9 | 26 |
| 8. Wilcannia | 6,194 | 15 | 80 | 60 | 49 | 31 | 6 | 2 | 46 | 14 | 20 |
| Milparinka | | 6 | 29 | 9 | 15 | 14 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 20 |
| Menindie | | ... | 29 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 1 | ... | 13 | 1 | 15 |
| 9. Wagga | 18,347 | 73 | 302 | 129 | 146 | 156 | 5 | 6 | 90 | 39 | 173 |
| Loftus | | 20 | 130 | 35 | 60 | 70 | ... | ... | 22 | 13 | 95 |
| Narrandera | | 31 | 113 | 57 | 59 | 54 | 4 | 1 | 36 | 21 | 56 |
| Urana | | 6 | 53 | 13 | 26 | 27 | ... | 2 | 8 | 5 | 40 |
| Cobar | | †..... | 14 | 122 | 28 | 66 | 56 | 4 | 1 | 17 | 11 | 94 |
| Total ..... | ..... | 437 | 1,992 | 877 | 1,016 | 976 | 49 | 38 | 590 | 287 | 1,115 |
| GRAND TOTAL ..... | ..... | 7,590 | 37,236 | 13,448 | 18,901 | 18,335 | 828 | 883 | 7,776 | 5,672 | 23,788 |

* In cases where the minus sign (—) is prefixed to any number, it implies that the deaths exceeded the births by that number.

† Included in Balranald. ‡ Included in Bourke.

* Of this number 413 occurred in Public Institutions, viz.:—At the Sydney Hospital, 251 (191 males, 60 females); at St. Vincent's Hospital, 55 (34 males, 21 females); at the Sydney Gaol, 16 (9 males, 7 females); at the Reception House for the Insane, 5 (4 males, 1 female); and at the Benevolent Asylum, 86 (45 males, 41 females).
 † Including 55 deaths (36 males, 19 females) at the Lunatic Asylum, Callan Park, Leichhardt.
 ‡ Children's Hospital, Glebe, 24 (16 males, 8 females).
 § Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown, 203 (137 males, 66 females).
 ¶ Little Bay Hospital, district of Waterloo, 150 (115 males, 35 females).
 †† Infants' Home, Ashfield, 33 (18 males, 15 females).
 ‡‡ Quarantine Station, Manly, 13 (8 males, 5 females).
 §§ Of these deaths, 21 (17 males, 4 females) took place at the Parramatta Hospital; 156 (males) at the Benevolent Asylums; and 58 (33 males, 25 females) at the Asylum for the Insane.
 ¶¶ At the Newington Asylum there were 56 deaths (2 males, 54 females).
 ††† Gladesville Asylum for the Insane, district of Ryde, 50 deaths (32 males, 18 females).
 ‡‡‡ Benevolent Asylum, Liverpool, 167 deaths (all males).
 §§§ The deaths of 81 miners, who perished through an explosion in the Bulli Coal-mine, district of Woonona, are included in this total.

C.

MARRIAGES by Clergy of each Denomination, and number of persons signing Register with marks, for the year 1887.

| Denomination. | New South Wales. | | | | Sydney. | | | | Suburbs. | | | | Country. | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------|-----|-------|-----------------|--------|-----|-------|-----------------|--------|-----|-------|-----------------|--------|-----|-------|
| | Mar- riages. | Marks. | | | Mar- riages. | Marks. | | | Mar- riages. | Marks. | | | Mar- riages. | Marks. | | |
| | | M. | F. | Total | | M. | F. | Total | | M. | F. | Total | | M. | F. | Total |
| Church of England..... | 3,056 | 85 | 112 | 197 | 933 | 13 | 30 | 43 | 529 | 4 | 7 | 11 | 1,594 | 68 | 75 | 143 |
| Roman Catholic | 1,221 | 62 | 65 | 127 | 344 | 14 | 20 | 34 | 165 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 712 | 45 | 38 | 83 |
| Presbyterian | 1,030 | 25 | 33 | 58 | 97 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 252 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 681 | 23 | 28 | 51 |
| Wesleyan | 770 | 15 | 24 | 39 | 66 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 172 | ... | 1 | 1 | 532 | 14 | 22 | 36 |
| Primitive Methodist | 227 | 3 | 9 | 12 | 19 | ... | ... | ... | 51 | ... | ... | ... | 157 | 3 | 9 | 12 |
| Congregational..... | 536 | 8 | 15 | 23 | 317 | 8 | 12 | 20 | 170 | ... | 2 | 2 | 49 | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Baptist | 120 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 36 | ... | ... | ... | 21 | ... | ... | ... | 63 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Hebrew..... | 27 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 20 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| German Evangelical | 20 | ... | ... | ... | 9 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 9 | ... | ... | ... |
| Christians | 34 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 11 | ... | ... | ... | 22 | ... | ... | ... |
| Independent (unconnected) | 26 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 | ... | ... | ... |
| Friends | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Salvation Army | 10 | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Unitarian | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Franco-Australian Mission..... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| New Church..... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Registrars' Offices | 508 | 29 | 37 | 66 | 85 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 198 | 2 | 8 | 10 | 225 | 26 | 25 | 51 |
| Total | 7,590 | 231 | 300 | 531 | 1,931 | 40 | 70 | 110 | 1,532 | 10 | 29 | 39 | 4,077 | 181 | 201 | 382 |

D 1.

DEATHS from all causes, of MALES, at different ages, in NEW SOUTH WALES, from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1887.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| CLASS I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Small-pox | 8 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Measles | 29 | 6 | 11 | 2 | 6 | ... | 25 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Scarlet Fever | 41 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 13 | 3 | 31 | 8 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Influenza | 9 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Whooping Cough | 83 | 53 | 15 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 83 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Mumps | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diphtheria | 102 | 10 | 7 | 19 | 11 | 12 | 59 | 28 | 10 | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever..... | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Simple Continued Fever... | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Typhoid, Enteric Fever... | 236 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 24 | 23 | 11 | 23 | 34 | 40 | 25 | 16 | 9 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 3 | ... | 2 | 1 |
| | 516 | 87 | 44 | 39 | 39 | 23 | 232 | 63 | 25 | 27 | 39 | 41 | 28 | 17 | 9 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 3 | ... | 3 | 1 |
| ORDER 2.—DIARRHOEAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cholera | 37 | 19 | 7 | 1 | 1 | ... | 28 | 3 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diarrhoea | 297 | 224 | 35 | 8 | ... | 1 | 268 | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 8 | ... | ... |
| Dysentery | 55 | 14 | 3 | 3 | ... | ... | 20 | 1 | ... | 3 | 4 | ... | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 2 | ... | ... |
| | 389 | 257 | 45 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 316 | 4 | ... | ... | 7 | 4 | ... | 2 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 10 | 10 | ... |
| ORDER 3.—MALARIAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remittent Fever | 5 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Intermittent Fever(Ague) | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| | 8 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| ORDER 5.—VENEREAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Syphilis | 30 | 24 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 26 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Gonorrhœa, Stricture of Urethra | 14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... |
| | 44 | 24 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 26 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... |
| ORDER 6.—SEPTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Phagedæna | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Erysipelas | 19 | 8 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 10 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Pyæmia, Septicæmia | 15 | 4 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 6 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| | 35 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... | 17 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... |
| Total, Class I..... | 992 | 380 | 93 | 55 | 41 | 24 | 593 | 69 | 27 | 28 | 46 | 47 | 34 | 21 | 15 | 16 | 18 | 19 | 13 | 15 | 13 | 17 | 1 |
| CLASS II.—PARASITIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thrush | 17 | 16 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hydatids | 12 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Others from Animal Parasites | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class II..... | 31 | 16 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 18 | 1 | 1 | ... | 3 | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| CLASS III.—DIETETIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Starvation, Want of Breast Milk..... | 50 | 32 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | 35 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Intemperance— a Chronic Alcoholism | 55 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 12 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| b Delirium Tremens.. | 19 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 6 | ... | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| c Opium-smoking ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Surfeit (over-eating)..... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class III | 127 | 32 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | 35 | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 14 | 10 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 4 |

CAUSES OF DEATH, NEW SOUTH WALES, 1887 (MALES)—*continued.*

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
|---|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| CLASS VI.—LOCAL DISEASES— <i>continued.</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 10.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF LOCOMOTION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caries, Necrosis | 13 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Arthritis, Ostitis, Periostitis | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Others | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 20 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | ... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| ORDER 11.—DISEASES OF THE INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carbuncle | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Phlegmon, Cellulitis | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Ulcer, Bedsores | 5 | 9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Eczema | 9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Others | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 17 | 9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class VI | 3445 | 918 | 262 | 87 | 75 | 42 | 1384 | 103 | 37 | 50 | 82 | 93 | 106 | 149 | 154 | 172 | 185 | 214 | 199 | 177 | 152 | 178 | 10 |
| CLASS VII.—VIOLENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—ACCIDENT OR NEGLIGENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fractures, Contusions | 306 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 27 | 11 | 29 | 21 | 19 | 26 | 23 | 27 | 13 | 28 | 22 | 19 | 10 | 12 | 11 | 6 | 2 |
| Gunshot Wounds | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Cuts, &c. | 17 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Burns, Scalds | 34 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 2 | ... | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Sunstroke | 18 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Lightning | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Poison | 9 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Bite of Snake or Insect | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Drowning | 199 | 1 | 11 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 27 | 28 | 11 | 13 | 23 | 19 | 23 | 12 | 9 | 12 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Suffocation | 113 | 12 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 13 | 2 | 1 | 16 | 9 | 7 | 17 | 8 | 10 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 13 |
| Otherwise | 19 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | 5 | 2 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | 2 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... |
| | 727 | 24 | 24 | 22 | 10 | 8 | 88 | 48 | 47 | 61 | 58 | 56 | 72 | 53 | 39 | 55 | 39 | 30 | 20 | 19 | 16 | 8 | 18 |
| ORDER 2.—HOMICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Murder | 15 | 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Manslaughter | 8 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 3 |
| | 23 | 11 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 12 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 3 |
| ORDER 3.—SUICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gunshot Wounds | 22 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 2 | ... | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Cut, Stab | 14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | ... | 4 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Poison | 17 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Drowning | 14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 3 | ... | 3 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 |
| Hanging | 26 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | 3 | ... | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 5 |
| Otherwise | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 97 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 7 | 14 | 10 | 12 | 4 | 11 | 12 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | ... | 6 |
| ORDER 4.—EXECUTION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hanging | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 5.—VIOLENT DEATHS NOT CLASSED. (OPEN VERDICTS.) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Found Drowned | 53 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Otherwise | 14 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | 5 | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| | 67 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 11 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Total, Class VII | 918 | 36 | 24 | 23 | 10 | 9 | 102 | 50 | 49 | 68 | 68 | 76 | 92 | 71 | 52 | 69 | 63 | 37 | 32 | 25 | 23 | 10 | 31 |
| CLASS VIII.—ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CAUSES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dropsy | 35 | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 11 | ... | ... |
| Atrophy, Debility, Inanition | 396 | 355 | 39 | 2 | ... | ... | 396 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Mortification | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Tumour | 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 3 | ... | ... |
| Abscess | 6 | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hæmorrhage | 4 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other ill-defined and not specified causes | 60 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | 8 |
| Total, Class VIII | 510 | 362 | 45 | 3 | ... | ... | 410 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 5 | 9 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 14 | 8 |
| TOTAL, ALL CLASSES | 7776 | 2123 | 465 | 179 | 134 | 81 | 2982 | 250 | 135 | 180 | 283 | 340 | 353 | 333 | 303 | 348 | 367 | 361 | 348 | 321 | 305 | 513 | 54 |

D 2.

DEATHS from all causes, of FEMALES, at different ages, in NEW SOUTH WALES, from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1887.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| CLASS I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Small-pox | 5 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Measles | 22 | 4 | 9 | 2 | ... | ... | 15 | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Epidemic Rose Rash..... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Scarlet Fever | 33 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 24 | 5 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Influenza..... | 8 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Whooping Cough | 122 | 64 | 37 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 117 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Mumps | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diphtheria..... | 115 | 4 | 11 | 20 | 13 | 21 | 69 | 28 | 14 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever..... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Simple Continued Fever.. | 5 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Typhoid, Enteric Fever... | 191 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 21 | 21 | 14 | 40 | 33 | 15 | 17 | 8 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... |
| | 505 | 87 | 72 | 39 | 27 | 33 | 258 | 68 | 32 | 45 | 33 | 17 | 19 | 8 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... |
| ORDER 2.—DIARRHOEAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cholera | 22 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 2 | ... | 18 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Diarrhoea..... | 312 | 225 | 42 | 2 | ... | ... | 269 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 12 | 1 | ... |
| Dysentery | 46 | 13 | 12 | 2 | 2 | ... | 29 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... |
| | 380 | 250 | 57 | 5 | 4 | ... | 316 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 14 | 1 | ... |
| ORDER 3.—MALARIAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remittent Fever | 7 | 3 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Intermittent Fever (Ague) [.. | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 8 | 3 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 5 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 5.—VENEREAL DISEASE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Syphilis | 23 | 21 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 6.—SEPTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Phagedæna..... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Erysipelas | 13 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Pyæmia, Septicæmia..... | 13 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | ... | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Puerperal Fever | 42 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 13 | 15 | 5 | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 70 | 6 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 7 | 1 | ... | 6 | 16 | 20 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... |
| Total, Class I | 986 | 367 | 130 | 44 | 33 | 33 | 607 | 72 | 33 | 54 | 50 | 38 | 27 | 14 | 15 | 13 | 9 | 8 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 16 | 1 |
| CLASS II.—PARASITIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thrush | 14 | 13 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hydatids | 15 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Others from animal parasites | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class II..... | 30 | 13 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 15 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| CLASS III.—DIETETIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Starration, Want of Breast Milk..... | 23 | 22 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 23 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Intemperance— α Chronic Alcoholism | 28 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| β Delirium Tremens.. | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class III ... | 52 | 22 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 23 | ... | ... | 2 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |

CAUSES OF DEATH, NEW SOUTH WALES, 1887 (FEMALES)—continued.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| CLASS IV.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatism of Heart. ... | 18 | 1 | | 1 | | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Rheumatism | 14 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 4 | | 1 | | | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | |
| Gout | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| Cancer, Malignant disease | 145 | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 19 | 21 | 19 | 22 | 16 | 11 | 10 | 12 | |
| Tabes Mesenterica | 101 | 70 | 23 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 100 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tubercular Meningitis (Acute Hydrocephalus) | 64 | 31 | 15 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 54 | 5 | 3 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Phthisis | 400 | 4 | | | 1 | | 5 | 5 | 6 | 36 | 72 | 68 | 62 | 36 | 38 | 27 | 21 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 1 | |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis, Scrofula, &c. | 26 | 7 | 4 | 1 | | | 12 | 2 | 2 | | | | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | 2 | | | | | |
| Purpura, Hæmorrhagic Diathesis | 7 | 3 | | | | | 3 | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | |
| Anæmia, Chlorosis, Leucocythæmia | 14 | 4 | 1 | | | | 5 | | | 1 | 1 | 3 | | 2 | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Diabetes Mellitus | 11 | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | | | |
| Total, Class IV ... | 804 | 120 | 43 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 181 | 17 | 16 | 44 | 77 | 77 | 74 | 49 | 60 | 54 | 43 | 37 | 26 | 16 | 16 | 17 | |
| CLASS V.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Premature Birth | 158 | 158 | | | | | 158 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Atelectasis | 8 | 7 | 1 | | | | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cyanosis | 13 | 13 | | | | | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Spina Bifida | 2 | 2 | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Imperforate Anus | 4 | 4 | | | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleft Palate, Harelip | 2 | 2 | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other Congenital defects | 10 | 10 | | | | | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Old Age | 270 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 5 | 16 | 35 | 51 | 163 | |
| Total, Class V | 467 | 196 | 1 | | | | 197 | | | | | | | | | | | 5 | 16 | 35 | 51 | 163 | |
| CLASS VI.—LOCAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Inflammation of Brain or its Membranes | 76 | 34 | 16 | 10 | | 2 | 62 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | |
| Apoplexy | 97 | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 15 | 11 | 13 | 6 | 10 | 1 | |
| Softening of Brain | 18 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | | |
| Hemiplegia, Brain Paralysis | 69 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 4 | | 5 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 16 | 7 | 22 | | |
| Insanity, General Paralysis of Insane | 27 | | | | | | | | | 2 | | 5 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | | | 1 | | |
| Chorea | 3 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Epilepsy | 31 | | | | | | | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 2 | | |
| Convulsions | 309 | 233 | 45 | 16 | 7 | 5 | 306 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Laryngismus Stridulus | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Idiopathic Tetanus | 6 | 6 | | | | | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Paraplegia, Diseases of Spinal Cord | 18 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 1 | | | | 3 | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Others (Brain Diseases undefined). | 45 | 9 | 6 | | | 2 | 17 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 | | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | | | | | |
| Total, Order 1 | 700 | 234 | 68 | 27 | 11 | 10 | 400 | 13 | 12 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 15 | 23 | 20 | 30 | 23 | 25 | 25 | 31 | 15 | 39 | 1 |
| ORDER 2.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF SPECIAL SENSE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Otitis, Otorrhœa, Dis. of the Ear | 3 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Epistaxis, Dis. of the Nose | 2 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Ophthalmia, Dis. of the Eye. | 2 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Total, Order 2 | 7 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | |
| ORDER 3.—DISEASES OF THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Endocarditis, Valvular Disease | 74 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 6 | | |
| Pericarditis | 11 | | | | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| Angina Pectoris | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Syncope | 17 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | 3 | | 2 | 1 | 2 | | |
| Aneurism | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | |
| Senile Gangrene | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | |
| Embolism, Thrombosis | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| Others (Heart Dis. undefined). | 208 | 3 | 1 | | | | 4 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 12 | 13 | 10 | 21 | 16 | 20 | 20 | 19 | 20 | 18 | |
| Total, Order 3 | 335 | 4 | 1 | | | 3 | 8 | 8 | 12 | 17 | 8 | 17 | 16 | 21 | 13 | 29 | 30 | 35 | 34 | 26 | 30 | 31 | |

CAUSES OF DEATH, NEW SOUTH WALES, 1887 (FEMALES)—continued.

Table with columns for 'CAUSES OF DEATH' and age groups (Total all ages, Under 1 year, 1 to 2 years, etc.). It is divided into several orders: ORDER 4.—DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM, ORDER 5.—DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM, ORDER 6.—DISEASES OF THE LYMPHATIC SYSTEM AND DUCTLESS GLANDS, ORDER 7.—DISEASES OF THE URINARY SYSTEM, ORDER 8.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF GENERATION, and ORDER 9.—DISEASES OF PARTURITION.

CAUSES OF DEATH, NEW SOUTH WALES, 1887 (FEMALES)—continued.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Age not specified |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| CLASS VI.—LOCAL DISEASES—continued. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 10.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF LOCOMOTION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caries, Necrosis .. | 6 | . | .. | 1 | ... | 1 | | 2 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | .. | ... | |
| Arthritis, Ostitis, Periostitis | 2 | ... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | | | | | | .. | .. | | | | | | | .. | 2 | ... |
| Others .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | . | | 1 | 1 | | .. | .. | | | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ... |
| | 11 | ... | .. | .. | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... | | | | | .. | .. | .. | 2 | ... |
| ORDER 11.—DISEASES OF THE INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carbuncle .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Ulcer, Bedsores .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. |
| Eczema .. | 12 | 11 | 1 | .. | .. | 12 | .. | | | | | | | | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Pemphigus .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | | | | | | | | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 18 | 12 | 1 | | | 13 | .. | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | .. | 1 | | | 1 | .. | .. |
| Total, Class VI | 2,665 | 781 | 228 | 92 | 42 | 43 | 1,166 | 81 | 45 | 64 | 78 | 112 | 106 | 121 | 111 | 103 | 105 | 120 | 111 | 118 | 86 | 131 | 2 |
| CLASS VII.—VIOLENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—ACCIDENT OR NEGLIGENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fractures, Contusions .. | 46 | 1 | 2 | .. | 3 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | .. | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 4 | .. |
| Gunshot Wounds | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 2 | 1 | | | | | | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Cuts, &c. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Burns, Scalds | 59 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 23 | 10 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 3 | .. | .. | .. |
| Sunstroke .. | 6 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. |
| Poison .. | 7 | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | 3 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Drowning | 29 | .. | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 3 | 6 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. |
| Suffocation | 16 | 9 | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 13 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. |
| Otherwise | 8 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 176 | 17 | 20 | 8 | 8 | 12 | 65 | 20 | 16 | 11 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 5 | .. |
| ORDER 2.—HOMICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Murder | 17 | 9 | .. | 1 | 1 | 11 | .. | | | 3 | 1 | 2 | | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Manslaughter .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | | | .. | 1 | 1 | | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 18 | 9 | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 11 | .. | .. | 3 | 1 | 3 | | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| ORDER 3.—SUICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cut, Stab .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. |
| Poison | 11 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. |
| Drowning | 7 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Hanging | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Otherwise | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. |
| | 21 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | .. | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | .. | 2 | 1 | .. | .. |
| ORDER 5.—VIOLENT DEATHS NOT CLASSED. (OPEN VERDICTS) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Found Drowned | 10 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. |
| Otherwise .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 12 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 2 | .. | 3 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. |
| Total, Class VII | 230 | 26 | 20 | 8 | 9 | 13 | 76 | 20 | 16 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 13 | 9 | 10 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 7 | .. |
| CLASS VIII—ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CAUSES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dropsy | 29 | 1 | 3 | 1 | .. | 5 | .. | 2 | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | 2 | .. | 9 | 3 | 2 | .. | .. |
| Atrophy, Debility, Inanition | 360 | 311 | 41 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 360 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Tumour | 11 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. |
| Abscess | 4 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Hæmorrhage | 4 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. |
| Other ill defined and not specified causes | 30 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. |
| Total, Class VIII | 438 | 317 | 46 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 373 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| TOTAL, ALL CLASSES | 3,672 | 1,822 | 470 | 156 | 92 | 98 | 2,638 | 194 | 118 | 180 | 219 | 249 | 230 | 199 | 205 | 191 | 177 | 182 | 176 | 196 | 174 | 338 | 6 |

E 1.

DEATHS, from all Causes, of MALES, at different Ages, in SYDNEY, from the 1st January, to the 31st December, 1887.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years | 2 to 3 years | 3 to 4 years | 4 to 5 years | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years | 15 to 20 years | 20 to 25 years | 25 to 30 years | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years | 50 to 55 years | 55 to 60 years | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years | 75 years and upwards | Ages not specified. | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|----|
| CLASS I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Measles | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | .. | 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Scarlet Fever | 4 | .. | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | 3 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Whooping Cough | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 7 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Diphtheria | 10 | 2 | .. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Typhoid, Enteric Fever | 28 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | |
| | 55 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 24 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | |
| ORDER 2.—DIARRHOEAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cholera | 7 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Diarrhoea | 37 | 30 | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | 33 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | |
| Dysentery | 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | |
| | 49 | 34 | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | 37 | 2 | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | 1 | 3 | .. | .. | .. | |
| ORDER 5.—VENEREAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Syphilis | 14 | 11 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 12 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Gonorrhoea, Stricture of Urethra | 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | |
| | 19 | 11 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 12 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | |
| ORDER 6.—SEPTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erysipelas | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. |
| Pyæmia, Septicæmia .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | |
| Total, Class I | 126 | 53 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 73 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | .. | .. | |
| CLASS II.—PARASITIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thrush | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| CLASS III.—DIETETIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Starvation, Want of Breast Milk .. | 3 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Intemperance— α Chronic Alcoholism | 12 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 2 | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | |
| β Delirium Tremens .. | 8 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Surfeit (over eating) .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Total, Class III | 24 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | 4 | 2 | 5 | .. | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | .. | |
| CLASS IV.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatism of Heart .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Rheumatism | 9 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | |
| Gout | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | |
| Cancer, Malignant disease | 28 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | |
| Tabes Mesenterica | 24 | 19 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 23 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Tubercular Meningitis (Acute Hydrocephalus) | 11 | 3 | 5 | .. | 1 | .. | 9 | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Phthisis | 130 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 14 | 25 | 28 | 11 | 9 | 16 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis, Scrofula, &c. ... | 7 | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Anæmia, Chlorosis, Leucocythæmia | 3 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Diabetes Mellitus | 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Total, Class IV | 221 | 24 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 36 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 15 | 28 | 31 | 11 | 13 | 22 | 18 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 3 | .. | |
| CLASS V.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Premature Birth | 33 | 33 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 33 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Cyanosis | 4 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Imperforate Anus .. | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Other Congenital defects | 3 | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Old Age | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 5 | .. | |
| Total, Class V | 48 | 42 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 42 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 5 | .. | |

CAUSES OF DEATH, SYDNEY, 1887 (MALES)—*continued.*

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| CLASS VI.—LOCAL DISEASES—<i>continued.</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 7.—DISEASES OF THE URINARY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nephritis | 12 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Bright's Disease (Nephria) | 23 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | ... | 4 | ... | 12 | 3 | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | ... |
| Uræmia | 9 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hæmaturia | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diseases of Bladder and of Prostate | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | 4 | ... |
| Others (Kidney Dis. Undefined) | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 53 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | ... | 6 | ... |
| ORDER 8.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF GENERATION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pelvic Abscess | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 10.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF LOCOMOTION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caries, Necrosis | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Arthritis, Ostitis, Periostitis | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 11.—DISEASES OF THE INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carbuncle | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Ulcer, Bedsores | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class VI... | 487 | 131 | 34 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 180 | 11 | 1 | 7 | 10 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 26 | 27 | 27 | 38 | 25 | 26 | 18 | 21 | 1 |
| CLASS VII.—VIOLENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—ACCIDENT OR NEGLIGENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fractures, Contusions ... | 56 | 2 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... |
| Cuts, &c. | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Burns, Scalds | 5 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Sunstroke | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Poison | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Drowning | 15 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | 3 | ... | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Suffocation | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Otherwise | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 84 | 3 | ... | 3 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 12 | 6 | 11 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... |
| ORDER 2.—HOMICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Murder | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Manslaughter.... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 4 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 3.—SUICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gunshot Wounds | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cut, Stab... .. | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Poison | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Drowning | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hanging | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 15 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 4.—EXECUTION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hanging | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 5.—VIOLENT DEATHS NOT CLASSED. (OPEN VERDICTS.) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Found Drowned... | 21 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | ... | 3 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Otherwise | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| | 27 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | ... | 5 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Total, Class VII ... | 134 | 5 | ... | 4 | 1 | 4 | 14 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 9 | 18 | 13 | 15 | 10 | 7 | 13 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | ... |
| CLASS VIII.—ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CAUSES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dropsy | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Atrophy, Debility, Inanition | 46 | 37 | 8 | 1 | ... | ... | 46 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Tumour | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Abscess | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hæmorrhage | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other ill-defined and not specified causes | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Total, Class VIII... | 58 | 39 | 9 | 1 | ... | ... | 49 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 2 | ... |
| TOTAL, ALL CLASSES | 1100 | 298 | 57 | 20 | 13 | 10 | 398 | 25 | 13 | 26 | 37 | 75 | 76 | 59 | 59 | 59 | 66 | 56 | 40 | 42 | 33 | 33 | 3 |

E 2.

DEATHS from all causes, of FEMALES, at different ages, in SYDNEY, from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1887.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| CLASS I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Measles | 5 | 1 | 4 | .. | .. | 2 | 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Scarlet Fever | 7 | .. | 3 | .. | 2 | 2 | 7 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Whooping Cough | 9 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | .. | 9 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Diphtheria | 5 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | 4 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Simple Continued Fever | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Typhoid, Enteric Fever.. | 18 | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | 3 | 4 | .. | 5 | .. | 4 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| | 45 | 5 | 13 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 28 | 5 | .. | 5 | .. | 4 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| ORDER 2.—DIARRHOEAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cholera | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Diarrhoea | 46 | 38 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | 42 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | |
| Dysentery | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| | 49 | 39 | 4 | .. | 1 | .. | 44 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | |
| ORDER 5.—VENEREAL DISEASE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Syphilis | 9 | 9 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| ORDER 6.—SEPTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erysipelas | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | |
| Pyæmia, Septicæmia .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | |
| Puerperal Fever | 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| | 8 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | |
| Total, Class I | 111 | 53 | 17 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 81 | 5 | .. | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 3 | .. | 1 | 2 | |
| CLASS II.—PARASITIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thrush | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Hydatids | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Total, Class II.. | 3 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| CLASS III.—DIETETIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Starvation, Want of Breast Milk | 6 | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Intemperance— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a Chronic Alcoholism | 11 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| b Delirium Tremens . | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Total, Class III | 18 | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| CLASS IV.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatism of Heart | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Rheumatism | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | |
| Gout | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Cancer, Malignant disease | 24 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 1 | .. | 3 | |
| Tabes Mesenterica | 19 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 19 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Tubercular Meningitis (Acute Hydrocephalus) | 7 | 4 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 5 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Phtthisis | 91 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 15 | 20 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 2 | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis, Scrofula, &c. | 8 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Purpura, Hæmorrhagic Diathesis .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Anæmia, Chlorosis, Leucocythæmia .. | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Diabetes Mellitus | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Total, Class IV | 165 | 19 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 31 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 17 | 22 | 15 | 10 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 4 | |
| CLASS V.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Premature Birth | 28 | 28 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 28 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Atelectasis | 3 | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Cyanosis | 4 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Inperforate Anus | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Cleft Palate, Harelip . | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Other Congenital defects | 3 | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Old Age | 18 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 3 | 13 | |
| Total, Class V. . | 59 | 40 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 41 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 3 | 13 | |

CAUSES OF DEATH, SYDNEY, 1887 (FEMALES)—continued.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| CLASS VI.—LOCAL DISEASES—continued. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 8.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF GENERATION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ovarian Disease | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diseases of Uterus and Vagina | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Disorders of Menstruation | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Pelvic Abscess | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 9.—DISEASES OF PARTURITION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Abortion, Miscarriage | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Puerperal Mania | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Puerperal Convulsions | 13 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 3 | 2 | ... | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Placenta Prævia, Flooding | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other Accidents of Child-birth | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 23 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 11.—DISEASES OF THE INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carbuncle | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Ulcer, Bedsores | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Eczema | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Pemphigus | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 5 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class VI | 404 | 116 | 33 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 165 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 14 | 22 | 13 | 18 | 18 | 23 | 18 | 19 | 28 | 15 | 8 | 20 | ... |
| CLASS VII.—VIOLENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—ACCIDENT OR NEGLIGENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fractures, Contusions | 9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Burns, Scalds | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Sunstroke | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Poison | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Suffocation | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Otherwise | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 20 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| ORDER 2.—HOMICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Murder | 7 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Manslaughter | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 8 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 3.—SUICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Poison | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 5.—VIOLENT DEATHS NOT CLASSED. (OPEN VERDICTS) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Found Drowned | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Otherwise | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class VII | 34 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... |
| CLASS VIII.—ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CAUSES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dropsy | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Atrophy, Debility, Inanition | 39 | 32 | 6 | ... | ... | 1 | 39 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Tumour | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Other ill-defined and not specified causes | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Total, Class VIII | 48 | 33 | 6 | ... | ... | 1 | 40 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 2 |
| TOTAL, ALL CLASSES | 842 | 275 | 63 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 372 | 15 | 9 | 29 | 41 | 52 | 41 | 32 | 35 | 41 | 37 | 23 | 40 | 19 | 14 | 40 | 2 |

F 1.

DEATHS from all causes, of MALES, at different ages, in the SUBURBS of SYDNEY, from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1887.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| CLASS I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—Miasmatic Diseases. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Small-pox | 8 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Measles | 18 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 2 | .. | 15 | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Scarlet Fever | 19 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 15 | 3 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Whooping Cough | 11 | 5 | 4 | .. | 1 | 1 | 11 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Diphtheria | 20 | .. | 2 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 13 | 7 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Simple Continued Fever | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Typhoid, Enteric Fever | 88 | 3 | 1 | .. | 3 | 1 | 8 | 12 | 3 | 6 | 15 | 22 | 10 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | |
| Total, Class I | 166 | 16 | 18 | 8 | 17 | 6 | 65 | 25 | 5 | 6 | 17 | 23 | 12 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | |
| ORDER 2.—DIARRHŒAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cholera | 5 | 3 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Diarrhœa | 112 | 86 | 15 | 2 | .. | 1 | 104 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | 3 | 2 | |
| Dysentery | 6 | 4 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Total, Class I | 123 | 93 | 16 | 3 | .. | 1 | 113 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 1 | .. | 3 | 2 | |
| ORDER 3.—MALARIAL DISEASE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remittent Fever | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. |
| ORDER 5.—VENEREAL DISEASE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Syphilis | 13 | 11 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 12 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| ORDER 6.—SEPTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Phagedæna | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Erysipelas | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Pyæmia, Septicæmia | 5 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | |
| Total, Class I | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 3 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | |
| Total, Class I | 312 | 121 | 35 | 13 | 17 | 7 | 193 | 25 | 6 | 6 | 17 | 25 | 14 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | |
| CLASS II.—PARASITIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thrush | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Hydatids | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Total, Class II | 4 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| CLASS III.—DIETETIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Starvation, Want of Breast Milk | 22 | 21 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 22 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Intemperance— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a Chronic Alcoholism | 10 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | 4 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| b Delirium Tremens | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Total, Class III | 26 | 21 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 22 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| CLASS IV.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatism of Heart | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Rheumatism | 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | |
| Cancer, Malignant disease | 44 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | .. | .. | |
| Tabes Mesenterica | 45 | 35 | 10 | .. | .. | .. | 45 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Tubercular Meningitis (Acute Hydrocephalus) | 29 | 14 | 9 | 1 | .. | 2 | 26 | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Phtthisis | 163 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | 11 | 25 | 23 | 29 | 15 | 21 | 12 | 11 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 1 | .. | |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis, Scrofula, &c. | 16 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | 2 | .. | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Purpura, Hamorrhagic Diathesis | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | |
| Diabetes Mellitus | 3 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | |
| Total, Class IV | 310 | 50 | 20 | 2 | .. | 3 | 75 | 7 | 5 | 12 | 30 | 27 | 32 | 18 | 25 | 17 | 18 | 17 | 10 | 7 | 6 | 4 | |
| CLASS V.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Premature Birth | 61 | 61 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 61 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Atelectasis | 3 | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Cyanosis | 3 | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Spina Bifida | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Imperforate Anus | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Cleft Palate, Harelip | 3 | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Other Congenital defects | 7 | 7 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Old Age | 39 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | 6 | 12 | 17 | .. | |
| Total, Class V | 118 | 79 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 79 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | 6 | 12 | 17 | .. | |

CAUSES OF DEATH, SUBURBS, 1887 (MALES)—*continued.*

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages | Under 1 year | 1 to 2 years | 2 to 3 years | 3 to 4 years | 4 to 5 years | Total ind. 5 years | 5 to 10 years | 10 to 15 years | 15 to 20 years | 20 to 25 years | 25 to 30 years | 30 to 35 years | 35 to 40 years | 40 to 45 years | 45 to 50 years | 50 to 55 years | 55 to 60 years | 60 to 65 years | 65 to 70 years | 70 to 75 years | 75 years and upwards | Ages not specified | |
|--|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----|
| CLASS VI.—LOCAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Inflammation of Brain or its Membranes | 51 | 18 | 12 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 40 | 3 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 11 | 4 | 1 | 5 | ... |
| Apoplexy | 50 | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 11 | 4 | 1 | 5 | ... |
| Softening of Brain | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Hemiplegia, Brain Paralysis | 19 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | | ... | 3 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | ... | ... |
| Paralysis Agitans | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | ... |
| Insanity, General Paralysis of Insane | 17 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Epilepsy | 15 | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | ... | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Convulsions | 78 | 63 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 77 | 1 | | | | | 2 | 4 | 3 | ... | 1 | | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Laryngismus Stridulus | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | ... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ... |
| Idiopathic Tetanus | 5 | 5 | | | | | 5 | ... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ... |
| Paraplegia, Diseases of Spinal Cord | 9 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | | | ... | | | 2 | | | | | | | | ... |
| Others (Brain Disease not specified) | 15 | 6 | | | 2 | | 8 | 1 | | | | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | ... |
| | 269 | 94 | 21 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 132 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 17 | 9 | 11 | ... | ... |
| ORDER 2.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF SPECIAL SENSE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Otitis, Otorrhœa, Disease of the Ear | 3 | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ... |
| ORDER 3.—DISEASES OF THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Endocarditis, Valvular Disease | 28 | | | | | | | 1 | | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Pericarditis | 2 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | ... |
| Hypertrophy of Heart | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ... |
| Angina Pectoris | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | ... |
| Syncope | 8 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 2 | | | | | 1 | ... | ... |
| Aneurism | 12 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 4 | 1 | 4 | ... | 1 | | | ... | 1 | | | ... |
| Embolism, Thrombosis | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | ... |
| Others (Heart Disease undefined) | 61 | | | | | | ... | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 5 | | | ... |
| | 114 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 13 | 6 | 12 | 4 | 13 | 11 | 11 | 7 | 7 | | ... |
| ORDER 4.—DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Laryngitis | 11 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 3 | 3 | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | | | | | ... | | | | ... |
| Croup | 20 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 17 | 3 | ... | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Others of Larynx and Trachea | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | ... |
| Asthma, Emphysema | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | ... |
| Bronchitis | 67 | 33 | 11 | 4 | 1 | 49 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 5 | ... | ... | ... |
| Pneumonia | 72 | 23 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 39 | 1 | ... | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 | ... | ... | ... |
| Congestion of Lungs | 19 | 10 | 2 | | 2 | 14 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | | | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Pleurisy | 6 | 1 | 2 | ... | | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | | | 1 | ... | | | | | | | | ... |
| Others (Lung Dis. undefined) | 4 | ... | | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | 1 | ... | 2 | | | 1 | | ... | | | | ... |
| | 204 | 69 | 29 | 10 | 11 | 6 | 125 | 9 | | 2 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 9 | | ... |
| ORDER 5.—DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dentition | 45 | 30 | 15 | ... | ... | 45 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ... |
| Dyspepsia | 1 | 1 | ... | | | 1 | ... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ... |
| Diseases of Stomach | 15 | 8 | | | | 8 | | | | 1 | 1 | ... | | | 1 | 1 | ... | | | 1 | 2 | | | ... |
| Enteritis | 113 | 78 | 19 | 1 | 2 | 100 | | | | 1 | 2 | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | ... |
| Ulceration of Intestine | 4 | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | ... | | | | | | | | | ... |
| Ileus, Obstruction of Intestine | 9 | 3 | | | | 3 | | | | | | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | | | | | ... |
| Intussusception | 4 | 3 | | | 1 | 4 | | | | | | | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | | | | | ... |
| Hernæ | 4 | ... | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | ... | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | ... |
| Peritonitis | 17 | 4 | | | 1 | 5 | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 2 | | | | ... |
| Gall-stones | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | ... |
| Cirrhosis of Liver | 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | | | | | | | ... |
| Hepatitis | 11 | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | | | | | | ... |
| Jaundice | 5 | 3 | | | 2 | 5 | | | | | | | | | ... | | | | | | | | | ... |
| Other Diseases of Liver | 16 | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | ... |
| Other Diseases of Digestive System | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | ... |
| | 259 | 132 | 34 | 2 | 6 | ... | 174 | 2 | | 2 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 14 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 1 | ... | ... |

CAUSES OF DEATH, SUBURBS, 1887 (MALES)—continued.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| ORDER 6.—DISEASES OF THE LYMPHATIC SYSTEM AND DUCTLESS GLANDS. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diseases of Lymphatic System | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Diseases of Spleen | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Addison's Disease | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | | | |
| ORDER 7.—DISEASES OF THE URINARY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nephritis | 11 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 2 | | | 2 | | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | |
| Bright's Disease (Nephria) | 25 | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Uremia | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Suppression of Urine | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Calculus | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diseases of Bladder and of Prostate | 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| Others (Kidney Dis. undefined) | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | 1 | | |
| | 55 | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 3 | |
| ORDER 8.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF GENERATION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diseases of Testes, Penis, Scrotum, &c. | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 10.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF LOCOMOTION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caries, Necrosis | 3 | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Arthritis, Ostitis, Periostritis | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | |
| | 5 | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | |
| ORDER 11.—DISEASES OF THE INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ulcer, Bedsores | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Eczema | 4 | 4 | | | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 6 | 4 | | | | | 4 | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Total, Class VI | 919 | 300 | 86 | 19 | 26 | 9 | 440 | 22 | 7 | 13 | 23 | 19 | 34 | 41 | 38 | 46 | 35 | 54 | 40 | 46 | 30 | 31 | |
| CLASS VII.—VIOLENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—ACCIDENT OR NEGLIGENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fractures, Contusions | 36 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 3 | 5 | 3 | 1 | | 7 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | | | 1 | |
| Cuts, &c. | 3 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Burns, Scalds | 8 | 1 | 1 | 3 | | | 5 | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Sunstroke | 2 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Poison | 3 | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Bite of Snake or Insect | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Drowning | 19 | | 1 | 3 | | | 4 | 4 | | | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Suffocation | 5 | 3 | 1 | | | | 4 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| | 77 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 1 | | 17 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| ORDER 2.—HOMICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Murder | 3 | 3 | | | | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 3.—SUICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gunshot Wounds | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Cut, Stab | 6 | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | 1 | 2 | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Poison | 4 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Hanging | 7 | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | 2 | 1 | | | |
| | 19 | | | | | | | | | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | | | 3 | 1 | | | | |
| ORDER 5.—VIOLENT DEATHS NOT CLASSED. (OPEN VERDICTS.) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Found Drowned | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Otherwise | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | 1 | | | |
| | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Total, Class VII. | 105 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 1 | | 20 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 12 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| CLASS VIII.—ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CAUSES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dropsy | 3 | | 2 | | | | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Atrophy, Debility, Inanition | 140 | 122 | 17 | 1 | | | 140 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Abscess | 1 | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hæmorrhage | 3 | 3 | | | | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other ill-defined and not specified causes | 12 | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| Total, Class VIII. | 159 | 125 | 20 | 1 | | | 146 | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| TOTAL, ALL CLASSES. | 1,963 | 705 | 167 | 42 | 44 | 19 | 977 | 65 | 21 | 33 | 79 | 84 | 97 | 76 | 75 | 76 | 62 | 85 | 62 | 63 | 52 | 56 | |

F 2.

DEATHS from all causes, of FEMALES, at different ages, in the SUBURBS of SYDNEY, from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1887.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | AGES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| | | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
| CLASS I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Small-pox | 5 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Measles | 15 | 2 | 5 | 2 | ... | ... | 9 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Scarlet Fever | 14 | 1 | 2 | ... | 3 | 4 | 10 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Whooping Cough | 16 | 9 | 5 | 1 | ... | ... | 15 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diphtheria | 27 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 20 | 5 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Typhoid, Enteric Fever... | 57 | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | 3 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 14 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... |
| | 134 | 13 | 16 | 12 | 7 | 11 | 59 | 21 | 6 | 11 | 14 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... |
| ORDER 2.—DIARRHOEAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cholera | 4 | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diarrhoea | 123 | 97 | 18 | 1 | ... | ... | 116 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... |
| Dysentery | 6 | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 133 | 102 | 21 | 1 | ... | ... | 124 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... |
| ORDER 3.—MALARIAL DISEASE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remittent Fever | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 5.—VENEREAL DISEASE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Syphilis | 7 | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 6.—SEPTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Phagedæna | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Erysipelas | 4 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Pyæmia, Septicæmia | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Puerperal Fever..... | 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 16 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class I..... | 291 | 126 | 37 | 13 | 8 | 11 | 195 | 21 | 6 | 12 | 18 | 10 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| CLASS II.—PARASITIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trush | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hydatids | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Others from Animal Parasites (worms) | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class II..... | 9 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| CLASS III.—DIETETIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Starvation, Want of Breast Milk..... | 12 | 11 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 12 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Intemperance—Chronic Alcoholism... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Total, Class III | 16 | 11 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 12 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| CLASS IV.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatism of Heart..... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Rheumatism | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Gout | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cancer, Malignant disease | 47 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 4 | ... |
| Tabes Mesenterica..... | 29 | 23 | 4 | ... | ... | 1 | 28 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Tubercular Meningitis (Acute Hydrocephalus) | 25 | 11 | 10 | ... | 2 | 1 | 24 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Phthisis | 129 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 8 | 22 | 16 | 26 | 14 | 11 | 12 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis, Scrofula, &c.... | 10 | 2 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Purpura, Hæmorrhagic Diathesis | 4 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Anæmia, Chlorosis, Leucocythæmia | 9 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diabetes Mellitus | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class IV | 261 | 43 | 17 | ... | 2 | 2 | 64 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 23 | 20 | 28 | 18 | 17 | 21 | 16 | 14 | 11 | 3 | 4 | 5 | ... |
| CLASS V.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Premature Birth | 47 | 47 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 47 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Atelectasis | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cyanosis | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other Congenital defects | 4 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Old Age | 52 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 35 | ... | ... |
| Total, Class V..... | 106 | 54 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 54 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 35 | ... | ... |

G 1.

DEATHS from all Causes, of MALES, at different Ages, in the COUNTRY DISTRICTS, from the 1st January, to the 31st December, 1887.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| CLASS I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Measles | 5 | 1 | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Scarlet Fever..... | 18 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 13 | 4 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Influenza | 9 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Whooping Cough..... | 65 | 43 | 10 | 7 | ... | 5 | 65 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Mumps | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diphtheria | 72 | 8 | 5 | 11 | 5 | 9 | 38 | 19 | 10 | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever..... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Simple Continued Fever..... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Typhoid, Enteric Fever | 120 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 15 | 9 | 7 | 15 | 17 | 15 | 11 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 2 | ... | ... | 2 | 1 |
| | 295 | 63 | 23 | 24 | 17 | 16 | 143 | 33 | 19 | 19 | 20 | 15 | 12 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 3 | ... | ... | 3 | 1 |
| ORDER 2.—DIARRHOEAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cholera | 25 | 12 | 6 | 1 | 1 | ... | 20 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Diarrhoea | 148 | 108 | 18 | 5 | ... | ... | 131 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 | ... | ... |
| Dysentery | 44 | 10 | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | 15 | 1 | ... | ... | 3 | 2 | ... | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 2 | ... |
| | 217 | 130 | 27 | 8 | 1 | ... | 166 | 2 | ... | ... | 6 | 2 | ... | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 8 | ... |
| ORDER 3.—MALARIAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remittent Fever | 3 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Intermittent Fever (Ague) | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| | 6 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... |
| ORDER 5.—VENEREAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Syphilis | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Gonorrhœa, Stricture of Urethra | 9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | 2 | ... |
| | 12 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... |
| ORDER 6.—SEPTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erysipelas | 15 | 8 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 9 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Pyæmia, Septicæmia..... | 9 | 3 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 5 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 24 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 14 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class I | 554 | 206 | 52 | 34 | 19 | 16 | 327 | 37 | 20 | 20 | 26 | 17 | 15 | 8 | 8 | 12 | 11 | 14 | 10 | 9 | 5 | 14 | 1 |
| CLASS II.—PARASITIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thrush | 13 | 12 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hydatids | 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Others from animal parasites | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class II..... | 25 | 12 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 14 | 1 | 1 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| CLASS III.—DIETETIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Starvation, Want of Breast Milk | 25 | 9 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 11 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Intemperance— a Chronic Alcoholism | 33 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 3 | ... | ... | 1 |
| b Delirium Tremens.. | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| c Opium Smoking ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Total, Class III | 67 | 9 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 11 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 4 |

G 2.

DEATHS from all causes, of FEMALES, at different ages, in the COUNTRY DISTRICTS, from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1887.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years. | Total under 5 years. | 5 to 10 years. | 10 to 15 years. | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years. | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified. |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| CLASS I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Measles | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Epidemic Rose Rash..... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Scarlet Fever | 12 | ... | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Influenza..... | 8 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Whooping Cough | 97 | 52 | 28 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 93 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Mumps | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diphtheria | 83 | 2 | 7 | 14 | 10 | 12 | 45 | 22 | 12 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever..... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Simple Continued Fever... | 4 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Typhoid, Enteric Fever... | 116 | 8 | 4 | 1 | ... | 2 | 15 | 11 | 10 | 25 | 19 | 5 | 11 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 326 | 69 | 43 | 26 | 15 | 18 | 171 | 42 | 26 | 29 | 19 | 5 | 12 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 2.—DIARRHOEAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cholera | 16 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | 12 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... |
| Diarrhoea..... | 143 | 90 | 20 | 1 | ... | ... | 111 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 9 | ... | ... |
| Dysentery | 39 | 11 | 10 | 2 | 2 | ... | 25 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... |
| | 198 | 109 | 32 | 4 | 3 | ... | 148 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 11 | ... |
| ORDER 3.—MALARIAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remittent Fever | 6 | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Intermittent Fever (Ague) .. | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 7 | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 5.—VENEREAL DISEASE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Syphilis | 7 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ORDER 6.—SEPTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Phagedæna..... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Erysipelas | 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... |
| Pyæmia, Septicæmia..... | 10 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 1 | 1 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Puerperal Fever | 27 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 7 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 46 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | 1 | ... | 5 | 9 | 17 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Total, Class I | 584 | 188 | 76 | 30 | 19 | 18 | 331 | 46 | 27 | 37 | 29 | 23 | 17 | 7 | 14 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 12 | ... |
| CLASS II.—PARASITIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thrush | 10 | 9 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hydatids | 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Total, Class II..... | 18 | 9 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 10 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| CLASS III.—DIETETIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Starvation, Want of Breast Milk..... | 5 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Intemperance—Chronic Alcoholism | 13 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class III ... | 18 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |

CAUSES OF DEATH, COUNTRY DISTRICTS, 1887 (FEMALES)—continued.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Total all ages. | Under 1 year | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 3 years. | 3 to 4 years. | 4 to 5 years | Total under 5 years | 5 to 10 years | 10 to 15 years | 15 to 20 years. | 20 to 25 years. | 25 to 30 years. | 30 to 35 years. | 35 to 40 years | 40 to 45 years. | 45 to 50 years. | 50 to 55 years. | 55 to 60 years. | 60 to 65 years. | 65 to 70 years. | 70 to 75 years. | 75 years and upwards. | Ages not specified |
|--|-----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| CLASS VI.—LOCAL DISEASES—continued. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 10.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF LOCOMOTION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caries, Necrosis | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Arthritis, Ostitis, Periostitis | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. |
| Others | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. |
| ORDER 11.—DISEASES OF THE INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carbuncle | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Eczema | 5 | 4 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 6 | 4 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Total, Class VI | 1,479 | 386 | 121 | 62 | 25 | 29 | 623 | 54 | 28 | 41 | 44 | 60 | 73 | 65 | 61 | 51 | 56 | 71 | 57 | 74 | 53 | 67 | 1 |
| CLASS VII.—VIOLENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—ACCIDENT OR NEGLIGENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fractures, Contusions | 29 | 1 | 2 | .. | 2 | .. | 5 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | .. | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | .. |
| Gunshot Wounds | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Burns, Scalds | 46 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 19 | 8 | 4 | 4 | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 3 | .. | .. | .. |
| Sunstroke | 5 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Poison | 2 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Drowning | 25 | .. | 6 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 3 | 5 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. |
| Suffocation | 11 | 5 | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | 8 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. |
| Otherwise | 4 | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 126 | 11 | 18 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 49 | 16 | 13 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 | .. |
| ORDER 2.—HOMICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Murder | 4 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| ORDER 3.—SUICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cut, Stab. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. |
| Poison | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. |
| Drowning | 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Hanging | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Otherwise | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. |
| | 13 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | .. | 2 | 1 | .. | .. |
| ORDER 5.—VIOLENT DEATHS NOT CLASSED. (OPEN VERDICTS.) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Found Drowned | 8 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. |
| Otherwise | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 9 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. |
| Total, Class VII. | 152 | 11 | 18 | 4 | 7 | 11 | 51 | 16 | 13 | 12 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | .. |
| CLASS VIII.—ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CAUSES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dropsy | 23 | .. | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | 3 | .. | 2 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 2 | .. | 8 | 2 | 2 | .. |
| Atrophy, Debility, Inanition | 199 | 174 | 21 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 199 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Tumour | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. |
| Abscess | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Hæmorrhage | 3 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Other ill-defined and not specified causes | 25 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | .. | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Total, Class VIII | 258 | 176 | 25 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 207 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| TOTAL, ALL CLASSES | 3,189 | 935 | 261 | 104 | 54 | 61 | 1,415 | 129 | 86 | 117 | 114 | 131 | 128 | 101 | 116 | 91 | 90 | 107 | 90 | 139 | 123 | 210 | 2 |

H.

SUMMARY of DEATHS registered in the Colony of New South Wales during each month of the Year 1887, classified under the heads of the several causes of Death.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | January. | | February. | | March. | | April. | | May. | | June. | | July. | | August. | | September. | | October. | | November. | | December. | | Total. | | Grand Total. | Percentage of Total Deaths of the Year. | |
|---|----------|----------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|---------|----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------------|---|--------|
| | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | | | Males. | Females. |
| Order CLASS I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Miasmatic Diseases—(Scarlatina, Diphtheria, Fevers, &c.) | 66 | 57 | 71 | 54 | 72 | 60 | 45 | 57 | 50 | 52 | 32 | 48 | 26 | 34 | 34 | 18 | 17 | 30 | 27 | 26 | 27 | 31 | 49 | 38 | 516 | 505 | 1,021 | 7.59 | |
| 2. Diarrhœal Diseases—(Cholera, Diarrhœa, and Dysentery) | 73 | 71 | 46 | 55 | 43 | 45 | 48 | 34 | 16 | 31 | 11 | 7 | 10 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 17 | 19 | 54 | 47 | 57 | 56 | 389 | 380 | 769 | 5.72 | |
| 3. Malarial Diseases—(Remittent Fever, Ague) | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 8 | 8 | 16 | .12 | |
| 4. Zoogenous Diseases—(Hydrophobia, &c.) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 5. Venereal Diseases—(Syphilis, Stricture of Urethra, &c.) | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 4 | ... | 4 | 2 | ... | 2 | 6 | 1 | 6 | ... | 5 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 44 | 23 | 67 | .50 | |
| 6. Septic Diseases—(Erysipelas, Pyæmia, Puerperal Fever, &c.) | 8 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 9 | ... | 9 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | ... | ... | 35 | 70 | 105 | .78 | |
| Total..... | 150 | 142 | 125 | 117 | 123 | 111 | 98 | 100 | 73 | 96 | 47 | 64 | 47 | 46 | 50 | 28 | 29 | 49 | 52 | 49 | 89 | 88 | 109 | 96 | 992 | 986 | | | |
| CLASS II.—PARASITIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thrush, Hydatid Disease, Worms, &c. | 2 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 2 | ... | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | ... | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 31 | 30 | 61 | .45 | |
| CLASS III.—DIETETIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Want of Breast Milk, Scurvy, Intemperance, &c. | 21 | 8 | 18 | 4 | 15 | 10 | 12 | 2 | 11 | 6 | 10 | ... | 8 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 127 | 52 | 179 | 1.33 | |
| CLASS IV.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rheumatism, Cancer, Tabes Mesenterica, Phthisis, Diabetes, &c. | 123 | 63 | 92 | 68 | 91 | 75 | 70 | 85 | 98 | 75 | 87 | 57 | 75 | 62 | 97 | 50 | 93 | 67 | 96 | 59 | 80 | 64 | 90 | 79 | 1092 | 804 | 1,896 | 14.10 | |
| CLASS V.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Premature Birth, Malformation, Old Age | 52 | 35 | 60 | 23 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 35 | 65 | 44 | 57 | 51 | 76 | 39 | 45 | 42 | 44 | 45 | 43 | 40 | 52 | 27 | 64 | 36 | 661 | 467 | 1,128 | 8.39 | |
| CLASS VI.—LOCAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Diseases of the Nervous System—(Apoplexy, Insanity, Convulsions, &c.) | 106 | 80 | 89 | 61 | 95 | 54 | 76 | 58 | 83 | 51 | 68 | 61 | 84 | 43 | 81 | 75 | 65 | 39 | 75 | 52 | 61 | 62 | 92 | 64 | 975 | 700 | 1,675 | 12.46 | |
| 2. Diseases of the Organs of Special Sense—(Otitis, Epistaxis, &c.) | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 7 | 7 | 14 | .10 | |
| 3. Diseases of the Circulatory System—(Pericarditis, Aneurism, Heart Disease, &c.) | 50 | 29 | 29 | 26 | 52 | 26 | 49 | 33 | 51 | 27 | 42 | 36 | 46 | 17 | 37 | 29 | 35 | 27 | 53 | 25 | 44 | 26 | 42 | 34 | 530 | 335 | 865 | 6.43 | |
| 4. Diseases of the Respiratory System—(Bronchitis, Pneumonia, &c.) | 70 | 43 | 52 | 40 | 63 | 49 | 70 | 54 | 96 | 74 | 103 | 74 | 87 | 62 | 100 | 76 | 88 | 57 | 84 | 61 | 62 | 62 | 64 | 45 | 939 | 706 | 1,645 | 12.23 | |
| 5. Diseases of the Digestive System—(Enteritis, Hernia, Liver Disease, &c.) | 90 | 82 | 80 | 64 | 80 | 71 | 71 | 52 | 51 | 43 | 47 | 34 | 36 | 24 | 45 | 26 | 31 | 40 | 62 | 47 | 72 | 58 | 68 | 69 | 733 | 610 | 1,343 | 9.99 | |
| 6. Diseases of the Lymphatic System and Ductless Glands | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 7 | 4 | 11 | .08 | | |
| 7. Diseases of the Urinary System—(Bright's Disease, Uræmia, &c.) | 7 | 4 | 11 | 12 | 18 | 6 | 23 | 5 | 25 | 13 | 16 | 15 | 21 | 5 | 20 | 8 | 17 | 11 | 26 | 5 | 15 | 7 | 14 | 5 | 213 | 96 | 309 | 2.30 | |
| 8. Diseases of the Organs of Generation—(Ovarian Diseases, Diseases of Testes, &c.) | ... | 5 | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | 1 | 4 | ... | 9 | 1 | 2 | ... | 4 | ... | 5 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | ... | 4 | ... | 5 | 4 | 47 | 51 | 98 | .75 |
| 9. Diseases of Parturition—(Childbirth) | ... | 8 | ... | 6 | ... | 15 | ... | 14 | ... | 15 | ... | 22 | ... | 11 | ... | 10 | ... | 7 | ... | 8 | ... | 8 | ... | 7 | ... | 131 | 131 | 262 | 1.97 |
| 10. Diseases of the Organs of Locomotion—(Caries, Arthritis, &c.) | 2 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | 3 | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | 20 | 11 | 31 | .23 | | |
| 11. Diseases of the Integumentary System—(Carbuncle, Eczema, &c.) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | ... | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | 4 | ... | 1 | 17 | 18 | 35 | .26 | |
| Total..... | 326 | 252 | 267 | 222 | 309 | 228 | 296 | 223 | 311 | 239 | 279 | 248 | 278 | 169 | 289 | 232 | 242 | 186 | 306 | 204 | 258 | 232 | 284 | 230 | 3445 | 2665 | | | |
| CLASS VII.—VIOLENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Accident or Negligence | 75 | 17 | 58 | 19 | 146 | 13 | 53 | 9 | 42 | 12 | 56 | 18 | 46 | 14 | 38 | 17 | 52 | 15 | 44 | 16 | 55 | 17 | 62 | 9 | 727 | 176 | 903 | 6.72 | |
| 2. Homicide | 6 | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | ... | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 23 | 18 | 41 | .30 | |
| 3. Suicide | 9 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 10 | 1 | 2 | ... | 3 | 3 | 4 | ... | 13 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 13 | 2 | 12 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 97 | 24 | 121 | .90 | |
| 4. Execution | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 4 | .03 | |
| 5. Violent Deaths not classed | 6 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | ... | 6 | 3 | 5 | ... | 7 | 1 | 3 | ... | 3 | ... | 6 | 1 | 67 | 12 | 79 | .59 | |
| Total..... | 100 | 21 | 78 | 23 | 159 | 20 | 70 | 13 | 50 | 15 | 63 | 23 | 58 | 19 | 57 | 22 | 69 | 22 | 62 | 18 | 73 | 20 | 79 | 14 | 918 | 230 | | | |
| CLASS VIII.—ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CAUSES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dropsy, Debility, Tumour, &c. | 62 | 64 | 48 | 50 | 57 | 45 | 44 | 36 | 40 | 38 | 33 | 32 | 29 | 23 | 19 | 25 | 24 | 18 | 45 | 22 | 50 | 46 | 59 | 39 | 510 | 438 | 948 | 7.05 | |
| TOTALS FROM ALL CAUSES | 836 | 591 | 695 | 510 | 809 | 539 | 643 | 499 | 650 | 514 | 579 | 477 | 571 | 362 | 566 | 403 | 510 | 393 | 609 | 398 | 610 | 487 | 698 | 499 | 7776 | 5672 | 13,448 | 100.00 | |

I.

TABLE showing the DEATHS which have occurred from the Causes stated, in each of the several WARDS of the CITY of SYDNEY, from 1st January to 31st December, 1887, distinguishing those under Five years of age.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Gipps. | | Bourke. | | Brisbane | | Macquarie. | | Cook. | | Fitzroy. | | Phillip. | | Denison. | | Public Institutions. | | Total. 1887. |
|---|--------|-------|---------|-------|----------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|----------|-------|----------|-------|----------|-------|----------------------|-------|-----------------|
| | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | |
| CLASS I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Small-pox | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 2. Chicken-pox | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 3. Measles | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 4. Epidemic Rose-rash | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | 1 | .. |
| 5. Scarlet Fever | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 5 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 6. Typhus | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 7. Relapsing Fever | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 8. Influenza | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 9. Whooping-cough | 7 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | 3 | .. | 1 | .. | .. |
| 10. Mumps | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 11. Diphtheria | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 2 | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 12. Cerebro-spinal Fever ... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 13. Simple Continued Fever | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 14. Typhoid, Enteric Fever | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 4 | .. | 4 | .. | 6 | 1 | 5 | .. | 22 | .. | .. |
| | 12 | 1 | .. | .. | 3 | 1 | 2 | .. | 15 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 5 | 2 | 22 | 100 |
| ORDER 2.—DIARRHOEAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Cholera | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 9 |
| 2. Diarrhœa | 3 | 1 | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | 23 | 3 | 16 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 16 | .. | 5 | 1 | 83 |
| 3. Dysentery | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 6 |
| | 4 | 1 | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | 25 | 4 | 17 | 1 | 11 | 5 | 16 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 98 |
| ORDER 3.—MALARIAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Remittent Fever | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 2. Ague | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| ORDER 4.—ZOOGENOUS DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Splenic Fever | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| ORDER 5.—VENEREAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Syphilis | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | .. | 13 | 2 | 23 |
| 2. Gonorrhœa, Stricture of Urethra ... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 5 |
| | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | .. | 13 | 6 | 28 |
| ORDER 6.—SEPTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Phagocœna | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 2. Erysipelas | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 3 |
| 3. Pyæmia, Septicæmia | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 3 |
| 4. Puerperal Fever | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | 1 | 5 |
| | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 5 | .. | 3 | .. | 11 |
| Total, Class I | 17 | 3 | .. | .. | 7 | 1 | 2 | .. | 42 | 13 | 20 | 6 | 15 | 13 | 31 | 11 | 20 | 36 | 237 |
| CLASS II.—PARASITIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Thrush .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 |
| 2. Others from Vegetable Parasites | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| 3. Hydatids | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 4. Others from Animal Parasites | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Total, Class II | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 |
| CLASS III.—DIETETIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Starvation, Want of Breast Milk | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | 4 | .. | .. | .. | 9 |
| 2. Scurvy | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 3. Intemperance... { a. Chronic Alcoholism.. | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 3 | .. | 6 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | 7 | .. | 23 |
| { b. Delirium Tremens .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 5 | .. | .. | 9 |
| 4. Surfeit (over eating) | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Total, Class III. | .. | 2 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | 4 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | .. | 12 | .. | 42 |

CAUSES OF DEATH, WARDS OF THE CITY, 1887—continued.

| CAUSES OF DEATH | Gipps. | | Bourke. | | Brisbane. | | Macquarie. | | Cook. | | Fitzroy. | | Phillip. | | Denison. | | Public Institutions. | | Total. 1887. | |
|---|--------|-------|---------|-------|-----------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|----------|-------|----------|-------|----------|-------|----------------------|-------|-----------------|--|
| | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | | |
| CLASS IV.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatism of Heart | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 6 | |
| 2. Rheumatism | | 1 | | | | | | | | 4 | | | | 4 | | | | 5 | 15 | |
| 3. Gout | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | 1 | | | 3 | |
| 4. Rickets | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. Cancer, Malignant Disease | | 3 | | 1 | | 1 | | 3 | | 7 | | 8 | | 10 | | 6 | | 13 | 52 | |
| 6. Tabes Mesenterica | 10 | | | | 2 | | | | 18 | | 5 | | 3 | 1 | 4 | | | | 43 | |
| 7. Tubercular Meningitis (Acute Hydrocephalus). | 2 | | | | | | 1 | | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 4 | | | | 18 | |
| 8. Phthisis | | 18 | | 9 | | 9 | | 8 | | 48 | | 35 | 1 | 18 | 1 | 28 | | 46 | 221 | |
| 9. Other forms of Tuberculosis, Scrofula, &c. | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | | 2 | 5 | | | 2 | 15 | |
| 10. Purpura, Hæmorrhagic Diathesis | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| 11. Anæmia, Chlorosis, Leucocythæmia | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | 5 | |
| 12. Diabetes Mellitus | | 2 | | | | | | | | 1 | | 2 | | | | 1 | | 1 | 7 | |
| Total, Class IV. | 12 | 27 | | 10 | 2 | 11 | 1 | 14 | 25 | 68 | 7 | 48 | 5 | 36 | 15 | 37 | | 68 | 386 | |
| CLASS V.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Premature Birth | | | 2 | | 1 | | 6 | | 13 | | 8 | | 5 | | 12 | | 14 | | 61 | |
| 2. Atelectasis | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | 1 | | | | 3 | |
| 3. Cyanosis | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | 3 | | 2 | | 8 | |
| 4. Spina Bifida | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. Imperforate Anus | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | | 4 | |
| 6. Cleft Palate, Harelip | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | |
| 7. Other Congenital Defects | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | 2 | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 6 | |
| 8. Old Age | | 3 | | 1 | | | | | | 7 | | 3 | | 2 | | 5 | | 3 | 24 | |
| Total, Class V. | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | 6 | | 18 | 7 | 10 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 17 | 5 | 20 | 3 | 107 | |
| CLASS VI.—LOCAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER I.—DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Inflammation of Brain or its Membranes | 2 | 2 | | 4 | | | | 5 | | 5 | 1 | 4 | | 8 | 2 | | 5 | | 38 | |
| 2. Apoplexy | | 5 | | 4 | | 3 | | 13 | | 3 | 3 | | 6 | | 6 | | 12 | | 53 | |
| 3. Softening of Brain | | 1 | | | | | | 3 | | 3 | | | | | 1 | | | | 6 | |
| 4. Hemiplegia, Paralysis | | 2 | | | 2 | | | 3 | | 2 | | 3 | | 3 | | | 3 | | 18 | |
| 5. Paralysis Agitans | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. Insanity, General Paralysis of Insane | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 2 | | 3 | |
| 7. Chorea | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| 8. Epilepsy | | 1 | | | | | | 3 | | 3 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | 6 | |
| 9. Convulsions | 9 | | 1 | | 5 | | 2 | 23 | | 4 | | 12 | | 28 | | 7 | | | 91 | |
| 10. Laryngismus Stridulus | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11. Idiopathic Tetanus | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 5 | |
| 12. Paraplegia, Diseases of Spinal Cord | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 4 | |
| 13. Brain Disease (undefined) | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | | 3 | | | 3 | | 10 | |
| | 12 | 12 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 29 | 24 | 11 | 10 | 17 | 10 | 40 | 12 | 8 | 25 | | 235 | |
| ORDER 2.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF SPECIAL SENSE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Otitis, Otorrhœa, Disense of the Ear | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| 2. Epistaxis, Disease of the Nose | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | 2 | |
| 3. Ophthalmia, Disease of the Eye | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | | 1 | | | | | | 4 | |
| ORDER 3.—DISEASES OF THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Endocarditis, Valvular Disease | | 6 | | 2 | | 2 | | 2 | | 9 | | 6 | | | | | | 8 | 35 | |
| 2. Pericarditis | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. Hypertrophy of Heart | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | 2 | |
| 4. Angina Pectoris | | | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 4 | |
| 5. Syncope | | 1 | | | | | | | 2 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | 2 | 7 | |
| 6. Aneurism | | 4 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 9 | 15 | |
| 7. Senile Gangrene | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. Embolism, Thrombosis | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | |
| 9. Phlebitis | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10. Varicose Veins | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11. Heart Disease (undefined) | | 7 | | 4 | | 6 | | 3 | | 8 | | 9 | | 4 | | 11 | | 19 | 71 | |
| | | 18 | | 9 | | 9 | | 6 | | 19 | | 17 | | 6 | | 13 | | 39 | 136 | |
| ORDER 4.—DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Laryngitis | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | 5 | |
| 2. Croup | 2 | | | | | | | | 3 | 2 | 1 | | 3 | 1 | 5 | 1 | | | 18 | |
| 3. Others of Larynx and Trachea | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| 4. Asthma, Emphysema | | 3 | | 1 | | | 1 | | 2 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | 10 | |
| 5. Bronchitis | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 4 | 18 | 10 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 78 | |
| 6. Pneumonia | | 3 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 8 | | 17 | 72 | |
| 6a. Congestion of Lungs | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | | 4 | 2 | 3 | | 1 | 1 | 5 | | | 1 | 21 | |
| 7. Pleurisy | | | | | | | | 1 | | 2 | | | | | | | | 3 | 6 | |
| 8. Lung Disease (undefined) | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 4 | |
| | 7 | 11 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 31 | 29 | 16 | 8 | 14 | 9 | 25 | 14 | 4 | 26 | 215 | |

CAUSES OF DEATH, WARDS OF THE CITY, 1887—continued.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Gipps. | | Bourke. | | Brisbane. | | Macquarie. | | Cook. | | Fitzroy. | | Phillip. | | Densons. | | Public In-stitutions. | | Total. 1877. |
|---|--------|-------|---------|-------|-----------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|----------|-------|----------|-------|----------|-------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------|
| | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | Under. | Over. | |
| ORDER 5.—DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Stomatitis | | | | | 2 | | 2 | | 11 | | | | | | 2 | | | | 3 |
| 2. Dentition | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 9 | | 9 | | | | 35 |
| 3. Sore Throat, Quinsy | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 3 |
| 4. Dyspepsia | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 5. Hæmatemesis .. | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 6. Melæna | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7. Diseases of Stomach | | 2 | | 2 | | | 1 | | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | | | | 14 |
| 8. Enteritis | 5 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | 4 | | 14 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 3 | | 15 | 2 | 1 | | 59 |
| 9. Ulceration of Intestine | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | 1 | 3 |
| 10. Ileus..... | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | 6 |
| 11. Stricture or Strangulation of Intestine | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12. Intussusception | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| 13. Hernia | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 |
| 14. Fistula | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15. Peritonitis | | 2 | | | | | | | | 3 | | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 12 |
| 16. Ascites | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | 4 |
| 17. Gall-stones | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18. Cirrhosis of Liver | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 6 | | | 2 | 3 | | 4 | | | 3 | 21 |
| 19. Hepatitis | | 2 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | 5 |
| 19a. Jaundice | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | 2 |
| 19b. Other Diseases of Liver | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | 2 | | 2 | 1 | | 3 | | | 2 | 12 |
| | 6 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 30 | 18 | 9 | 11 | 16 | 8 | 31 | 12 | 3 | 11 | 184 |
| ORDER 6.—DISEASES OF THE LYMPHATIC SYSTEM AND DUCTLESS GLANDS. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Diseases of Lymphatic System..... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. Diseases of Spleen | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. Bronchocele | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 4. Addison's Disease | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | 2 |
| ORDER 7.—DISEASES OF THE URINARY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Nephritis | | | | | 1 | | 2 | | 2 | | 2 | | 2 | | 1 | | | 7 | 17 |
| 2. Bright's Disease (Nephria) | | 2 | | | 1 | | 1 | | 4 | | 5 | 1 | 4 | | 6 | | | 7 | 31 |
| 3. Uræmia | | 1 | | | | | 3 | | | | | | | 1 | 3 | | | 4 | 12 |
| 4. Suppression of Urine | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 5. Calculus | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. Hæmaturia | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 7. Dis. of Bladder and of Prostate | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | 4 | 7 |
| 8. Kidney Disease (undefined) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| | | 3 | | | | 2 | | 6 | | 8 | | 8 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 10 | | 24 | 70 |
| ORDER 8.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF GENERATION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Ovarian Disease | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 | 4 |
| 2. Diseases of Uterus and Vagina | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 4 |
| 3. Disorders of Menstruation | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 4. Pelvic Abscess | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 |
| 5. Perineal Abscess | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. Diseases of Testes, Penis, Scrotum, &c. . | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | 3 | | | | 1 | | | | 5 | 11 |
| ORDER 9.—DISEASES OF PARTURITION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Abortion, Miscarriage | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| 2. Puerperal Mania .. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 3. Puerperal Convulsions | | 2 | | | | 1 | | | | 5 | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | | 1 | 13 |
| 4. Placenta Prævia, Flooding .. | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 4 |
| 5. Phlegmasia Dolens... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. Other Accidents of Childbirth | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 2 | | 1 | 4 |
| | | 2 | | | | 1 | | | | 9 | | 1 | | 2 | | 5 | | 3 | 23 |
| ORDER 10.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF LOCOMOTION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Caries, Necrosis | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 |
| 2. Arthritis, Ostitis, Periostitis | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | 2 |
| | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | 2 | 4 |
| ORDER 11.—DISEASES OF THE INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Carbuncle | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 2. Phlegmon, Cellulitis .. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. Lupus | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. Ulcer, Bedsores | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | 2 |
| 5. Eczema .. | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 2 |
| 6. Pemphigus | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 7 |
| Total, Class VI | 25 | 58 | 5 | 23 | 14 | 22 | 13 | 23 | 90 | 112 | 36 | 58 | 49 | 46 | 98 | 68 | 15 | 136 | 891 |

CAUSES OF DEATH, WARDS OF THE CITY, 1887—continued.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Gipps | | Bourke | | Brisbane | | Macquarie | | Cook | | Fitzroy | | Phillip | | Denison | | Public Institutions | | Total. 1877.* |
|--|-------|------|--------|------|----------|------|-----------|------|-------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------------------|------|------------------|
| | Under | Over | Under | Over | Under | Over | Under | Over | Under | Over | Under | Over | Under | Over | Under | Over | Under | Over | |
| CLASS VII—VIOLENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—ACCIDENT OR NEGLIGENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Fractures, Contusions | 2 | | 3 | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 4 | | | | 3 | 6 | | 4 | 1 | 38 | 65 |
| 2. Gunshot Wounds | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 3. Cuts, &c | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 10 |
| 4. Burns, Scalds | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| 4a. Sunstroke | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 3 |
| 4b. Lightning | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| 5. Poison | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 3 |
| 5z. Bite of Snake or Insect | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| 6. Drowning | | 3 | | 4 | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 4 | | | 15 |
| 7. Suffocation | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | 4 |
| 8. Otherwise (Blood Poisoning, Shock, &c.) | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 3 |
| | 1 | 6 | | 7 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 47 | 104 | |
| ORDER 2—HOMICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Murder | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 10 |
| 1a. Manslaughter | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 2. Justifiable Homicide | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 12 |
| ORDER 3.—SUICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Gunshot Wounds | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | 1 | | | | 3 |
| 2. Cut, Stab | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 3. Poison | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | 7 | 10 |
| 4. Drowning | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 5. Hanging | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | 4 |
| 6. Otherwise (Falls from high places, &c.) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 2 | | | | | | | 2 | | 1 | | 4 | | 2 | | | 8 | 19 |
| ORDER 4—EXECUTION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Judicial Hanging | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | 4 |
| ORDER 5.—VIOLENT DEATHS NOT CLASSED. (OPEN VERDICTS.) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Found Drowned | | 1 | | 11 | | 1 | | | | | 2 | | | 1 | 6 | | | | 22 |
| 2. Otherwise | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 3 | 7 |
| | | 2 | | 12 | | 2 | | | 1 | | 2 | | | 1 | 6 | | | 3 | 29 |
| Total, Class VII | 1 | 10 | 1 | 19 | | 4 | 2 | 2 | 13 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 6 | 18 | 4 | 64 | 108 | |
| CLASS VIII.—ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CAUSES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Dropsy | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | 6 |
| 2. Atrophy, Debility, and Inanition | | | | | | 4 | | 17 | | 4 | | 12 | | 16 | | 32 | | | 85 |
| 3. Mortification | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. Tumour | | | | | | | | | 2 | | 3 | | 1 | | | | | 2 | 8 |
| 5. Abscess | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 6. Hæmorrhage | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| 7. Sudden (cause unascertained) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. Other ill-defined and not specified causes | | | | | | | | | 3 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | 5 |
| Total, Class VIII | | | | | | 4 | | 19 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 12 | 2 | 18 | 2 | 32 | 3 | 106 | |
| GRAND TOTAL | 58 | 103 | 8 | 55 | 25 | 38 | 26 | 43 | 199 | 226 | 80 | 129 | 94 | 113 | 189 | 143 | 91 | 322 | 1942 |

* For comparison with previous years see page 53

J

BIRTHS and DEATHS occurring at Sea, and registered in New South Wales during 1886 and 1887.

| | Births | | | Deaths | | |
|--------------------|--------|---------|-------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Males. | Females | Total | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| 1886. | | | | | | |
| Newcastle | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| Sydney | 8 | 9 | 17 | 69 | 9 | 78 |
| 1887. | | | | | | |
| Newcastle | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| Sydney | 4 | 3 | 7 | 58 | 26 | 84 |

* Including 4 males from the s.s. "Helen Nichol," and 22 males 13 females from the s.s. "Keilawarra." These two vessels came into collision off the Solitary Islands, not far from the mouth of the Clarence River, in December, 1886, and the latter sank.

K.

DEATHS from all causes in New South Wales from 1877 to 1887.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | 1877. | | 1878 | | 1879. | | 1880. | | 1881. | | 1882. | | 1883 | | 1884 | | 1885 | | 1886 | | 1887 | |
|---|--------|---------|--------|---------|-------|----------|--------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|--------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|--------|---------|
| | Males. | Females | Males. | Females | Males | Females. | Males. | Females | Males | Females | Males | Females | Males | Females | Males. | Females | Males | Females | Males | Females | Males. | Females |
| CLASS I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORDER 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Small-pox | .. | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9 | 8 | 12 | 11 | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 8 | 5 |
| 2. Chicken-pox | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 2 | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. |
| 3. Measles | 2 | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 2 | 152 | 118 | 47 | 41 | 3 | 7 | 25 | 22 | 25 | 20 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 29 | 22 |
| 4. Epidemic Rose Rash (a) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| 5. Scarlet Fever | 39 | 55 | 7 | 16 | 15 | 16 | 21 | 29 | 14 | 21 | 20 | 19 | 24 | 22 | 101 | 128 | 61 | 66 | 33 | 55 | 41 | 33 |
| 6. Typhus | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 7. Relapsing Fever | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 8. Influenza | 25 | 12 | 10 | 6 | 13 | 19 | 23 | 17 | 30 | 8 | 19 | 26 | 23 | 17 | 21 | 19 | 44 | 50 | 14 | 15 | 9 | 8 |
| 9. Whooping cough | 13 | 18 | 163 | 204 | 56 | 73 | 56 | 76 | 57 | 99 | 47 | 62 | 26 | 26 | 74 | 127 | 49 | 65 | 105 | 130 | 83 | 122 |
| 10. Mumps | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 11. Diphtheria | 85 | 120 | 118 | 135 | 137 | 147 | 80 | 83 | 64 | 68 | 84 | 91 | 109 | 126 | 82 | 83 | 146 | 152 | 78 | 62 | 102 | 115 |
| 12. Cerebro spinal Fever | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| 13. Simple Continued Fever | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 6 | 2 |
| 14. Typhoid, Enteric Fever | 186 | 189 | 225 | 216 | 156 | 109 | 122 | 118 | 126 | 140 | 259 | 191 | 201 | 196 | 289 | 227 | 258 | 245 | 325 | 266 | 236 | 191 |
| 15. Others | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 351 | 399 | 524 | 579 | 378 | 366 | 454 | 444 | 347 | 386 | 444 | 407 | 400 | 411 | 596 | 605 | 564 | 587 | 567 | 551 | 516 | 505 |
| ORDER 2.—DIARRHOICAL DISEASES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Cholera | 42 | 36 | 33 | 38 | 33 | 29 | 44 | 30 | 30 | 28 | 41 | 45 | 49 | 31 | 43 | 29 | 45 | 61 | 34 | 23 | 37 | 22 |
| 2. Diarrhoea | 325 | 261 | 321 | 312 | 254 | 242 | 253 | 230 | 333 | 278 | 418 | 408 | 341 | 329 | 431 | 362 | 430 | 375 | 404 | 354 | 297 | 312 |
| 3. Dysentery | 105 | 57 | 138 | 89 | 113 | 80 | 109 | 65 | 99 | 54 | 106 | 56 | 58 | 42 | 88 | 62 | 78 | 55 | 91 | 48 | 55 | 46 |
| | 472 | 354 | 492 | 439 | 400 | 351 | 406 | 325 | 462 | 360 | 565 | 509 | 448 | 402 | 532 | 453 | 553 | 491 | 529 | 425 | 389 | 380 |
| ORDER 3.—MALARIAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Remittent Fever | 6 | 16 | 20 | 14 | 19 | 16 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 7 |
| 2. Intermittent Fever (Ague) | 4 | 2 | 3 | .. | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | .. | 1 | 6 | .. | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| | 10 | 18 | 23 | 14 | 22 | 17 | 8 | 9 | 13 | 11 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 9 | 12 | 8 | 8 |
| ORDER 4.—ZOOGENOUS DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Hydrophobia | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 2. Glanders | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 3. Splenic Fever | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. |
| 4. Cow-pox, and other effects of Vaccination | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. |
| ORDER 5.—VENEREAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Syphilis | 11 | 7 | 13 | 6 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 12 | 13 | 6 | 17 | 13 | 17 | 11 | 14 | 16 | 27 | 25 | 44 | 32 | 30 | 23 |
| 2. Gonorrhoea, Structure of Urethra | 8 | .. | 4 | .. | 10 | .. | 19 | .. | 12 | .. | 13 | 1 | 3 | .. | 12 | .. | 10 | .. | 11 | .. | 14 | .. |
| | 19 | 7 | 17 | 6 | 22 | 10 | 28 | 12 | 25 | 6 | 30 | 14 | 20 | 11 | 26 | 16 | 37 | 25 | 55 | 32 | 44 | 23 |

CAUSES OF DEATH, NEW SOUTH WALES, 1877 TO 1887—continued.

| CAUSES OF DEATH | 1877. | | 1878. | | 1879 | | 1880. | | 1881. | | 1882 | | 1883. | | 1884. | | 1885. | | 1886. | | 1887. | |
|---|--------|---------|--------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|--------|---------|-------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|-------|---------|--------|----------|--------|---------|
| | Males. | Females | Males. | Females | Males | Females | Males | Females | Males. | Females | Males | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males | Females | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females |
| ORDER 6.—SEPTIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Phagedæna | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 2. Erysipelas | 19 | 21 | 18 | 14 | 22 | 18 | 21 | 12 | 29 | 18 | 27 | 13 | 17 | 19 | 18 | 12 | 19 | 13 | 19 | 17 | 19 | 2 |
| 3. Pyæmia, Septicæmia (<i>k</i>) | 17 | 12 | 15 | 11 | 11 | 4 | 16 | 14 | 18 | 15 | 16 | 18 | 32 | 22 | 39 | 21 | 21 | 29 | 23 | 16 | 15 | 13 |
| 4. Puerperal Fever | ... | 14 | .. | 18 | ... | 18 | ... | 21 | .. | 14 | .. | 27 | .. | 11 | .. | 24 | ... | 26 | .. | 56 | .. | 42 |
| | 36 | 47 | 33 | 43 | 33 | 40 | 37 | 47 | 47 | 47 | 43 | 58 | 49 | 52 | 57 | 57 | 40 | 68 | 43 | 91 | 35 | 70 |
| Total, Class I | 888 | 825 | 1,089 | 1,081 | 855 | 784 | 933 | 838 | 894 | 810 | 1,088 | 993 | 933 | 882 | 1,221 | 1,138 | 1,201 | 1,181 | 1,203 | 1,112 | 992 | 986 |
| CLASS II—PARASITIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Thrush | 17 | 23 | 24 | 16 | 20 | 19 | 16 | 17 | 13 | 20 | 23 | 16 | 20 | 17 | 26 | 20 | 31 | 30 | 27 | 32 | 17 | 14 |
| 2. Others from Vegetable Parasites (<i>b</i>) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 3. Hydatids | 7 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 15 | 5 | 11 | 12 | 14 | 7 | 12 | 15 |
| 4. Others from Animal Parasites (<i>b</i>) | 4 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 4 | .. | 2 | ... | 3 | 3 | 1 | .. | 3 | 2 | 2 | .. | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Total, Class II | 28 | 30 | 28 | 21 | 22 | 21 | 21 | 23 | 22 | 26 | 29 | 25 | 31 | 20 | 41 | 25 | 45 | 44 | 43 | 39 | 31 | 30 |
| CLASS III.—DIETETIC DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Starvation, Want of Breast Milk | 84 | 47 | 99 | 45 | 57 | 18 | 68 | 27 | 63 | 43 | 96 | 48 | 55 | 23 | 67 | 36 | 80 | 38 | 46 | 25 | 50 | 23 |
| 2. Scurvy (<i>c</i>) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 3. Intemperance { <i>a</i> Chronic Alcoholism | 73 | 21 | 59 | 13 | 33 | 15 | 33 | 25 | 56 | 37 | 53 | 34 | 54 | 27 | 52 | 18 | 57 | 26 | 72 | 23 | 55 | 28 |
| <i>b</i> Delirium Tremens | 14 | 1 | 23 | 2 | 24 | 2 | 16 | 4 | 21 | 2 | 33 | 1 | 10 | 3 | 21 | 4 | 10 | .. | 22 | 3 | 19 | 1 |
| <i>c</i> Opium Smoking | ... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 2 | .. |
| 4. Surfeit (Over-eating) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | .. | .. | 1 | .. |
| Total, Class III | 171 | 69 | 181 | 60 | 114 | 35 | 117 | 56 | 140 | 82 | 182 | 83 | 119 | 53 | 140 | 58 | 147 | 64 | 141 | 57 | 127 | 52 |
| CLASS IV—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatism of Heart | 35 | 23 | 25 | 23 | 22 | 27 | 31 | 18 | 38 | 26 | 23 | 23 | 35 | 24 | 29 | 17 | 42 | 21 | 25 | 12 | 16 | 18 |
| 2. Rheumatism | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 | 14 | 26 | 14 |
| 3. Gout | 6 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| 4. Rickets | .. | .. | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | .. |
| 5. Cancer, Malignant Disease (<i>d</i>) | 102 | 65 | 100 | 91 | 93 | 78 | 147 | 92 | 120 | 96 | 118 | 97 | 124 | 91 | 123 | 110 | 148 | 119 | 171 | 162 | 209 | 145 |
| 6. Tabes Mesenterica | 93 | 84 | 92 | 84 | 89 | 81 | 83 | 76 | 97 | 83 | 85 | 76 | 99 | 90 | 124 | 92 | 147 | 124 | 137 | 123 | 126 | 101 |
| 7. Tubercular Meningitis (Acute Hydrocephalus) | 25 | 20 | 19 | 15 | 24 | 17 | 25 | 19 | 29 | 19 | 22 | 13 | 25 | 24 | 39 | 25 | 40 | 35 | 84 | 48 | 62 | 64 |
| 8. Phthisis | 359 | 226 | 382 | 261 | 428 | 308 | 468 | 319 | 563 | 303 | 537 | 380 | 540 | 401 | 618 | 385 | 629 | 449 | 673 | 378 | 577 | 400 |
| 9. Other forms of Tuberculosis, Scrofula, &c. | 28 | 17 | 31 | 11 | 20 | 6 | 20 | 8 | 11 | 6 | 20 | 9 | 18 | 13 | 23 | 12 | 24 | 10 | 26 | 31 | 36 | 26 |
| 10. Purpura, Hæmorrhagic Diathesis (<i>c</i>) | 11 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| 11. Anæmia, Chlorosis, Leucocythæmia (<i>e</i>) | ... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 16 | 10 | 10 | 14 |
| 12. Diabetes Mellitus..... | 5 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 11 | 3 | 10 | 3 | 12 | 5 | 9 | 11 | 15 | 8 | 15 | 7 | 16 | 5 | 11 | 7 | 17 | 11 |
| 13. Leprosy | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... |
| 14. Others | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Class IV | 664 | 443 | 665 | 490 | 699 | 525 | 792 | 538 | 877 | 543 | 825 | 617 | 862 | 655 | 982 | 657 | 1,065 | 772 | 1,180 | 800 | 1,092 | 804 |

CAUSES OF DEATH, NEW SOUTH WALES, 1877 TO 1887—*continued*.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | 1877. | | 1878. | | 1879. | | 1880. | | 1881. | | 1882. | | 1883. | | 1884. | | 1885. | | 1886. | | 1887. | |
|---|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|
| | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. |
| ORDER 5.—DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Stomatitis | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 5 | 10 | 5 | 8 |
| 2. Dentition | 193 | 162 | 175 | 142 | 129 | 122 | 109 | 82 | 108 | 121 | 166 | 146 | 128 | 119 | 147 | 130 | 165 | 159 | 148 | 139 | 134 | 119 |
| 3. Sore Throat, Quinsy .. | 4 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 12 | 6 | 16 | 5 | 10 | 8 | 17 | 11 | 11 | 2 | 10 | 11 |
| 4. Dyspepsia | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 | 3 | 9 |
| 5. Hæmatemesis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| 6. Melæna | 66 | 54 | 69 | 56 | 75 | 49 | 55 | 57 | 79 | 74 | 59 | 59 | 82 | 115 | 87 | 76 | 122 | 112 | ... | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| 7. Diseases of Stomach..... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 58 | 33 | 41 |
| 8. Enteritis | 116 | 107 | 126 | 120 | 155 | 82 | 129 | 101 | 166 | 148 | 196 | 156 | 156 | 137 | 304 | 224 | 280 | 228 | 217 | 169 | 242 | 196 |
| 9. Ulceration of Intestine | 13 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 16 | 11 | 16 | 11 |
| 10. Ileus, Obstruction of Intestine | 19 | 17 | 14 | 6 | 21 | 20 | 19 | 18 | 13 | 6 | 26 | 7 | 19 | 12 | 25 | 18 | 29 | 17 | 31 | 22 | 32 | 20 |
| 11. Stricture or Strangulation of Intestine | 6 | 2 | 15 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 6 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 12. Intussusception..... | 7 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 3 |
| 13. Hernia | 9 | 3 | 13 | 5 | 11 | 5 | 15 | 8 | 13 | 4 | 15 | 11 | 9 | 6 | 20 | 7 | 12 | 10 | 15 | 17 | 11 | 10 |
| 14. Fistula | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 3 | ... | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | ... |
| 15. Peritonitis | 26 | 25 | 18 | 21 | 30 | 30 | 26 | 41 | 31 | 49 | 24 | 40 | 45 | 42 | 46 | 69 | 56 | 76 | 56 | 59 | 49 | 44 |
| 16. Ascites | 4 | 7 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 12 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 11 | 8 | 11 | 6 | 7 | 5 |
| 17. Gall-stones (<i>m</i>) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 5 | 2 |
| 18. Cirrhosis of Liver (<i>m</i>) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 49 | 24 | 42 |
| 19. Hepatitis | 44 | 32 | 42 | 32 | 21 | 21 | 32 | 30 | 29 | 27 | 28 | 33 | 21 | 26 | 38 | 35 | 34 | 34 | 41 | 31 | 26 | 16 |
| 19 <i>a</i> . Jaundice | 17 | 15 | 23 | 14 | 26 | 15 | 23 | 14 | 12 | 18 | 19 | 12 | 20 | 12 | 27 | 23 | 31 | 28 | 24 | 24 | 21 | 15 |
| 19 <i>b</i> . Other Diseases of Liver..... | 62 | 51 | 81 | 70 | 85 | 64 | 74 | 55 | 64 | 61 | 84 | 61 | 79 | 53 | 117 | 60 | 98 | 74 | 58 | 36 | 63 | 46 |
| 20. Others | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 11 | 9 |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 586 | 495 | 600 | 486 | 584 | 427 | 512 | 431 | 535 | 528 | 651 | 540 | 608 | 546 | 838 | 680 | 875 | 771 | 768 | 603 | 733 | 610 |
| ORDER 6.—DISEASE OF THE LYMPHATIC SYSTEM AND DUCTLESS GLANDS. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Diseases of Lymphatic System | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 2. Diseases of Spleen..... | 2 | ... | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| 3. Bronchocele | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| 4. Addison's Disease (<i>n</i>) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | 1 |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2 | ... | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| ORDER 7.—DISEASES OF THE URINARY SYSTEM. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Nephritis | 20 | 11 | 6 | 8 | 17 | 8 | 16 | 3 | 14 | 10 | 23 | 9 | 15 | 12 | 33 | 10 | 31 | 16 | 49 | 25 | 36 | 19 |
| 2. Bright's Disease (Nephria)..... | 43 | 24 | 47 | 25 | 55 | 38 | 66 | 34 | 63 | 45 | 68 | 42 | 58 | 43 | 73 | 40 | 57 | 57 | 79 | 53 | 89 | 46 |
| 3. Uræmia (<i>n</i>) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 | 13 | 18 | 13 |
| 4. Suppression of Urine | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 7 | ... | 1 | 1 | 4 | ... | 2 | 1 | 4 | ... | 5 | 1 | 12 | ... | 6 | 2 |
| 5. Calculus..... | 7 | 2 | 10 | ... | 9 | ... | 7 | ... | 3 | 1 | 4 | ... | 6 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 9 | ... | 4 | ... |
| 6. Hæmaturia (<i>n</i>) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 2 | 1 |
| 7. Diseases of Bladder and of Prostate | 22 | 6 | 25 | 3 | 29 | 2 | 23 | 3 | 30 | 3 | 19 | ... | 16 | 1 | 27 | ... | 31 | 3 | 32 | 3 | 43 | 6 |
| 8. Others (Kidney Diseases, undefined) (<i>n</i>) | 32 | 12 | 38 | 11 | 44 | 15 | 29 | 9 | 31 | 19 | 37 | 12 | 30 | 7 | 46 | 18 | 55 | 22 | 19 | 11 | 15 | 9 |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 126 | 56 | 130 | 48 | 158 | 64 | 148 | 49 | 142 | 79 | 155 | 64 | 127 | 65 | 187 | 70 | 184 | 100 | 217 | 105 | 213 | 96 |

ORDER 8.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF GENERATION.

Table with 6 rows and 22 columns. Rows include: 1. Ovarian Disease, 2. Diseases of Uterus and Vagina, 3. Disorders of Menstruation (o), 4. Pelvic Abscess (o), 5. Perineal Abscess (o), 6. Diseases of Testes, Penis, Scrotum, &c.

ORDER 9.—DISEASES OF PARTURITION.

Table with 6 rows and 22 columns. Rows include: 1. Abortion, Miscarriage, 2. Puerperal Mania, 3. Puerperal Convulsions, 4. Placenta Praevia, Flooding, 5. Phlegmasia Dolens, 6. Other Accidents of Childbirth.

ORDER 10.—DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF LOCOMOTION.

Table with 3 rows and 22 columns. Rows include: 1. Caries, Necrosis (p), 2. Arthritis, Ostitis, Periostitis, 3. Others (p).

ORDER 11.—DISEASES OF THE INTERGUMENTARY SYSTEM.

Table with 7 rows and 22 columns. Rows include: 1. Carbuncle, 2. Phlegmon, Cellulitis, 3. Lupus (d), 4. Ulcer, Bedsores, 5. Eczema, 6. Pemphigus, 7. Others.

Total, Class VI 2,545 1,874 2,734 1,950 2,700 1,895 2,937 2,145 2,897 2,298 3,339 2,422 3,159 2,336 3,642 2,701 3,980 2,971 3,677 2,805 3,445 2,665

CLASS VII.—VIOLENCE.

ORDER 1.—ACCIDENT OR NEGLIGENCE.

Table with 8 rows and 22 columns. Rows include: 1. Fractures, Contusions, 2. Gunshot Wounds, 3. Cuts, &c., 4. Burns, Scalds, 4a. Sunstroke, 4b. Lightning, 5. Poison, 5a. Bite of Snake or Insect, 6. Drowning, 7. Suffocation, 8. Otherwise.

CAUSES OF DEATH, NEW SOUTH WALES, 1877 TO 1887--*continued*.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | 1877. | | 1878. | | 1879. | | 1880. | | 1881. | | 1882. | | 1883. | | 1884. | | 1885. | | 1886. | | 1887. | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. |
| ORDER 2.—HOMICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Murder | 15 | 6 | 14 | 9 | { 4 | 2 | 12 | 10 | 11 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 24 | 15 | 17 |
| 1a. Manslaughter | | | | | { 7 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 6 | .. | 11 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 15 | ... | 7 | 1 | 8 | 1 |
| | 15 | 6 | 14 | 9 | 11 | 6 | 20 | 12 | 17 | 5 | 13 | 7 | 10 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 25 | 6 | 14 | 25 | 23 | 18 |
| ORDER 3.—SUICIDE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Gunshot Wounds..... | 9 | ... | ... | ... | 9 | ... | 11 | ... | 16 | ... | 6 | ... | 12 | ... | 17 | ... | 19 | 1 | 24 | 1 | 22 | ... |
| 2. Cut, Stab | 11 | 1 | 8 | ... | 10 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 10 | 1 | 10 | ... | 10 | ... | 12 | 1 | 18 | ... | 12 | ... | 14 | 1 |
| 3. Poison | 9 | 2 | 5 | ... | 6 | 2 | 15 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 13 | 5 | 14 | 6 | 17 | 11 |
| 4. Drowning | 8 | 2 | 2 | ... | 5 | ... | 3 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 2 | ... | 8 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 14 | 7 |
| 5. Hanging | 10 | 2 | 9 | ... | 11 | 1 | 12 | 5 | 22 | 2 | 11 | 2 | 14 | 1 | 14 | 4 | 26 | 5 | 23 | 3 | 26 | 4 |
| 6. Otherwise | 6 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | ... | 11 | 1 | 4 | ... | 8 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 4 | ... | 6 | ... | 4 | 1 |
| | 53 | 7 | 25 | ... | 42 | 4 | 53 | 15 | 75 | 8 | 44 | 11 | 51 | 3 | 66 | 15 | 81 | 14 | 82 | 13 | 97 | 24 |
| ORDER 4.—EXECUTION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hanging | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | ... | 2 | ... | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | 3 | ... | 2 | ... | 4 | .. |
| ORDER 5.—VIOLENT DEATHS NOT CLASSED. (OPEN VERDICTS.) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Found Drowned | 14 | 1 | 17 | 2 | 17 | 3 | 12 | 3 | 24 | 3 | 16 | ... | 13 | 2 | 15 | 1 | 18 | 2 | 67 | 6 | 53 | 10 |
| 2. Otherwise | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 | 3 | 14 | 2 |
| | 14 | 1 | 17 | 2 | 17 | 3 | 12 | 3 | 24 | 3 | 16 | ... | 13 | 2 | 15 | 1 | 18 | 2 | 76 | 9 | 67 | 12 |
| Total, Class VII | 598 | 147 | 631 | 153 | 662 | 159 | 695 | 195 | 721 | 182 | 736 | 168 | 669 | 181 | 777 | 213 | 882 | 224 | 844 | 239 | 918 | 230 |
| CLASS VIII —ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CAUSES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Dropsy (e) | 80 | 61 | 69 | 62 | 62 | 53 | 63 | 63 | 78 | 74 | 105 | 70 | 84 | 59 | 96 | 79 | 105 | 71 | 33 | 29 | 35 | 29 |
| 2. Atrophy, Debility, Inanition | 307 | 237 | 261 | 280 | 307 | 264 | 353 | 321 | 382 | 339 | 407 | 369 | 416 | 416 | 531 | 444 | 556 | 503 | 498 | 473 | 396 | 360 |
| 3. Mortification | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 2 | 1 | .. |
| 4. Tumour | 21 | 16 | 5 | 7 | 20 | 22 | 17 | 21 | 22 | 26 | 23 | 18 | 15 | 26 | 17 | 28 | 23 | 33 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 11 |
| 5. Abscess (o) | 2 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 23 | 22 | 10 | 12 | 30 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 11 | 9 | 23 | 14 | 31 | 16 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 4 |
| 6. Haemorrhage | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 7. Other ill-defined and not specified causes | 68 | 27 | 44 | 18 | 34 | 15 | 53 | 23 | 42 | 21 | 52 | 28 | 43 | 38 | 79 | 44 | 30 | 12 | 73 | 26 | 60 | 30 |
| Total, Class VIII | 478 | 343 | 386 | 370 | 416 | 377 | 496 | 410 | 554 | 471 | 596 | 493 | 569 | 548 | 746 | 609 | 745 | 635 | 620 | 542 | 510 | 438 |
| TOTAL, ALL CLASSES | 5,877 | 3,992 | 6,284 | 4,479 | 6,082 | 4,118 | 6,638 | 4,593 | 6,753 | 4,783 | 7,596 | 5,220 | 7,116 | 5,133 | 8,325 | 5,895 | 8,900 | 6,382 | 8,501 | 6,086 | 7,776 | 5,672 |

NOTE.—In the foregoing table the deaths from each cause, which were recorded prior to 1886 under the old system of Nosology, have been re arranged, as far as possible, in accordance with the new system. As the new classification contains a much larger number of headings than the old, it is impossible to supply as full information for the years prior to 1886 as it is for 1886 and 1887. The following notes will show under what heads several diseases, which are specially enumerated for these two years, are grouped for the former years.—(a) "Epidemic Rose Rash" (Class I, order I) is included with "Diseases of the Integumentary System" (VI 2). (b) "Others from vegetable parasites," include 1 with "Others from animal parasites" (c) "Scoury" (III) included with "Purpura" (IV). (d) "Lupus" (VI 2) is included with "Cancer" (IV). (e) "Anæmia, Chlorosis, and Leucœthemia" (IV) classed with "Dropsy" (VIII). "Diseases of Menstruation" (VI 8), and "Other Diseases of Circulatory System" (VI 3). (f) "Atelactasis," "Imperforate Anus," and "Cleft Palate" classed with "Other Congenital Defects" (g) "Softening of Brain" (VI 1) and "Diseases of the Eye and Ear" (VI 2) included with "Others of Nervous System" (VI 1). (h) "Laryngismus Stridulus" (VI 1) classed with "Laryngitis" (VI 4). (i) "Epistaxis" (VI 2) included with "Other Diseases of Respiratory System" (VI 4). (j) "Endocarditis, Valvular Disease," "Hypertrophy of Heart," "Angina Pectoris," "Syncope," "Embolism," "Thrombosis," "Phlebitis," and "Varicose Veins" classed with "Other Diseases of Circulatory System" (k) "Senile Gangrene" (VI 3) included with "Septicæmia" (I 6). (l) "Others of Larynx and Trachea" with "Laryngitis." (m) "Gall-stones" and "Cirrhosis of Liver" with "Other Diseases of the Liver." (n) "Addison's Disease" (VI 6), "Uremia," and "Hæmaturia" (VI 7), with "Other Diseases of the Urinary System" (VI 7). (o) "Pelvic Abscess" and "Perineal Abscess" (VI 8) with "Abscess" (VIII). (p) "Caries, Necrosis" (VI 10) included with "Others" of same class.

L.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—AGES AT DEATH.—1877 TO 1887.

| Ages. | 1877. | | 1878 | | 1879 | | 1880 | | 1881. | | 1882. | | 1883. | | 1884. | | 1885 | | 1886 | | 1887 | |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| | Males. | Females | Males. | Females | Males. | Females | Males. | Females | Males. | Females | Males. | Females | Males. | Females | Males. | Females | Males. | Females | Males. | Females | Males. | Females |
| All ages | 5,877 | 3,992 | 6,284 | 4,479 | 6,082 | 4,118 | 6,638 | 4,593 | 6,753 | 4,783 | 7,596 | 5,220 | 7,116 | 5,133 | 8,325 | 5,895 | 8,900 | 6,382 | 8,501 | 6,086 | 7,776 | 5,672 |
| Under 1 year | 1,531 | 1,254 | 1,649 | 1,477 | 1,577 | 1,309 | 1,749 | 1,451 | 1,796 | 1,545 | 2,121 | 1,776 | 1,969 | 1,621 | 2,326 | 1,959 | 2,467 | 2,129 | 2,535 | 2,100 | 2,123 | 1,822 |
| 1 to 2 years | 486 | 434 | 543 | 543 | 453 | 423 | 572 | 464 | 490 | 477 | 488 | 462 | 512 | 541 | 644 | 561 | 624 | 567 | 517 | 496 | 465 | 470 |
| 2 „ 3 „ | 150 | 127 | 149 | 162 | 166 | 141 | 184 | 157 | 151 | 145 | 165 | 148 | 163 | 145 | 189 | 171 | 176 | 157 | 166 | 143 | 179 | 156 |
| 3 „ 4 „ | 95 | 77 | 108 | 82 | 85 | 97 | 115 | 92 | 90 | 81 | 98 | 94 | 106 | 108 | 106 | 144 | 136 | 93 | 104 | 134 | 92 | 92 |
| 4 „ 5 „ | 67 | 72 | 90 | 81 | 61 | 57 | 58 | 68 | 53 | 51 | 59 | 54 | 80 | 73 | 93 | 71 | 108 | 104 | 62 | 78 | 81 | 98 |
| Total under 5 years | 2,329 | 1,064 | 2,539 | 2,345 | 2,342 | 2,027 | 2,678 | 2,232 | 2,580 | 2,300 | 2,914 | 2,538 | 2,818 | 2,486 | 3,360 | 2,868 | 3,519 | 3,093 | 3,373 | 2,921 | 2,982 | 2,638 |
| 5 to 10 years | 179 | 175 | 217 | 156 | 157 | 144 | 157 | 140 | 135 | 124 | 186 | 151 | 195 | 181 | 247 | 221 | 272 | 242 | 197 | 179 | 250 | 194 |
| 10 „ 15 „ | 97 | 114 | 127 | 108 | 115 | 95 | 119 | 84 | 91 | 102 | 128 | 108 | 118 | 107 | 137 | 122 | 134 | 142 | 132 | 96 | 135 | 118 |
| 15 „ 20 „ | 115 | 118 | 120 | 145 | 128 | 99 | 139 | 134 | 129 | 137 | 182 | 137 | 144 | 142 | 179 | 173 | 194 | 174 | 181 | 168 | 180 | 160 |
| 20 „ 25 „ | 141 | 115 | 201 | 154 | 195 | 149 | 209 | 169 | 224 | 191 | 278 | 199 | 236 | 223 | 357 | 267 | 324 | 282 | 326 | 249 | 283 | 219 |
| 25 „ 30 „ | 199 | 140 | 194 | 158 | 192 | 163 | 216 | 172 | 245 | 194 | 289 | 222 | 296 | 221 | 357 | 238 | 411 | 308 | 397 | 278 | 340 | 249 |
| 30 „ 35 „ | 240 | 153 | 205 | 141 | 211 | 133 | 224 | 178 | 258 | 152 | 277 | 210 | 264 | 176 | 316 | 220 | 369 | 227 | 354 | 236 | 353 | 230 |
| 35 „ 40 „ | 266 | 155 | 284 | 157 | 279 | 158 | 274 | 205 | 326 | 222 | 310 | 228 | 294 | 204 | 331 | 212 | 361 | 242 | 374 | 243 | 333 | 199 |
| 40 „ 45 „ | 277 | 137 | 290 | 161 | 293 | 161 | 337 | 178 | 354 | 165 | 336 | 166 | 338 | 174 | 385 | 223 | 366 | 227 | 340 | 204 | 303 | 205 |
| 45 „ 50 „ | 278 | 128 | 318 | 139 | 299 | 125 | 293 | 144 | 366 | 181 | 369 | 153 | 310 | 159 | 347 | 187 | 400 | 204 | 381 | 213 | 348 | 191 |
| 50 „ 55 „ | 285 | 119 | 287 | 120 | 260 | 143 | 283 | 126 | 352 | 153 | 379 | 158 | 327 | 139 | 412 | 175 | 404 | 182 | 403 | 205 | 367 | 177 |
| 55 „ 60 „ | 248 | 127 | 230 | 125 | 242 | 104 | 228 | 119 | 234 | 128 | 269 | 137 | 243 | 138 | 299 | 145 | 341 | 173 | 383 | 164 | 361 | 182 |
| 60 „ 65 „ | 299 | 139 | 306 | 141 | 320 | 138 | 385 | 189 | 357 | 186 | 425 | 179 | 343 | 199 | 345 | 182 | 364 | 174 | 329 | 188 | 348 | 176 |
| 65 „ 70 „ | 274 | 124 | 260 | 131 | 283 | 142 | 294 | 154 | 279 | 148 | 303 | 158 | 307 | 141 | 334 | 174 | 375 | 193 | 355 | 215 | 321 | 196 |
| 70 „ 75 „ | 231 | 104 | 261 | 102 | 272 | 128 | 291 | 135 | 291 | 146 | 314 | 164 | 268 | 149 | 346 | 185 | 348 | 179 | 333 | 168 | 305 | 174 |
| 75 „ 80 „ | 193 | 92 | 216 | 81 | 203 | 102 | 202 | 113 | 202 | 106 | 242 | 117 | 213 | 108 | 225 | 123 | 331 | 149 | 306 | 175 | 266 | 173 |
| 80 „ 85 „ | 84 | 43 | 116 | 60 | 129 | 58 | 166 | 67 | 160 | 67 | 200 | 71 | 179 | 83 | 158 | 96 | 194 | 110 | 153 | 102 | 143 | 93 |
| 85 „ 90 „ | 51 | 23 | 38 | 29 | 37 | 22 | 54 | 28 | 79 | 31 | 59 | 33 | 74 | 37 | 71 | 38 | 92 | 43 | 109 | 47 | 72 | 51 |
| 90 „ 95 „ | 17 | 6 | 14 | 10 | 24 | 10 | 20 | 11 | 19 | 15 | 25 | 13 | 21 | 14 | 14 | 10 | 23 | 16 | 19 | 17 | 24 | 17 |
| 95 „ 100 „ | 14 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 14 | 7 | 6 | 2 |
| 100 years and upwards | 6 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 3 | . | 5 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Ages not specified | 54 | 12 | 49 | 8 | 58 | 12 | 59 | 10 | 66 | 18 | 97 | 33 | 92 | 46 | 90 | 28 | 65 | 16 | 37 | 9 | 54 | 6 |

M.

NEW SOUTH WALES—DEATHS IN EACH MONTH—1877 to 1887.

| Months. | 1877. | 1878. | 1879. | 1880. | 1881. | 1882. | 1883. | 1884. | 1885. | 1886. | 1887. |
|-----------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| January | 1,100 | 1,114 | 1,064 | 965 | 1,134 | 1,191 | 1,146 | 1,403 | 1,357 | 1,401 | 1,427 |
| February | 823 | 887 | 883 | 824 | 975 | 1,090 | 957 | 1,086 | 1,215 | 1,121 | 1,205 |
| March | 921 | 952 | 910 | 888 | 1,059 | 1,207 | 1,022 | 1,211 | 1,322 | 1,195 | 1,348 |
| April | 894 | 1,054 | 919 | 871 | 932 | 1,082 | 1,075 | 1,250 | 1,243 | 1,238 | 1,142 |
| May | 900 | 1,083 | 897 | 889 | 922 | 1,124 | 1,051 | 1,235 | 1,316 | 1,290 | 1,164 |
| June | 865 | 891 | 747 | 861 | 971 | 1,083 | 954 | 1,118 | 1,190 | 1,193 | 1,056 |
| July | 771 | 814 | 757 | 816 | 830 | 984 | 928 | 1,094 | 1,135 | 1,161 | 933 |
| August | 711 | 790 | 755 | 864 | 962 | 1,046 | 1,045 | 971 | 1,225 | 1,105 | 969 |
| September | 644 | 729 | 720 | 891 | 814 | 881 | 818 | 1,061 | 1,229 | 1,062 | 903 |
| October | 683 | 820 | 781 | 1,066 | 902 | 976 | 1,019 | 1,209 | 1,259 | 1,092 | 1,007 |
| November | 758 | 769 | 802 | 1,110 | 861 | 1,001 | 1,045 | 1,230 | 1,362 | 1,261 | 1,097 |
| December | 799 | 860 | 965 | 1,186 | 1,174 | 1,151 | 1,189 | 1,343 | 1,399 | 1,468 | 1,197 |
| Total | 9,869 | 10,763 | 10,200 | 11,231 | 11,536 | 12,816 | 12,249 | 14,220 | 15,282 | 14,587 | 13,448 |

| MARRIAGES— | PAGE. |
|--|-------|
| Bachelors, Spinsters, &c. | 7 |
| Denominations (1886) | 28 |
| " (1837) | 67 |
| " (1877-87) | 6 |
| In the Colony (1886) | 25 |
| " (1887) | 64 |
| In each District (1886) | 25 |
| " (1887) | 64 |
| Marks (1886 and 1887) | 8 |
| " (1866-87) | 9 |
| Marriage-rate | 5 |
| Minors | 7 |
| Quarterly Abstract (1886) | 4 |
| " (1887) | 5 |
| " (1878-87) | 5 |
| POPULATION of the Colony, 1887 | 3 |
| " of Sydney, Suburbs and Country Districts, 1877-87 | 4 |
| RAINFALL in Sydney (1877-87) | 24 |
| TEMPERATURE, height of barometer, rain, &c. (1886 and 1887)..... | 24 |

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MEAT SUPPLY OF AUSTRALIA.

(GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN'S REPORT ON.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 7 November, 1888.

[Laid upon the Table of the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales by the Secretary for Mines, a copy of Mr. Government Statistician Coghlan's Report on the Meat Supply of Australia.]

Minute from The Chief Inspector of Stock to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Department of Mines, Stock Branch, Sydney, 29 October, 1888.
In submitting the accompanying valuable paper which has been prepared by Mr. Government Statistician Coghlan, and which forms a clear and exhaustive investigation as to the meat supply of the Australian Colonies, I have the honor to suggest that it be laid before Parliament, as it contains information of great value not only to those owners who are undecided as to whether they should stock their holdings with sheep or cattle but also to financiers and merchants throughout the colonies.

ALEX. BRUCE,
Chief Inspector of Stock.

The Government Statistician to The Chief Inspector of Stock.

Dear Sir,

Government Statistician's Office, Sydney, 24 October, 1888.

Some time last year I made an investigation as to the future of the meat supply of these colonies; but, as you are aware, I had for the most part to work on information which was very imperfect. Since then I have gone into the matter more thoroughly, working upon data much more reliable than was before at my disposal, and with the great advantage of being able to distinguish the consumption of beef from that of mutton, which is of first importance in this inquiry. I find the average consumption of meat is practically what I assumed it was; but the quantity of beef, instead of being only slightly more than that of mutton, is practically twice as great. The cast of cattle I make from an extended series of computations to be within a shade of $11\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and of sheep rather more than 15 per cent. The only point regarding which there is uncertainty is the rate at which cattle increase. There is strong evidence in favor of not more than 1 per cent. being taken as the ratio of increase, but even if the rate be taken at 2 or even $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the result is not greatly affected, as will be seen from the accompanying calculations.

Yours faithfully,
T. A. COGHLAN.

MEAT SUPPLY OF AUSTRALIA.

THE data required for an exact investigation of the prospects of the meat supply of Australia, are—

- (a) Rate at which population tends to increase.
- (b) Present and prospective consumption of meat.
- (c) Rate of increase of stock.
- (d) Cast or proportion of stock annually fit for market.

The figures in the following computations refer to the whole of continental Australia unless otherwise mentioned. The stock resources of New Zealand and Tasmania have not been considered, as the circumstances of the first-named colony, and perhaps of Tasmania, differ materially from those of the other divisions of the group.

(a) Increase of Population.

The population of Australia was—

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| At census of 1871 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,566,592 |
| Do. 1881 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,136,912 |
| At close of 1887 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,800,578 |

The annual increase between the two census years was therefore at the rate of 3·15 per cent., and from the census of 1881 to the close of the year 1887 at the rate of 4·07 per cent. The ratio of increase has advanced considerably since the last census year, and for the coming decade may be assumed to be not less than 4·0 per cent. per annum.

(b) Consumption of Meat.

The total consumption of meat can only be exactly determined for two colonies, New South Wales and Victoria, but as about 77 per cent. of the whole population are located in these colonies, it will be obvious that inexactness in regard to the other colonies will not very greatly affect computations based on the known demand of the principal members of the group. By consumption is meant the number of stock slaughtered for local use only, meat for export purposes has therefore not been taken into account. The object of this inquiry is to determine the amount of the present surplus meat production and how long this surplus will continue, and as an export trade can only be maintained concurrently with a surplus, directly the local demand becomes level with the supply an export trade ceases to be practicable. Hence the reason of omitting from consideration the quantity of stock killed for export.

The consumption of stock in Victoria was,—

| Year. | Cattle. | Sheep. |
|-----------|---------|-----------|
| 1882..... | 295,942 | 1,940,750 |
| 1883..... | 245,328 | 1,762,121 |
| 1884..... | 234,420 | 1,839,601 |
| 1885..... | 218,378 | 1,751,635 |
| 1886..... | 210,209 | 2,145,823 |

this gives the average yearly consumption per inhabitant for the five years as 2·0 sheep, 0·25 cattle; but as the demand for beef appears to be declining, the average has been taken at 2·24 cattle per head. The consumption in New South Wales during 1887, was practically the same as in Victoria, and was also the mean of former years, viz.,—1·9 sheep and 0·25 cattle. In Queensland the consumption is not known, but from such information as there is to hand, it would appear that the annual requirements per inhabitant are extremely high, being probably not less than 2·0 sheep, 0·4 cattle. The total consumption in the three colonies, estimating on the population at the close of 1887, would be,—

| Colony. | Population. | Sheep. | Cattle. |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
| New South Wales..... | 1,042,919 | × 1·9 1,981,546 | × 25 260,729 |
| Victoria | 1,036,110 | × 2·0 2,072,220 | × 224 232,089 |
| Queensland..... | 366,940 | × 2·0 733,880 | × 40 146,776 |
| Total | 2,445,969 | 4,787,646 | 639,594 |

The average consumption for these colonies is therefore, approximately, 2·0 sheep and 0·26 cattle. These figures may be safely adopted as the consumption per head of Australia, for whether South Australia or Western Australia consume more or less than above given, the average of Australia will not be sensibly affected.

(c) Increase of Stock.

The ratio at which the flocks and herds of the Colony tend to increase is a very doubtful item. An inspection of the returns accompanying this paper will show that there was a decrease in cattle year by year from 1881 to 1886, and a somewhat similar decrease in sheep from 1883 to 1886. The following table gives the number of stock in five-year periods since 1863, not for any individual year, but the average of the five years named:—

| From | To | Average Number of Sheep. | Average Number of Cattle. |
|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1863..... | 1867..... | 29,725,925 | 3,625,526 |
| 1868..... | 1872..... | 39,482,986 | 4,017,818 |
| 1873..... | 1877..... | 47,828,539 | 6,056,523 |
| 1878..... | 1882..... | 58,277,494 | 7,361,412 |
| 1883..... | 1887..... | 68,282,577 | 7,458,841 |

The mean annual increase for the above periods was:—

| From | To | Sheep. | Cattle. |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1863-1867 | 1868-1872..... | 5·84 per cent. | 2·08 per cent. |
| 1868-1872 | 1873-1877..... | 3·91 " | 8·55 " |
| 1873-1877 | 1878-1882..... | 4·03 " | 3·98 " |
| 1878-1882 | 1883-1887..... | 3·22 " | 0·26 . " |

If there were any regularity in the above, the rate for the last period would naturally be preferred as indicating the probable future consumption. There is, however, not only no regularity, but the rates are conspicuously irregular. As regards sheep, the rate for the first five years—viz., 5·84 per cent.—is obviously high and not likely to be again experienced over any considerable number of years. The last three ratios are more regular, and it has appeared preferable to adopt the mean annual increase from 1873-1877 to 1883-1887 as the probable rate at which the sheep of Australia are likely to increase. This ratio is 3·62 per cent. per annum.

With respect to cattle the case is very different, and the adoption of any figure is not a matter of calculation but of opinion; to my mind 1 per cent. is about the ratio which would fit the present conditions of these colonies and is the mean rate of annual increase since 1880; but as will presently appear, the question is not very greatly affected even if 2·5 per cent. be taken as the prospective rate.

(d.)

(d.) Cast of Stock.

By the term cast is to be understood the number of stock fit for market or which could be profitably fattened,—*i.e.*, the number at that age when it would be more profitable to send them for slaughter than retain them for breeding in the case of cows and ewes, or for further growth in the case of non-breeders.

To arrive at the cast I have assumed an ideal herd in which there are 10,000 females of various ages, from calves to cows 8 years old, with a sufficient number of bulls. I have assumed that out of the progeny of this herd the bullocks become part of the cast at 5 years and the cows at 8 years. I have also assumed that the average number of calves obtained from 100 cows will be 70 and that half the calves will be females and half males. The death rate of all cattle has been assumed as 5 per cent. in each year; no account is taken of the effect of droughts and other causes of exceptional loss, nor is such needed. Whatever diminution a prolonged drought may inflict upon a herd, such will affect every description of stock in such a manner that though the total number may be considerably reduced the per centage of the cast will not be greatly affected, rising in years when the proportion of calves is small to 2 per cent. above, but on the other hand falling in years when there is a large number of young stock to 1 per cent. below the average given hereunder. At the end of fifteen years the original herd will have disappeared and the surviving progeny of the 10,000 cows would be 42,380, after allowing for cows and bullocks sent to market, and an annual loss of 5 per cent. on all stock. Of this number 4,725 would be cows 8 years and bullocks 5 years old; these would be the cast, and represent slightly over $11\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the whole herd.

Similarly for sheep—after allowing for wethers sent to market at 4 years and ewes at 7 years, and for an annual loss of 5 per cent. on all sheep—the cast would be rather more than 15 per cent., which, though apparently high, is borne out by the experience of New South Wales, wherein nearly 60 per cent. of the sheep of Australia are depastured.

Total Meat Consumption.

The total population of Australia at the middle of 1888 was 2,858,000, and the consumption at the rate of .26 cattle and 2 sheep per head would be,—

$$2,858,000 \times .26 = 743,080 \text{ cattle.}$$

$$2,858,000 \times 2 = 5,716,000 \text{ sheep.}$$

while the cast of stock for 1888 will be,—

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| Cattle ... | ... | ... | 7,916,520 @ $11\frac{1}{2}$ % | ... | ... | ... | 884,000 |
| Sheep ... | ... | ... | 79,679,235 @ 15 % | ... | ... | ... | 11,951,885 |

Deducting the consumption from the cast would leave a surplus of,—

| | Supply. | Demand. | Surplus. |
|------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| Cattle ... | 884,000 | 743,080 | = 141,000 |
| Sheep ... | 11,951,885 | 5,716,000 | = 6,235,885 |

The question of meat supply therefore resolves itself shortly into this: How long will a yearly supply of 884,000 cattle, increasing at the rate of 1 per cent., meet the food demands of a population increasing at 4 per cent., and at present requiring 743,080 head of cattle annually? also, how long will a supply of 11,951,885 sheep, increasing at the rate of 3.62 per cent., meet a demand for 5,716,000, increasing at the rate of 4.0 per cent.? As regards the supply of cattle, 884,000, increasing at 1 per cent., will be overtaken by 743,080, increasing at 4.0 per cent., in six years.

If, however, a greater rate of increase than 1 per cent. obtain, say, $1\frac{1}{2}$, $1\frac{3}{4}$, 2, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the times will be as follows:—

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| At $1\frac{1}{2}$ % | supply will be overtaken in 6.5 years. |
| At $1\frac{3}{4}$ % | do do do 7.1 do. |
| At 2 % | do do do 9.0 do. |
| At $2\frac{1}{2}$ % | do do do 12.0 do. |

Whether the higher or the lower rate be adopted makes little practical difference, and it would seem from the above computations, that if the present rate of consumption continue, the demand for beef will overtake the supply in six to twelve years from the close of the current year.

The present annual surplus of cattle is produced entirely by Queensland, the other colonies show a considerable deficiency. Thus, in Victoria during the year 1887, the cast fell short of the consumption by about 72,000, in New South Wales by 37,000, and in South Australia the deficiency was about 31,000 head, making a total deficiency in these colonies of 140,000; Queensland, however, could have been in a position to export 300,000 head, so that the net annual surplus for Australia for that year was 160,000 cattle, while for 1888 this surplus will probably not exceed 141,000.

The case in regard to sheep is very different. The present demand for 5,716,000 sheep does not equal half the available supply, and, although, at the present time population tends to increase at a slightly greater ratio than the flocks of the country, it is impossible to believe that this rapid rate will long continue, so that the supply of sheep is never likely to be seriously trenched upon, and a very large surplus will exist for supplying markets outside Australia.

From the considerations above given it will be plain that the supply of beef is practically limited, while that of mutton is inexhaustible. There is, however, a marked tendency to reduce the consumption of beef, especially in Victoria, so that the time when supply and demand will be level may be a little retarded, but the reduction in consumption would require to be very considerable to appreciably affect the result indicated.

The further consideration of the permanence of the surplus of beef and mutton taken together under the common designation of meat need not be discussed, since the quantity of each that is consumed is known, to combine them together would only obscure the question, which is, after all, how long will the demand leave a surplus of each kind of stock.

T. A. COGHLAN,
Statistician.

IMPORT and Export of Sheep and Cattle.

| Year. | Imports. | Exports. | Surplus Imports over Exports + vice versa - | Year. | Imports. | Exports. | Surplus Imports over Exports + vice versa - |
|------------------|-----------|------------|--|------------|-----------|-----------|--|
| NEW SOUTH WALES. | | | | | | | |
| <i>Cattle.</i> | | | | | | | |
| 1869 | 4,461 | 66,189 | - 61,728 | 1879 | 7,203 | 58,050 | - 50,847 |
| 1870 | 122 | 62,880 | - 62,758 | 1880 | 3,253 | 86,127 | - 82,874 |
| 1871 | 221 | 82,503 | - 82,282 | 1881 | 9,602 | 55,540 | - 45,938 |
| 1872 | 3,140 | 72,666 | - 69,526 | 1882 | 5,530 | 52,137 | - 46,607 |
| 1873 | | No return. | | 1883 | 3,460 | 42,260 | - 38,800 |
| 1874 | 1,733 | 51,564 | - 49,831 | 1884 | 36,186 | 40,074 | - 3,888 |
| 1875 | 2,319 | 64,673 | - 62,354 | 1885 | 36,602 | 52,999 | - 16,397 |
| 1876 | 5,920 | 69,889 | - 63,969 | 1886 | 80,677 | 51,359 | + 29,318 |
| 1877 | 3,563 | 62,873 | - 59,310 | 1887 | 135,508 | 93,823 | + 35,685 |
| 1878 | 5,453 | 51,155 | - 45,702 | | | | |
| <i>Sheep.</i> | | | | | | | |
| 1869 | 16,308 | 462,568 | - 446,260 | 1879 | 160,123 | 978,537 | - 818,414 |
| 1870 | 1,008 | 804,349 | - 803,341 | 1880 | 81,742 | 1,147,552 | - 1,065,810 |
| 1871 | 25,805 | 940,501 | - 914,696 | 1881 | 198,329 | 1,068,362 | - 870,033 |
| 1872 | 82,464 | 638,334 | - 555,870 | 1882 | 207,538 | 856,190 | - 648,652 |
| 1873 | | No return. | | 1883 | 205,558 | 1,006,227 | - 800,669 |
| 1874 | 3,037 | 528,127 | - 525,090 | 1884 | 404,371 | 1,942,204 | - 1,537,833 |
| 1875 | 27,388 | 1,025,155 | - 997,767 | 1885 | 1,134,439 | 1,237,155 | - 102,716 |
| 1876 | 55,827 | 1,084,176 | - 1,028,349 | 1886 | 288,225 | 1,247,514 | - 959,289 |
| 1877 | 330,062 | 751,412 | - 421,350 | 1887 | 864,313 | 1,218,504 | - 354,191 |
| 1878 | 495,868 | 578,457 | - 82,589 | | | | |
| VICTORIA. | | | | | | | |
| <i>Cattle.</i> | | | | | | | |
| 1869 | 45,723 | 1,047 | + 44,676 | 1879 | 63,711 | 8,028 | + 55,683 |
| 1870 | 41,688 | 257 | + 41,431 | 1880 | 75,433 | 2,575 | + 72,858 |
| 1871 | 45,983 | 160 | + 45,823 | 1881 | 62,733 | 3,653 | + 59,080 |
| 1872 | 63,287 | 2,314 | + 60,973 | 1882 | 65,338 | 4,440 | + 60,898 |
| 1873 | 54,047 | 4,231 | + 49,816 | 1883 | 61,029 | 6,065 | + 54,964 |
| 1874 | 83,080 | 1,411 | + 81,669 | 1884 | 49,535 | 17,785 | + 31,750 |
| 1875 | 68,591 | 2,369 | + 66,222 | 1885 | 66,138 | 9,679 | + 56,459 |
| 1876 | 81,144 | 2,133 | + 79,011 | 1886 | 58,881 | 9,876 | + 49,005 |
| 1877 | 71,817 | 2,604 | + 69,213 | 1887 | 100,130 | 17,593 | + 82,537 |
| 1878 | 37,573 | 6,735 | + 30,838 | | | | |
| <i>Sheep.</i> | | | | | | | |
| 1869 | 816,597 | 10,537 | + 806,060 | 1879 | 846,156 | 169,337 | + 676,819 |
| 1870 | 658,110 | 12,179 | + 645,931 | 1880 | 932,705 | 106,528 | + 826,177 |
| 1871 | 777,702 | 9,822 | + 767,880 | 1881 | 1,085,110 | 179,874 | + 905,236 |
| 1872 | 552,470 | 6,359 | + 546,111 | 1882 | 787,434 | 222,469 | + 564,965 |
| 1873 | 689,169 | 12,585 | + 676,584 | 1883 | 954,769 | 259,643 | + 695,126 |
| 1874 | 774,214 | 16,221 | + 757,993 | 1884 | 1,977,024 | 389,436 | + 1,587,588 |
| 1875 | 897,051 | 17,331 | + 879,720 | 1885 | 1,089,243 | 995,580 | + 93,663 |
| 1876 | 1,015,186 | 10,889 | + 1,004,297 | 1886 | 1,134,118 | 253,102 | + 881,016 |
| 1877 | 770,884 | 338,401 | + 432,483 | 1887 | 1,079,391 | 559,485 | + 519,906 |
| 1878 | 510,822 | 454,719 | + 56,103 | | | | |
| QUEENSLAND. | | | | | | | |
| <i>Sheep.</i> | | | | | | | |
| 1869 | 15,090 | 1,011 | + 14,079 | 1879 | 57,214 | 246,517 | - 189,303 |
| 1870 | 16,070 | 573,323 | - 557,253 | 1880 | 383,166 | 160,306 | + 222,860 |
| 1871 | 10,571 | 505,395 | - 494,824 | 1881 | 622,989 | 95,189 | + 527,800 |
| 1872 | 9,848 | 453,323 | - 443,480 | 1882 | 1,646,642 | 101,651 | + 1,544,991 |
| 1873 | 44,211 | 510,869 | - 466,658 | 1883 | 680,450 | 353,693 | + 326,757 |
| 1874 | 11,154 | 419,214 | - 408,060 | 1884 | 558,853 | 438,885 | + 119,968 |
| 1875 | 21,870 | 204,015 | - 182,145 | 1885 | 464,155 | 524,096 | - 59,941 |
| 1876 | 44,348 | 245,764 | - 201,416 | 1886 | 674,103 | 176,461 | + 497,642 |
| 1877 | 382,201 | 332,071 | + 50,130 | 1887 | 582,281 | 118,980 | + 463,301 |
| 1878 | 83,221 | 423,417 | - 340,196 | | | | |
| <i>Cattle.</i> | | | | | | | |
| 1869 | 49 | 11,904 | - 11,855 | 1879 | 11,530 | 61,897 | - 50,367 |
| 1870 | 125 | 44,906 | - 44,781 | 1880 | 5,341 | 48,110 | - 42,769 |
| 1871 | 1,051 | 43,487 | - 47,436 | 1881 | 32,626 | 48,541 | - 15,915 |
| 1872 | 1,164 | 38,778 | - 37,614 | 1882 | 30,454 | 39,449 | - 8,995 |
| 1873 | 14,920 | 31,914 | - 16,994 | 1883 | 12,864 | 85,671 | - 72,807 |
| 1874 | 9,259 | 29,830 | - 20,571 | 1884 | 12,063 | 89,108 | - 77,045 |
| 1875 | 9,312 | 18,747 | - 9,435 | 1885 | 13,508 | 126,824 | - 113,316 |
| 1876 | 13,547 | 8,314 | + 5,233 | 1886 | 2,490 | 125,039 | - 122,549 |
| 1877 | 43,997 | 20,400 | + 23,597 | 1887 | 1,993 | 208,795 | - 206,802 |
| 1878 | 27,761 | 35,932 | - 8,171 | | | | |

| Year. | Imports. | Exports. | Surplus Imports over Exports + vice versa — | Year. | Imports. | Exports. | Surplus Imports over Exports + vice versa — |
|-------|----------|----------|---|-------|----------|----------|---|
|-------|----------|----------|---|-------|----------|----------|---|

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Cattle.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--------|-------|---|--------|------|--------|-------|---|--------|
| 1869 | 5,219 | 2,530 | + | 2,689 | 1878 | 23,576 | 39 | + | 23,537 |
| 1870 | 6,348 | 1,038 | + | 5,310 | 1879 | 36,157 | 245 | + | 35,912 |
| 1871 | 8,540 | 336 | + | 8,204 | 1880 | 37,962 | 488 | + | 37,474 |
| 1872 | 7,840 | 470 | + | 7,370 | 1881 | 46,958 | 7 | + | 46,951 |
| 1873 | 9,706 | 1,155 | + | 8,551 | 1882 | 41,035 | 3,037 | + | 37,998 |
| 1874 | 12,121 | 2,675 | + | 9,446 | 1883 | 34,010 | 2,254 | + | 31,756 |
| 1875 | 11,274 | 270 | + | 11,004 | 1884 | 23,626 | 1,355 | + | 27,271 |
| 1876 | 10,322 | 272 | + | 10,050 | 1885 | 45,738 | 2,744 | + | 42,994 |
| 1877 | 12,525 | 7 | + | 12,518 | 1886 | 38,007 | 6,616 | + | 31,391 |

Sheep.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|---------|---|---------|------|---------|---------|---|---------|
| 1869 | 109,524 | 70,931 | + | 38,593 | 1878 | 192,950 | 91,037 | + | 101,913 |
| 1870 | 85,470 | 88,617 | — | 3,147 | 1879 | 272,685 | 92,305 | + | 180,380 |
| 1871 | 153,674 | 114,179 | + | 39,495 | 1880 | 500,744 | 51,286 | + | 449,458 |
| 1872 | 85,143 | 111,409 | — | 26,266 | 1881 | 609,459 | 146,364 | + | 463,095 |
| 1873 | 113,635 | 99,414 | + | 14,221 | 1882 | 534,219 | 222,908 | + | 311,311 |
| 1874 | 85,539 | 117,501 | — | 31,962 | 1883 | 435,198 | 143,575 | + | 291,623 |
| 1875 | 114,318 | 6,764 | + | 107,554 | 1884 | 411,458 | 173,015 | + | 238,443 |
| 1876 | 162,505 | 65,671 | + | 96,834 | 1885 | 362,999 | 86,637 | + | 276,362 |
| 1877 | 237,747 | 98,801 | + | 138,946 | 1886 | 385,496 | 124,226 | + | 261,270 |

SHEEP and Cattle in the Australian Colonies during the 25 years 1863-1887.

| Year. | New South Wales. | | Victoria. | | Queensland. | | South Australia. | | Western Australia. | | Total Continental Australia. | |
|-------|------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|------------------|----------|--------------------|---------|------------------------------|-----------|
| | Sheep. | Cattle. | Sheep. | Cattle. | Sheep. | Cattle. | Sheep. | Cattle. | Sheep. | Cattle. | Sheep. | Cattle. |
| 1863 | 7,790,969 | 2,032,522 | 7,115,943 | 675,272 | 5,672,400 | 880,392 | 3,891,642 | 226,166 | 348,358 | 39,336 | 24,819,312 | 3,853,688 |
| 1864 | 8,271,520 | 1,924,119 | 8,406,234 | 640,625 | 5,665,334 | 822,073 | 4,106,230 | 204,892 | 383,878 | 44,569 | 26,833,196 | 3,696,278 |
| 1865 | 8,132,511 | 1,961,905 | 8,835,380 | 621,337 | 6,594,966 | 848,346 | 3,779,308 | 158,057 | 445,044 | 45,148 | 27,787,209 | 3,634,793 |
| 1866 | 11,562,155 | 1,771,809 | 8,833,139 | 598,968 | 7,278,778 | 919,414 | 3,911,610 | 123,820 | 481,040 | 41,323 | 32,066,722 | 3,455,334 |
| 1867 | 13,909,574 | 1,728,427 | 9,532,811 | 650,592 | 8,665,757 | 940,354 | 4,477,445 | 122,200 | 537,597 | 45,962 | 37,123,184 | 3,487,535 |
| 1868 | 15,080,625 | 1,761,411 | 9,756,819 | 693,682 | 8,921,784 | 963,279 | 4,987,024 | 123,213 | 599,756 | 46,211 | 39,346,008 | 3,592,796 |
| 1869 | 14,989,923 | 1,795,904 | 9,923,663 | 692,518 | 8,646,243 | 994,600 | 4,436,955 | 119,697 | 648,683 | 45,867 | 38,645,467 | 3,648,586 |
| 1870 | 16,308,585 | 2,195,096 | 10,761,887 | 721,096 | 8,163,818 | 1,076,630 | 4,400,655 | 136,832 | 608,892 | 45,213 | 40,243,837 | 4,174,867 |
| 1871 | 16,278,697 | 2,014,888 | 10,002,381 | 799,509 | 7,403,334 | 1,168,235 | 4,412,055 | 143,463 | 670,999 | 49,593 | 38,767,466 | 4,175,688 |
| 1872 | 17,560,048 | 2,287,660 | 10,575,219 | 812,289 | 6,687,907 | 1,200,992 | 4,900,687 | 151,662 | 688,290 | 44,550 | 40,412,151 | 4,497,153 |
| 1873 | 18,990,595 | 2,794,327 | 11,323,080 | 883,763 | 7,268,946 | 1,343,003 | 5,617,419 | 174,381 | 748,536 | 47,640 | 43,948,576 | 5,243,114 |
| 1874 | 22,797,416 | 2,856,699 | 11,221,036 | 958,658 | 7,180,792 | 1,610,105 | 6,120,211 | 185,342 | 777,861 | 46,748 | 48,097,316 | 5,657,552 |
| 1875 | 25,353,924 | 3,134,086 | 11,749,532 | 1,054,598 | 7,227,774 | 1,812,576 | 6,179,395 | 219,240 | 881,861 | 50,416 | 51,392,486 | 6,270,916 |
| 1876 | 25,269,755 | 3,131,013 | 11,278,893 | 1,128,265 | 7,315,074 | 2,079,979 | 6,133,291 | 219,441 | 899,494 | 54,058 | 50,896,507 | 6,612,756 |
| 1877 | 21,521,662 | 2,746,385 | 10,117,867 | 1,169,576 | 6,272,766 | 2,299,582 | 6,098,359 | 230,679 | 797,156 | 52,057 | 44,807,810 | 6,498,279 |
| 1878 | 25,479,484 | 2,771,583 | 9,379,276 | 1,184,843 | 5,631,634 | 2,469,559 | 6,377,812 | 251,802 | 869,325 | 56,158 | 49,737,531 | 6,733,945 |
| 1879 | 30,062,910 | 2,914,210 | 8,651,775 | 1,129,358 | 6,083,034 | 2,805,984 | 6,140,396 | 266,217 | 1,109,860 | 60,617 | 52,047,975 | 7,176,386 |
| 1880 | 35,398,121 | 2,588,040 | 10,360,285 | 1,286,267 | 6,935,967 | 3,162,752 | 6,463,897 | 307,177 | 1,231,717 | 63,719 | 60,389,987 | 7,407,955 |
| 1881 | 36,591,946 | 2,597,348 | 10,267,265 | 1,286,677 | 8,292,883 | 3,618,513 | 6,810,856 | 314,918 | 1,267,912 | 63,009 | 63,230,862 | 7,880,465 |
| 1882 | 36,114,814 | 1,859,985 | 10,174,246 | 1,237,088 | 12,043,893 | 4,089,715 | 6,388,366 | 306,046 | 1,259,797 | 65,473 | 65,981,116 | 7,608,307 |
| 1883 | 37,915,510 | 1,640,753 | 10,739,021 | 1,297,546 | 11,507,475 | 4,246,141 | 6,677,067 | 319,620 | 1,315,155 | 64,558 | 68,154,228 | 7,568,618 |
| 1884 | 31,660,321 | 1,425,130 | 10,637,412 | 1,287,945 | 9,308,911 | 4,266,172 | 6,696,406 | 389,726 | 1,547,061 | 71,102 | 59,850,111 | 7,440,075 |
| 1885 | 37,820,906 | 1,317,315 | 10,681,837 | 1,290,790 | 8,994,322 | 4,162,652 | *6,696,406 | *389,726 | 1,702,719 | 70,403 | 65,896,190 | 7,230,891 |
| 1886 | 39,169,304 | 1,367,844 | 10,700,403 | 1,303,265 | 9,690,445 | 4,071,563 | 6,463,897 | 307,177 | 1,809,071 | 88,254 | 67,833,120 | 7,138,103 |
| 1887 | 46,965,152 | 1,575,487 | 10,623,985 | 1,333,873 | 12,926,158 | 4,473,716 | 7,254,000 | 440,000 | 1,909,940 | 93,444 | 79,679,235 | 7,916,520 |

* No enumeration made; figures for 1884 inserted.

Sydney: Charles Potter, Government Printer.—1888.

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINING.

(CORRESPONDENCE RESPECTING CANCELLATION OF GOLD LEASES NOS. 650 AND 661, HUNTER AND MACLEAY; ALSO APPLICATIONS FOR SAME LAND BY J. ABIGAIL AND ANOTHER AND T. A. PAULSON AND OTHERS.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 21 December, 1888.

[*Laid upon the Table of the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales by the Secretary for Mines, copies of papers in connection with the cancellation of gold leases 650 and 661, Hunter and Macleay District; also, copies of applications for same land by J. Abigail and another, and T. A. Paulson and others.*]

Correspondence respecting Cancellation of Gold Leases
Nos. 650 and 661, Hunter and Macleay.

(1.)

Mr. H. Tagg to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Coolongolook, 8 November, 1887.

I have the honor to bring under your notice the fact that the gold-mining lease, No. 22, gold lease 80, 10 acres, in favour of Dickson, Dickson, Paulson and party, and known as the Curreki Claim at Coolongolook, county of Gloucester, has been held for several years, and next to no work has been done on it.

They have had several extensions of time granted them on various pretexts, and the last extension of three months, and which will shortly expire, was for the erection of machinery, but no steps whatever have been taken to get any up or on the ground.

No efforts have been made during the long time they have held this ground to keep the water out, and no work whatever is being done at present on the claim.

I beg further to inform you that it was altogether owing to the holders of the above claim allowing their shafts to remain full of water which flooded me, and at last compelled me to abandon the adjoining claim No. 21, and held and worked by me.

I have the very highest opinion of the line of reef, and more especially the 10 acres, as it is on rich payable stone.

I believe it is the intention of the present leaseholders to allow the lease to be cancelled, and then to re-peg it out, thus shutting up and allowing this valuable property to lie idle.

Being the first to advise you to above effect, I beg to ask you to favour me with instructions how to proceed to be put in possession of the abovementioned ground.

Craving for the favour of a reply,—

I have, &c.,
HENRY TAGG.

(2.)

Mr. E. Easterbrook to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Cape Hawke, 11 November, 1887.

I have the honor to bring to your notice of Dickson and Paulson party not carrying out their labour conditions, No. 22, gold lease 80, Curreki Claim, Coolongolook, county of Gloucester. My object is to put my own shaft deeper, which is 70 feet deep. I cannot go deeper until they work their claim. I am certain it is a good line of reef. I have had three years' trial at it; but they swamp me out whenever I attempt to commence work.

I am, &c.,

EDWARD EASTERBROOK,
Working Miner.

(3.)

Mr. T. A. Paulson to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Coolongolook, 5 December, 1887.

I wish to apply for cancellation of gold lease 650, portion 22, situated at Coolongolook, county of Gloucester, parish of Tellaree, held by myself and Dickson; also lease No. 661, portion gold lease 75, situated at Coolongolook, county of Gloucester, parish of Tellaree, taken out by Paulson, T. Jones, and C. Jones. Out of the last twelve months the party has kept me and my two sons idle, with the exception of four months; and one gentleman in Sydney, who holds four shares, owes £80, and I cannot get a shilling from him. I hereby pray that you will cause these two abovementioned leases to be cancelled for nonpayment of rent, as I and my party are quite willing to pay rent, erect machinery, and work the two mines; and if such leases should be cancelled, I hope you will give me due notice, as all my labour and money for this last eight years lay in these two mines, and not on any occasion have I been the cause of the mines being suspended from labour, although I had to carry it through for the rest of the shareholders.

I have, &c.,

T. A. PAULSON.

May probably be informed that the matter is being dealt with on prior complaint.—E.F., 29/12/87. Inform.—G.E.H. (*pro* U.S.), 29/12/87.

(4.)

Notice to Messrs. A. F. Dickson and J. Dickson, jun., and T. A. Paulson.

Department of Mines, Sydney, 23 December, 1887.

You are hereby called upon to show cause, within thirty days, why gold lease No. 650 (H and M), delivered 12th December, 1884, under which you are lessees, should not be cancelled for non-observance of the conditions thereby imposed.

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary for Mines.

I, ROBERT QUAYLE, of Bullahdelah, a first-class constable, do hereby certify that I have served upon the within-named Arthur F. Dickson, Joseph Dickson, jun., and T. A. Paulson the notice herein, by delivering to Joseph Dickson, jun. (personal), A. F. Dickson, by delivering it to his father at Bullahdelah, a true copy thereof, and T. A. Paulson by registered letter.

ROBERT QUAYLE,

Constable.

Bullahdelah, 4th January, 1888.

(5.)

Notice to Mr. A. H. Cooper.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 23 December, 1887.

You are hereby called upon to show cause, within thirty days, why gold lease, No. 650 (H. and M.), delivered 12th December, 1884, under which you are one of the lessees, should not be cancelled for non-observance of the conditions thereby imposed.

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary for Mines.

(6.)

Mr. Warden Fawcett to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Bullahdelah, 23 December, 1887.

I take the liberty of saying that Mr. T. A. Paulson is a most respectable man, and I consider he has been victimised by his partners; he is willing to work, but kept idle by them. If the claims Curreki and Mountain Maid got into his hands good work would be made. As to Kerr's complaint about these claims, it comes with a bad grace from a man who will not work on his own. From something I have heard I think it probable that the complaint against Conway and Kerr's claim is to get rid of the drones. I hope if the leases of Curreki and Mountain Maid should be cancelled that Paulson may get timely information. With best wishes for the new year,—

I have, &c.,

CHARLES H. FAWCETT.

Inform Mr. Warden Fawcett that the complaint was made by Henry Tagg, and consequently beforehand notice must be sent to him in case the lease be cancelled.—H.W., 3/1/88. Warden informed by memo.

(7.)

Mr. W. Kirchner to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

G.P.O., Box No. 960, Sydney, 28 December, 1887.

With reference to my conversation with you this morning, relating to the leases noted below, I have to advise you that although my name does not appear as one of the registered lessees of these mines, yet I really own a third share in them, both as appears by legal documents drawn up by Mr. T. Marshall, solicitor, which I can produce to you if necessary. As these mines have cost me a very large sum of money, I now beg to respectfully request that you will keep me informed of what is passing between your Department and the parties mentioned below, as at present I am kept quite in the dark as to what is going on, and can get no information from the parties who are up the country, although I am quite prepared to pay my share of the working expenses so as to keep the mine afloat.

I have, &c.,

W. KIRCHNER.

Lease

Lease 650 (H. & M.), portion 22, Curreki Reef, Coolongolook, J. Dickson, A. F. Dickson, T. A. Paulson. Lease 661 (H. & M.), portion G.L. 75, Mountain Maid, Coolongolook, C. E. Gadsden, T. A. Paulson, parish of Telararee.—May perhaps be informed that the leases will probably be cancelled for non-compliance with the labour conditions.—E.F., 10/1/88.

Inform complaint of non-work has been lodged, and if same is not answered satisfactorily lease will most likely be refused.—G.E.H. (for the U.S.), 10/1/88. Approved.—F.A., 10/1/88. In view of the Warden's report Mr. Paulson might receive beforehand notice.—F.A., 18/1/88.

(8.)

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. T. A. Paulson.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 31 December, 1887.

Referring to your letter of the 5th instant, in which you apply for a cancellation of gold lease No. 650, in the names of Dickson and yourself, and also of lease No. 661, held by Paulson and P. Jones, I have the honor to inform you that action has been taken in the matter on a prior complaint.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

(9.)

Mr. T. A. Paulson to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Coolongolook, 12 January, 1888.

I have the honor to inform you that I was served with a notice, dated 23rd December, 1887, to show cause why gold lease No. 650 should not be cancelled. I also beg that it should be cancelled as soon as possible and that notice should be sent to me, as I am the principal shareholder, and I and my son have done nothing this last twelve months only waiting for the rest of the shareholders to work this 650 lease.

I have, &c.,

TONNOS A. PAULSON.

May probably await the thirty days, to afford opportunity for explanation from the other lessees.—E.F., 24/1/88. Approved.—G.E.H. (for U.S.), 24/1/88.

(10.)

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. W. Kirchner.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 13 January, 1888.

Referring to your letter of the 28th ultimo, to the effect that you hold an interest in the leases noted below, although your name does not appear as one of the registered lessees of the mine, and in which you ask what is passing between the Department and the parties in respect to the leases, as you can gather no information as to what is being done, I have the honor to inform you that a complaint of non-work on the land has been lodged, and if the same is not answered satisfactorily the leases will probably be cancelled.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

Lease 650 (H. & M.), portion 22, Coolongolook, Dickson and Paulson. Lease 661, portion G.L. 75, C. E. Gadsden and T. A. Paulson.

(11.)

Mr. T. A. Paulson to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

21, Exchange Buildings, 30 January, 1888.

Re Curreki claim 650, I have the honor to inform you that I have seen Mr. Primrose, and he has instructed me to advise you that my address will be Coolongolook, *via* Bullahdelah, and that of Mr. Thomas Jones, care of Mr. West, solicitor, 53, Hunter-street, Sydney, to both of which addresses please send beforehand notices of the cancellation of the lease of the above claim, and oblige,—

Yours, &c.,

T. A. PAULSON.

Send notice as directed.—H.W., 30/1/88. Mr. Warden Fawcett may be asked if work has been resumed upon G.L. 650 H. & M.—G.E.H. (for U.S.), 24/2/88. Warden asked by memo., 28/2/88.

(12.)

Mr. H. Tagg to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Coolongolook, 27 February, 1888.

I beg to recall to your attention my memo. of or about the 9th November, 1887, laying before you the reasons why the gold-mining lease No. 21, known as the Curreki, at Coolongolook, county of Gloucester, should be cancelled, and begging at the same time that you would favour me with early information of the cancellation. I now have the honor to inform you that the time allowed the present holders of the ground as the extension of non-labour for the erection of machinery has expired, and that no work whatever has been done on the ground. Begging that you will favour me with advice as to how I am to proceed,—

I have, &c.,

HENRY TAGG.

Request Warden to expedite his report and inform the writer the matter is still under consideration.—H.W., 6/3/88.

(13.)

(13.)

Telegram from Mr. Mining Registrar Quayle to Mr. Warden C. H. Fawcett.

7 March, 1888.

ARTHUR Dickson states work has not been resumed on gold lease No. 650. Mr. Dickson is now in Stroud, who can give you the information.

ROBERT QUAYLE,
Mining Registrar.

(14.)

Mr. Warden C. H. Fawcett to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Stroud, 8 March, 1888.

Re gold lease No. 650 (H. and M.), Dickson and others, I do myself the honor to enclose a telegram from the Mining Registrar at Bullahdelah showing that work has not been resumed on that claim, as shown by the admission of one of the partners. I beg to say that I had no opportunity of questioning Mr. Joseph Dickson, jun., on the subject, as I was engaged at the Land Board.

I have, &c.,
C. H. FAWCETT,
Warden.

In view of this report, gold lease 650 may be cancelled for non-observance of the labour conditions.—H.W., 21/3/88. Submitted. Approved.—F.A., 21/3/88.

(15.)

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. H. Tagg.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 13 March, 1888.

Referring to your letter of the 27th ultimo, in which you invite attention to your complaint, that the labour conditions were not being observed on gold lease No. 650 (H. & M.), I have the honor to inform you that this matter is still under consideration.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

(16.)

Minute for The Governor and Executive Council.

Recommending the cancellation of a certain gold-mining lease.

Department of Mines, Sydney, 3 April, 1888.

It is recommended to His Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council that the gold-mining lease of Crown lands specified in the annexed schedule be cancelled, the lessees having failed to fulfil the labour conditions contained therein.

FRANCIS ABIGAIL.

The Executive Council advise that the course herein recommended be approved.—A. C. BUDGE, Clerk of the Council. Min. 88/14, 10/4/88. Approved.—CARRINGTON, 10/4/88. Confirmed, 17/4/88.

SCHEDULE ALLUDED TO.

Hunter and Macleay Mining District.

No. 650; name, A. F. Dickson and others; portion No. 22; locality, county Gloucester, parish Teleraree; 10 acres; Bullahdelah, 142.

(17.)

The Under Secretary for Mines to T. A. Paulson, Esq.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 19 April, 1888.

I am directed by the Secretary for Mines to inform you that the gold-mining lease noted in the margin, will be cancelled for non-fulfilment of the labour conditions contained therein.

H. and M. 650.

If you desire to lease the land, you may, after the notification of cancellation, which will appear in the *Government Gazette* of 22nd April, 1888, take possession after 12 o'clock at night of that day, and apply, in accordance with the regulations.

I have, &c.,
G. E. HERRING
(For the Under Secretary for Mines).

(18.)

Messrs. W. Jennings and John Perry to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

23 April, 1888.

Having applied in usual form necessary for a lease of 10 acres for gold-reefing purposes, the land we applied for is situated at Coolongolook, in the county of Gloucester, parish of Teleraree. The above land has been held by Paulson and party for a considerable time. They have not been working it for something like two years, which can be proved beyond doubt by the residents of the place. I learn further

further that they have something like 50 acres locked up in the same manner, which would, if worked, give employment to a large number of honest, hard-working miners, and I, John Perry, as a miner of many years experience, venture to address this letter to you, for we are prepared, should this application be favourably considered by you, to employ the necessary labour required and proceed to work at once. Our application has not been made through any spite or malice, but purely on legitimate grounds; for I fail to see how they could possibly have a claim to the above land when they have failed to comply with the labour conditions necessary. But I learn their object is to wait until the above ground has been gazetted, and then apply for the land again. There are a few of those Sydney brokers who are mixed up in this affair, so we trust you will give this your earliest consideration.

We have, &c.,
WILLIAM JENNINGS.
JOHN PERRY.

Have this carefully inquired into, and a report presented to me as soon as possible.—F.A., 23/4/88.
Mr. Warden Fawcett for report.—E.F. (for U.S.), B.C., 8/5/88.

The statement of Perry and Jennings as to their having applied for 10 acres of land at Coolongolook is untrue; also that *re* Paulson not working. Four claims, in which the latter is a shareholder, are about to be amalgamated, and pumping and crushing machinery brought up. As to holding inquiry, I see no necessity for it, and besides no complaint is made or fee paid.—CHARLES H. FAWCETT, Warden, Bullahdelah, B.C., 13/5/88.

Perry lodged a complaint for non-fulfilment of labour conditions on a lease at Coraki some time ago. What has been done? It adjoins the Mountain Maid.—F.A., 15/5/88.

Request Warden to inquire into and report upon complaint of non-fulfilment of labour conditions, and also to report whether the labour conditions are being observed on other leases in that locality.—H.W., 15/5/88. Very urgent.

(19.)

Mr. J. Dickson, jun., to The Secretary for Mines.

Gold-mining lease, H. and M., No. 650, in names of Arthur Frederick Dickson and Joseph Dickson, junr.

Sir,

Bullahdelah, 30th April, 1888.

I have the honor to request that you will give the abovenamed lessees the first opportunity to obtain a fresh lease of the 10 acres situated in the county of Gloucester, parish of Telerance, portion 22, comprised in the lease, and in support of my application I would urge the following facts:—

1. That the lessees have already spent at least £300 in developing the mine.
2. That the lessees made an amalgamation with the lessees of an adjoining mine known as the Mountain Maid, for the purpose of economically working the two properties conjointly.
3. That the lessees of the said Mountain Maid Mine at last declined to pay their share of the working expenses, and in consequence, the rent of both claims remained unpaid, although I and my co-lessee were willing, and offered the lessees of the said Mountain Maid Mine to bear our share thereof.
4. That I and my co-trustee are ready to work and develop the said mine should a fresh lease be granted to us.

I have, &c.,

JOSEPH DICKSON, Junr.

For report as early as possible.—F.A., 30/4/88.

(20.)

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Warden Fawcett.

4 May, 1888.

PLEASE state how matter of J. Perry and others' complaint of non-working of certain leases at Coolongolook now stands, and if any inquiry be necessary, when it will be held?

G. E. HERRING
(*pro* the Under Secretary).

(21.)

Telegram from Warden C. H. Fawcett to The Under Secretary for Mines.

5 May, 1888.

Re note working of leases at Coolongolook. The Mining Registrar at Bullahdelah wires, "No complaints have been made by Perry or Jennings that I am aware of."

C. H. FAWCETT,
Warden.

(22.)

Mr. T. A. Paulson to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Sydney, 7 May, 1888.

I have the honor to ask you if any action has been taken or cancellation of gold-mining lease 661, Coolongolook, H. and M., parish of Telerance, for non-fulfilment of labour conditions, the same having been applied for by me some time back, and which the Minister promised I should get the prior notice of.

I have, &c.,

T. A. PAULSON,
Coolongolook.

(23.)

(23.)

Telegram from Warden C. H. Fawcett to The Under Secretary for Mines.

10 May, 1888.
Re Perry and Jennings. Their statement respecting having applied for 10 acres at Coolongolook is untrue; other statements are also; so I can give further particulars if required from Bullahdelah, where I attend revision of electoral lists on the 19th, on return from Forster and Bungwall, for which places I leave here on the 12th instant.

C. H. FAWCETT,
 Warden.

Is there any lease at Coolongolook standing in the name of Paulson, or in which Paulson's name occurs?—H.W., 16/5/88. Gold lease 661 (H. and M.), T. A. Paulson and others. Complaints lodged by Paulson.—E.F., 16/5/88.

(24.)

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Warden Fawcett.

10 May, 1888.
 It will be as well for you to report upon Perry and Jennings's papers when you reach Bullahdelah.
 G. E. HERRING
 (*pro* Under Secretary).

(25.)

Messrs. W. Jennings and J. Perry to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,
 Sydney, 15 May, 1888.
 Having sent Mr. John Perry to Coolongolook to take up any available Crown lands for gold-mining purposes, upon his return he informed me that there are several gold-mining leases upon which the labour conditions have not been fulfilled, and amongst others the reef known as the Mountain Maid, being a lease of 10 acres, upon which little or no work has been done for over twelve months, and as far as we can ascertain, it is nearly two years since the abovementioned claim was working. Now, as this is opposed to the spirit and intention of the Gold-fields Regulations to hold land in this way, we therefore humbly beg that you will inquire into this matter, and should our statement be correct, trust that you will cancel the abovementioned lease, so that the same may be taken up and worked.

We remain, &c.,
 W. JENNINGS.
 J. PERRY.

Let this be carefully inquired into, and reported upon early. Use wire if necessary.—F.A., 16/5/88.

Inform Messrs. Jennings and Perry that only one lease is in force in the names of Paulson and others on the Mountain Maid line of reef, Coolongolook, but there are several claims in which Mr. Paulson holds interest. As to the lease the lessees are being called upon to show cause, and if they desire to reobtain possession of any of the claims they should proceed before the Warden. Call upon lessees of lease 661, and make a *précis* of the whole case.—H.W., 18/5/88.

(26.)

The Under Secretary for Mines to Messrs. W. Jennings and J. Perry.

Gentlemen,
 Department of Mines, Sydney, 19 May, 1888.
 With reference to your letter of the 15th instant, informing me that the labour conditions have not been fulfilled at several gold-mining leases at Coolongolook, amongst others, the Mountain Maid claim, I have the honor to inform you that only one lease is in force in the names of Paulson and others in the Mountain Maid Reef, Coolongolook, but there are several claims in which Mr. Paulson holds interest. As to the lease, the lessees have been called upon to show cause, and if you desire to obtain possession you should proceed before the Warden.

I have, &c.,
 HARRIE WOOD,
 Under Secretary.

N.B.—The latter portion of this letter appears too indistinct in the letter book to be copied verbatim.

(27.)

Notice to Messrs. T. A. Paulson, W. E. Kirchner, and C. E. Gadsden.

Department of Mines, Sydney, 21 May, 1888.
 You are hereby called upon to show cause, within thirty days, why gold lease No. 661, Bullahdelah, under which you are lessees, should not be cancelled for non-observance of the conditions thereby imposed.

HARRIE WOOD,
 Under Secretary.

I, ROBERT QUAYLE, first-class constable, of Bullahdelah, bailiff of the Warden's Court, do hereby certify that I served upon the within named T. A. Paulson personally and C. E. Gadsden and W. E. Kirchner, A. H. Cooper, the notice herein, by forwarding them a copy of the within notice to their address by registered letter on the 28th May, 1888.

ROBERT QUAYLE,
First-class constable, Bullahdelah.

(28.)

Messrs. W. Jennings and another to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Sydney, 28th May, 1888.

We have the honor to draw your attention to the following facts in connection with the Curreki Reef, situate at Coolongolook. That reef was held originally by Paulson and party. Paulson made a complaint to the Mines Department for non-fulfilment of labour conditions on the lease (No. 650), and Mr. John Perry also laid a similar complaint. The lease, we understand, was cancelled, and Paulson was communicated with and went next day and took up the lease. We contend that Paulson who was one of the original lessees, had no legal right to make the said complaint against himself and party, because by so doing, he was really complaining about his own defaults. This was evidently done so as to force a forfeiture of the lease as against himself and party, and to enable him to obtain the lease in his own name. What subsequently transpired practically bears this out. We also contend that as Perry was the only *bona fide* complainant, he should have received notification of the cancellation of the lease from the Department, and have been given preference to apply for a lease. Mr. Perry was on the ground some weeks in expectation of the receipt of a notice of cancellation from the Department, but only received it after the lease was cancelled and again taken up by Paulson and a Mr. Hassall, we submit that the original lease in the name of Paulson and party having been cancelled upon a complaint raised by Paulson against his own party alleging their, and consequently his own defaults, as the ground for cancellation disentitles Paulson from becoming the new or any one of the new lessees. We also submit that Perry's complaint should have priority, because of its *bona fide* character. Under these circumstances we respectfully request that in the interests of justice, you will institute an inquiry, at which we are prepared to bear out the foregoing.

We have, &c.,

W. JENNINGS.
JOHN PERRY.

Messrs. Jennings and Perry are in error as to their statements in regard to their complaint, *re* lease 650. I have, I think, satisfied them that their request herein is not reasonable.—H.W., 28/5/88. Submitted.

See *précis*, *re* lease 650, and lease No. 661. Seen. I do not feel at all satisfied with the Warden's recommendation, after carefully reading the papers over again.—F.A., 1/6/88.

(29.)

Messrs. W. Jennings and J. Perry to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Sydney, 31 May, 1888.

Referring to the complaint dated 23rd ult., and lodged by us against lease No. 661 (Mountain Maid), we understand that a Mr. Paulson has also lodged a complaint against the same lease. We might mention that Mr. Paulson was one of the original lessees, and consequently is complaining against his own defaults, which, we submit, he is not legally entitled to do. The following is the ground of our complaint, that the labour conditions on the lease referred to have not been complied with, as no work in connection therewith has been done by the present occupants of the lease for nearly two years. This, we submit, is opposed to the letter and spirit of the mining regulations, and we ask that the lease should be cancelled. We also submit that as the only *bona fide* complainants, we should be given the first notification of the cancellation of the said lease, and preference should be given us to apply for the new lease.

We have, &c.,

WILLIAM JENNINGS.
JOHN PERRY.

This should receive serious consideration before allowing any of the first applications any right in connection with this case.—F.A., 1/6/88.

(30.)

Mr. W. G. Kirchner to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

19 June, 1888.

With reference to your memo., to show cause why gold-mining lease No. 661, of which I am a lessee, should not be forfeited, I respectfully beg to state the mine has been full of water, and the delay has been caused by our endeavours to get suitable machinery. We are now prepared to resume working at once, and request you to allow us to hold our lease.

Respectfully yours,

W. G. KIRCHNER.

The time allowed for showing cause has now expired, and the only lessee who has attempted to show cause is Mr. Kirchner, and the cause shown by him is in fact an admission of non-work. Therefore there appears to be no need to refer to the Warden for inquiry before recommending cancellation, but I presume the usual practice of asking the Warden whether work has been resumed, will be followed in this case.—H.W., 22/6/88. Submitted.

Approved.—F.A., 22/6/88. Request reply at once.—H.W., 4/7/88.

(31.)

(31.)

Mr. W. G. Kirchner to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir, 22 Argyle-place, 19 June, 1888.
I respectfully beg to inquire if the mining lease No. 650, the Curreki, adjoining the Mountain Maid, or No. 661 of lease is forfeited, because I have received no notice of forfeiture of same, and have heard that it has been formed into a company by Messrs. Hassall and Woodhouse without my knowledge or consent. I am desirous to know if any steps can be taken to reinstate my right to above lease, namely the Curreki, No. 650.

Yours, &c.,

W. G. KIRCHNER.

Inform that lease No. 650 has been cancelled.—H.W., 22/6/88.

(32.)

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Warden Fawcett.

28 June, 1888.

Gold lease No. 661 (H. & M.); portion, gold lease No. 75, parish of Teleraree.
WILL the Warden please report whether work has been resumed on the land demised under the above lease.

C. H. FAWCETT,
Warden.

(33.)

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. W. G. Kirchner.

Sir, Department for Mines, Sydney, 28 June, 1888.
In reply to your letter of the 19th instant, in which you inquire whether mining lease No. 650, known as the Curriki, has been forfeited, I have the honor to inform you that gold lease No. 650, Hunter and Macleay District, has been cancelled.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

(34.)

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Warden Fawcett.

Department of Mines, Sydney, 28 June, 1888.

Gold lease No. 661 (H. and M.), portion gold lease No. 75, parish of Teleraree.

WILL the Warden please report whether work has been resumed on the land demised under the above lease.

GERARD E. HERRING
(for U.S.)

I beg to attach telegrams from Warden's clerk in reply.—CHARLES H. FAWCETT, Warden, B.C., 3 July, 1888. The Under Secretary for Mines. How does application No. 172 stand? Does it refer to the land demised by gold lease No. 661?—H.W., 4/7/88. Application No. 172, Bullahdelah Gold-mining Lease No. 678, Hunter and Macleay? Mr. Farr.—E.C.P., 5/7/88. Send telegram to Warden pointing out error, and asking whether work has been resumed on the Mountain Maid lease, No. 661.—H.W., 5/7/88. Very urgent.

(35.)

Telegram from Warden's Clerk, Bullahdelah, to Mr. Warden Fawcett.

2 July, 1888.

GOLD lease application, No. 75, was taken up on 9th June, 1879, by John Lulesan, and is now portion of gold lease application, No. 172, held by Francis Shaw and party.

R. QUAYLE,
Warden's Clerk.

(36.)

Telegram from Warden's Clerk, Bullahdelah, to Mr. Warden Fawcett.

3 July, 1888.

Re labour. Yes; and over 100 tons of quartz raised by Shaw and party.

ROBERT QUAYLE,
Warden's Clerk.

(37.)

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Warden Fawcett.

5 July, 1888.

THE telegram from Warden's Clerk, Bullahdelah, forwarded by you, appears to refer to work done on gold lease No. 678 (H. and M.), granted in satisfaction of application No. 172, at Bullahdelah. Your report is required as to whether work has been resumed on the Mountain Maid lease, No. 661. Paulson and others, lessees. Matter very urgent.

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

(38.)

(38.)

Telegram from Mr. Warden Fawcett to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Stroud, 6 July, 1888.

WARDEN'S Clerk wires no work was going on on any of Paulson and others' gold leases on 26th June last when I was at Coolongoolook. When the Warden saw Paulson last he said he was only waiting for an amalgamation of claims to be effected.

C. H. FAWCETT,

Warden.

In view of this report lease No. 661 may be cancelled for non-work—H.W., 6/7/88. Submitted. Approved.—F.A., 9/7/88.

(39.)

Minute for the Governor and Executive Council.

Recommending the cancellation of certain gold-mining leases.

Department of Mines, Sydney, 13 July, 1888.

It is recommended to His Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council that the gold-mining leases of Crown lands specified in the annexed Schedule be cancelled, the lessees having failed to fulfil the labour conditions contained therein.

FRANCIS ABIGAIL.

The Executive Council approve of the course herein recommended, and advise that the necessary notices be issued.—A. C. BUDGE. Approved.—CARRINGTON, 17/7/88. Confirmed, 23/7/88.

SCHEDULE ALLUDED TO.

HUNTER AND MACLEAY MINING DISTRICT.

No. 661; name, T. A. Paulson and others; portion No., G.L. 75; locality, county of Gloucester, parish of Teleraree; 8 acres; application No. 145, Bullahdelah.

(40.)

Gazette Notice, 20th July, 1888.

Department of Mines, Sydney, 20 July, 1888.

Notice to Applicants for Gold-mining Leases.

NOTICE is hereby given that the undermentioned gold-mining lease has been cancelled for non-fulfilment of the labour conditions contained therein.

[88-15,514]

FRANCIS ABIGAIL.

| No. | Name. | Portion No. | Locality. | Area. | Application No. |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|---|----------|-----------------|
| HUNTER AND MACLEAY MINING DISTRICT. | | | | | |
| 661 | T. A. Paulson and others | GL 75 | County Gloucester, parish Teleraree ... | 8 acres. | Bullahdelah 145 |

(41.)

Mrs. C. J. Kirchner to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Undercliff, 22, Argyle-place, 28 July, 1888.

I had the honor to interview you some time ago with reference to the Curreki and the Mountain Maid mining leases. Since then, having had a severe illness, I have been unable to pursue the matter, and now write to inquire if the above lease has been granted to Messrs. Paulson and party. If it is within the power of the Department to delay the issue of the lease, for the sake of justice I respectfully beg such delay, as I shall now have the matter taken up. There is an amalgamation deed drawn up by a Sydney lawyer, and signed by the very parties, namely, Paulson and Jones, who have retaken up the Curreki. Messrs. James Fletcher & Company, 46, Castlereagh-street, are interesting themselves in my case, and we hope shortly to lay a statement before the Minister for Mines.

I remain, &c.,

C. J. KIRCHNER.

Leases No. 650 (H. and M.) cancelled, 24/4/88; No. 661 (H. and M.) cancelled, 20/7/88.

(42.)

Telegram from Warden's Clerk, Bullahdelah, to The Under Secretary for Mines.

13 August, 1888.

Re gold lease, portion 75, three applications have been received from A. S. Paulson, John Perry, and T. A. Paulson since it was cancelled.

ROBERT QUAYLE,

Warden's Clerk.

(43.)

Telegram from Warden's Clerk, Bullahdelah, to The Under Secretary for Mines.

14 August, 1888.

Re gold lease, portion No. 22, was applied for on the 30th April last. Can find no record of portion No. 75. Please state application number.

ROBERT QUAYLE,
Warden's Clerk.

(44.)

Mr. T. A. Paulson to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

22 August, 1888.

As I think you have been misinformed about me blocking up land and not working it, I will just give you a statement of the work that has been done since I have been in possession of it. One main shaft sunk 9 by 3 by 6, 87 feet deep; drove 10 feet in the old shaft, sunk 13 feet and drove 40 feet to the south and 30 feet to the north; stoped out 30 feet from the surface on the south side of the shaft. Out of this shaft we crushed 48 tons with the old battery that was here, and sent 8 tons to Sydney. On the north portion of the lease we sunk 35 feet and stoped out 15 feet to the north. Out of this shaft we also sent 2 tons to Sydney, which yielded at the rate of 2 ounces to the ton. There is about 30 tons at this mine on the surface, and I hope we shall soon have machinery, so we will be able to work it. The reason I asked for a cancellation of that lease was,—one man held four shares out of twelve, and for the last three months we worked all the payment I got was a valueless cheque, which is in my possession yet, for over £20. He owed about £60 more if the cheque had been good. I am one of the party who took up 20 acres. Although the lease is not granted we have sunk main shaft 32 feet deep, drove 24 feet into an old shaft for to get air, cleared a bad heavy cutting for a quarter of a mile road for to send 5 tons to Sydney for a trial, and we have about 40 tons of stone to grass, and erected an expensive shed. When I joined Dixson in the lease No. 650, I timbered 80 feet and sunk 25 feet, which is now 120 feet deep in the other shaft, which was 60 feet. I sunk 15 feet (this shaft was never worked for years, as it was too wet), and had 8 tons sent to Sydney and 2 tons up here. As regards Perry I can prove to you or whoever else it may concern, that he never did any work in the district, except a very limited time for wages only. It is rather hard, after so much labour with no return, to lose it, just as we expect to start to do some good.

I remain, &c.,

T. A. PAULSON.

This matter has been held over for some time in consequence of a letter from Mrs. Kirchner. She may perhaps be informed that unless she takes some steps at once the application will go on.—H.W., 23/10/88.

Submitted. Approved.—F.A., 25/10/88. As Mrs. Kirchner has failed to make good her claim, the application, No. 182, may go on.—H.W., 26/11/88. Submitted. Approved.—F.A., 27/11/88.

(45.)

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mrs. C. J. Kirchner.

Madam,

29 October, 1888.

Adverting to your letter of 28th July last requesting that the issue of leases of land known as the Curreki and the Mountain Maid claims, formerly held under gold leases Nos. 650 and 661, Hunter and Macleay, may be deferred, I have the honor, by the direction of the Secretary for Mines, to inform you that unless you take some steps at once the application will go on.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

Ask the Warden's Clerk at Bullahdelah whether any application except No. 190 has been made since the 10th August last to lease the land, portion No. 75, and if so to give the number of the application and the names of the applicants by telegram.—H.W., 17/10/88.

(46.)

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to The Warden's Clerk, Bullahdelah.

17 October, 1888.

PLEASE say whether any application except No. 190 has been made since 10th August last for a lease of portion No. 75, and if so give number of application and names of applicants.

G. E. HERRING

(For the Under Secretary).

Application

Application for Gold Lease No. 661, Hunter and Macleay;
by J. Abigail and another.

(1.)

The Warden's Clerk, Bullahdelah, to Mr. Warden C. H. Fawcett.

Sir,

I forward herewith gold lease application No. 190, which was received at 10 p.m., on the 29th September last. The Warden's Clerk was absent from the office on that day, therefore could not receive it at an earlier hour.

I have, &c.,

R. QUAYLE,

Warden's Clerk.

[Enclosure.]

Application No. 190, at Bullahdelah, for a gold lease.

1. By whom application was received? Robert Quayle, Warden's Clerk.
2. At what place? Bullahdelah.
3. Date and hour when received? 29th September, at 10 p.m.
4. Receipt for first year's rent, No. 190? Date, 29th September, 1888.
5. To whom receipt was issued? John Perry.
6. Date when notice to survey was sent to surveyor? Previously surveyed.
10. Are the applicants holders of miners' rights? Yes.
11. Is the land applied for exempted from leasing under the 34th section of the Mining Act, 1874? No.
12. Is the time proposed for commencing work reasonable? Yes.
13. Is the number of men proposed to be employed reasonable? Yes.

CHARLES H. FAWCETT,

Warden.

Received, at Stroud, 2nd October, 1888. Carried to Bullahdelah for insertion of residence, 6th October, 1888.

Gold-mining lease regulations—Schedule 2—Application for Gold-mining leases.

To the Honorable The Secretary for Mines, Sydney,—

Sir,

Bullahdelah, 29 September, 1888.

We hereby make application for a gold-mining lease of that piece or parcel of land situated at Coolongolook, parish of Teleraree, county Gloucester, containing 10 acres, of which we took possession on the 21st day of September, at the hour of 2 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of mining thereon and therein for gold, for a period of fifteen years, by L trenches at each angle thereof. The datum post is distant about 8 feet from the east corner, the area applied for.

Notice of our intention to make this application has been given, in accordance with the regulations in that behalf, and we also hand herewith the sum of £10, being the first year's rent in advance of the said land, and this land has been previously surveyed. We hereby acknowledge that this application is made upon the distinct understanding and condition that if we shall abandon or fail to proceed with it, or if it is refused, the Secretary for Mines for the time being may deduct from the sum of £10 deposited as aforesaid, any cost to which, in his opinion, the Crown may have been put in or about or in respect of this application; and this application shall thereupon become and be void, and the possession aforesaid shall cease and determine. And if the lease shall be granted we shall and will commence mining operations upon or in connection with the demised land within fourteen days from and after the granting thereof, and shall and will employ upon such land not less than five men during the first six months of the term thereby created, and not less than eight men during the remainder of such term. And shall and will at any time when called upon in terms of the regulations relating to gold-mining leases to do so, execute and take delivery of such lease, or failing therein, for a period of fourteen days, after being so called upon, we shall and will forfeit the said sum of £10, and all right, title, or interest in and to the said land and the possession thereof, and the said lease shall be forthwith cancelled.

We have, &c.,

JAMES ABIGAIL, Sydney.

JOHN PERRY, Coolongolook.

This application was received by me this 29th day of September, 1888, at the hour of 10 o'clock in the afternoon, and is numbered 190.

ROBERT QUAYLE, Warden's Clerk.

Questions to be answered by applicants to lease.

WHEN receiving an application to lease land for mining purposes, the Warden, Warden's Clerk, or an agent, as the case may be, shall require the applicant or applicants, or his or their agent, to answer the following questions, and shall take down such answers in writing. The statement when complete to be read over to, and signed by, the person furnishing the answers:—

1. Were you or each of you (applicants) the holder of a miner's right in force at the date of taking possession of the land referred to in application No. 190? Yes.
2. Do you produce them? Yes.
3. What was the date and hour of the day when you took possession of the land referred to in application No. 190? 21st September; 2 o'clock, afternoon.
4. Did you take possession by erecting posts and cutting trenches at each angle of the land? By erecting posts and cutting trenches.
If No. 4 be replied to in the affirmative, then 5, 6, and 7.
5. What was the diameter of the posts? 4 inches.
6. How high did they project above the surface when fixed in the ground? 4 feet.
7. What was the length of each arm of each trench, and what was the depth of each trench? 6 feet long, 9 inches deep.
8. If a substitute for post or trench was used describe it.
9. At which angle of the land is the datum post fixed? East corner of the area.
10. Did you affix a board or metal plate to the datum post? Metal plate.
11. What was written or painted on each board or plate? Applied for 10 acres of land for gold-mining purposes.—James Abigail, John Perry.
12. Where did you post the notices Schedule 1? Post Office, Coolongolook; Warden's office, Bullahdelah.
13. When did you post such notices? On 21st at Coolongolook, and on 22nd instant at Bullahdelah.
14. Did anybody claim or appear to be in possession of the land applied for or any portion of it? No.
15. Did you serve notice in the form Schedule 1 upon every such person, and when? No one to serve.
16. Have you obtained the consent of every such person to the granting of the lease for which you apply?

I, JOHN PERRY, on behalf of self and party, declare that the foregoing questions have been answered by me truthfully in every particular, and the answers thereto have been read over to me and are correctly taken down in writing.

JOHN PERRY.

Witness to signature,—

ROBERT QUAYLE, Warden's Clerk.

Gold-mining

Gold-mining lease Regulations—Schedule 6—Notice of Application and Deposit.

Sir, I have the honor to inform you that I have this day deposited with the Warden's Clerk at Bullahdelah the sum of £10, being the first year's rent in advance of 10 acres of land at Coolongoolook, for the purpose of gold-mining. The number of my application is 190.

Bullahdelah, 29 September, 1888.
I have, &c.,
JOHN PERRY.

The Under Secretary for Mines, Sydney.

(2.)

Telegram from Mr. Quayle, Warden's Clerk, to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Bullahdelah, 18 October, 1888.

No other application has been made for gold lease portion 75 than 190, 10th August.

ROBERT QUAYLE.

Ask Warden whether, in view of the fact that all applications for this land prior to the application have been refused, it would not be wise to point out to the objectors that their objections are likely to fail, and that consequently an inquiry might involve loss of time and money to both them and the applicants. Inform Mr. James Abigail, of Newtown, that no other application appears to have been lodged.—H.W., 18/10/88.

(3.)

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. J. W. Abigail.

18 October, 1888.

No other application appears to have been lodged for portion 75.

G. E. HERRING
(For the Under Secretary).

(4.)

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Warden Fawcett.

18 October, 1888.

In view of the fact that all applications for portion 75 prior to application 190 have been refused, would it not be wise to point out to objectors that their objections are likely to fail, and consequently an inquiry might involve loss of time and money to both them and the applicants?

G. E. HERRING
(For the Under Secretary).

(5.)

Telegram from Mr. Warden Fawcett to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Stroud, 20 October, 1888.

SUPPOSING that all applications for application 190 had been refused, I instructed Warden's Clerk to notify to objectors that, for that reason, I advised them to withdraw objections, but now I am informed Paulson, of Coolongoolook, refuses.

C. H. FAWCETT,
Warden.

Inform Mr. James Abigail that Paulson refuses to withdraw objection; therefore inquiry must go on.—H.W., 20/10/88.

(6.)

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. J. W. Abigail.

22 October, 1888.

PAULSON refuses to withdraw objections; therefore inquiry must go on.

G. E. HERRING
(For the Under Secretary).

(7.)

Mr. Warden Fawcett to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Warden's Court, Bullahdelah, 27 October, 1888.

I do myself the honor to forward the depositions taken this day by me in a case where Messrs. Hassell, Jones, and Paulson put in objections to the registration of application 190, applied for by Messrs. Abigail and Perry. It appears to me that objections should have been lodged to application No. 189 within fourteen days from date of application, of which no proof appears. I shall be glad to receive the Minister's decision in the case. Separate from the depositions is a statement that one of the objectors wished to make, as well as four exhibits.

I have, &c.,
CHARLES H. FAWCETT,
Warden.

The objections in point of fact amount to an assertion of title under a prior application, but as this application had been refused before possession had been taken for the purpose of application No. 190, it really amounts to no objection. The application 190 may therefore go on, and the objectors may be informed

informed of the grounds on which their previous application was refused. The objectors' deposit may be awarded towards the costs of the applicants if, in the opinion of the Warden, the cost to which they were put by reason of the inquiry equalled or exceeded that sum. The Warden may be asked to say what sum should be awarded out of the £5 deposited.—H.W., 3/11/88. Submitted.

Approved.—F.A., 5/11/88.

Warden's Court, Bullahdelah, 27th October, 1888.

Present:—CHARLES H. FAWCETT, Warden.

To consider objections to the registration of application, No. 190, put in by James Abigail and John Perry for the following reasons:—

1. That James Hassell, Thomas Jones, and Tonnos Andrees Paulson, the objectors applied for the same land on the 10th August, 1888, and now claim that they are entitled to possession and to have a lease granted to them.
2. That no objections were lodged with the Warden's Clerk to their application, No. 189, according to the Act.
3. That the only other application for the same land was that of James Abigail and John Perry.

THIS deponent, being sworn, states:—My name is *Tonnos Andrees Paulson*, and I reside at Coolongolook, and I am one of the objectors to an application, No. 190, put in by Messrs. James Abigail and John Perry; I represent the other objectors, Messrs. Hassell and Jones; I hold a miners' right, No. 7, taken out on the 4th January, 1888; I heard the objections read; the land referred to was taken up by myself and the other objectors on the 4th August, 1888; I applied for it on 10th of same month; within fourteen days after that there was no objection to our application lodged at the Warden's office, nor had we any notice from the Department that it had been refused; this application is for 10 acres, and there are only 8 acres in the land applied for, and I know this from having had the land surveyed about five years ago; on reference to the register I could not find that the applicants had paid any survey fees; I put in a plan of the ground showing that only two corners are marked by L trenches, that at the north-west corner being outside on Mr. Hassell's 2-acre lease; our application was on the 10th August, that of Messrs. Abigail and Perry was on the 29th September following; Messrs. Hassell and Jones were not on the ground when I marked it, but I took it up for their interest as well as my own; I have witnesses.

To J. Perry: I marked out the ground myself on the 4th August.

TONNOS ANDREES PAULSON.

Sworn before me at Bullahdelah, this 27th }
day of October, 1888,— }

CHARLES H. FAWCETT, Warden.

This deponent, being sworn, states:—My name is *Christian Frederick Norman*; I am a miner and reside at Coolongolook.

To T. A. Paulson: I remember the 4th day of August last, and saw you on that day peg out ground on the Mountain Maid reef at Coolongolook; I know the ground well, and I wrote out the notice to be placed on the datum tree.

To J. Perry: I did not cut the No. 99 on the datum tree; I came voluntarily to give evidence for my employer, and I expect to be paid my expenses; I do not remember what day of the week the 4th August was, but it was a working day.

C. F. NORMAN.

Sworn before me at Bullahdelah, this 27th }
day of October, 1888,— }

CHARLES H. FAWCETT, P.M., Warden.

This deponent, being sworn, states:—My name is *John Perry*; I am a miner and reside in Sydney; I hold a miner's right, No. 23, 19th April, 1888; I produce the notice of intention which was posted at the post-office at Coolongolook, and a copy at the Warden's office, Bullahdelah; it is dated 21st August, 1888, for 10 acres, on the old land known as the Mountain Maid, Coolongolook; the application for lease was put in on the 29th same month by supplement to the *Government Gazette* of the 20th September, 1888; the application of J. Hassall and others, No. 189, of 10th August, for 8 acres of land, parish of Teleraree, was refused by the Department of Mines on the 20th September, 1888; I put in telegram received from Gerard Herring, for Under Secretary for Mines, which states no other application appears to have been lodged for portion No. 75, dated 18th October, 1888.

JOHN PERRY.

Sworn before me at Bullahdelah, this 27th }
day of October, 1888,— }

CHARLES H. FAWCETT, Warden.

I, *Tonnos Andree Paulson*, wish to know why our application of the 10th day of August was refused, when no notice of objection was served on us within fourteen days after our application, after our having spent a deal of money and labour on that land.

TONNOS ANDREE PAULSON.

Made at Bullahdelah, this 27th }
day of October, 1888,— }

CHARLES H. FAWCETT, Warden.

[Enclosures.]

[Enclosures.]

EXHIBIT A.

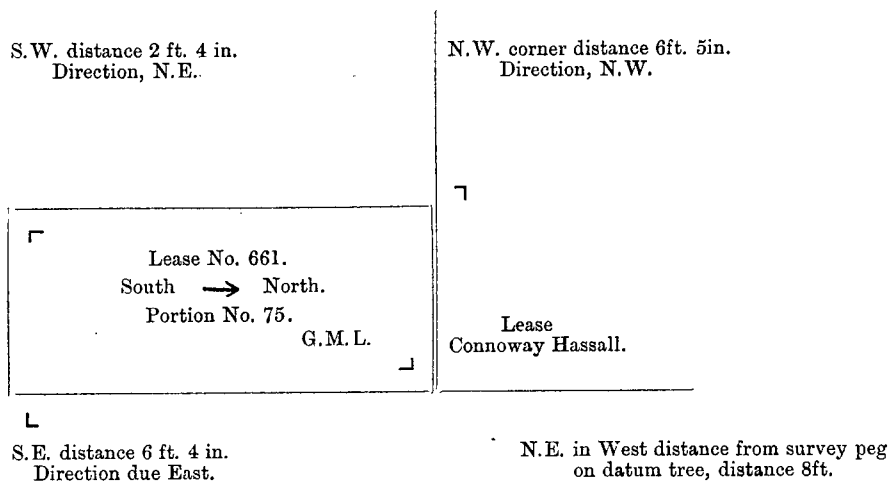


EXHIBIT B.

EXTRACT from *Government Gazette*, published by Authority, Thursday, 20th September, 1888.

Department of Mines, Sydney, 20 September, 1888.

Notice to applicants for Gold-mining Leases.

NOTICE is hereby given that the undermentioned applications for gold-mining leases of Crown lands have been refused.

[88-19,372; 20,140]

FRANCIS ABIGAIL.

HUNTER AND MACLEAY MINING DISTRICT.

| No. | Name. | Locality. | Area. | Date of Application. |
|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------|----------------------|
| | | | a. r. p. | |
| Bullahdelah 187 | P. Paulson and another | Coolongolook | 10 0 0 | 24 July, 1888 |
| , 188 | J. Perry and another | do | 10 0 0 | 24 ,, ,, |
| , 189 | J. Hassell and others | Parish Teleraree | 8 0 0 | 10 Aug. ,, |

EXHIBIT C.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. J. W. Abigail.

No other application appears to have been lodged for portion No. 75.

G. E. HERRING
(For the Under Secretary).

EXHIBIT D.

Gold-mining Lease Regulations—Schedule 1—Notice of intention to apply for a Gold-mining Lease.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the undermentioned persons intend applying for a gold-mining lease of 10 acres of land, situated at Coolongolook, known as the Mountain Maid.

Possession of the said land was taken by L trenches and posts at each angle thereof on the 21st day of September, 1888, at the hour of 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and the datum post is on the eastern corner of the area applied for.

Application for the said lease will be lodged with the Warden's Clerk, at Bullahdelah, on or before the 30th day of September, 1888.

Dated at Coblolongook, this 21st day of September, 1888.

JAMES ABIGAIL.
JOHN PERRY.

(8.)

The Under Secretary for Mines to Messrs. Paulson and others.

Gentlemen,

6 November, 1888.

Referring to the objections lodged by you to gold lease application 190, at Bullahdelah, by Messrs. J. Abigail and J. Perry, I am directed by the Secretary for Mines to inform you, that in view of the evidence adduced at the inquiry into such objections, and the Warden's report thereon, and also of the fact that previous applications for the same land have been refused before possession thereof had been taken for the purpose of application 190, it has been decided that your objections cannot be entertained.

2. I have to add that your application of the 10th August, No. 189, was refused for the reason that the land thereby embraced was not available at date of taking possession, previous applications, viz., 187 and 188, being then pending.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD.

(9.)

15

(9.)

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Warden Fawcett.

Sir,

6 November, 1888.

With reference to the inquiry held by you on the 27th ultimo into the objections by T. A. Paulson and others for gold lease application 190, of J. Abigail and J. Perry, I have the honor to inform you that it has been decided that such objections cannot be entertained, and I am to request you to say what sum should be awarded to the applicants out of the £5 deposited by the objector.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD.

(10.)

Office Memorandum.

Charting Branch, 14 November, 1888.

A TRACING of a gold lease survey (particulars of which are given below) is herewith forwarded to the District Surveyor at Maitland, with a request that he will, at his earliest convenience, transmit to the Chief Mining Surveyor, Sydney, this tracing,* with portion marked "Land not available," or "Land available for mining purposes," according as the land is or is not the subject of any prior application under the Land Act. In the former case the nature and extent of the encroachment should be shown.

E. F. PITTMAN, C.M.S.

Particulars of survey referred to:—Portion No. 75, gold lease; parish, Teleraree; county, Gloucester; area, 8 acres. Urgent.

This report as to availability is urgently required, so that a lease may be prepared on Friday next. Consequently will the District Surveyor be good enough to wire to the Chief Mining Surveyor whether it is available or no, so that action may continue, pending return of this form in course of post.—E.F.P., 14/11/88.

(11.)

Telegram from The District Surveyor, East Maitland, to The Chief Mining Surveyor, Sydney.

15 November, 1888.

GOLD lease 75, parish of Teleraree, county of Gloucester, land available for mining purposes, as far as prior applications under the Land Act are concerned.

S. L. PEYTON

(pro District Surveyor).

Office Memorandum.

Department of Mines—Hunter and Macleay Mining District.

APPLICATION No. 190, Bullahdelah, for gold-mining lease, submitted herewith for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Mines. The plan and description have been checked. The Warden reports that the land does not belong to either of the classes exempted from the power of leasing. The applicants are the holders of miners' rights. The number of men proposed to be employed appears reasonable. The time for commencing work appears to be reasonable. Application No. 190, Bullahdelah (as modified), Hunter and Macleay Mining District, approved of.

Minute of the Executive Council.

F.A.

[One plan.]

APPENDIX

TRACING

Of portion *SL 75* in the

Parish of *Telavarae*

County of *Gloucester*

Scale 20 Chains to an Inch.

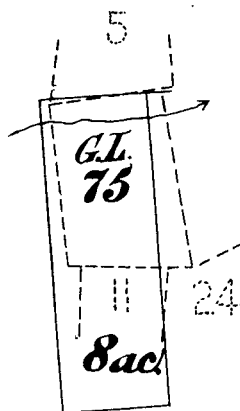
Applied for by

under the

clause of the C. L. A. Act of 18

Within R.R. SL No. 1. 3. 80

Land available for Mining purposes



Old Leases in dotted lines and figures.

(Sig. 331-)

| REFERENCE TO CORNERS. | | | | | REFERENCE TO TRAVERSE. | | |
|-----------------------|----------|------|--------|--------------|------------------------|----------|-------|
| Corner. | Bearing. | From | Links. | No. on Tree. | No. | Bearing. | Links |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

Instrument

Date of Survey 18th Sep^r 85

Improvements

Date of Letter

(Signed)

J. H. McEwen
Licensed Surveyor.

1888-9.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINING.

(FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE RESPECTING CANCELLATION OF GOLD LEASES NOS. 650 AND 661, HUNTER AND MACLEAY ALSO APPLICATIONS FOR SAME LAND BY J. ABIGAIL AND ANOTHER AND T. A. PAULSON AND OTHERS)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 8 January, 1889.

[*Laid upon the Table of the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales by the Secretary for Mines, further copies of papers in connection with applications for land previously held under gold leases 650 and 661, Hunter and Macleay District; also, extracts from the Evening News, and copy of Minute by the Secretary for Mines on the above subject.*]

Application No. 182 at Bulladelah for a Gold Lease.

1. By whom application was received? Robert Quayle.
2. At what place? Bulladelah.
3. Date and hour when received? 30th April, 1888, at 10 a.m.
4. Receipt for 1st year's rent, No. 182? Date, 30th April, 1888.
5. To whom receipt was issued, 30th April, 1888?
8. Names of objectors, and dates on which they lodged their objections? Nil.
10. Are the applicants holders of miners' rights? Yes.
11. Is the land applied for exempted from leasing under the 34th section of the Mining Act, 1874? No.
12. Is the time proposed for commencing work reasonable? Yes.
13. Is the number of men proposed to be employed reasonable? Yes.

CHARLES H. FAWCETT,
Warden.

Mr. T. A. Paulson to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Gold-mining Lease Regulations—Schedule 6—Notice of Application and Deposit.

Sir,

Bulladelah, 30 April, 1888.

I have the honor to inform you that I have this day deposited with the Warden's Clerk at Bulladelah the sum of £10, being the first year's rent in advance of 10 acres of land at Coolongolook for the purpose of gold-mining, and the sum of £2, being the fees for survey of the said land. The number of my application is 182.

I have, &c.,

TONNOS ANDREES PAULSON.

Gold-mining Lease Regulations, Schedule 2—Application for Gold-mining Leases.

To the Honorable the Secretary for Mines, Sydney,—

Bulladelah, 30 April, 1888.

We hereby make application for a gold-mining lease of that piece or parcel of land situated at Coolongolook, parish of Teleraree, county of Gloucester, containing 10 acres, of which we took possession on the 25th day of April, at the hour of 12:30 o'clock, for the purpose of mining thereon and therein for gold, for a period of fifteen years, by L trenches and posts at each angle thereof. The datum-tree is distant 1 foot in a northerly direction from north-east corner-peg.

Notice of our intention to make this application has been given in accordance with the Regulations in that behalf. We also hand herewith £10, being the first year's rent in advance of the said land, and £2 to cover the cost of survey. And we hereby request that survey may forthwith be made of the said piece or parcel of land.

We hereby acknowledge that this application is made upon the distinct understanding and condition that if we shall abandon or fail to proceed with it, or if it is refused, the Secretary for Mines for

the time being may deduct from the sum of £10 deposited as aforesaid any costs to which in his opinion the Crown may have been put in or about or in respect of this application; and this application shall thereupon become and be void, and the possession aforesaid shall cease and determine. And if the lease shall be granted we shall and will commence mining operations upon or in connection with the demised land within fourteen days from and after the granting thereof, and shall and will employ upon such land not less than five men during the first six months of the term thereby created, and not less than five men during the remainder of such term. And shall and will at any time when called upon in terms of the regulations relating to gold-mining leases to do so, execute and take delivery of such lease, or failing therein for a period of fourteen days after being so called upon, we shall and will forfeit the said sum of £10, and all right, title, or interest in and to the said land and the possession thereof, and the said lease shall be forthwith cancelled.

I have, &c.,
TONNOS ANDREES PAULSON,
 For self and party.

JAMES HASSALL, 21, Exchange, Pitt-street, Sydney.
TONNOS ANDREES PAULSON, Coolongolook.
THOMAS H. JONES, 53, Hunter-street, Sydney.
PAUL PAULSON, Coolongolook.
ALFRED S. PAULSON, Coolongolook.

This application was received by me this 30th day of April, 1888, at the hour of 10 o'clock in the forenoon, and is numbered 182.—**ROBERT QUAYLE**, Warden's Clerk.

Questions to be answered by Applicants to Lease.

WHEN receiving an application to lease land for mining purposes, the Warden, Warden's clerk, or an agent, as the case may be, shall require the applicant or applicants, or his or their agent, to answer the following questions, and shall take down such answers in writing. The statement, when complete, to be read over to, and signed by, the person furnishing the answers:—

1. Were you, or each of you (applicants), the holder of a miner's right, in force at the date of taking possession of the land referred to in application No. 182? Yes.
2. Do you produce them? Yes.
3. What was the date and hour of the day when you took possession of the land referred to in application No. 182? 12.30, 25th April, 1888.
4. Did you take possession by erecting posts and cutting trenches at each angle of the land? By erecting posts and cutting trenches.
 [If No. 4 be replied to in the affirmative, then 5, 6, and 7.]
5. What was the diameter of the posts? 4 inches.
6. How high did they project above the surface when fixed in the ground? 4 feet.
7. What was the length of each arm of each trench, and what was the depth of each trench? 6 feet long and 9 inches deep.
9. At which angle of the land is the datum-tree fixed? Northerly direction of north-east corner.
10. Did you affix a board or metal plate to the datum-post? Metal plate.
11. What was written or painted on each board or plate? Applied for gold-mining lease of 10 acres; T. A. Paulson and party.
12. Where did you post the notices, Schedule 1? Post Office, Coolongolook; Warden's office, Bulladelah.
13. When did you post such notices? 25th April, 1888.
14. Did anybody claim or appear to be in possession of the land applied for, or any portion of it? No.
15. Did you serve notice, in the form Schedule 1, upon every such person, and when? None to serve.

I, **TONNOS ANDREES PAULSON**, on behalf of self and party, declare that the foregoing questions have been answered by me truthfully in every particular, and the answers thereto have been read over to me and are correctly taken down in writing.

Witness to signature,—

ROBERT QUAYLE, Mining Registrar.

TONNOS ANDREES PAULSON.

Notice to make Survey.

Sir, Department of Mines, Sydney, 8 May, 1888.

Bulladelah; No. of application, 182; locality, Coolongolook, parish of Teleraree, county of Gloucester; area, 10 acres.

Names and addresses of applicants:—**James Hassall**, 21, Exchange, Pitt-street, Sydney; **Tonnos Andrees Paulson**, Coolongolook; **Thomas H. Jones**, 53, Hunter-street, Sydney; **Paul Paulson**, Coolongolook; **Alfred S. Paulson**.

An application for a gold lease (particulars as per margin) having been lodged in this office, I request you will be good enough to survey, in accordance with the regulations relating to gold leases, the area so applied for, and to furnish me at your earliest convenience with a plan and report.

Your attention is particularly directed to the regulations for mineral leases, numbered respectively 2, 3, 12, 13, and 14 (or to the regulations relating to gold-mining leases, numbered respectively 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 14, and 15).

I have, &c.,

EDWD. F. PITTMAN,
 Chief Mining Surveyor.

J. H. McEwen, Esq., Mining Surveyor.

Copy of description of the land as given in the application:—10 acres, situated at Coolongolook, parish of Teleraree, county of Gloucester, portion 22; former number of lease, 650. The datum-tree is 1 foot in a northerly direction from north-east corner peg, and marked G.L. 22; possession taken, 25th April, 1888. Returned to the Chief Mining Surveyor, with my plan and letter, dated 13th November, 88/175.—**J. H. McEwen**,

Mr.

Mr. Mining-Surveyor M'Ewen to The Chief Mining Surveyor.

Sir,

Camp, 13 November, 1888.

I have the honor to transmit herewith* plan of portion G.L. 102, containing 10 acres of land * Appendix. in the parish of Teleraree, county of Gloucester, applied for as a gold-mining lease by J. Hassall & Co., under application No. 182, at Bulladelah, and surveyed by me on the 12th November, 1888, in accordance with your instructions dated 8th May, 1888.

The provisions of the Act have been complied with on the ground.
This survey cancels portion G.L. 22.

I have, &c.,
J. H. M'EWEN,
Mining Surveyor.

MEMORANDUM.

Copeland, 27 November, 1888.

DUPLICATE tracings of one survey (particulars of which are given below) are herewith forwarded to the District Surveyor at East Maitland, with a request that he will, at his earliest convenience, transmit to the Chief Mining Surveyor, Sydney, one tracing of each portion marked "Land not available," or "Land available for mining purposes," according as the land is or is not the subject of any prior application under the Land Act. In the former case, the nature and extent of the encroachment should be shown.

J. H. M'EWEN,
Mining Surveyor.

Particulars of surveys referred to:—Portion No. G.L. 102, parish of Teleraree, county of Gloucester; applicants, J. Hassall & Co.; area, 10 acres.

Forwarded for the information of the Chief Mining Surveyor.—S. PEYTON (*pro* D.S.), 3/12/88.

Application No. 187, at Bulladelah, for a Gold Lease.

1. By whom application was received? Robert Quayle, Warden's Clerk.
2. At what place? Bulladelah.
3. Date and hour when received? 24th July, at 12 a.m.
4. Receipt for first year's rent, No. 10? Date, 24th July, 1888.
5. To whom receipt was issued? Paul Paulson.
6. Date when notice to survey was sent to surveyor? Previously surveyed.
8. Names of objectors, and dates on which they lodged their objections? Nil.
10. Are the applicants holders of miners' rights? Yes.
11. Is the land applied for exempted from leasing under the 34th section of the Mining Act, 1874? No.
12. Is the time proposed for commencing work reasonable? Yes.
13. Is the number of men proposed to be employed reasonable? Yes.

CHARLES H. FAWCETT,
Warden, Stroud, 27/7/88.

Gold-mining Lease Regulations—Schedule 2—Application for Gold-mining Leases.

To the Honorable the Secretary for Mines, Sydney,—

Sir,

Bulladelah, 24 July, 1888.

We hereby make application for a gold-mining lease of that piece or parcel of land situated at Coolongolook, county of Gloucester, parish of Teleraree, and known as the Mountain Maid, containing 10 acres, of which we took possession on the 21st day of July, at the hour of 8 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of mining thereon and therein for gold, for a period of fifteen years, by L trenches at each angle thereof. The datum-tree is distant 6 inches in a north-east direction from north-east corner peg.

Notice of our intention to make this application has been given in accordance with the regulations in that behalf, and we hand herewith the sum of £10, being the first year's rent in advance of the said land.

We hereby acknowledge that this application is made upon the distinct understanding and condition that if we shall abandon or fail to proceed with it, or if it is refused, the Secretary of Mines for the time being may deduct from the sum of £10 deposited as aforesaid any cost to which, in his opinion, the Crown may have been put in or about or in respect of this application; and this application shall thereupon become and be void, and the possession aforesaid shall cease and determine. And if the lease shall be granted we shall and will commence mining operations upon or in connection with the demised land within fourteen days from and after the granting thereof, and shall and will employ upon such land not less than five men during the first six months of the term thereby created, and not less than ten men during the remainder of such term. And shall and will at any time when called upon in terms of the regulations relating to gold-mining leases, to do so, execute, and take delivery of such lease, or failing therein for a period of fourteen days after being so called upon, we shall and will forfeit the said sum of £10, and all right, title, or interest in and to the said land and the possession thereof, and the said lease shall be forthwith cancelled.

We have, &c.,
PAUL PAULSON,
ALFRED PAULSON.

This land has been previously surveyed.

This application was received by me this 24th day of July, 1888, at the hour of 12 o'clock in the forenoon, and is numbered 187.—ROBERT QUAYLE, Warden's Clerk.

Questions to be answered by Applicants to Lease.

WHEN receiving an application to lease land for mining purposes, the Warden, Warden's Clerk, or an agent, as the case may be, shall require the applicant or applicants, or his or their agent, to answer the following questions, and shall take down such answers in writing. The statement, when complete, to be read over to, and signed by, the persons furnishing the answers:—

1. Were you or each of you (applicants) the holder of a miner's right in force at the date of taking possession of the land referred to in application No. 187?
2. Do you produce them? Yes.
3. What was the date and hour of the day when you took possession of the land referred to in application No. 187? 21st July, at 8 a.m.
4. Did you take possession by erecting posts and cutting trenches at each angle of the land? By erecting posts, with cut and stone trenches.
If No. 4 be replied to in the affirmative, then 5, 6, and 7.
5. What was the diameter of the posts? 4 inches.
6. How high did they project above the surface when fixed in the ground? 3 feet 6 inches.
7. What was the length of each arm of each trench; and what was the depth of each trench? 6 feet long, 9 inches deep.
8. If a substitute for post or trench was used, describe it? Half a stone trench, where ground could not be dug.
9. At which angle of the land is the datum-post fixed? North-east corner of land.
10. Did you affix a board or metal plate to the datum-post? Board.
11. What was written or painted on each board or plate? Applied for 10 acres of gold lease.—A. & P. Paulson.
12. Where did you post the notices, Schedule 1? Post Office, Coolongolook; Warden's Office, Bulladelah.
13. When did you post such notices? 9 a.m., on the 21st July, at Coolongolook; 12 a.m., on the 23rd July, at Bulladelah.
14. Did anybody claim or appear to be in possession of the land applied for, or any portion of it? No.

I, PAUL PAULSON on behalf of self and party declare that the foregoing questions have been answered by me truthfully in every particular, and the answers thereto have been read over to me and are correctly taken down in writing.

PAUL PAULSON.

Witness to signature,—

ROBERT QUAYLE, Warden's Clerk.

Gold-mining Lease Regulations—Schedule 6—Notice of Application and Deposit.

Sir,

Bulladelah, 24 July, 1888.

I have the honor to inform you that I have this day deposited with Warden's Clerk at Bulladelah the sum of £10, being the first year's rent in advance of 10 acres of land at Coolongolook, for the purpose of gold-mining. The number of my application is 187.

I have, &c.,

PAUL PAULSON.

The Under Secretary for Mines, Sydney.

This application may be refused, having been lodged before the expiration of the three days.—H.W., 20/8/88. Submitted. Approved.—F.A., 20/8/88.

Application No. 188, at Bulladelah, for a Gold Lease.

1. By whom application was received? Robert Quayle, Warden's Clerk.
2. At what place? Bulladelah.
3. Date and hour when received? 24th July, 1888, at a quarter to 3 p.m.
4. Receipt for first year's rent, No. 11? Date, 24th July, 1888.
5. To whom receipt was issued? John Perry.
6. Date when notice to survey was sent to surveyor? Previously surveyed.
8. Names of objectors, and dates on which they lodged their objections? Nil.
10. Are the applicants holders of miners' rights? Yes.
11. Is the land applied for exempted from leasing under the 34th section of the Mining Act, 1874? No.
12. Is the time proposed for commencing work reasonable? Yes.
13. Is the number of men proposed to be employed reasonable? Yes.

CHARLES H. FAWCETT,
Warden, Stroud, 27/7/88.

Gold-mining Lease Regulations—Schedule 6—Notice of Application and Deposit.

Sir,

Bulladelah, 24 July, 1888.

I have the honor to inform you that I have this day deposited with the Warden's Clerk at Bulladelah the sum of £10, being the first year's rent in advance of 10 acres of land at Coolongolook, for the purpose of gold-mining. The number of my application is 188.

I have, &c.,

JOHN PERRY.

The Under Secretary for Mines, Sydney.

Gold

Gold-mining Lease Regulations—Schedule 2—Application for Gold-mining Leases.

To the Honorable the Secretary for Mines, Sydney,—

Sir,

Bulladelah, 24 July, 1888.

We hereby make application for a gold mining lease of that piece or parcel of land situated at Coolongolook, county of Gloucester, parish of Teleraree, known as the Mountain Maid, containing 10 acres, of which we took possession on the 21st day of July, at the hour of 1 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of mining thereon and therein for gold, for a period of fifteen years, by L trenches at each angle thereof. The datum tree is on the eastern corner of the area.

Notice of our intention to make this application has been given in accordance with the regulations in that behalf. We hand herewith the sum of £10, being the first year's rent in advance.

We hereby acknowledge that this application is made upon the distinct understanding and condition that if we shall abandon or fail to proceed with it, or if it is refused, the Secretary for Mines for the time being may deduct from the sum of £10, deposited as aforesaid, any cost to which, in his opinion, the Crown may have been put in or about, or in respect of this application; and this application shall thereupon become and be void, and the possession aforesaid shall cease and determine. And if the lease shall be granted we shall and will commence mining operations upon or in connection with the demised land within fourteen days from and after the granting thereof, and shall and will employ upon such land not less than five men during the first 6 months of the term thereby created, and not less than ten men during the remainder of such term. And shall and will at any time when called upon in terms of the regulations relating to gold-mining leases, to do so, execute, and take delivery of such lease, or failing therein for a period of fourteen days, after being so called upon, we shall and will forfeit the said sum of £10, and all right, title, or interest in and to the said land and the possession thereof, and the said lease shall be forthwith cancelled.

We have, &c.,

JOHN PERRY.
WILLIAM JENNINGS.

This land has been previously surveyed.

This application was received by me this 24th day of July, 1888, at the hour of a quarter to 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and is numbered 188.—ROBERT QUAYLE, Warden's Clerk.

Questions to be answered by Applicants to Lease.

WHEN receiving an application to lease land for Mining purposes, the Warden, Warden's Clerk, or an Agent, as the case may be, shall require the applicant or applicants, or his or their agent, to answer the following questions, and shall take down such answers in writing. The statement when complete, to be read over to, and signed by the person furnishing the answers:—

1. Were you or each of you (applicants) the holder of a miner's right in force at the date of taking possession of the land referred to in application No. 188?
2. Do you produce them? Yes.
3. What was the date and hour of the day when you took possession of the land referred to in application No. 188? 21st July, at 1 a.m.
4. Did you take possession by erecting posts and cutting trenches at each angle of the land? By cutting trenches and erecting posts.
If No. 4 be replied to in the affirmative, then 5, 6, and 7.
5. What was the diameter of the posts? $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
6. How high did they project above the surface when fixed in the ground? 4 feet.
7. What was the length of each arm of each trench? And what was the depth of each trench? 6 feet 9 inches deep.
8. At which angle of the land is the datum post fixed? Eastern corner.
9. Did you affix a board or metal plate to the datum post? Board.
10. What was written or painted on each board or plate? Applied for gold lease of 10 acres for gold-mining, John Perry and party.
11. Where did you post the notices Schedule 1? Post Office, Coolongolook, and Warden's Office, Bulladelah.
12. When did you post such notices? 21st at 11:30 at Coolongolook, and 24th at 8 a.m. at Bulladelah.
13. Did anybody claim or appear to be in possession of the land applied for, or any portion of it? No.

I, John Perry, on behalf of self and party, declare that the foregoing questions have been answered by me truthfully in every particular, and the answers thereto have been read over to me and are correctly taken down in writing.

JOHN PERRY.

Witness to signature—

ROBERT QUAYLE, Warden's Clerk.

This application may be refused, having been lodged before the expiration of three clear days, and as the applicants had priority of possession, they should receive beforehand notice.—H.W., 20/8/88. Submitted. Approved.—F.A., 20/8/88.

Minute for the Governor and Executive Council.

Subject :—Recommending the refusal of certain application for Gold-mining Lease.

Department of Mines, Sydney, 20 August, 1888.

It is recommended to His Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council that the applications for the Gold-mining Leases of Crown lands specified in the annexed schedule be refused, having been lodged before the expiration of the three days.

FRANCIS ABIGAIL.

The Executive Council approve of the course herein recommended, and advise that the necessary notices be issued.—ALEX. C. BUDGE, Clerk of the Council. Min. 28/8/88. Confirmed, 4/9/88. Approved.—CARRINGTON, 28/8/88.

SCHEDULE.

HUNTER AND MACLEAY MINING DISTRICT—BULLADELAH.

| No. | Name. | Portion No. | Locality. | Area. | Period. | Date of Application. |
|-----|------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------|---------|----------------------|
| | | | | acres. | years. | |
| 187 | T. Paulson and another ..... | ..... | Coolongolook | 10 | ..... | 24 July, 1888. |
| 188 | J. Perry and another ..... | ..... | do | 10 | ..... | 24 „ „ |

Messrs. W. Jennings and J. Perry to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Sydney, 27 August, 1888.

Having paid £10 for a lease for gold-mining purposes, at Bulladelah, on the 23rd July last (lease situated at Coolongolook, No. on peg 75), which lease has been declared void, we therefore apply for a refund of the abovenamed sum, and authorize you to pay the same to Mr. James Abigail.

We remain, &c.,

WILLIAM JENNINGS.
JOHN PERRY.

If there are no objections the refund may be made.—F.A., 28/8/88. Refund vouchers sent to Treasury for payment, 26/9/88.

Gazette Notice.

Department of Mines, Sydney, 20 September, 1888.

NOTICE TO APPLICANTS FOR GOLD-MINING LEASES.

NOTICE is hereby given that the undermentioned applications for Gold-mining Leases of Crown lands have been refused.

[88-19,372 ; 20,140]

FRANCIS ABIGAIL.

HUNTER AND MACLEAY MINING DISTRICT.

| No. | Name. | Locality. | Area. | Date of Application. |
|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------|----------|----------------------|
| | | | a. r. p. | |
| Bulladelah 187 | P. Paulson and another | Coolongolook | 10 0 0 | 24 July, 1888. |
| „ 188 | J. Perry and another | „ | 10 0 0 | 24 „ „ |

The Under Secretary for Mines to T. Paulson and another.

Sirs,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 20 September, 1888.

I am directed by the Secretary for Mines to inform you that your application for the gold lease noted in the margin has been refused, having been lodged before the expiration of the three days.

I have, &c.,

G. E. HERRING

(For the Under Secretary for Mines).

The Under Secretary for Mines to J. Perry and another.

Sirs, Department of Mines, Sydney, 20 September, 1888. Bulladelah, No. 188.
I am directed by the Secretary for Mines to inform you that your application for the gold lease noted in the margin has been refused, having been lodged before the expiration of the three days.
I have, &c.,
G. E. HERRING
(For the Under Secretary for Mines).

Messrs. A. S. and P. Paulson to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Coolongolook, 24 September, 1888.
I received your note of the 20th September, stating that our application was refused for gold lease 661, portion 75, for not allowing three clear days to expire (No. at Bulladelah, 187). We hereby beg that the money paid in advance will be forwarded to the Warden's Clerk, Bulladelah.
We remain, &c.,
A. S. PAULSON.
P. PAULSON.

Refund any sum available.—G.E.H., for U.S., 11/10/88. Refund voucher forwarded to Treasury for payment on the 20th October, 1888.

Application No. 189, at Bulladelah, for a Gold Lease.

1. By whom application was received? Robert Quayle, Warden's Clerk.
2. At what place? Bulladelah.
3. Date and hour when received? 10th August, 1888, at 10 a.m.
4. Receipt for first year's rent, No. 189, date, 10th instant.
5. To whom receipt was issued? Tonnos Andrees Paulson.
8. Names of objectors, and dates on which they lodged their objections? Nil.
10. Are the applicants holders of miners' rights? Yes.
11. Is the land applied for exempted from leasing under the 34th section of the Mining Act, 1874? No.
12. Is the time proposed for commencing work reasonable? Yes.
13. Is the number of men proposed to be employed reasonable? Yes.

CHARLES H. FAWCETT.
Warden.

Gold-mining Lease Regulations—Schedule 6—Notice of Application and Deposit.

Sir, Bulladelah, 10 August, 1888.
I have the honor to inform you that I have this day deposited with the Warden's Clerk at Bulladelah the sum of £8, being the first year's rent in advance of 8 acres of land at Coolongolook for the purpose of gold-mining. The number of my application is 189.
This land has been previously surveyed. I have, &c.,

TONNOS ANDREES PAULSON.

The Under Secretary for Mines, Sydney.

Gold-mining Lease Regulations—Schedule 2—Application for Gold-mining Leases.

To the Honorable the Secretary for Mines, Sydney,—

Sir,

Bulladelah, 10 August, 1888.
We hereby make application for a gold-mining lease of that piece or parcel of land situated at Coolongolook, county of Gloucester, parish of Telalaree, and known as the Mountain Maid former lease, No. 661, containing 8 acres, of which we took possession on the 4th day of August, at the hour of 7 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of mining thereon and therein for gold, for a period of fifteen years, by L trenches at each angle thereof. The datum-tree is distant 1 foot in a north-easterly direction from east corner-peg.

Notice of our intention to make this application has been given in accordance with the regulations in that behalf, and we also hand herewith the sum of £8, being the first year's rent in advance of the said land.

We hereby acknowledge that this application is made upon the distinct understanding and condition that if we shall abandon or fail to proceed with it, or if it is refused, the Secretary of Mines for the time being may deduct from the sum of £8 deposited as aforesaid any cost to which in his opinion the Crown may have been put in or about or in respect of this application; and this application shall thereupon become and be void, and the possession aforesaid shall cease and determine. And if the lease shall be granted we shall and will commence mining operations upon or in connection with the demised land within fourteen days from and after the granting thereof, and shall and will employ upon such land not less than four men during the first six months of the term thereby created, and not less than six men during the remainder of such term. And shall and will at any time when called upon, in terms of the Regulations relating to Gold-mining Leases, to do so, execute and take delivery of such lease, or failing therein for a period of fourteen days after being so called upon we shall and will forfeit the said sum of £8, and all right, title, or interest in and to the said land and the possession thereof, and the said lease shall be forthwith cancelled.

We have, &c.,
JAMES HASSALL, 21, Pitt-street, Sydney.
THOMAS A. JONES, 53, Hunter-street, Sydney.
TONNOS ANDREES PAULSON, Coolongolook.

This application was received by me this 10th day of August, 1888, at the hour of 10 o'clock in the forenoon, and is numbered 189.—ROBERT QUAYLE, Warden's Clerk.

This land has been previously surveyed.

Questions

Questions to be answered by Applicants to Lease.

WHEN receiving an application to lease land for mining purposes, the Warden, Warden's Clerk, or an agent, as the case may be, shall require the applicant or applicants, or his or their agent, to answer the following questions, and shall take down such answers in writing. The statement, when complete, to be read over to and signed by the person furnishing the answers :—

1. Were you or each of you (applicants) the holder of a miner's right in force at the date of taking possession of the land referred to in application No. 189? Yes.
2. Do you produce them? Yes.
3. What was the date and hour of the day when you took possession of the land referred to in application No. 189? 4 August, 1888, at 7 a.m.
4. Did you take possession by erecting posts and cutting trenches at each angle of the land? By erecting posts and cutting trenches.
5. What was the diameter of the posts? 4 inches.
6. How high did they project above the surface when fixed in the ground? 4 feet.
7. What was the length of each arm of each trench, and what was the depth of each trench? 6 feet long and 9 inches deep.
10. Did you affix a board or metal plate to the datum-post? Board.
11. What was written or painted on each board or plate? Applied for gold lease of 8 acres.—T. A. Paulson and party.
12. Where did you post the notices, Schedule 1? Post Office, Coolongolook; Warden's Office, Bulladelah.
13. When did you post such notices? 4th instant at Coolongolook, and 5th instant at Bulladelah.
14. Did anybody claim or appear to be in possession of the land applied for, or any portion of it? No.

I, Tonnos Andrees Paulson, on behalf of self and party, declare that the foregoing questions have been answered by me truthfully in every particular, and the answers thereto have been read over to me, and are correctly taken down in writing.

Witness to signature,—

ROBERT QUAYLE, Warden's Clerk.

TONNOS ANDREES PAULSON.

This application may be refused, the land not being available at date of taking possession.—H. W., 5/9/88. Submitted. Approved.—F.A., 6/9/88.

Minute for The Governor and Executive Council.

Subject :—Recommending the refusal of certain application for Gold-mining Lease.

Department of Mines, Sydney, 6 September, 1888.

It is recommended to His Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council that the application for the gold-mining lease of Crown lands specified in the annexed schedule be refused, the land not being available at date of taking possession.

FRANCIS ABIGAIL.

The Executive Council approve of the course herein recommended, and advise that the necessary notices be issued.—ALEX. C. BUDGE, Clerk of the Council. Min., 11/9/88. Approved.—CARRINGTON, 11/9/88. Confirmed, 19/9/88.

SCHEDULE.

HUNTER AND MACLEAY MINING DISTRICT, BULLADELAH.

| No. | Name. | Portion No. | Locality. | Area. | Period. | Date Applica |
|-----|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 189 | J. Hassall and others ..... | ..... | Coolongolook | Acres. 8 | Years. | 10 August, 1888. |

Gazette Notice.

Department of Mines, Sydney, 20 September, 1888.

NOTICE TO APPLICANTS FOR GOLD-MINING LEASES.

NOTICE is hereby given that the undermentioned application for Gold-mining Lease of Crown Lands has been refused.
[88; 20,140]

FRANCIS ABIGAIL.

HUNTER AND MACLEAY MINING DISTRICT.

| No. | Name. | Locality. | Area. | Date of Application. |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| * | * | * | a. r. p. * * * | * |
| Bulladelah 189 | J. Hassall and others | Parish Teleraree..... | 8 0 0 | 10 Aug., 1888. |

The Under Secretary for Mines to J. Hassall and others.

Sirs,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 20 September, 1888.

I am directed by the Secretary for Mines to inform you that your application for the gold lease noted in the margin has been refused, the land not being available at date of taking possession. Bulladelah, No. 189.

I have, &c.,

G. E. HERRING

(For the Under Secretary for Mines).

Extract from *Evening News*, 5th January, 1889.

AN IMPORTANT MINING CASE.

ON the 21st ultimo, just before the Legislative Assembly adjourned for the Christmas holidays, some correspondence of a very interesting character was tabled, having been asked for some time previously by an inquisitive honorable Member. What this honorable Member wanted to know was how and by what means two mining leases—known as the Curreki and Mountain Maid claims—came into the hands of their present holders. The correspondence on the subject has been printed, and is worth attentive examination. Like everything official, it is of a rather complex and involved character, and the difficulty of understanding it is not lessened by the fact that the properties mentioned in it are referred to in several different ways, and by the apparent omission of some rather important memoranda. However, to make the best of what materials there are, the facts of the case seem to be as follow. Perhaps it should first be stated that the understood rule of the Mines Department is that the person who gives information that the labour conditions imposed by gold-mining leases and regulations are not being complied with has—in the event of the leases being cancelled—right to prior notice of the cancellation, so that he may obtain the ground if he wishes to do so. Now, at Coolongolook, county Gloucester, there were two gold leases—No. 650, known as the Curreki claim, and 661, known as the Mountain Maid. A Mr. T. A. Paulson was part lessee of both, and had different partners in each. On 8th November, 1887, a Mr. Henry Tagg informed the Minister of Mines that the labour conditions were not being performed on No. 650, and this seems to have been the first notice received. Similar information was given on 11th November by E. Easterbrook, and on 5th December Mr. T. A. Paulson himself represented that 650 and 661 were open to the same objection, and he applied for the cancellation of each lease, stating that his partners would not assist in working the ground or paying the rental, and he was prepared to do both. Action was taken upon this, so far as 650 was concerned; but, for some unexplained reason, nothing was done for months as to 661. According to the documents, due notices were given to the lessees of the intention to cancel the lease in question, but no work was done; and the Warden, Mr. Charles H. Fawcett, having, on 8th March, 1888, reported accordingly, the leases were cancelled by the Governor-in-Council on 3rd April, and on the 19th information of the fact was given to Mr. Paulson, so that he might, if he chose, take possession of the ground after midnight on the 22nd. As for the prior informants, Mr. Easterbrook seems to have dropped out of the business altogether; and Mr. Tagg, who gave first information, was told in reply to his complaint that the matter was under consideration. This letter is dated 13th March, being just a week before the cancellation of the lease was decided upon by the Minister, and it does not appear that he ever received any other notice. Mr. Paulson seems to have obtained possession of the ground, and this ends the history of lease No. 650. Now as to No. 661, the Mountain Maid. The first mention of this, after Paulson's letter of 5th December, already mentioned, was on 23rd April, 1888, when Wm. Jennings and John Perry lodged a complaint as to the non-working of the ground by the lessees, and stating that they had applied for the ground, and were prepared to work it. This was referred to the Warden, who, on 13th May, reported that their statements as to having made application was untrue, and also that Paulson was arranging for the amalgamation of four claims, and for bringing up pumping and crushing machinery. On the 15th the Minister inquires what is being done about Perry's complaint, and on the same day Jennings and Perry again apply for cancellation of the lease. The Minister orders a careful inquiry and early report on the matter. At this stage Mr. Wood, the Under Secretary, orders a *précis* of the whole case to be made, which, it is to be supposed, was done, and the departmental memory refreshed. On 19th May, Jennings and Perry were written to, stating that the lessees, of whom Paulson was one, would have to show cause why the lease should not be cancelled, and actual notice, dated 21st May, to show cause, was given to Paulson and his partners on 28th May. On the latter date Jennings and Perry protested against Paulson having been allowed to take up lease 650 again, as it was forfeited owing to his non-fulfilment of the labour conditions, and it was urged that Mr. Perry had made a complaint in the first instance as well as Paulson. Perry's complaint does not, however, appear in the correspondence, and there is a minute of Mr. Wood's to this letter, saying that he had convinced Perry and Jennings that their demand was not reasonable. On 1st June the Minister notes that he does not "feel at all satisfied with the Warden's recommendation," whatever that may be. During the rest of June a Mr. Kirchner seems to have made some ineffectual efforts to get his supposed rights as a partner of Paulson's—although not an actual lessee—recognised. This brings us to 6th July, when the Warden telegraphs that no work is being done on the ground, and in view of this report the cancellation of lease 661 is approved by the Minister, and gazetted on the 20th. Now comes the most curious part of the affair. On 13th August the Warden's clerk reports to the Under Secretary that three applications for the land (now known as portion 75) had been received, viz., from A. S. Paulson, John Perry, and T. A. Paulson, since the lease 661 was cancelled; and then there is a complication which the papers do not clear up. Which was the first application, and who repegged the ground, is left in doubt. Information seems to have been asked for and not given; but it at last appears that on 29th September John Perry made application for the land, and paid the first year's rent in advance. This is known as application No. 190. On this same 29th September a new person appears on the scene in the form of Mr. James Abigail, who, with John Perry before mentioned, makes application for a lease of the property. This is probably the same application notified by the Warden's clerk as being made by Perry alone. However, they state in their letter that they took possession on 21st September. Paulson and his partners, Jones and Hassell, challenged their right to a lease, and on

27th October their objections were heard on oath before the Warden. It is then sworn to, and not disproved, that their application was numbered 189, and that they took possession of the ground on 4 August, and applied for a lease on the 10th; also, that no objections to their application had been lodged, nor had they received any notice that it was refused by the Minister of Mines. Paulson therefore was first both in application and possession. Prior to this, however, the Warden seems to have known that there was a refusal; for on the 20th he telegraphs to the Under Secretary that, "supposing all applications for application 190 had been refused," he advised the objectors (*i.e.*, Paulson and the others) to withdraw their objections, but was informed that Paulson refused. Well, after hearing the evidence in his Court, the Warden points out that no objections seem to have been lodged to Paulson's application 189, and asks for the Minister's decision. The decision of the Hon. F. Abigail, Minister of Mines, is that, as all applications prior to that of Messrs. James Abigail and John Perry (No. 190) have been refused—why or wherefore is nowhere stated—their application stands alone. It is approved by the Minister, and they receive their lease accordingly. This is the statement of the case as it is disclosed by the papers. We make no comment upon it at present, but unquestionably, and particularly as the successful applicant for the forfeited lease is a brother of the Minister for Mines, the case presents aspects upon which a little more light should be thrown without delay.

Extract from *Evening News*, 7 January, 1889.

AN IMPORTANT MINING CASE.

To the Editor.

Sir,

Referring to your leading article under the head of "An Important Mining Case," which appeared in your issue of Saturday last, we, the lessees of the Mountain Maid Mine, having nothing to conceal in respect of our connection therewith, and everything to gain by the utmost publicity being given thereto, hereby challenge the most searching investigation of the matter, we having the fullest reliance on the honesty of the transaction. Perhaps, in justice to ourselves, you will offer no objection to inserting this in your next issue.

Newtown, 6 January, 1889.

We are, &c.,

JAMES ABIGAIL.
JOHN PERRY.

To the Editor.

Sir,

I have read with much surprise your article in Saturday's issue headed "An Important Mining Case;" and while doing so I could not help thinking that it would have been much fairer if before publishing that which was evidently meant to create a suspicion in the minds of the public, you had done in this case what has been done in many others—namely, sent and made inquiries at the Mines Department as to the facts of the matter before writing about them. You would then have been satisfied that the case in question had been dealt with just as it would have been had the names of the parties concerned been Bennett and Hogue instead of Perry and Abigail, except indeed you are of the opinion that because one of the persons was named Abigail the case should have been refused rightly or wrongly. You would also have been supplied with the explanation as given to me on Friday afternoon by the Under Secretary for Mines, when reporting that in the extreme haste of preparing the papers at my wish to enable me to fulfil a promise given the day before in Parliament (and not, as your article says, for some time previously), the reasons for refusing the applications of those you name had been accidentally omitted; and you would also have learned that I had given instructions the day before your article appeared that a supplementary paper should be prepared to lay upon the Table of the Legislative Assembly next Tuesday afternoon containing the said reasons; and also that the confusion said to exist in the imperfect copy of the papers you had by some means obtained possession of before they had been correctly printed had been rectified, and would be in regular form by Wednesday evening, when it has been proclaimed all over the city that this case would be brought forward. Now, I venture to think that had you received these explanations you would not have allowed yourselves to be used into publishing a statement of anything but the real facts. These will be supplied to Parliament, when it will be seen that the whole matter is all fair and above-board, and contains not anything that will cause shame or discredit to

Yours, &c.,

FRANCIS ABIGAIL.

P.S.—May I ask that you will, in all fairness to me, give as much prominence to this explanation as you did to the leader above complained of.—F.A.
589 and 591, George-street, 5 January, 1889.

[Mr. Abigail professes to be "much surprised" at our article. If he is, he is easily taken that way. The means by which we obtained possession of the papers was the ordinary course of formally applying for them at the Government Printing Office. That they have, as Mr. Abigail says, been incorrectly printed, is news to us. That is a matter we could know nothing of, and with which we had nothing to do. That they were incorrectly compiled, a material portion being omitted, is also news to us; yet Mr. Abigail somehow seems to think that we should have known this fact. If the papers are incomplete, that is the fault, admittedly, of the Department over which Mr. Abigail presides. All we had to do was to deal with the papers as we found them printed at the Government Printing Office. We were neither "used," as the Minister gratuitously suggests, nor inspired by any one. We gave a plain unvarnished account of the transaction as disclosed in the correspondence, without one single word of comment to colour the narrative one way or the other, and it was no more our business to go to the Mines Department for an explanation of the transaction than to any or all of the parties whose names appear in the correspondence.—Ed. *E.N.*]

Minute by The Secretary for Mines.

I DIRECT the attention of the Under Secretary to the attached article, which appeared in Saturday's issue of the *Evening News*, and request him to report as to the correctness of the statements contained therein. He will see the article says there are important omissions in the papers, and what appears most important that the reasons for the refusal of Hassall and other applications were not among the papers. It would be as well to supply the editor with the same explanation the Under Secretary made to me on Friday last, when he reported that the said reasons had been accidentally omitted in the great hurry of preparing the papers for Parliament. He may also inform the editor that I had instructed him on Friday last to prepare a supplementary return of these reasons for presentation to Parliament, on Tuesday, the 8th inst. Copies of these may be supplied to the paper to prevent further misapprehension. I also wish to know if any special action was taken in this case, which would not have been taken if the names of the applicants had been different.

F.A., 7/1/89.

The instructions to prepare the papers to lay on the Table of the House was given on the morning of the day on which they were laid on the Table. The instructions were given in pursuance of a promise made by the Minister on the previous night, and as neither the promise nor the instructions were in writing they were understood to apply only to cancelled leases 650 and 661, and the application then pending for the land formerly comprised in lease 661. Hence the omission of the applications No. 182 for the land formerly comprised in G.L. 650, and applications 187, 188, and 189, for the land formerly comprised in G.L. 661, and owing to the hurry in preparing the Return the omission was not detected till too late. The only special action in connection with these cases is that beforehand notice was given to Mr. Paulson, although he was not the first person to complain of non-work on G.L. 650. This was due to representations made by the Warden and others in Paulson's favour. As far as I know, Mr. J. Abigail took the place of Wm. Jennings in these transactions, and the same course would, I think, have been taken had the names of Perry and Jennings been continued instead of Perry and Abigail.—H.W., 7/1/89.

[One plan.]

[1s.]

Sydney : Charles Potter, Government Printer.—1889.

[Enclosure to J.H. M' Ewen's letter of 13th November, 1888.]

APPENDIX

PLAN

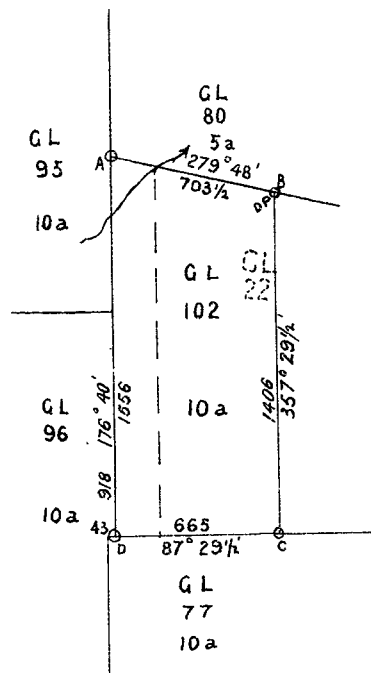
OF PORTION G.L. 102

PARISH OF TELERAREE, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER,

Applied for under the Mining Act, 1874 by J. Hassall and Co.,

Application N^o 182 Bulladelah.

Curreeki Reef



Scale 8 Chains to an Inch
Asimuth From 95

Cancels G.L. 22

Date of Survey, 12 Nov^r 88

| Reference to Corners. | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------|--------|------------------------|
| Corner | Bearing | From | Links | N ^o on Tree |
| A | 212° 3' | Brsh. wd. | 23 | GL 102 - 80 |
| B | 188° 0' | Gum | 38 | " |
| C | 256° 0' | " | 9-3 | " |
| D | 100° 23' | " | 20 1/2 | " 98 |

(Sig. 349)

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINING ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT ACT OF 1884.

(REGULATIONS RELATING TO MINING LEASES.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 10 sec. 4.

REGULATIONS RELATING TO MINING LEASES UNDER THE MINING ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT ACT OF 1884.

[Published in Government Gazette of 28th September, 1888.]

WHEREAS by the Mining Act Further Amendment Act of 1884, the Governor is empowered to make Regulations for certain purposes, to be dealt with as Regulations made by the Governor under the principal Act: Now, therefore, His Excellency the Governor, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, doth make the Regulations following, that is to say:—

1. The holder or holders of any Permit or Authority granted under the principal Act, and still in force, may make application in the form in the Schedule A hereto for the conversion of such Permit or Authority into a lease.

2. Upon receipt in the Department of Mines of such application, together with a sum of money equal to one year's rent of the land, and (if required) the fee for survey of the land, the Governor may, subject to the rents or royalties, or both, and to the covenants and conditions hereinafter prescribed, and to such special covenants and conditions as shall in certain cases appear to the Governor necessary, grant a lease of the land for the term applied for, or subject to such modifications as shall appear proper.

3. To obtain a lease of land referred to in section 2 of the said Act, not included in any Permit or Authority, the mode of taking possession, giving notice, and lodging application shall, where practicable, be the same as prescribed in the Regulations made under the principal Act, relating respectively to Gold-mining and Mineral Leases; and such Regulations shall, except as otherwise expressly provided in these Regulations, apply to all other matters relating to applications and objections thereto and to leases—but the restrictions in such Regulations as to the form and dimensions of the land and the position of the boundary lines in regard to any vein, reef, or lode, shall not apply. Where, by reason of the land being under water, or from any other sufficient cause, possession cannot be taken, the applicant shall attach to his application a plan or sketch of the land applied for, and shall in the notices and application give such description as will lead to the ready identification thereof.

4. The Regulations made under the principal Act relating to Gold-mining shall, except as regards the form of application, the area, and the dimensions of the land, and the position of the boundaries in relation to any vein, reef, or lode, or as otherwise provided in these Regulations, apply to any Special Lease for Gold-mining purposes. Every application for a Special Lease shall be in the form in the Schedule B hereto, and the extent of land demised by any such lease shall be in proportion to the number of men to be employed, and the capital to be expended in the purchase and erection of

machinery, or the construction of costly works for the purpose of working the land, not exceeding in respect of land worked or to be worked by any method or process other than that known as hydraulic sluicing, 2 acres for every man employed, and 1 acre additional for every £200 to be expended in machinery, dams, or races; in respect of land to be worked by means of hydraulic sluicing, 10 acres for every man employed, and 1 acre additional for every £50 expended, or to be expended in machinery, dams, races, or appliances, provided that the area demised by any one lease shall not exceed 100 acres; and no Special Lease for hydraulic sluicing shall be granted unless the Minister is satisfied that the land is specially adapted for working by that means.

5. Upon approval by the Governor of any application for a special lease, notice shall be published in the Gazette promising a lease of the land applied for, or so much thereof as may be available, upon condition that within a period to be named in such notice, such a sum of money as may be approved by the Governor shall be expended in the purchase and erection of machinery or in the construction of works said in the application to be necessary, and upon compliance within such period or such extension thereof as may upon cause shown, be approved by the Secretary for Mines, a special lease of the land aforesaid shall forthwith issue to the applicant; but upon the applicant failing to comply with the conditions aforesaid, the Governor may revoke the promise of lease and refuse the application, or may reduce the area of the land applied for to the dimensions proscribed for an ordinary lease.

6. Every lease granted under the Mining Act Further Amendment Act of 1884 shall be subject to the rents, or rents and royalties, and conditions following:—

7. Leases for mining for minerals, other than coal or gold, including the right to occupy the surface or some portion thereof, five shillings per acre per annum; (when no right to occupy any portion of the surface can be granted the Secretary for Mines may reduce the rent to two shillings and sixpence per acre per annum); for land wholly under water, one shilling and sixpence per acre per annum; leases for coal-mining including the right to occupy the surface or some portion thereof, two shillings per acre per annum; without the right to occupy any portion of the surface, one shilling and sixpence per acre per annum; for land wholly under water, one shilling per acre per annum. Leases for gold-mining, one pound per acre per annum. In respect of every ton of coal raised from the land demised, the sum of sixpence shall be paid as royalty; provided that if the royalty payable in respect of the coal raised during any one year exceeds the rent paid for such year, the amount paid as rent may be deducted from the sum payable as royalty, but if the royalty as aforesaid in any one year amounts to less than the rent paid for such year, the lessee shall not for such year be required to pay royalty.

8. Upon or in connection with the land demised by any such lease, work shall be commenced within such period, and be carried on by such a number of men, in such manner, within such limits, and subject to such supervision as the Governor may in each case direct: Provided that the Secretary for Mines may at any time and for any period authorize the suspension wholly or in part of work upon or in connection with any such lease.

9. The term of any such lease shall be that named in the application, or such shorter term as shall be approved by the Governor, not being less than one year, and such term shall commence upon and be computed from the date on which the Governor shall approve of the granting of the lease.

10. The rents reserved under any such lease shall be paid in advance to the Colonial Treasurer, on or before the first day of each year of the term.

11. The royalties reserved under any such lease shall, subject to the deduction of rent as aforesaid, be paid to the Colonial Treasurer at the expiration of each year, or within one month thereafter, and with each such payment a statement shall be furnished under the hand of the lessees, or some one of them, or of the manager of the mine, setting out the quantity and value of mineral raised from the land demised, and the accuracy of every such statement shall be verified by the statutory declaration of the person making it. The lessees or lessee shall keep a proper book, in which shall be entered the quantity of coal raised each day from the demised land, and such book shall at all times be open to the inspection of any officer of the Department of Mines.

12. If any lessee shall fail to execute his lease when called upon to do so, or shall fail to pay the rent or royalty reserved under his lease within the prescribed time, or shall fail to keep a proper record of the quantity and value of the coal raised, or shall refuse to allow such record to be inspected by any officer of the Department of Mines, or shall fail to observe and perform the other conditions or covenants of his lease, or in the case of a special lease shall fail to expend in the purchase and erection of machinery, or the construction of dams, races, or other costly works, the amount of money proposed in the application to be so expended, he shall forfeit his right to such lease, and the Governor may thereupon, or at any time thereafter, cancel such lease, and upon publication in the Gazette of such cancellation, the lease shall be absolutely void.

13. From and after the publication of these Regulations, the Regulations relating to Mining Leases, under the Mining Act Further Amendment Act, 1884, made by the Governor on the 16th day of March, 1886, and published in the Gazette, No. 164, on the 18th day of March, 1886, are hereby repealed, but such repeal shall not affect any proceeding, matter, or thing lawfully taken, done, commenced, or rights acquired before these Regulations came into operation; nevertheless, any application made under the repealed Regulations may be dealt with under these Regulations, and the holders of any lease granted under the repealed Regulations may surrender such lease with a view to obtain a lease of the same land under these Regulations, and upon such surrender being approved by the Governor, a lease in terms of these Regulations may forthwith issue to the holders of the surrendered lease.

SCHEDULE A.

To the Honorable the Minister for Mines.

being the holder of a granted under
 Section of the Mining Act, 1874, to mine for
 all that piece or parcel of land being
 and containing acres, more or less, do hereby apply
 for a lease of the said land for a period of years, with the
 right to occupy acres of the surface thereof in such position
 as may be approved of, and undertake if such
 lease be granted to execute the same when called upon to do
 so, and within days after the granting of such lease
 to commence work thereon [or upon adjoining land proposed
 to be worked in connection therewith, and to extend the under-
 ground works into such land with the utmost possible speed]
 and thereafter to employ in mining upon [or under] such land
 men, and to observe and perform all the covenants
 and conditions contained in such lease; and
 herewith tender the sum of being the first
 year's rent of such land, and the fee for survey of the land, and
 agree to forfeit such rent if
 fail to accept and execute such lease when called upon to
 do so.

Dated at this day of

Received at the Department of Mines, Sydney, this
 day of 188 , at o'clock in the
 noon.

Registrar.

SCHEDULE B.

To the Honorable the Secretary for Mines.

hereby make application for a Special Lease for
 years, of all that piece of land, being
 containing acres for the purpose of Gold-mining,
 possession of which was taken on the day of
 188 , at the hour of o'clock, m. The deposit proposed
 to be worked consists of
 and by reason of requires for its
 proper development the erection or construction of the follow-
 ing machinery or works:—

the estimated cost of which is £ , and propose to
 employ upon or in connection with such land men; and
 herewith tender the sum of , being
 the first year's rent of such land and the fee for the survey of
 the land, and agree upon notification of approval
 of this application to expend the sum of in the
 purchase and erection of the machinery, or the construction of
 the works aforesaid, within of notice of such
 approval, and to accept and execute the lease when ready, or
 failing therein to forfeit the rent deposited herewith.

Dated at this day of 188 .

Received this day of 188 , at the hour
 of in the noon.
 No. of Application

Mining Registrar.

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CLAIMS OF WILLIAM TOM, JUNIOR, AND J. H. A. LISTER, AS
THE FIRST DISCOVERERS OF GOLD IN THIS COLONY.

(PARTICULARS RESPECTING.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 28 November, 1888.

*RETURN (*in part*) to an Order made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 16th December, 1887, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“Copies of all claims, petitions, letters, and papers in connection with any claims for compensation made by William Tom, jun., and J. H. A. Lister, as the first discoverers of gold in this Colony.”

(*Mr. Dalton.*)

Mr. W. Tom, jun., to The Colonial Secretary.

Sir,

Will you please to look into the matter of the first gold discovery of 1851, of which the accompanying paper gives particulars, and see that justice is done to all parties concerned.

Sunrise, Guyong, 2 April, 1887.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM TOM, JUN.

This is a true verbatim copy of the several original papers about first gold discovery in 1851, to which the magistrates' signatures are appended as witnesses to the declarations made by William Tom, jun., John H. A. Lister, James Tom, and Henry Tom.

FIRST GOLD DISCOVERY.

Sunrise, Guyong, August, 1884.

THE following evidence touching the first gold discovery in Australia was prepared by us in 1876, and will read accordingly. It was prepared to read to a Committee of the New South Wales Parliament, but having tried by all legitimate means for twenty years to obtain a hearing by that astute body without success, we now adopt the press (the only alternative left to us) in order that the public mind may be disabused of its error in supposing Mr. Hargraves to be the sole discoverer of the first payable gold, or in supposing that he ever did more to the discovery than introducing the tin dish system, and finding something less than a farthing's worth of gold, to which he was taken by John Lister and James Tom. We can assign no reason whatever for why the public mind should not receive the truth and be undeceived. Certainly, we not being able to obtain a hearing by Parliament, can be considered no proper reason. We wish readers of the following to consider well the letter No. 1, and the circumstances under which it was written. If this letter, under the circumstances it was written, does not show most clearly to the reader the unfair, wily, and deep designing character of Mr. Hargraves, whom we have had to contend with, we have no idea of anything that will show him. We think it will show the full extent of Mr. Hargraves' honor to the Government, to the public, and to us in 1851. It will show most clearly how he wished to hoodwink the Government, to deceive the public, and bamboozle us and Mr. James Tom—in all of which he has tolerably well succeeded. It may not be out of place to remark here that our Petition through the last twenty years has been presented to and received by various Parliaments of New South Wales, and on one occasion the members of a Select Committee for inquiry were named, but by a breaking up of Parliament the matter could not be proceeded with. The fact, however, shows clearly enough that various Parliaments have said that we ought to be reheard.

The following history has been most solemnly attested before a magistrate, and challenges contradiction.

WILLIAM TOM, JUNR.
J. H. A. LISTER.

A.D.

A.D. 1876.

Mr. Chairman, and honorable gentleman of your Committee,—With your permission we may perhaps be allowed to preface the remarks we have to make touching the first gold discovery, by stating that Mr. James Tom and we always acted up to the letter and spirit of every arrangement we made with Mr. Hargraves, which he did not do with us, and we feel confident the nearer we can come to the truth about such gold discovery the better our case will appear. We will first acquaint your honorable Committee with all Mr. Hargraves did towards the discovery, and afterwards, with permission, we will state the part we took in the matter. When Mr. Hargraves visited Bathurst, or rather the Guyong neighbourhood, he called on Mr. John Lister and told him he was on his way to Wellington in search of a gold-field, upon which Lister told him he had been in search of gold himself, and showed him some stones, which they both supposed were stones of an auriferous character. From this information they joined each other in the character of partners, accordingly Mr. Hargraves abandoned the idea, at least for the present, of going to Wellington, and instead of which he allowed Mr. Lister to take him to a spot near Ophir, where Mr. Hargraves washed four or five pans of earth, and attained a few very minute specks of gold. This was on the 12th February, 1851. They returned to Mr. Lister's in the evening and did not go prospecting any more till they were joined by Mr. James Tom. After being joined by him they started on a prospecting trip down the Macquarie, and were away some nine or ten days, and got nothing more than the colour of gold during the whole of that time. After this trip, Mr. Hargraves went to Wellington, where he originally intended to go, and was away some two or three weeks, and when he returned he could not show us a speck of gold, we suppose, for the simple reason he did not get one to show. Beyond suggesting how to make a cradle, everything Mr. Hargraves did towards the first gold discovery was now done, and all the gold that was got by James Tom, Mr. Hargraves, and Mr. John Lister, before Mr. Hargraves took his final departure from the Bathurst district, did not amount to more than one-eighth of a grain in weight. Were we to say Mr. Hargraves did more than we have already mentioned we should be guilty of the most positive falsehood. We believe the Rev. W. B. Clarke got nearly if not quite as much gold from a scientific experiment he made on some stones he got from the Vale of Clwydd in 1848 or 1849, as Mr. Hargraves got all the time he was prospecting in the Bathurst and Wellington districts. [See Clarke's "Southern Gold-fields."] We believe the Rev. W. B. Clarke found gold in this Colony as early as 1841, which was no accidental discovery, as Mr. Hargraves in his book has been pleased to term all discoveries made before his own, for, if we conceive aright, Mr. Clarke's discoveries were the result of scientific research, and if his discoveries did no other good (whether made by accident or otherwise) they established the fact that the quartz reefs of Australia were auriferous, and thereby in some probability induced many people over the various Colonies to search for gold till a payable gold-field was fully developed. Long before Mr. Hargraves went to California, in 1849, it was generally known, by report at least, that several small parcels of gold from M'Gregor's reef, at Wellington, had been sold in New South Wales. We think it was a knowledge of this fact, and what was proved by Mr. Clarke, that helped Mr. Hargraves, in California to come to a right conclusion, when in the fullness of his geological knowledge he instituted a comparison between the rocks of that place and the rocks of Australia. We only mention this particular that honorable members may see it is quite possible Mr. Hargraves spoke the truth when he first called at Guyong, in February, 1851, and told Lister's family he was on his way to Wellington in search of a gold-field. We believe he was on his way thither to test the soil about Macgregor's Reef, which, within a month after, he did test without the least success. We have, no doubt, from Mr. Hargraves' antecedents, he would now like to make the public believe he came from California on purpose to prospect the very rod of ground at Ophir which we first found to be payable. When Mr. Hargraves was on the eve of his last departure, before the discovery of a payable gold-field, he said he was sure no place he had seen would pay for working (we can bring one person, besides ourselves, who heard Mr. Hargraves say this, if necessary); and he himself proposed an arrangement to the following effect, namely, that he would return to his home, and after he had set his domestic matters in order he would go to Moreton Bay and make a prospecting trip through that country, and if he succeeded in finding any gold he would acquaint us with the fact at the earliest date. We were to remain at home and prospect the Bathurst district, and do precisely the same with him if we were successful. Well, not longer than three days after, Mr. Hargraves left Guyong for Sydney, James and William Tom took a cradle which had been made by William Tom for prospecting purposes, and went down a creek to where, at the end of a long sheet of water, they determined on making a trial to get some gold. The spot they decided on trying was partially under water, and to get the soil from between the rocks they found it necessary to pull their trousers off. This being done, they commenced washing, and in the course of a few hours they succeeded in procuring 16 grains in weight of gold over only a few yards of ground—they weighed the gold with small medicine scales which had formerly belonged to the late Captain Lister. With this gold in their possession they returned home the evening of the same day they got the gold, and on that very evening William Tom wrote to Mr. Hargraves acquainting him with every particular of the find. The letter acquainting him with this must have been in Sydney as soon as Mr. Hargraves himself was there, or not more than a day after. It had been sent away when Mr. John Lister, who saw Mr. Hargraves as far on his way to Sydney as the Fish River, returned, and he returned on the fifth day after he left with Mr. Hargraves. Not having mentioned anything about these 16 grains of gold when we were examined by a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly, in 1853, proved fatal to our cause on that occasion, for we believe, in fact we have not the slightest doubt that it was on the information received from the letter respecting them that Mr. Hargraves based his proposition to the Government, which was made on the 3rd April, 1851. In that proposition, we believe, he told the Government he would show any officer sent with him a payable gold-field. It is quite clear to our minds that Mr. Hargraves never found any place he could say was a payable gold-field, never having discovered more than the bare colour of gold in any one place; but from his experience in California he knew very well that the place where James and William Tom had procured 16 grains in weight, on a few yards of ground, he might point out to the Government as a payable gold-field without running much risk of failure. However, we ourselves took very little notice of the 16 grains, as we did not think, at the time, that their discovery would establish the fact that Australian soil would pay for working—that is in a general way. Mr. Hargraves replied to the information about the 16 grains in weight, on the 5th April, 1851, and in his reply he signified his intention to return to Bathurst. We believe when he wrote his reply he thought if he came up he would be able to get as much gold

gold where James and William Tom got the 16 grains, or in that immediate neighbourhood, as would force the Government to notice his claim. However this may be, he did not come to Bathurst for some four or five weeks after he got our letter. The 16 grains of gold were got by James and William Tom, about the 23rd or 24th of March, 1851, and we could not make it convenient to start on another prospecting trip till the morning of the 7th April, when we started, and upon arriving at what is now called Ophir, William Tom proposed stopping in that neighbourhood to prospect the creek the remainder of that day, assigning as a reason for his proposal, that a shepherd of Mr. Lane had some years before that time picked up a piece of gold in that locality, which a Mr. Trappit (now of Orange) had sold for some £7 or £8. Mr. Lister falling in with the proposal, we hobbled out our horses, and after partaking of some refreshment, we went down upon the bed of the creek, and we were not there many minutes before William Tom picked up a bit of gold which was afterwards found to be worth £2 10s. This bit of gold having been discovered it was determined that we should that evening clear away a lot of heavy stones in the bed of the creek and commence washing in form on the following day. To this end we got the cradle from the mountains the next morning, where it was left for prospecting purposes when James and William Tom got the 16 grains of gold, and that day we succeeded in getting one lump the exact weight of a new sovereign, and some 20s. worth of gold-dust; we continued to wash and got about 30s. worth of gold a day for 2 or 3 days, when we arranged to go further down the creek, accordingly we started, and when we got about a mile and a half further down the creek than where we had been working, Lister picked up a bit of gold which weighed exactly 2 oz. This was the last gold we found, and it being late in the evening we formed our camp for the night. We were at this time quite out of provisions, but if honorable gentlemen will pardon a moments digression we will state that as William Tom was crossing the creek about sundown he heard a loud splash between some boulders which were partially immersed in water, and upon stooping he saw and caught two fishes, each of which would weigh between 3lb. or 4lb.; one of these fishes was swallowing the other—whether it was the larger swallowing the smaller, or the smaller swallowing the larger, William Tom could not tell, they were so nearly of one size, but he has many times since thought, that as far as the swallowing was concerned, it was typical of the unceremonious way in which Mr. Hargraves swallowed his partners. However, we cooked one of the fishes for tea that evening, and the other the next morning for breakfast, and then we started home. Upon arriving home, pursuant to an arrangement with Mr. Hargraves, we immediately acquainted him with the particulars of how we had discovered 4 oz. of gold, and we believe we requested him to come to Bathurst, and we would hand them over to him that he might convince the Government of the discovery of gold in payable quantities. However, Mr. Hargraves did not make his appearance, we waited week after week and did not know the cause of his long absence, but we now believe he was trying to work out his salvation with the Government, but whether he was or was not we will refer Honorable Members to the Honorable Sir E. Deas-Thomson, who was then Colonial Secretary, and by whose evidence, so far as that honorable gentleman was acquainted with facts, we are willing to stand or fall. The Honorable A. Lloyd, ex-Colonial Treasurer, is reported to have said in his place in the House, that he had seen Mr. Hargraves with many beautiful samples of gold in his possession—meaning of course Colonial gold—and that they were samples of gold got by Mr. Hargraves himself before we had found gold in payable quantities. If this is not what was meant we fail to see the force of that honorable gentleman's assertion. As it was Mr. Hargraves desire to convince the Government that a payable gold-field was discovered, we think it must appear clear to every man of the commonest sense that if he had any beautiful samples of gold in his possession he would have shown them to the Honorable Colonial Secretary (now Sir E. Deas-Thomson) when he showed him the few minute specks when he first visited Sydney; or again, if he had found the beautiful samples of gold in question when he was looking for the first payable gold-field it would be most wonderful indeed that no mention of the circumstance appears in his own book. We wish it to be remembered that Mr. Hargraves never returned to Bathurst after he showed the few specks to the Honorable Colonial Secretary till some four weeks after we got the 4 ounces of gold at Ophir. The beautiful samples of gold could not have been shown to the Honorable Mr. Lloyd earlier than the 6th of May, 1851, and we therefore believe that the honorable gentleman must have spoken from wrong impressions and not from any knowledge of dates. It is quite clear to our minds that, commercially speaking, Mr. Hargraves never had a penny's worth of colonial gold in his possession till we delivered him the 4 ounces on the night of the 6th of May, 1851, only a few days before the first general rush to Ophir set in. If we had not been the partners of Mr. Hargraves and under promise to him, it is not very likely we would have placed these 4 ounces of gold in his possession. We think we had intelligence enough ourselves to have satisfied the Government they had been found by us without troubling Mr. Hargraves. Any person now coming in from the country and saying he had found a payable gold-field and could show no more gold than Mr. Hargraves got the whole of the time he was prospecting would only be laughed at for his pains. We know many places from each of which more gold could be got from a pan of earth than Mr. Hargraves got all the time he was in the Bathurst and Wellington districts, and yet no one of these places is ever likely to become a payable gold-field. Many people think we made no claim on the Government till after Mr. Hargraves was rewarded, and therefore, in justice to ourselves, we believe it only right to say that on the 6th June, 1851, William Tom, junr., wrote to the Honorable Colonial Secretary (now Sir E. Deas-Thomson), and on the 22nd December, 1851, to the Governor-General (Sir Charles Fitzroy), giving an explanation of how matters stood between Mr. Hargraves and ourselves. We thought at the time, and we still think, that these two letters ought to have suggested the propriety of an inquiry before Mr. Hargraves was given to understand he would be allowed to extract from the Treasury as the first and sole discoverer of payable gold. We may state that Messrs. Lister and James Tom took Mr. Hargraves, when they were prospecting together, to what is now called Fitzroy Bar. This bar was found to be the richest part of Ophir. It is about 200 yards long, and is the place we first found payable gold (after the 16 grains were found). We have no doubt half a million pounds worth of gold has been taken from this bar since it was first worked on or about the 8th or 9th of May, 1851. Mr. Hargraves took several pans of earth from this place and could not obtain the colour of gold from any one of them. We believe a person of Mr. Hargraves' leviathan stature and Californian experience could have got gold in payable quantities at this place, as well as many other places he was taken to, if he had only dug and looked for it in a proper manner, but this we are of opinion he was too lazy to do. We have heard some people say that what Mr. Hargraves did on the 12th of February, 1851, led to the discovery of a payable gold-field. Admitting such to be the case, what led to the discovery and the discovery itself are two distinct

distinct things. It may also be said, and we think with almost equal propriety, that the first gold found in California led to the discovery in the same sense, only more remotely, as it was there Mr. Hargraves was first taught the use of the tin dish, which he simply taught us the use of after he came from that place. It may also be said that the bit of gold found at Ophir by Mr. Laue's shepherd led to the discovery; for it was because of that fact we stopped there to prospect, which resulted in the find of the 4 ounces of gold; or again, it may be said that Mr. John Lister having stopped Mr. Hargraves when going to Wellington, and taking him to Ophir, led to the discovery, for if it had not been for that circumstance Mr. Hargraves would have never seen Ophir. In short a hundred circumstances may be said to have led to the first discovery of a payable gold-field; but, after all, it is quite clear that no one of these circumstances, nor the whole of them put together, would be the discovery itself. Mr. Hargraves has denied ever having received as his own the fourth part of the 4 ounces of gold which we procured at Ophir while he was in Sydney, or 150 miles away from us. We have no doubt Mr. Hargraves denies having received this gold, because he sees that his acceptance of it as his own involves a proof of partnership with us. When Mr. Hargraves took these 4 ounces of gold from us he valued them at £3 10s. an ounce; and we now plainly and distinctly assert that Mr. Hargraves, according to this value, not only got his share, or one-fourth of the 4 ounces, but we also unhesitatingly affirm that it is quite impossible he can have forgotten the circumstance. We will explain why. Soon after the first rush to Ophir set in Mr. John Lister accompanied Mr. Hargraves to that place (Mr. Hargraves was going there to show the late Mr. Stutchbury, the Government Geologist, that a payable gold-field had been discovered), and on the road Mr. Hargraves told Lister that he did not think that William Tom was entitled to a part of the 4 ounces of gold, as he was not a partner with John Lister, James Tom, and himself in the discovery. This assertion of Mr. Hargraves' opinion somewhat annoyed Mr. Lister, and produced some angry words between them. When Lister got to Ophir he told William Tom about what had passed on the road, upon which William Tom asked Mr. Hargraves if such were the case, and he said that what Mr. Lister had told Mr. William Tom was quite true, but that, upon reflection, he was very sorry he should have spoken to Mr. Lister as he did, as William Tom, in his opinion, was as much entitled to a share of the gold as any of them, and he begged that William Tom would take no further notice of anything that had passed, upon which William Tom was satisfied, and, as Mr. Hargraves had expressed his sorrow for what had been said, he dismissed the matter from his mind. Well, after all this, Mr. Hargraves returned to the "Guyong Inn," pretended to be very ill, and took to his bed, saying he was "so very much grieved" that he and the son of his old friend (meaning the late Captain Lister) should have had any angry words. We are now aware that Mr. Hargraves was "so very much grieved" to think that the unpleasantness which had passed might lead to a full disclosure of all the particulars of how the first gold discovery was made, and, in his opinion, it was rather too soon for such disclosure to take place, as he had not as yet received from the Government his anticipated reward. We think what we have said on this part of the subject is sufficient. It may be said again, as it has often been said that Mr. Hargraves came from California on purpose to make the discovery of a payable gold-field in Australia. All we say, in answer to such a saying, is that having come to find a payable gold-field and finding one are two very different things. Mr. Hargraves, after he took his final departure from Bathurst, came to Sydney, and showed all the gold which James Tom, John Lister, and he himself had discovered, which, it will appear by the evidence the Honorable Colonial Secretary (Sir E. Deas-Thomson) gave before a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly in July, 1853, amounted to only a few almost invisible specks. Mr. Hargraves on the 119th page of his own book says that Lister and James Tom brought some fine gold from the Turon—no doubt that gold was some of which was shown to the Honorable Colonial Secretary. Upon showing this gold he received no other encouragement from the Government than that the discovery of gold would be rewarded in proportion to its value. We wish honorable gentlemen to take particular notice of the part we are now describing, as it will show that the Government did not intend to reward Mr. Hargraves for what he had already done—on the 12th of February, for instance—nor for what he had done at any other time subsequently. In the opinion of the Government something all important had yet to be done to merit a reward. Well, now we unhesitatingly assert that after this assurance from the Government that the discovery would be rewarded in proportion to its value. Mr. Hargraves never prospected one moment on the western side of the Blue Mountains till he came to Guyong on the 6th of May, 1851 (he did not prospect then either), and received the 4 ounces of gold from us, which, upon being made known, resulted in the first rush to a gold-field which ever took place in New South Wales. We think it will be seen by this fact that Mr. Hargraves has been rewarded with £12,381 and an annuity of £250 for his natural life for our first procuring gold in payable quantities (the 16 grains and the 4 ounces) when he was 150 miles away from the scene of our operations—that is, when he was in Sydney and we at Ophir. We may, perhaps, be kindly allowed to say a word or two about the Mandurama diggings by way of making it obvious that the discovery of small quantities of gold is no proof of a payable gold-field. The Mandurama estate of Mr. Icely was opened on the 26th January last by Mr. Icely, and some 3 or 4,000 diggers, many scores of whom got several grains in weight of gold each, and yet it is well known that the Mandurama is not a payable diggings. It is also a well known fact that hundreds of other localities, which have yielded a little gold, have been well tried without any profitable results. We think these facts alone afford the very clearest evidence, and that too in the most practical way, that the discovery of even 6 or 7 grains in weight of gold (although fifty or sixty times more than Mr. Hargraves ever got) is not the discovery of a payable gold-field. Without hesitation we affirm it is our positive opinion that if Mr. Hargraves be the first and sole discoverer of the first payable gold in New South Wales, he is such without ever having found a farthing's worth of gold, for we are quite positive if a new sovereign were divided into 960 equal parts (the number of farthings in a pound) each part would be heavier than all the gold Mr. Hargraves got while he was in the Bathurst district. We believe one rub of an old file would take more gold off a sovereign than Mr. Hargraves got altogether, and we do not think 960 such rubs would reduce a new sovereign to gold dust. The Honorable Capt. Charles is reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of the 3rd of February last, as having said in the House that we only followed in the wake of Mr. Hargraves. Perhaps that honorable gentleman is not aware that at the very time Mr. Hargraves got the very little gold he did get that some of us were with him as *bonâ fide* partners in all profitable results. We think Mr. Icely, of Mandurama, would not be very much displeased if two or three individuals followed in the wake of his three or four thousand diggers with the same result as we followed in the wake of Mr. Hargraves at and about Ophir. Although what
Mr.

Mr. Hargraves did towards the first gold discovery was brought to a profitable issue by us and Mr. James Tom, we by no means wish to speak disparagingly of his introduction of the tin dish by showing us how to use it. We think that fact alone rendered him entitled to a handsome reward (keeping in view the vast issues and commercial importance of the discovery), for we do not think it will be denied that at the very time we discovered gold in payable quantities the whole of Australia was very little better than on the eve of bankruptcy, whereas now, by virtue of that discovery, she is one of the most prosperous and flourishing places in the world. It may be remarked, and we think with propriety as it involves a principle, that we bore Mr. Hargraves' expenses during the time of prospecting, and not he ours, which shows that we could not in any way be regarded as his subordinates (we believe he represented Messrs. Lister and James Tom to the Government as such), and in consequence subject to his orders. The fact of the whole matter is simply this (with due deference of course to whatever some people may say or think to the contrary), that if matters remained where Mr. Hargraves left them no payable gold-field would have been discovered till this day. It was by our perseverance after Mr. Hargraves took his final leave of the district, that the first gold in payable quantities was discovered, and which made us the first practical discoverers—producing as it did that practical result of digging which has now continued for something over twenty-five years, and resulted in all the Colonies to the enormous yield of something like three hundred million pounds worth of gold. Should any honorable members have any doubt about anything we have advanced in this paper, or anywhere else, we would request such honorable members to give Mr. Hargraves the full benefit of all such doubts, for we are most certainly of opinion that if Mr. Hargraves be the sole discoverer of the first payable gold (which he says he is) he cannot be dealt too liberally with; in fact, we believe if he be the sole cause of one million pounds worth of gold having been unearthed over the Colonies every month for the last twenty-five years, that he ought, so far as external appearances are concerned, be made a gentleman of while he lives. On the other hand, if what we have said be true and correct, we hope and believe your honorable committee will not withhold from us a simple and fair acknowledgment of the fact that we were the persons who first discovered gold in payable quantities which brought about a general digging over Australia. We admit others had found gold before us, but their discoveries, unlike ours, did not produce any public and payable gold-field. We hope our opinions are expressed in such a way that honorable members may see that we wish all parties concerned to base their conclusions on what they think is just and fair.

We have given the whole of the foregoing statement a well-matured and most candid consideration, and we have come to the unavoidable conclusion that we have either a strong claim for consideration, not only on the Parliament of New South Wales, but on the Parliament of each Colony of Australia, or that our minds have become most peculiarly infatuated. Which of the two we most respectfully leave to the judgment and justice of your honorable committee to decide.

WILLIAM TOM, JUNR.
J. H. A. LISTER.

THE foregoing history of the first gold discovery in Australia, to which our names are appended, we most solemnly declare to the best of our belief to be true and correct, and what refers to our individual knowledge we solemnly declare to be true.

WILLIAM TOM, JUNR.,
J. H. A. LISTER.

Witness to signatures,—

JAMES TORPEY, J.P.

Orange, 15 August, 1884.

After all we did in the matter of the gold discovery, which we have truthfully narrated in the foregoing history, Mr. Hargraves had the astounding impudence (using the mildest term which is at all appropriate) to write a letter, of which the following is a *verbatim* copy. This letter, which is a tissue of falsehood and exaggeration from beginning to end, Mr. Hargraves put John Lister's name to, and asked John Lister to send it to the *Sydney Morning Herald* for publication. We do not read it to your honorable committee to gratify any morbid feeling of animosity, for we hope we do not entertain any such feeling. We read it simply that Honorable Members may see that our word is, at least, as worthy of credence as that of Mr. Hargraves. The letter to which we refer, and Lister's reply thereto, are both subjoined. They appeared in the *Bathurst Free Press* newspaper of January in the year 1852.

WILLIAM TOM, JUNR.
J. H. A. LISTER.

[A true copy of the letter Mr. Hargraves wrote and asked John Lister to publish.]

(No. 1 Letter)

THE GOLD DISCOVERY.

(Editor *Sydney Morning Herald*.)

Ophir, 19 May, 1851.

GENTLEMEN,—A report having been spread abroad by some malicious person, who evidently is jealous of Mr. Hargraves' great discovery, to the effect that I was the party who made it and communicated it to him, I beg leave most unreservedly to contradict this false report, although having been upwards of two years searching for it—one time with two geologists and mineralogists, who told me there were indications, but could not find the gold. Mr. Hargraves, during his explorations, called on me as an old friend of my late respected father, and in course of conversation he told me this was a gold country, and if I would keep it quiet he would combine me. This I agreed to. He was as good as his word, and scarcely ever made a failure. Where he said gold was to be found, he found it. I neither understand geology or mineralogy, but I am convinced my friend Mr. Hargraves knows where and how to find gold, and all honor and reward in the late discovery belong to him alone. Indeed, few men would have done what he has—intersecting the country with blacks; sometimes alone, sometimes with my friend Mr. James Tom; and during his explorations had rain set in, from the imperfect manner in which we were equipped, starvation and death must have been the result. Trusting you will give this publicity in the columns of your valuable journal.

I am, &c.,

[Here Lister's name was written by Mr. Hargraves.]

P.S.—I have also heard it reported that Mr. Hargraves had not acted fairly towards me. I beg most distinctly to state that in all transactions with that gentleman he has acted strictly honorable with me, and friends in the secret of the great discovery. Mr. Hargraves is now no longer connected with me or my party at Ophir; and wherever he may be he has my best wishes, and I believe of all who have known him in the district of Bathurst.

[True

[True copy of Mr. Lister's reply to the above No. 1 Letter.]

(No. 2 Letter.)

(Editor Bathurst Free Press.)

THE foregoing is a copy of a document which Mr. Hargraves wrote and gave me, requesting I would send it to the *Sydney Morning Herald* for publication. I declined doing this because I could not subscribe my name to the untruths it contained, for I never knew him travel with a blackfellow in my life, neither am I aware of any extraordinary difficulties or dangers to which Mr. Hargraves was exposed. Furthermore, by my complying with his request, I should have betrayed Messrs. James and William Tom, who were the prospecting colleagues of Mr. Hargraves, and who, with myself, were at all the expense and most of the pains when actually searching for gold; and, further, Mr. Hargraves certainly sometimes found the horse he rode himself, but the other necessary horses and provisions were not one farthing expense to him. While living at my place, during the business of the gold search, he was entertained free of cost. I also assert, in plain words, that Mr. James Tom and I never travelled with Mr. Hargraves with any other understanding than that we were his prospecting colleagues, and concerned equally with himself in any favourable result that might accrue from our journey or journeys. I do not mean to assert that the Messrs. Tom and myself expected to get a share of what Mr. Hargraves might obtain from the Government, or even in the shape of public subscriptions, but only of the profitable results of our explorations. I expected Mr. Hargraves to make a truthful representation to the Government of how the first gold was obtained, that the Government might have had the opportunity of judging and rewarding each individual concerned according to his merits in the discovery. Messrs. James and William Tom can bear testimony to the truth of what I have now written.

J. H. A. LISTER.

P.S.—The early history of the discovery will appear in next Saturday's paper.

I HAVE most attentively perused the foregoing history of the gold discovery of 1851, which is signed by William Tom, junr., and J. H. A. Lister, and I believe the whole of it to be correct,—the parts that refer to my personal knowledge I know to be true. I could not say the exact day that I and my brothers got the 16 grains in weight of gold, but I know it was some days before I started to Adelaide, and I started (or I believe I did) on the 1st April, 1851. We got the 16 grs. of gold in the latter end of March, 1851, and I know it was before William Tom and John Lister got the 4 oz. of gold. With regard to No. 1 letter, which is a tissue of falsehood, Mr. Hargraves was out only twice prospecting while he was in the Bathurst District. The first time was on the 12th February, 1851, when John Lister was with him, and the other time was directly after, when John Lister and I were both with him. We went down the Macquarie on the second occasion, and we were away from seven to ten days. I never knew Mr. Hargraves experience more hardship or difficulty than he might have experienced at a picnic on the same rough ground. I do not believe he saw a native blackfellow, of Australian birth, while he was in the Bathurst District.

As witness my hand, at Melbourne, Victoria, this nineteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six.

Signed and delivered in my presence,—

JAMES TOM.

RICH. GIBSON, J.P., for New South Wales.

WE will now acquaint your honorable committee with the fact that Mr. Henry Tom assisted in getting the 16 grains in weight of gold, which were discovered just after Mr. Hargraves left the Bathurst District. Our reasons for not having mentioned his name before now in connection with the first gold discovery are as follow:—In the first place, when we and James Tom published a pamphlet in 1870, William Tom, who wrote the pamphlet, had forgotten which brother it was who made the third individual of his party. He felt sure it was his brother Henry, but he did not know, and as Henry and Charles Tom were living in Queensland, he did not feel disposed to put off the publication of the pamphlet till he had made inquiry. In the second place, we were well aware that the brother of William Tom (whichever it was) had no intention of making a claim on the Government, for although he was at the getting of a hundred times more gold than Mr. Hargraves ever got, he did not think that so small a quantity as only 16 grains in weight would warrant an application to the public purse. In the third place, William Tom knew if he omitted the name of his brother (whichever it was) the omission would not in any way interfere with the truth and correctness of the pamphlet. We assign this latter reason for not having mentioned Henry Tom's name in the foregoing history. What Henry Tom says about the matter is as follows:—"I remember that at some time about the middle of March, 1851, that James Tom, William Tom, and myself started from Springfield about sundown, taking with us one horse named Dash, provisions sufficient for three days, pick, spade, and a cradle for washing gold, and that we travelled till nearly midnight, when we arrived at a point on Lewis' Ponds Creek, about 2½ miles above the junction of that creek with the Summerhill Creek, now known as Ophir, where we camped till morning, when we commenced to wash for gold. I dug the earth and filled the buckets; James Tom carried the earth to the cradle, and William Tom washed it. We continued at this work until some time in the afternoon, when we collected the gold from the cradle, hid the cradle on a mountain close by, and started for home, where we arrived about 9 o'clock p.m., when the gold we procured was weighed, and found to be a little over 16 grains."

I, Henry Tom, do solemnly declare the above to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

HENRY TOM.

Declared before me at Waromgh, in Queensland, this third day of March, 1887,—

HENRY G. PISCOE, J.P.

Dear William,

17 August, 1876.

You wish me to let you know how much gold Mr. Hargraves brought to Guyong on the evening of the 12th February, 1851. Mr. Hargraves showed me the gold he brought there on that evening through a small magnifying glass, which was carried about by himself. There were three specks, and they were so very small I could not see them distinctly with the naked eye.

Yours, &c.,

E. BATE.

Submitted.—7/4/87.
15/4/87.

A *précis* of these letters may be made.—H.P., 7/4/87. Herewith,

Précis.

Précis.

FIRST GOLD DISCOVERY OF 1851.

THESE papers are said to be true copies of the documents written by Mr. William Tom, junr., and Mr. J. H. A. Lister with the object of "undeceiving" Parliament and the public with regard to the first discovery of payable gold in New South Wales, and of showing that Mr. Hargraves, who claimed and obtained the reward offered by Government, had no real right to it.

The details of Mr. Hargraves connection with the matter are narrated at great length; but the circumstances, stated as briefly as possible, appear to have been as follows:—

When Mr. Hargraves visited Bathurst in February, 1851, he called on Mr. Lister, and said he was on his way to Wellington in search of a gold-field. Mr. Lister remarked that he also was in quest of gold, and produced some stones he had found, which resulted in the two becoming partners, Mr. Hargraves abandoning for the time his intention of proceeding to Wellington. Mr. Lister accordingly, on the 12th February, 1851, took Mr. Hargraves to a spot near Ophir where he said there was gold, and "allowed" him to wash four or five pans of earth, from which he obtained a few very minute specs of gold. After prospecting together unsuccessfully in the Macquarie, Mr. Hargraves went to Wellington, and returned after three weeks' absence without having found any gold whatever (as he produced none). Up to the time of his final departure from the district the combined efforts of the three had failed to produce more than $\frac{1}{3}$ th of a grain weight of gold. It is contended incidentally that as early as 1841, and certainly in 1848 or 1849, the Rev. W. B. Clarke had obtained gold in the Vale of Clwydd by scientific experiment; while it was known long before Mr. Hargraves visited California that parcels of gold had been obtained from Macgregor's reef near Wellington. It is distinctly asserted by the complainants that Mr. Hargraves, on taking his last departure from Ophir before the discovery of a payable gold-field, said "he was sure no place he had seen would pay for working." It was then agreed that Mr. Hargraves should go prospecting to Moreton Bay, whilst William and James Tom should continue their researches in the Bathurst District, and that each should apprise the other of any discovery of gold. Three days after Mr. Hargraves had taken his departure James and William Tom found 16 grains weight of gold, and duly acquainted him of the fact by letter; and they consider that it was their omission to mention this circumstance when examined in 1853 by a Select Committee that proved fatal to their cause on that occasion. It is asserted that Mr. Hargraves, on the information contained in this letter, made his proposal to the Government on April 3rd, 1851, viz., to point out a payable gold-field, on the basis of the 16 grains found on March 23rd or 24th. There is nothing to show how Mr. Hargraves came by these 16 grains, or whether he had them in his possession at all, since he did not visit Bathurst after finding the "few specks" until May 6th, when he was given the 4 oz. (to be referred to in the following pages) in order to convince the Government.

On April 7th James and William Tom set off to Ophir on another prospecting trip, and they give at great length their reasons for expecting to find gold there. Before many minutes William Tom picked up a piece worth £2 10s.; on the following day they obtained a nugget of the "exact" weight of a sovereign and 20s. worth of gold-dust. They continued washing, and for two or three days they obtained about 30s. worth of gold-dust per diem. A little further down the creek Mr. Lister picked up a piece weighing "exactly" 2 oz. These discoveries were also communicated to Mr. Hargraves, who was requested to return to Bathurst. After some four weeks unaccountable delay (during which it is assumed Mr. Hargraves was negotiating with the Government) he arrived; and it is asserted that until these 4 ozs. were delivered and shared, Mr. Hargraves had never a penny's worth of colonial gold in his possession (with the exception of the "few specks") until May 6th.

They took Mr. Hargraves to Fitzroy Bar on 9th May, 1851, but he could not obtain even the colour of gold, although £500,000 has since been obtained from that locality. They state emphatically that Mr. Hargraves accepted his fourth share of the 4 oz., which they regard as proof of his partnership with them, viz.—Mr. Lister and James and William Tom. Mr. Hargraves, however, has denied such partnership.

It is solemnly asserted that from the time Mr. Hargraves received the assurance of the Government (that he would be rewarded according to the value of the gold he discovered, and not for what had been done) until May 6th, he never prospected one moment on the western side of the Blue Mountains. It was the discovery of the 4 oz. that resulted in the first gold rush in New South Wales; and they claim that it was their perseverance alone, while Mr. Hargraves was 150 miles away, which has resulted during the twenty-five years in a total yield of about £300,000,000 throughout all the Colonies.

Next follows a copy of a letter (page 5 of MS.) worthy of notice. It was drafted for the press by Mr. Hargraves as from Mr. Lister, and sent the letter for approval prior to publication. Its purport was to make Mr. Lister entirely disclaim all credit in connection with the gold discovery, and to make Mr. Hargraves appear as the only person entitled to the reward. Mr. Lister declined to publish such a letter as his own, but he published in the *Bathurst Free Press* the draft with an exposure of Mr. Hargraves' attempt to force him into foregoing his own claims.

The affidavits of William and James Tom and Mr. J. H. A. Lister are appended, certifying the above facts to be correct. Henry Tom, on March 3rd, of the present year, also made an affidavit to the same effect; and the reason his name has not been already mentioned is accounted for by the statement, that when James and William Tom published their pamphlet in 1870, William, who wrote it, had forgotten which of his two absent brothers constituted the last member of the party. Mr. E. Bate, on August 17th, 1876, also made an affidavit, stating that the gold brought home by Mr. Hargraves on February 12/51, consisted of a few specks almost invisible to the naked eye, and could only be seen through a magnifying glass.

15 April, 1887.

C.W.

Mr. W. Tom, junr., to The Colonial Secretary.

Sir,

Sunrise, Guyong, 25 April, 1887.

Some two or three weeks ago I sent you, by direction of his Excellency the Governor, the history of the first gold discovery in Australia, with the hope that you would give the matter due consideration and bring it before Parliament. If you feel desirous of going on with the matter will you please to acquaint me with the circumstance?

I am, &c.,

WILLIAM TOM, JUNR.

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINERAL CONDITIONAL PURCHASE OF JAMES KENNEDY
BROUGHAM, PARISH OF PICTON.

(CORRESPONDENCE, &c., IN REFERENCE TO.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 28 November, 1888.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 16th July, 1888, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“Copies of all minutes, correspondence, papers, &c., relating to the mineral conditional purchase taken up by James Kennedy Brougham, in the parish of Picton, county of Yancowinna, Albert Gold-field.”

(Mr. Chanter.)

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MINERAL CONDITIONAL PURCHASE OF JAMES KENNEDY BROUGHAM,
PARISH OF PICTON.

No. 1.

Application by James K. Brougham.

C. [Alienation Act, sections 13, 14, and 19.]
District of Mitchell. No. 56 of 1882.
Application by James Kennedy Brougham, minor, 17 years, 5th August, 1883, for the conditional purchase, without competition, of 40 acres, unimproved Crown land.
Received by me, with a deposit of £20, this 20th day of September, 1883, at 11.10 o'clock.
FYSON A. SLACK,
Agent for the sale of Crown lands at Wilcannia.

Sir, 20 September, 1883.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown land hereunder described, containing 40 acres; and I herewith tender the sum of £20, being a deposit at the rate of 10s. per acre on the area for which I apply.

I am, &c.,

JAMES KENNEDY BROUGHAM,

To the Agent for the sale of Crown lands, at Wilcannia.

Wilcannia.

Description.

County of Yancowinna, parish unnamed, 40 acres. Commencing at a post marked JN, about 22 chains southerly from south-west corner of Alexander Edwin Greel's mineral conditional purchase of 40 acres, No. 83-54, selected 20/9/83; thence south, thence west, thence north, thence east, to the point of commencement, to include the area in a square block.

Within the Albert Gold-field, proclaimed 25th February, 1881, open to conditional purchase under the 14th clause of the Act of 1861. Cat. No. Y 57-2,186, portion 3 of 40 acres, parish of Picton. Instructions on certified copy have this day been issued to Mr. Licensed-Surveyor Bray to measure, if unobjectionable.—J.W.M., 19/11/83. Chartered approximately (*per* mineral conditional purchase), 83-38. Mr. L.-S. Bray to measure, if unobjectionable.—M. A. M'LEAN (for Surveyor-General), 19/11/83. Transferred to Mr. Licensed-Surveyor W. Jamieson.—M. BARLOW, Surveyor, 19/3/84. Received, 19/3/84. Transmitted to the Surveyor-General, with plan, under cover of my letter, No. 84-177, 28/6/84.—WILLIAM JAMIESON, 30/6/84.

No. 2.

Transfer from J. K. Brougham to J. Nickel.

H.

[Alienation Act, sections 13, 14, 19, 21, and 22.]

Notification of alienation of conditional purchase by James Kennedy Brougham, minor, aged 17 years, 5th August, 1883, in the district of Mitchell.

I HEREBY notify to you, as the Agent for the sale of Crown lands for the district of Mitchell, that I have, in consideration of the sum of £20, this day alienated to Julius Nickel, of Mount Gipps, the 40 acres of land, situated in the county of Yancowinna, parish unnamed, which was selected at Wilcannia by myself as a conditional purchase, under the 19th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, on the 20th September, 1883.

JAMES KENNEDY BROUGHAM,

Wilcannia.

Witness—THOS. W. BARNES, J.P.

Dated, at Wilcannia, this 20th September, 1883.

To the Agent for the sale of Crown lands, at Wilcannia.

I have duly registered the above notification of alienation in the records of this office. Fee of 15s. paid, including 7s. 6d. for registration fee, and 5s. stamp duty.

FYSON A. SLACK,

Agent for the sale of Crown lands.

District of Mitchell, Land Office, Wilcannia, 20th September, 1883.

No. 3.

Transfer from F. A. Tewsley to J. Nickel.

II.

[Alienation Act, sections 13, 14, 19, 21, and 22.]

Notification of Alienation of Conditional Purchase by Frederick Augustus Tewsley, minor, aged 17 years, 24th February, 1883, in the district of Mitchell.

I HEREBY notify to you, as the Agent for the sale of Crown lands for the district of Mitchell, that I have, in consideration of the sum of £20, this day alienated to Julius Nickel, Henry Francis Hawson, Thomas Collins,

Collins, and Thomas Bond Hawson, of Mount Gipps, the 40 acres of land, situated in the county of Yancowinna, parish unnamed, which was selected at Wilcannia by myself as a conditional purchase, under the 19th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, on the 20th September, 1883.

Witness—THOS. W. BARNES, J.P.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS TEWSLEY,
Wilcannia.

Dated at Wilcannia, this 20th September, 1883.

To the Agent for the sale of Crown Lands at Wilcannia.

I have duly registered the above notification of alienation in the records of this office. Fee of 15s. paid, including 7s. 6d. for registration fee, and 5s. stamp duty.

FYSON A. SLACK,
Agent for the sale of Crown lands.

District of Mitchell, Land Office, Wilcannia, 20th September, 1883.

As alienee is not of age, the transfers herewith cannot be recognized. Parties interested should be so advised, and papers returned to this Department.—J.R.Y. (for Chief Commissioner), B.C., 29th September, 1883. Crown Lands Agent, Wilcannia.

Parties advised, and papers returned herewith.—FYSON A. SLACK, Crown Lands Agent, Wilcannia, 8th October, 1883. The Chief Commissioner, Department of Lands, Sydney.

As alienee is a minor, it is submitted that the transfer herewith be cancelled, and fees paid thereon refunded.—J.R.Y., 15/10/83. Chief Commissioner.—J.W.B. The transfer of course cannot be acted upon. Inform with refund of fees, &c.—A.O.M., 17/10/83.

Treasury and Crown Lands Agent informed, 25/10/83, refund of fees, &c.—(P.)

No. 4.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Mitchell.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 25 October, 1883.

I am directed to advise you that the sum of 12s. 6d. has been collected for stamp duty and registration fee upon the transfer noted in the margin, and the party who paid it has been informed that it will be refunded upon application to the Treasury, the transfer having been cancelled.

I have, &c.,

WM. BLACKMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

Collected by Crown Lands Agent, 20th September, 1883.

C.S. No.
83-24,648; C.P.
No. 83-55;
Mitchell; F. A.
Tewsley to J.
Nickel, and
others.

No. 5.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 25 October, 1883.

I am directed to advise you that the sum of 12s. 6d. has been collected for stamp duty and registration fee upon the transfer noted in the margin, and the party who paid it has been informed that it will be refunded upon application to the Treasury, the transfer having been cancelled.

I have, &c.,

WM. BLACKMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

Collected by Crown Lands Agent on 20th September, 1883.

C.S. No.
83-24,648; C.P.
No. 83-55;
Mitchell; F. A.
Tewsley to J.
Nickel, and
others.

No. 6.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 25 October, 1883.

I am directed to advise you that the sum of 12s. 6d. has been collected for stamp duty and registration fee upon the transfer noted in the margin, and the party who paid it has been informed that it will be refunded upon application to the Treasury, the transfer having been cancelled.

I have, &c.,

WM. BLACKMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

Collected by Crown Lands Agent, 20th September, 1883.

C.S. 83-24,649;
C.P. 83-56;
Mitchell;
J. K. Brougham
to Julius Nickel.

No. 7.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Mitchell.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 25 October, 1883.

I am directed to advise you that the sum of 12s. 6d. has been collected in excess for stamp duty and registration fee upon the transfer noted in the margin, and the party who paid it has been informed that it will be refunded upon application to the Treasury, the transfer having been cancelled.

I have, &c.,

WM. BLACKMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

Collected by Crown Lands Agent, 20th September, 1883.

C.S. 83-24,649;
C.P. 83-56;
Mitchell;
J. K. Brougham
to Julius Nickel.

No. 8.

Kirkpatrick, Barnes, & Co. to The Chief Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Sir,

Wilcannia, 1 February, 1884.

As agents for Frederick Augustus Tewsley, we beg to apply for a refund of the registration fee and stamp duty on transfer, dated 20th September, 1883, of mineral conditional purchase 83-55, at Wilcannia, but refused on account of his minority. We have, &c.,

KIRKPATRICK, BARNES, & CO.

Mr. Yorke.—W.B., 15/2/84. Action already taken, *vide* within. Writer, informed.—(P.), 18/2/84.

No. 9.

Kirkpatrick, Barnes, & Co. to The Chief Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Sir,

Wilcannia, 1 February, 1884.

As agents for James Kennedy Brougham, we beg to apply for a refund of the transfer fees on transfer, dated 20th September, 1883, of mineral conditional purchase 83-56, at Wilcannia, but refused on account of his minority. We have, &c.,

KIRKPATRICK, BARNES, & CO.

Mr. Yorke.—W.B., 15/2/84. Action referred to already taken, *vide* within. Writers informed.—(P.), 19/2/84.

No. 10.

Mr. Licensed-Surveyor W. Jamieson to The Surveyor-General.

Sir,

Silvertown, 28 June, 1884.

I have the honor to transmit herewith the plan* of one portion of land, containing 40 acres, numbered 3 in the parish of Picton, county of Yancowinna, applied for by James Kennedy Brougham, minor, under the 19th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, and surveyed in accordance with instructions dated the 19th November, 1883, to Mr. Licensed-Surveyor Bray, No. 38; improvements nil. The land was originally taken up by James Kennedy Brougham (minor), but, I understand, has since been transferred to J. Nickel. The land is situated within the Albert Gold-field, and was surveyed on the 6th June, 1881. The present holder is a *bona fide* miner.

* Appendix A

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM JAMIESON,

Surveyor.

[Enclosure.]

Mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, Mitchell, within a gold-field—Description—Lot E. 40 acres. County of Yancowinna, parish of Picton, portion 3: Commencing at a point bearing about S. 46° 15' W., and distant 36 chains 39 links from the north-western corner of portion 10, of 40 acres, parish of Bolairo; and bounded thence on the north by a line bearing west 20 chains; on the west by a line bearing south 20 chains; on the south by a line bearing east 20 chains; and on the east by a line bearing north 20 chains, to the point of commencement.

C. P. No. 83-56 and plan herewith, Y 57-2,186. Secretary and Cashier, 26/7/84. Examined and charted.—F. GOODE, 29/10/84. Survey approved.—31/10/84. Tracing enclosed for inspector dealt with in Charting Branch.—J.W.M., 31/10/84. Description prepared.—J.S.M., 9/12/84.

No. 11.

Mr. J. K. Brougham to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Wilcannia, 3 November, 1886.

I have the honor to apply for an extension of time with respect to the expenditure on mining improvements on my mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, of 40 acres, Wilcannia. £62 has been spent on the land in actual mining work, without counting expenses of material, &c. Owing to adverse occupation under mineral license application, No. 1,028, Silvertown, I have been unable to do any further work on the land.

I have, &c.,

JAS. K. BROUGHAM.

No. 11½.

Declaration by Mr. J. K. Brougham.

F.

[Alienation Act, 1861.]

Declaration of conditional purchaser for mining purposes.

I, JAMES KENNEDY BROUGHAM, of Wilcannia, do solemnly and sincerely declare that I am the lawful owner, by conditional purchase, of the land hereunder described, and that an expenditure equal to £1 10s. per acre for the area of land has been made on mining operations other than gold-mining on the land, and since the selection in Wilcannia, on the 20th September, 1883, and I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the ninth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act for the more effectual abolition of oaths and affirmations taken and made in various departments of the Government of New South Wales, and to substitute declarations in lieu thereof, and for the suppression of voluntary and extrajudicial oaths and affidavits."

Description.

County of Yancowinna, parish of Picton, 40 acres, on , being (part of) conditional mining purchase, No. 56 of 1883, in the district of Wilcannia.

Taken and declared, at Wilcannia, this third } day of November, 1886, before me,—

JAS. K. BROUGHAM.

FRANK LEVY, Commissioner for Affidavits.

Instalment received at Wilcannia Land Board Office, 3/11/86. Examined.—H.R., 22/11/86.

No. 12.

No. 12.

Telegram from T. W. Barnes & Co. to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Wilcannia, 4 November, 1886.

KINDLY forward certified copy mineral conditional purchase application, 83-56; James Kennedy Brougham, 40 acres, Wilcannia, 20 September, 1883. Important.

T. W. BARNES & CO.

Send a copy duly certified under the law.—S.F., 4/11/86. Mr. Capper. Copy from extract herewith, 4/11/86.

Mr. Rich,—Original application enclosed. Prepare certified copy.—W.H.C., 31/12/86. Here-with.—H.R., 31/12/86. Mr. Capper. Certified copy to be despatched by to-day's mail.—W.H.C., 31/12/86. Forwarded 31st December, 1886. First declaration should be called for.—Ed. B., 7/1/87. The declaration is herewith.—F.H.W., 10/1/87.

No. 13.

Telegram from J. K. Brougham to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Wilcannia, 12 November, 1886.

PLEASE send certified copy application mineral conditional purchase, 83-56; James Kennedy Brougham, 40 acres, Wilcannia, 20th September, 1883. Claim again jumped.

JAMES KENNEDY BROUGHAM
(Care of BARNES & Co.).

No. 14.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Messrs T. W. Barnes & Co.

Gentlemen,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 31 December, 1886.

Mitchell (83-56);
23 September,
1883; 40 acres;
J. K. Brougham.

I have the honor, as requested by your telegram of the 4th ultimo, to forward herewith a certified copy of the application for the conditional purchase noted in the margin.

I have, &c.,

STEPHEN FREEMAN
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 15.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Chairman of the Local Land Board,
Wilcannia.

District of Wilcannia; name of applicant, James K. Brougham; area, 40 acres; date, 20/9/83.

[Section 19 of the Alienation Act of 1861—25 Vic. No. 1.]

DECLARATION upon the above described mineral conditional purchase requires verification. All available papers in connection with it are therefore referred to the Chairman of the Local Land Board, Wilcannia, with a view to the necessary instructions being issued to the Inspector of Conditional Purchases at an early date.

If the report, when furnished by the Inspector, shows that the improvements are not sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the law, or that they have not been effected *bona fide* for mining operations, as contemplated by the 19th section of the Alienation Act of 1861, an investigation by the Local Land Board may be instituted, subject to the provisions of the 20th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884.

W.H.C., 12/1/87.

The above recommendation approved by the Minister for Lands, *vide* 87-1,358 D.

F.H.W.

18th January, 1887.

(For the Under Secretary).

For inspection.—F.T., 7/2/87. Set for hearing, Local Land Board, sitting at Wilcannia.—F.T., 12/5/87.

No. 16.

Telegram from Mr. J. K. Brougham to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Wilcannia, 9 March, 1887.

I BEG to apply that my mineral conditional purchase, 83 over 56, Wilcannia, may be validated under the Act of 1886.

JAMES KENNEDY BROUGHAM

(Care of T. W. BARNES & Co.).

Papers, 86-8,073, Cor. to Local Land Board, Wilcannia, 18/1/87, for inspection.—W.H.C., 10/3/87. Inform.—F.H.W. (for the Under Secretary), 10/3/87. Informed, 12/3/87.

No. 17.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. J. K. Brougham.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 12 March, 1887.

Wilcannia,
C.P., 83-56.

In reply to your telegram of the 9th instant, I have the honor to inform you that the papers in connection with the conditional purchase, noted in the margin, were, on the 18th January last, forwarded to Local Land Board, at Wilcannia, for inspection.

I have, &c.,

STEPHEN FREEMAN
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 18.

No. 18.

Decision of The Local Land Board, Wilcannia.

[Crown Lands Act of 1884—(Part II, section 14, subsection 4).]

New South Wales, }
to wit.

C.P., 83-56—J. K. Brougham—Wilcannia.

WHEREAS, on the 12th day of May, 1887, it became a matter for investigation before us whether the conditions of improvement have been fulfilled, and, having taken evidence and inquired into the said matter, we find that over 24s. per acre had been expended in mining improvements at the time of making the first declaration.

Therefore so far satisfactory.

Given under our hands, at the Local Land Board, at Wilcannia, in the Colony of New South Wales, this 12th day of May, 1887.

FRED. TROLLOPE,
Chairman.
GEO. H. GOWER,
Member.

[Enclosures.]

[Crown Lands Act of 1884—(Part II, section 14, subsection 1.)]

C.P., 83-56—Wilcannia—J. K. Brougham.

New South Wales, to wit.

The examination of James Kennedy Brougham, of Outer Netallie, in the Colony of New South Wales, overseer, T. W. Barnes, of Wilcannia, in the said Colony.

WHEREAS, it hath been alleged that inquiry has been made as to the conditions of improvements, and it hath been found necessary to investigate the said matter on oath, the depositions of the several witnesses are appended hereto.

JAMES KENNEDY BROUGHAM sworn, saith :—I am an overseer on Netallie Station ; I am applicant for this land ; mining improvements, consisting of a shaft, have been sunk on this land ; the shaft is 28 or 30 feet, and is partly timbered ; that has cost now £60 ; it cost £2 per foot ; some months before I made my declaration this land was applied for as a mineral lease by two men, Renham and Harper ; legal proceedings had to be taken to get rid of these men ; this caused a suspension of the work ; a further application for a mineral lease of the same land was made by another man ; I had to go to Silverton to appear before the Warden in an objection to that claim ; the land being jumped has caused delay in proceeding with mining improvements.

C.P. 83-56,
Wilcannia,
Jas. K.
Brougham.

JAMES KENNEDY BROUGHAM.

Sworn before us, at Wilcannia, this 12th day of May, 1887,—

FRED. TROLLOPE, Chairman, Land Board.
GEO. H. GOWER, Member.

THOMAS WILLIAM BARNES sworn, saith :—I am a stock and station agent at Wilcannia ; I know this land ; I have superintended the effecting of the mining improvements ; in May, 1885, I made a contract with a party to sink a shaft ; the shaft was commenced and sunk to the depth of 8 feet ; on the 8th June, 1885, Renham and Harper jumped this claim ; that caused a suspension of the work of sinking the shaft ; Mr. Brougham lodged an objection to the claim of Renham and Harper ; this gave us a great deal of trouble ; in March, 1886, I took an opportunity of Renham being off the land to recommence sinking the shaft ; I was thereupon summoned for trespass ; there was some trouble, and this caused delay in going on with the mining improvements ; towards the end of last year Renham's application for a mineral lease was refused by the Mines Department ; immediately after a man named Martin put in another application for a mineral lease ; Mr. Brougham lodged an objection to that claim ; the work of sinking the shaft to the depth of 28 feet was completed in April, 1886 ; no work has been done since then owing to legal difficulties ; the first 8 feet sunk cost 30s. a foot, and the next 20 feet cost 50s. a foot, making the whole cost £62 ; there were also extra charges.

THOS. W. BARNES.

Sworn before us, at Wilcannia, this 12th day of May, 1887,—

FRED. TROLLOPE, Chairman,
GEO. H. GOWER, Member.

No. 19.

Telegram from Mr. J. K. Brougham to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Wilcannia, 12 July, 1887.

KINDLY notify validation my mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, early as possible. Jumpers proceeding with Supreme Court action.

JAMES KENNEDY BROUGHAM
(Care of T. W. BARNES & Co.).

Mr. Capper.—S.F., 1/7/87.

No. 20.

Mr. W. J. Fergusson to The Secretary for Lands.

Portion 3, Picton, Yancowinna, Mineral Conditional Purchase, 83-56.

Sir,

Fitz-Evan Chambers, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 21 July, 1887..

I beg to claim the above allotment on behalf of Mr. M. C. Renham, of Broken Hill, and to enter a protest against the same being dealt with in any way, or the title validated without notice to me.

Mr. Renham has been in possession since May, 1885, under his mineral license, and has duly fulfilled the conditions of the Act, and I cannot understand why his application for a lease was refused, mineral conditional purchases on proclaimed gold-fields having been declared void (*Wood v. Scott*, 1885, N.S.W., Rep. c. 83).

The claimant (James Brougham) has not taken the land *bona fide* for himself, and is acting as a mere dummy, nor has he fulfilled the requirements of the Act.

I shall be glad of a reply hereto at your early convenience.

I am, &c.,
W. J. FERGUSSON
(Per C. P. SOWTEE).
As

As mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, is within the Albert Gold-field, proclaimed 25th February, 1881, and open to conditional purchase under the 14th clause of the Act of 1861, it is submitted that the application be validated under the provisions of the 3rd section of the Crown Lands Titles and Reservations Validation Act of 1886.—W.H.C., 31/8/87.

No. 21.

T. W. Barnes & Co. to The Under Secretary for Lands.

M.C.P., 83-56 ;
Wilcannia ;
20-9-83 ;
J. K. Brougham ;
40 acres.
M.C.P., 83-64 ;
Wilcannia ;
27-9-83.
Angus Kennedy
transferred to
Wm. James
Dalzell,
transferred
Thos. W. Barnes,
50 acres.

Sir,

Wilcannia, 10 August, 1887.

With reference to the mineral conditional purchases noted in the margin, we have the honor to request that you will inform us if it is proposed to validate them shortly, and about what time.

As regards mineral conditional purchase 83-56, the Local Land Board held an inquiry into the mining improvements effected thereon, and, we understand, reported favourably on the case.

A declaration has been lodged, showing £7 per acre to have been expended on mineral conditional purchase 83-64.

The former portion is now in hostile occupation, and the mineral conditional purchaser is prevented from going on with the work in consequence. On the last named, work is suspended pending settlement of the title.

We have, &c.,

T. W. BARNES & CO.

In view of this letter the reference to the Mines should be made at once and urgent.—T.G., 6/9/87. The Under Secretary for Mines.—C.O., B.C., 7/9/87. Urgent. The Chief Mining Surveyor as to any conflicting mining interest or objections to validation of mineral conditional purchase.—G.E.H. (for Under Secretary), B.C., 8/9/87. Chief Draftsman.—E.F.W., 9/9/87. The Under Secretary.—E.F.P., 18/10/87. Let action on this be expedited, and inform Renham's solicitors when the report has been furnished.—H.W., 30/9/87. F. Fergusson, October 1887.

Mr. E. P. Mayes, 12/9/87. Within Albert Gold-field, portion 3 of 43 acres, parish of Picton, county of Yaucowinna, mineral conditional purchase 83-56, Wilcannia, is claimed by Mr. Renham under mineral license, since 5th May, 1885. *Vide* statutory declaration with papers, 87-13,689, Mines.—P.D. (*pro* Chief Draftsman), 18/10/87. The Chief Mining Surveyor.—E.P.M., 18/10/86.

No. 22.

Office Memorandum.

MINERAL conditional purchase, 83-56 (J. K. Brougham), within the Albert Gold-field, proclaimed on the 25th February, 1881, consequently the purchase is illegal.

It is submitted that the Under Secretary for Mines be asked to state whether there is any objection to the validation of the mineral conditional purchase in question.

W.H.C., 2 September, 1887.

F.H.W. S.F., 5/9/87. Approved.—T.G., 6/9/87.

No. 23.

Office Memorandum.

A REFERENCE paper is to be specially kept with regard to these two cases, and brought under my notice in a fortnight's time.

C.O., 7/9/87.

The Under Secretary directs a memo. to be kept for reference to him on the 21st instant, respecting the two cases forwarded to the Mines Department to-day. Papers (87-4,425 Cor.) relate to mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, 40 acres, Wilcannia, J. K. Brougham ; mineral conditional purchase, 83-64, 50 acres, Wilcannia, Angus Kennedy, transferred to T. W. Barnes. Barnes & Co. urge validation of mineral conditional purchases. Papers (87-32,321 Dep.) is an office memo. referring papers *re* mineral conditional purchase, 84-58, Wilcannia, T. W. Barnes (now Cumming and Macgregor) to Department of Mines, to ascertain whether that part of the reserve affected by the mineral conditional purchase is required in the public interest.—J.P.M., 7/9/87.

No. 24.

Office Memorandum.

Wilcannia.

87-4,425 Cor. mineral conditional purchases ; 83-56, Jas. K. Brougham ; 83-64, Angus Kennedy ; transferred to Wm. Jas. Dalzell, 9/7/84 ; transferred to Thos. Wm. Barnes, 7/7/86. 87-32,321 Dep. mineral conditional purchase, 84-55, Thos. Wm. Barnes (now T. F. Cumming and Wm. P. Macgregor).

I HAVE made inquiry at the Mines Department, and learn that the papers, 87-4,225 Cor., have been sent to the Charting Branch (Mines), with a view of ascertaining if there is any objection to the validation of the mineral conditional purchases in question.

The papers, 87-32,321 Dep., have been forwarded by Mines Department to Warden Brown on 9th instant.

W. T. NICHOLSON, 13/9/87.

The above-mentioned cases are those the Under Secretary spoke about this morning.—W.H.C., 13/9/87. Further inquiry will be made at the Mines Department to-day as to any steps taken in regard to the first case.—W.H.C., 14/9/87. The Under Secretary. How do these matters stand now?—C.O., 26/9/87. Mr. Capper. The papers *re* mineral conditional purchase, 84-58, are not attached. Those referring to 83-56 and 64 have not yet been dealt with in the Department of Mines.—W.H.C., 28/9/87. The Under Secretary. Mr. Capper,—Please see me.—C.O., 3/10/87.

No. 25.

No. 25.

The Under Secretary for Mines to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 14 September, 1887.

I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to inform me if the mineral conditional purchase of Mr. J. K. Brougham, of certain land at Wilcannia, on the 20th September, 1883, has been validated.

I have, &c,

GERARD E. HERRING

(For the Under Secretary).

Papers, S7-4,425, Cor., are noted. B.C., Mines Department, for report, 7/9/87.—J.P.M., 27/9/87. Mr. Wilkinson as to query of Mines Department.—J.P.M., 28/9/87. May be informed of reference of papers to Mines for report prior to validation submitted.—H.W., 28/9/87.

Mineral conditional purchases, 83-3, Wilcannia, parish Picton, county Yancowinna, Albert Goldfield, John Kennedy Brougham. Let me have the papers in the case.—T.G., 4/10/87. M. C. Renham claims this land under mineral license, through Mines. Mr. Capper.—S.F., 4/10/87. The papers, S7-4,425, Cor., are at Mines Office, but not complete, regarding any objection to the validation of the conditional purchase in question.—W.T.N., 4/10/87. The Assistant Under Secretary.—W.H.C., 4/10/87. Perhaps J. K. Brougham's mineral conditional purchase, 40 acres, portion 3, parish Picton, is that referred to plan Y 57, at Mines. Try papers C.S. 84-6,414, Survey.—J.T.K., 4/10/87.

No. 26.

Mr. W. J. Fergusson to The Secretary for Lands.

Mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, Brougham, 87-38,670.

Sir,

Fitz-Evan Chambers, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 22 September, 1887.

May I ask you to expedite this matter as much as possible. My client, Mr. Renham, has already been put to much expense and delay, and as on the decision of the Lands Department the Mines will probably reconsider his application for a mineral lease, you will see how much depends on getting the matter through quickly.

Yours, &c.,

W. J. FERGUSSON

(Per C. P. SOWTER).

No. 27.

Mr. W. J. Fergusson to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Portion 3, parish Picton, county Yancowinna, mineral conditional purchase 83-56.

Sir,

Fitz-Evan Chambers, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 29 September, 1887.

I shall be obliged if you will kindly inform me how this matter stands.

Has anything been done to validate the above?

Yours, &c.,

W. J. FERGUSSON

(Per C. P. SOWTER).

No. 28.

Mr. W. J. Fergusson to The Secretary for Lands.

Mineral conditional purchase, parish Picton, county Yancowinna.

Sir,

Fitz-Evan Chambers, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 4 October, 1887.

Referring to my interview with the Minister for Lands this morning, I shall be obliged if you will expedite this matter as much as possible.

If I can do anything to assist you in pressing on the matter I shall be most happy.

Yours, &c.,

W. J. FERGUSSON

(Per C. P. SOWTER).

No. 29.

Telegram from F. Oliver, Esq., to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Wilcannia, 4 October, 1887.

When may validation of mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, Wilcannia, be expected to appear in *Gazette*?

FRANK OLIVER.

The papers in the case are now with Mr. Mayes, in the Mines Department, who will give his whole time to the matter, and hopes to return the papers to this Department by Friday next.—W.T.N., 5/10/87. The Under Secretary.—W.H.C., 5/10/87.

Reply that the Department of Mines has not yet reported, but has promised to do so to-morrow, when further intimation will be made to Mr. Oliver.—C.O., 5/10/87. Wire, 6/10/87. Return papers to me.—C.O. Have the papers been received from Mines?—C.O., 14/10/87. Mr. Capper.

No. 30.

Office Memorandum.

MINERAL conditional purchase, 83-3, Wilcannia, refers to a case in the name of T. W. Chambers; but mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, Wilcannia, is in the name of J. K. Brougham.

The papers, 87-4,425 Cor., were taken to the Mines Department on the 7th ultimo to ascertain whether there was any objection to validating the purchase, and personal application has since been made as to what had been done in regard to the case. On my application this afternoon I ascertained that the clerk who had the matter in hand has returned to his duties, having been ill for several days. There was also some difficulty in obtaining the plans, which he only received this morning, and will at once attend to the case, hoping within two or three days to return the papers to this Department.

The Assistant Under Secretary.

W.T.N., 4/10/87.

No. 31.

D. O'Connor and J. Hurley, Esquires, Ms.P., to The Secretary for Lands.

Dear Sir,

Norwich Chambers, Hunter-street, Sydney, 5 October, 1887.

We beg to draw your attention to our application, made some time since, for a portion of land in the parish of Picton, county of Yancowinna, within the Albert mining district and gold-field. The land applied for was a mineral conditional purchase, in the name of an infant, James Kennedy Brougham, by an agent, Charles Nicholls, which in itself was an illegal application.

We therefore urge the refusal of such application, and would further point out the injustice to the mining community for such mineral conditional purchase to be upheld, besides the fraud on the State.

1st. In the interest of the mining community, we desire to point out, if mineral conditional purchases are allowed or generally accepted, it is more than likely that large areas of land will fall into the hands of monopolists and become void of development, besides the mineral conditional purchaser becomes a permanent holder as against the mineral lease holder, who pays annually 5s. per acre for a term of years to the State, to whom hereafter the land may revert.

Again the application is illegal, inasmuch as an infant, even by an agent, cannot select mineral land in this way, and to do so is only to defraud the State.

In conclusion, we feel assured that an injustice will be done a mineral lease applicant (Mr. M. C. Renham) who has been in possession some considerable time, and expended, in working, watering, and prospecting the lease, somewhere about £500, besides being a *bona-fide* miner, whose only desire is to practically develop the property, and not dummy it through the agency of an infant.

We enclose the printed report of a case tried before His Honor the Chief Justice, last Friday week, 27th September, as showing the position Mr. Renham stands in in his occupying and determination to uphold his legal rights.

Your early attention to this case will oblige.

We are &c.,

D. O'CONNOR.
J. HURLEY.

[Enclosure.]

Hay Standard, 28th September, 1887.

HAY CIRCUIT COURT.

THIS Court opened on Monday, before His Honor the Chief Justice. The Hon. B. R. Wise, Attorney-General, prosecuted on behalf of the Crown, assisted by Mr. Merewether. The other legal gentlemen present were: Mr. Hanbury Davis, barrister. The solicitors present were: Mr. T. Robertson, Mr. Brough, Mr. Kensington, Mr. R. M. Comans, T. Jhonson, G. C. Gillott.

M. C. Renham and C. Harper v. Jas. Martin.—Trespass on land held as a mineral license at Silverton. Damages, £1,000.

Mr. Merewether, instructed by Mr. Brough, appeared for the plaintiffs.

The defendant did not appear.

Jury: R. Woodward, A. Brown, J. Fallon, R. Massie.

M. C. Renham gave evidence of the defendant entering upon the land and doing certain damage to it, knowing it to belong to plaintiff.

His Honor, in reviewing the evidence and directing the Jury, stated that the plaintiffs had unquestionably established their claim to the land in question, and that the only matter with which they needed concern themselves was the amount of damages which they thought the plaintiff has sustained by the wrongful action of the defendant. He added, in a case of this sort, although no actual damage had been proved, they would still be justified in awarding substantial damages, and cited a case in which the sum of £500 had been awarded as damages for trespass, which consisted only of the defendant persistently walking across the plaintiff's land in front of his windows.

The Jury gave a verdict for 1s., and costs.

No. 32.

D. O'Connor and J. Hurley, Esquires, Ms.P., to The Secretary for Lands.

Dear sir,

Norwich Chambers, Hunter and Bligh Streets, Sydney, 6 October, 1887.

Referring to our letter of yesterday's date, respecting a mineral conditional purchase in the parish of Picton, county of Yancowinna, will you please correct the following clerical error therein:—

Instead of the words "to our application made some time since" please substitute "to an application made some time since," and oblige,—

Yours faithfully,

D. O'CONNOR,
T. HURLEY.

Make this correction.—T.G., 7/10/87. See as to case, as to which Hurley and O'Connor wrote two letters last week, something about land at Silverton, I think.—T.G., 12/10/87. J. K. Brougham.—Mineral conditional purchase, parish Picton, county Yancowinna, Albert Gold-field. Has this case come back from Mines yet?—T.G. The papers have not been returned from Mines Department yet.—J.R.Y., 13/10/87. Send someone for them.—S.F. Papers not yet returned from Mines; in fact, they have not been finally dealt with in that Department.—W.H.C., 13/10/87. The Under Secretary. To await return of papers recently sent to Mines.—C.O., 31/10/87. Mr. Capper.

No. 33.

11

No. 33.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Lands to F. Oliver, Esq.

Sydney, 6 October, 1887.

DEPARTMENT of Mines has not yet reported *re* mineral conditional purchase 83-56, Wilcannia, but has promised to do so to-morrow, when you will be further communicated with.

STEPHEN FREEMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 34.

Mr. W. J. Fergusson to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Mineral Conditional Purchase, 83-56.

Sir, Fitz-Evan Chambers, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 8 October, 1887.
 Has anything been done herein as to the above? My client is pressing me, so an early reply will oblige.

I have, &c.,

W. J. FERGUSSON

(Per C. P. SOWTER).

No. 35.

D. O'Connor and J. Hurley, Esquires, Ms.P., to The Secretary for Lands.

Dear sir, Norwich Chambers, Hunter and Bligh Streets, Sydney, 17 October, 1887.

In reply to your letter dated 13th instant, No. 87-5,671 Cor., we beg to inform you that the following are the particulars of the conditional purchase therein asked for:—

Portion No. 3; parish of Picton; county of Yancowinna; area, 40 acres; date, 20th September, 1883.

We are, &c.,

D. O'CONNOR,
J. HURLEY.

Put with other papers.—T.G., 18/10/87.

No. 36.

Office Memorandum.

PORTION 3 of 40 acres, parish of Picton, county of Yancowinna. Within Albert Gold-field, proclaimed. 25th February, 1881; reserved from conditional purchase, 29th September, 1884; cat. Y. 57-2,186.

James K. Brougham.

Referred to this Department for any objections to validation of mineral conditional purchase. Objection by M. C. Renham, who claims possession under mineral license since May, 1885, *vide* 87-12,148 enclosure. See 87-11,063, with 87-13,689. The Lands Department may be asked not to validate mineral conditional purchase, 83-56. Mineral conditional purchase 83-56, Wilcannia, 20th September, 1883.

M. C. Renham.

An objection was lodged by J. K. Brougham, who is the holder of the mineral conditional purchase 83-56, and is also one of applicants under mineral lease application 1,029, at Silverton, Application 1,028, at Silverton. Possession, 8th June, 1885, at 7 a.m.

An inquiry was held by Warden, and it was elicited in evidence that no work had been done on the mineral conditional purchase from date of application to purchase, 20th September, 1883, to date of inquiry, 2nd July, 1885, and that Renham (application 1,028) also took possession by virtue of his mineral license, on 5th May, 1885. See minute by Under Secretary on 86-8,588, *vide* 86-8,588. Letter from J. P. Abbott (on behalf of application 1,029), stating how Renham (application 1,028), obtained information given in confidence to another, which enabled him (Renham) to take prior possession. Application 1,029, Silverton. Possession, 8th June, 1885, at 9 a.m.

Application 1,028 and 1,029, at Silverton, refused 22nd October, 1886, 87-6,041 Cor., *vide* 87-11,786, statutory declaration by M. C. Renham (clause 1), that he has held land by virtue of mineral licence since 5th May, 1885, and (in clause 17), that he obtained from Warden suspension of labour conditions for three months from 4th December, 1886.—J.D. (*per* J.L.), 18/10/87. The Chief Mining Surveyor. The Under Secretary.—F.P., 18/10/87.

The Lands Department may be asked not to validate Brougham's mineral conditional purchase, as the land in question is claimed by Renham, in virtue of his mineral license, and he appears to have succeeded in an action of trespass in the Hay Circuit Court (Renham and Harper *v.* Martin), *vide* *Hay Standard* of the 28th September, 1887.—H.W., 18/10/87.

Submitted. Approved.—F.A., 18/10/87. The Under Secretary for Lands.—H.W., B.C., 19/10/87.

No. 37.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. W. J. Fergusson.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 19 October, 1887.

I have the honor to inform you that the Lands Department has been asked not to validate James K. Brougham's mineral conditional purchase No. 83-56, Wilcannia, as the land in question is claimed by Renham, in virtue of his mineral license.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 38.

No. 38.
Office Memorandum.

Wilcannia—Mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, 40 acres, portion 3, parish Picton.

THE abovementioned mineral conditional purchase was selected by James K. Brougham on 20th September, 1883. He made his declaration on 3rd November, 1886, as to improvements to the value of 30s. per acre. An inquiry, subject to the provisions of the 20th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, was held on 12th May last by the Land Board, who found that an expenditure of over 24s. per acre had been made upon the land, and that the conditional purchase was so far satisfactory. The land however was situated within the Albert Gold-field, proclaimed 25th February, 1881, and it having been decided that mineral conditional purchases within gold-fields were illegal, steps were about to be taken to validate it under section 3 of the Act 50 Victoria, No. 21. Mr. Fergusson, solicitor, on behalf of M. C. Renham, protested against such validation, and alleged that he (Renham) had been in possession since May, 1885, under his mineral license, and had duly fulfilled the conditions of the Act. Reference was then made to the Mines Department, and that Department has now reported as follows, by B.C. of 19th instant:—
“The Lands Department may be asked not to validate Brougham’s mineral conditional purchase, as the land in question is claimed by Renham in virtue of his mineral license, and he appears to have succeeded in an action for trespass in the Hay Circuit Court—Renham and Harper v. Martin, *vide Hay Standard* of 28th September, 1887.”

W.H.C., 26/10/87.

Before determining this matter, I should like the Mines Department to inform me of the circumstances of Renham’s application, how it has been dealt with, and its present position as to fulfilment of conditions under which the area is alleged to be held under a mineral license. The representatives of Brougham should be informed of the action being taken by Renham with regard to the mineral conditional purchase.—T.G., 28/10/87.

W. J. Fergusson and J. K. Brougham, care of T. W. Barnes & Co., informed, 29/10/87. The Under Secretary, Department of Mines, in view of Mr. Secretary Garrett’s minute of the 28th instant.—S.F. (for the Under Secretary), B.C., 29/10/87. To be returned. Mr. Warden Wyman Brown for report in terms of minute of the Secretary for Lands herewith.—G.E.H. (for the Under Secretary), B.C., 31/10/87.

No 39.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. J. K. Brougham.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 29 October, 1887.

Mineral conditional purchase, 83-56; Wilcannia; 20th September, 1883; 40 acres; J. K. Brougham.

Referring to the proposed validation of the mineral conditional purchase, noted in the margin, I am to inform you that, before determining this matter, the Secretary for Lands awaits information from the Under Secretary for Mines as to the circumstances of Mr. M. C. Renham’s application, how it has been dealt with, and its present position as to fulfilment of conditions under which the area is alleged to be held under mineral license.

I have, &c.,

STEPHEN FREEMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 39½.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. W. J. Fergusson.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 29 October, 1887.

Wilcannia; mineral conditional purchase, 83-56; 20th September, 1883; 40 acres; J. K. Brougham.

Referring to your letter of the 22nd September ultimo, respecting your protest on behalf of Mr. M. C. Renham against the validation of the mineral conditional purchase, noted in the margin, I am to inform you that, before determining this matter, the Secretary for Lands awaits information from the Under Secretary for Mines as to the circumstances of Mr. Renham’s application, how it has been dealt with, and its present position as to fulfilment of conditions under which the area is alleged to be held under mineral lease.

I have, &c.,

STEPHEN FREEMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 40.

T. W. Barnes & Co. to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Wilcannia, 5 November, 1887.

M. C. P. 83-56, Wilcannia; 20th September, 1883; 40 acres; J. K. Brougham.

We are instructed by Mr. J. K. Brougham to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo, having reference to the proposed validation of the mineral conditional purchase noted in the margin.

We may, perhaps, be permitted to state, in connection with Renham’s claim to occupation under mineral license, that in his evidence before the Warden, at Silverton, when an objection to his occupation of the land, lodged by Mr. Brougham’s agent, was being heard, Renham admitted that he knew the portion (No. 3, parish Picton) was a mineral conditional purchase. In point of fact, the portion had been surveyed in accordance with Mr. Brougham’s application, and a shaft sunk 10 or 12 feet before Renham ever saw the ground.

Since early in 1885, the applicant has been unable to enter on the land without being exposed to legal proceedings, and had to defend two or three actions in endeavouring to fulfil the mineral conditional purchase conditions. These conditions must be completely fulfilled before long. Outside capital is offered to develop the mine properly, which offer may lapse through delay.

We therefore earnestly beg that the applicant may be put in legal possession of the land at the earliest possible period.

We have, &c.,

T. W. BARNES & CO.

May be informed of the position of the papers as stated upon 87-52,394.—W.H.C., 18/11/87. Inform.—T.G., 19/11/87. T. W. Barnes & Co., D. O’Connor and J. Hurley.—21/11/87.

No. 41.

No. 41.

D. O'Connor and J. Hurley, Esquires, Ms.P., to The Secretary for Lands.

Dear Sir, 32 and 33, Norwich Chambers, Hunter-street, Sydney, 11 November, 1887.

Having regard to our brief interview to-day, in company with Messrs. Renham and Haley, we would thank you to have all papers and documents in reference to the case of Renham before you on Monday, at 11:30 a.m., as suggested by yourself, in order that some definite decision or understanding may be arrived at. We desire to point out that the parties above-named are here in Sydney at considerable expense to themselves, and this, with the fact that Renham has already expended a large sum of money, to say nothing of the labour and time devoted to the lease, and in the defence of action at law, he naturally feels aggrieved at what appears unnecessary delay in being placed in possession of what is generally admitted to be his lawful property.

We have, &c.,

D. O'CONNOR.

J. HURLEY.

Submit previous papers, please.—S.F., 12/11/87. Mr. N.—Please obtain papers in the mineral conditional purchase case mentioned.—W.H.C., 14/11/87. Mineral conditional purchase, 83-54, Wilcannia; Papers, 87-6,041, Cor.; 87-50,102, Department Mines.—W.T.N., 29/10/87. The Assistant Under Secretary.—14/11/87.

No. 42.

Telegram from Mr. Warden Brown to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Silverton, 11 November, 1887.

Re papers in connection with portion 3, parish Bolairo, sent here for report as to whether Renham who claims the land under mineral license has complied with the regulations. Renham is in Sydney, therefore cannot get the required information from him. If I don't inspect the land, cannot distinguish between work done by him and mineral conditional purchase claimants. What is best to be done; shall I return the papers.

WYMAN BROWN,

Warden.

Inform that he should inspect the land, and if he required Renham to give evidence as to work done, we will advise Renham on receipt of telegram from the Warden to that effect.—H.W., 12/11/87. By telegram 156, 12/11/87. See Mr. Capper's memo. on C.S. 87-51,269 Dep.—J.P.M., 16/11/87.

The papers were sent to Mr. Warden Brown on the 1st instant under the No. 87-15,286 Mines. His report is expected in about a fortnight.—W.H.C., 18/11/87.

No. 43.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Warden Brown.

12 November, 1887.

Re papers in connection with portion 3, parish of Bolairo, sent you for report. You should inspect the land, and if you require Renham to give evidence as to work done, he will be advised on receipt of a message from you to that effect.

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 44.

The Under Secretary for Lands to T. W. Barnes & Co.

Gentlemen, Department of Lands, Sydney, 21 November, 1887.

Referring to your letter of the 5th instant, I have the honor to inform you that the papers relating to the mineral conditional purchase quoted in the margin are with the Warden (Mr. Wyman Brown), whose report thereon is expected shortly.

I have, &c.,

STEPHEN FREEMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

Mineral conditional purchase, 83-56; Wilcannia; 23rd September, 1883; 40 acres; J. K. Brougham.

No. 45.

The Under Secretary for Lands to D. O'Connor and J. Hurley, Esquires, Ms.P.

Gentlemen, Department of Lands, Sydney, 21 November, 1887.

Referring to your letter of the 11th instant respecting Mr. M. C. Renham's application for a mineral lease of the land applied for under mineral conditional purchase quoted in the margin, I am to inform you that the Secretary for Lands awaits information as to the circumstances of Mr. Renham's application—how it has been dealt with, and its present position as to fulfilment of conditions under which the area is alleged to be held under mineral lease—before he determines the matter, and that the Warden's (Mr. Wyman Brown) report to that effect is expected shortly.

I have, &c.,

STEPHEN FREEMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

Mineral conditional purchase, 83-56; Wilcannia; 20th September, 1883; 40 acres; J. K. Brougham.

No. 46.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Lands to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Silverton.

Sydney, 25 November, 1887.

PLEASE state whether you can hold an inquiry at Wilcannia on your return to Bourke relative to J. K. Brougham's mineral conditional purchase. The papers are with Mr. Warden Brown, from whom they might be obtained. The question is as to age of selector when he applied for the land.

STEPHEN FREEMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 47.

No. 47.

H. H. Cooke, Esq., M.P., to The Secretary for Lands.

Renham v. Brougham, Broken Hill.

Sir,

Legislative Assembly, New South Wales, 25 November, 1887.

In my letter to you this morning, *re* above case, I stated, upon information supplied, that at the time of taking the mineral conditional purchase Mr. Brougham was in the Government Service. This is now shown to be a mistake, and I hasten to rectify it. To make sure about this a telegram was sent to Silverton this afternoon, and the enclosed is the reply to same. You will see by the enclosed message that Brougham the day after the selection executed a transfer, and the transfer is annexed with the paper, presumably because it was out of order and could not be completed, as Brougham is now claiming the land and stoutly contending for it. I hope you will do all you can to bring this tedious case to a close, so that the rightful owner, whoever he may be, can go on with developing the mine.

Kindly have this letter, and enclosed telegram from Welsh to Renham, placed with the papers in the case.

I have, &c.,

HENRY H. COOKE.

[Enclosure.]

Telegram from Mr. W. Welsh to Mr. M. C. Renham.

Silverton, 25 November, 1887.

BROUGHAM executed a transfer to Nickel day after selection. Transfer is now annexed to papers in Land Office. Brougham, then clerk to Kirkpatrick, Barnes, & Company, Wilcannia.

W. WELSH.

No. 48.

H. H. Cooke, Esq., M.P., to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Legislative Assembly, Sydney, 25 November, 1887.

I have the honor to bring under your notice the case of M. C. Renham and the mineral land mentioned in the margin.

It appears this land was applied for in the name of J. K. Brougham, an officer of the Government at Wilcannia, as a mineral conditional purchase, on the 20th day of September, 1883, at Wilcannia Land Office. Brougham being then only 17 years of age, and therefore a minor, the mineral conditional purchase was bad. M. C. Renham took possession of the said land by virtue of a mineral license on 5th May, 1885, and afterwards as a mineral lease.

On an occasion Brougham wished to make a transfer of his alleged right to some person at Wilcannia, when it was discovered that Brougham was a minor no transfer was made.

Will you please satisfy yourself by wire of the truth or otherwise of the above statements.

Yours, &c.,

HENRY H. COOKE.

Telegraph to Mr. Chairman Tompson, and inquire whether he could hold an inquiry at Wilcannia on his return to Bourke relative to J. K. Brougham's mineral conditional purchase. The papers are with Mr. Warden Brown, from whom they might be obtained. The question is as to the age of conditional purchaser when he applied for the land.—C.O., 25/11/87.

Wire, 25/11/87. Noted, 2,134.

No. 49.

H. H. Cooke, Esq., M.P., to The Secretary for Lands.

Renham v. Brougham, Broken Hill.

Sir

Legislative Assembly, New South Wales, 25 November, 1887.

Since writing this evening another telegram from Mr. Walsh, solicitor, Silverton, to Renham, has been handed to me, and I enclose same for your information. The Kirkpatrick & Co. herein include, I am informed, the Mr. Barnes who has been writing on Brougham's behalf.

Yours, &c.,

HENRY H. COOKE.

[Enclosure.]

Telegram from Mr. E. Welsh to M. C. Renham.

Silverton, 25 November, 1887.

BROUGHAM took up land as dummy for Nickel. It was Nickel's money that paid for it. If any one other than you entitled it is Nickel. Kirkpatrick & Co. acted as agents for Nickel, and now want to keep land for themselves. If necessary can prove this.

E. WELSH.

No. 50.

Telegram from The Chairman, Land Board, Wilcannia, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Silverton, 26 November, 1887.

In consequence of Mr. Trollope's illness, Broken Hill Court to-day had to be adjourned until next Tuesday. Doctor says he must not be moved for several days; therefore, Silverton Court on Monday must be adjourned until Wednesday, and I will be unable to leave for Wilcannia until next Saturday's coach.

G. C. TOMPSON,

Chairman.

Seen.—C.O., 28/11/87. Telegraph to Mr. Chairman Tompson.

It was supposed that the allegations in Brougham's mineral conditional purchase case was, that he was under 16 years of age when he applied; but it is found now that it is generally admitted that he was 17, and was, therefore, eligible to select. No inquiry necessary on this point. Please return papers to Mr. Wyman Brown, in order that he may complete action thereon.—C.O., 29/11/87. Wire, 29/11/87.

No. 51.

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No. 51.

Telegram from The Chairman, Land Board, Wilcannia, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Silverton, 26 November, 1887.

CAN inquire into Brougham's case at Wilcannia, on 5th December, if parties will accept notice. Shall I issue notice for that date.

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

Reply in the affirmative.—C.O., 26/11/87. Wire, 26/11/87. Inform Mr. Cooke, M.P.
H. H. Cooke, M.P., 28/11/87.

No. 52.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Lands to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Silverton.

Sydney, 26 November, 1887.

PLEASE arrange to hold inquiry, *re* Brougham's case, as proposed.

STEPHEN FREEMAN
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 53.

The Under Secretary for Lands to H. H. Cooke, Esq., M.P.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 28 November, 1887.

In reply to your letter of the 25th instant, respecting the conditional purchase noted in the margin, I have the honor to inform you that the Chairman of the Local Land Board, who is at present at Silverton, has been requested to hold an inquiry into the matter, and that officer has intimated that he will do so on the earliest possible date.

I have, &c.,

F. H. WILSON,
(For the Under Secretary).

Mineral conditional purchase, 83-56; Wilcannia; 20th September, 1883; 40 acres; J. K. Brougham.

No. 54.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Lands to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Silverton.

Sydney, 29 November, 1887.

It was supposed that the allegations in Brougham's mineral conditional purchase case was that he was under 16 years of age when he applied, but it is found now that it is generally admitted that he was 17, and was therefore eligible to select. No inquiry necessary on the point. Please return papers to Mr. Wyman Brown in order that he may complete action thereon.

STEPHEN FREEMAN
(For the Under Secretary.)

No. 55.

T. W. Barnes & Co. to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Wilcannia, 31 January, 1888.

Referring to your letter of 29th October last, advising the applicant for the mineral conditional purchase, noted in the margin, that an inquiry would be held by the Mines Department into the circumstances of Mr. M. C. Renham's claim to hold the same area under mineral license, we have recently been given to understand by Mr. Warden Wyman Brown that he has been unable to hold such inquiry owing to the continued absence from the Silverton district of Mr. Renham.

We had requested the Warden to give us notice of when the inquiry would be held, but have had only the above communication from him on the matter.

We may here state that, until the 7th June, 1885, it would appear that Mr. Renham had never been upon the land, as, on the evening of that day he made inquiries at the Broken Hill Mine as to the locality of the portion. On the following morning he pegged out the land and applied for a mineral lease in the names of Renham and Harper.

We had instructed an agent in Silverton, by letter dated 5th June, 1885, to apply for a mineral lease of the portion in the names of J. K. Brougham, A. Kirkpatrick, and T. W. Barnes. Our agent received this letter on the forenoon of the 7th, and incautiously communicated its contents to a Mr. Welsh (who has since had charge of all the legal proceedings as Renham and Harper's solicitor). Previous to Renham's mineral lease application a shaft had been sunk on the land some 9 feet, and arrangements made with a contractor for the further sinking; Renham and Harper's application, however, stopped the work, pending Departmental action. In March, 1886 (Renham being at the time not in occupation of the land), the applicant, Mr. Brougham, put on men to continue the sinking of the shaft. Some days afterwards Renham returned to the land and ordered the men off. On their refusal to move, Renham summoned them for trespass, but was non-suited by the Warden on April 16th, 1886. An appeal was then lodged by him, and heard at Minindie by Judge Backhouse, who decided in his favour.

As the period within which the applicant must fulfil the conditions of the mineral conditional purchase will shortly expire, and, as under the present circumstances, he is precluded from working on the land unless he renders himself liable to legal proceedings on the part of Mr. Renham, we have the honor to request that notices be served on both parties, and an inquiry into the matter held at an early date.

We have, &c.,

T. W. BARNES & CO.

No. 56.

M.C.P. 83-56; Wilcannia; 20/9/83; 40 acres; J. K. Brougham; portion 3, parish Picton, county Yancowinna.

No. 56.

Mr. P. F. Richardson to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

No. 1, Spring-street, 2 February, 1888.

I reference to Mr. M. C. Renham's application for a mineral lease at Silverton, about which I spoke to you yesterday, I have the honor to request your early attention to the case, and as the papers have been recalled from the Warden on Mr. Cooke's representation to you that there was sufficient evidence in the papers to prove my client's claim, I would respectfully submit that the matter be so dealt with by you on its merits. Mr. Renham is in Sydney, and is prepared to be examined on oath, if necessary, and to give any further information that may be required. Without going into the merits of the case *in extenso*, I desire to call your special attention to the following facts:—

Mr. Renham held the ground under mineral license in May, 1835, before the Supreme Court decision was given that the mineral conditional purchases were not legal on gold-fields, and he applied for a mineral lease, on 8th June, 1835.

He has already proved his claim in the District and Supreme Courts, and the defendants have never appealed against it.

Brougham applied for a refund of the deposit on his mineral conditional purchase which shows that he had no expectation of getting it, and it was only when the ground was likely to prove valuable that he revived his claim.

From the first Brougham was acting in the interest of Nickel (Mr. Renham's partner), as will be seen from the fact that he transferred it immediately to that person, but the transfer could not be ratified owing to Brougham being under age.

Since my interview with you, I find Mr. Barnes, who is acting as agent for Brougham, is in Sydney, and wishes to have the cases reopened before the Warden's Court, which I most strongly protest against, as it would be most unfair to put my client to further delay, trouble, and expense, when he has twice proved his title to the land in question. Mr. Salomon's opinion is that cases such as this cannot be affected by Mr. Copeland's Mineral Conditional Purchase Validating Bill.

I have, &c.,

PHILLIP F. RICHARDSON.

Register. Put with papers, and submit case as soon as possible.—T.G., 2/2/88. Mr. Capper. Papers, 88-422, Cor, sent to Under Secretary, 1/2/88.—J.P.M., 2/2/88. Papers herewith.

After carefully considering the conflicting statements made by the rival claimants in this case, I have arrived at the conclusion that the most satisfactory course to pursue will be to refer the case to the Local Land Board to be fully investigated, all the parties interested being summoned to appear and produce any evidence they may deem proper. The Board meets at Silverton early in April, and therefore there will be ample time for each claimant to collect the necessary information in support of their respective claims. It would not be in accordance with the law to hold an inquiry except within the Board district in which the land is situated.—C.O., 4/2/88.

It is pointed out that Mr. Renham is responsible for the delay which has occurred, as, had he attended before the Warden as desired, the case would no doubt have been long since disposed of.—C.O., 6/2/88.

Approved.—T.G., 6/2/88. Parties may have copies of papers on usual terms if applied for without delay.—T.G. P. F. Richardson and T. W. Barnes & Co. informed, 6/2/88.

No. 57.

The Under Secretary for Lands to T. W. Barnes & Co.

Gentlemen,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 6 February, 1888.

Wilcannia,
M.C.P., 83-56;
20th September,
1883; 40 acres,
J. K. Brougham;
portion 3, parish
Picton, county
Yancowinna.

Referring to your letter of the 31st instant, I am directed by the Secretary for Lands to inform you that the papers relating to the mineral conditional purchase noted in the margin, and Mr. M. C. Renham's claim to hold the same area under a mineral license, are about to be forwarded to the Local Land Board for investigation, and to point out that Mr. Renham is responsible for the delay which has occurred, as, had he attended before the Warden as desired, the case would no doubt have been long since disposed of.

I am to add that copies of the papers may be obtained on usual terms if applied for without delay.

I have, &c.,

STEPHEN FREEMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 58.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. P. F. Richardson.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 6 February, 1888.

Wilcannia,
M.C.P., 83-56,
20th September,
1883, 40 acres,
J. K. Brougham,
portion 3,
parish Picton,
county Yanco
winna.

Referring to your letter of the 2nd instant, respecting the mineral conditional purchase noted in the margin, and Mr. M. C. Renham's claim to hold the same area under mineral license, I am directed to inform you that after carefully considering the rival claimants' statements, the Secretary for Lands has arrived at the conclusion that the most satisfactory course to pursue will be to refer the case to the Local Land Board, to be fully investigated, and to point out that Mr. Renham is responsible for the delay which has occurred, as, had he attended before the Warden, as desired, the case would no doubt have been long since disposed of.

I am to add that copies of papers relating to the case may be obtained on usual terms, if applied for without delay.

I have, &c.,

STEPHEN FREEMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 59.

No. 59.

Memo. from Mr. W. J. Fergusson to The Secretary for Lands.

RENHAM's application for mineral lease, in opposition to Brougham's mineral conditional purchase, Wilcannia.—Will you keep these papers in your office till Friday next, when I would like the Minister to appoint a time I could interview him on the matter.

Yours, &c.,

Papers 88-443 Cor. now herewith, going to Local Land Board to-day.—J.P.M., 7/2/88. May the papers be retained in this office as desired by above memo.—W.H.C., 7/2/88. The Assistant Under Secretary. Are the papers still to be retained here?—W.H.C., 6/3/88. The Assistant Under Secretary.—S.F., 6/3/88.

The enclosed papers, referring to the mineral conditional purchase quoted in the margin are forwarded to the Chairman of the Local Land Board, whose attention is specially directed to Minister's minute of 6th ultimo as to a full investigation of the case, and all parties interested summoned to appear and produce any evidence they may deem proper.—F.H.W. (for the Under Secretary), B.C., 9/3/88. The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke.

See action on outside paper.—L.B.D., 88-927.

No. 60.

Telegram from T. W. Barnes & Co. to The Chairman Local Land Board, Bourke.

Wilcannia, 17 March, 1888.

Does inquiry into Brougham's mineral conditional purchase come on next sittings, and what date require to summon witnesses.

T. W. BARNES & CO.,

Wilcannia.

Brougham's case will be heard at Silvertown 17th April next. Telegram 19/3/88. Silvertown Court, 17th April, 1888. Parties notified, 19/3/88, James Kennedy Brougham, Michael Renham, and Charles Harper. Persons intimated, 19/3/88, D. O'Connor, J. Hurley, and Henry H. Cooke, Ms.P.; William Welsh, solicitor; T. Jhonson, solicitor; Messrs. Kirkpatrick, Barnes, and Brougham; Phillip F. Richardson; W. J. Fergusson, solicitor; and Messrs T. W. Barnes & Co.

No. 61.

Telegram from The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to T. W. Barnes & Co.

Bourke, 19 March, 1888.

BROUGHAM's case will be heard, Silvertown, 17th April next.

M. LACKEY

(For Chairman),

Land Board Office, Bourke.

No. 62.

The-Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to P. F. Richardson, Esq.

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

Notice to appear at Local Land Board [Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

You are hereby notified that a Land Court will be held at the Court-house at Silvertown, on the 17th day, of April, 1888, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, when the matter or question stated at the foot hereof will be investigated.

On proof of due service of this notice, the investigation may proceed whether you appear in Court or not.

Given under my hand, at Bourke, this 19th day of March, 1888,—

G. C. TOMPSON,

Chairman.

Matter for investigation.

To inquire as to the fulfilment of the conditions of the Act on mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, applied for by James Kennedy Brougham, on 20th September, 1883, at Wilcannia (40 acres).

No. 63.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to Alfred Kirkpatrick and others.

New South Wales, }
Bourke, to wit. }

Notice to appear at Local Land Board. [Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

You are hereby notified that a Land Court will be held at the Court-house at Silvertown, on the 17th day of April, 1888, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, when the matter or question stated at the foot hereof will be investigated.

On proof of due service of this notice, the investigation may proceed whether you appear in Court or not.

Given under my hand, at Bourke, this 19th day of March, 1888,—

G. C. TOMPSON,

Chairman.

Matter for investigation.

To inquire as to the fulfilment of the conditions of the Act on mineral conditional purchase No. 83-56, applied for by James Kennedy Brougham, on the 20th September, 1883, at Wilcannia (40 acres).

No. 64.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, to T. Jhonson, Esq.

New South Wales, }
Bourke, to wit. } Notice to appear at Local Land Board. [Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

You are hereby notified that a Land Court will be held at the Court-house at Silverton, on the 17th day of April, 1888, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, when the matter or question stated at the foot hereof will be investigated.

On proof of due service of this notice, the investigation may proceed whether you appear in Court or not.

Given under my hand, at Bourke, this 19th day of March, 1888,—

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

Matter for investigation.

To inquire as to the fulfilment of the conditions of the Act on mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, applied for by James Kennedy Brougham, on 20th September, 1883, at Wilcannia (40 acres).

No. 65.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to W. Welsh, Esq.

New South Wales, }
Bourke, to wit. } Notice to appear at Local Land Board. [Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

You are hereby notified that a Land Court will be held at the Court-house at Silverton, on the 17th day of April, 1888, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, when the matter or question stated at the foot hereof will be investigated.

On proof of due service of this notice, the investigation may proceed whether you appear in Court or not.

Given under my hand, at Bourke, this 19th day of March, 1888,—

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

Matter for investigation.

To inquire as to the fulfilment of the conditions of the Act on mineral conditional purchase, No. 83-56, applied for by James Kennedy Brougham, on 20th September, 1883, at Wilcannia (40 acres).

No. 66.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to H. H. Cooke, Esq., M.P.

New South Wales, }
Bourke, to wit. } Notice to appear at Local Land Board. [Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

You are hereby notified that a Land Court will be held at the Court-house at Silverton, on the 17th day of April, 1888, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, when the matter or question stated at the foot hereof will be investigated.

On proof of due service of this notice, the investigation may proceed whether you appear in Court or not.

Given under my hand, at Bourke, this 19th day of March, 1888,—

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

Matter for investigation.

To inquire as to the fulfilment of the conditions of the Act on mineral conditional purchase, No. 83-56, applied for by James Kennedy Brougham, on 20th September, 1883, at Wilcannia (40 acres).

No. 67.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to D. O'Connor and J. Hurley,
Esquires, M.s.P.

New South Wales, }
Bourke, to wit. } Notice to appear at Local Land Board. [Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

You are hereby notified that a Land Court will be held at the Court-house at Silverton, on the 17th day of April, 1888, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, when the matter or question stated at the foot hereof will be investigated.

On proof of due service of this notice, the investigation may proceed whether you appear in Court or not.

Given under my hand, at Bourke, this 19th day of March, 1888,—

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

Matter for investigation.

To inquire as to the fulfilment of the conditions of the Act on mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, applied for by James Kennedy Brougham on 20th September, 1883, at Wilcannia (40 acres).

19

No. 68.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to M. Renham and C. Harper.

New South Wales, }
 Bourke, to wit. } Notice to appear at Local Land Board. [Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

You are hereby notified to attend at the Court-house at Silvertown, on the 17th day of April, 1888, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, when the matter or question stated at the foot hereof will be investigated.

On proof of due service of this notice, the investigation may proceed whether you appear in Court or not.

Given under my hand, at Bourke, this 19th day of March, 1888,—

G. C. TOMPSON,
 Chairman.

Matter for investigation.

To inquire as to the fulfilment of the conditions of the Act on mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, applied for by James Kennedy Brougham on 20th September, 1883, at Wilcannia (40 acres).

No. 69.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to J. K. Brougham.

New South Wales, }
 Bourke, to wit. } Notice to appear at Local Land Board. [Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

You are hereby notified to attend at the Court-house, at Silvertown, on the 17th day of April, 1888, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, when the matter or question stated at the foot hereof will be investigated.

On proof of due service of this notice, the investigation may proceed whether you appear in Court or not.

Given under my hand, at Bourke, this 19th day of March, 1888,—

G. C. TOMPSON,
 Chairman.

Matter for investigation.

To inquire as to the fulfilment of the conditions of the Act on mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, applied for by you on 20th September, 1883, at Wilcannia (40 acres).

No. 70.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to W. J. Fergusson, Esq.

New South Wales, }
 Bourke, to wit. } Notice to appear at Local Land Board. [Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

You are hereby notified that a Land Court will be held at the Court-house at Silvertown, on the 17th day of April, 1888, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, when the matter or question stated at the foot hereof will be investigated.

On proof of due service of this notice, the investigation may proceed whether you appear in Court or not.

Given under my hand at Bourke, this 19th day of March, 1888.

G. C. TOMPSON,
 Chairman.

Matter for investigation.

To inquire as to the fulfilment of the conditions of the Act on mineral conditional purchase, No. 83-56, applied for by James Kennedy Brougham, on the 20th September, 1883, at Wilcannia (40 acres).

No. 71.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to T. W. Barnes & Co.

New South Wales, }
 Bourke, to wit. } Notice to appear at Local Land Board. [Crown Lands Act of 1884.]

You are hereby notified that a Land Court will be held at the Court-house at Silvertown, on the 17th day of April, 1888, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, when the matter or question stated at the foot hereof will be investigated.

On proof of due service of this notice, the investigation may proceed whether you appear in Court or not.

Given under my hand, at Bourke, this 19th day of March, 1888,—

G. C. TOMPSON,
 Chairman.

Matter for investigation.

To inquire as to the fulfilment of the conditions of the Act on mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, applied for by James Kennedy Brougham on 20th September, 1883, at Wilcannia (40 acres).

No. 72.

No. 72.

Telegram from The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Broken Hill, 11 April, 1888.

RECOMMENDED that Mr. Surveyor Tuxen be authorized to inspect and report on James Kennedy Brougham's mineral conditional purchase.

G. C. TOMPSON,

Chairman, Land Board.

Immediate. Telegraph to District Surveyor Mr. Chairman Tompson has recommended that Mr. Surveyor Tuxen should inspect and report upon James Kennedy Brougham's mineral conditional purchase. Please instruct him to do so.—C.O., 12/4/88.

Wire, 12/4/88.

No. 73.

Telegram from P. F. Richardson, Esq., to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke.
Sydney, 11 April, 1888.

Who will pay my expenses to Silvertown, *re* Brougham's case.

P. F. RICHARDSON,

Spring-street,

Telegram. Your attendance optional in your client's interest, 11/4/88. To be placed with Brougham's papers, now with the Chairman for Silvertown Court.—M.L., 14/4/88.

The papers referred to were forwarded to head quarters on the 25th April, 1888, SS-1,545. A question has recently been asked respecting this case in the Legislative Assembly.—F.W.W. (*pro* Chairman), Bourke, 17/7/88. The Under Secretary for Lands.

No. 74.

Telegram from The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to P. F. Richardson, Esq.
Bourke, 11 April, 1888.

Your attendance is optional in your client's interest.

M. LACKEY

(For Chairman),

Land Board Office, Bourke.

No. 75.

Telegram from Mr. District-Surveyor M'Farlane to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Broken Hill.

Bourke, 11 April, 1888.

MR. TUXEN or Mr. Creswell may inspect Brougham's selection.

EDWARD M'FARLANE,

District Surveyor.

No. 76.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. District-Surveyor M'Farlane.

Bourke, 12 April, 1888.

MR. CHAIRMAN TOMPSON has recommended that Mr. Surveyor Tuxen should inspect and report upon James Kennedy Brougham's mineral conditional purchase. Please instruct him to do so.

STEPHEN FREEMAN

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 77.

Telegram from Mr. District-Surveyor M'Farlane to P. V. Tuxen, Esq.

Bourke, 19 April, 1888.

PLEASE inspect James Kennedy Brougham's mineral conditional purchase and report to Chairman.

ED. M'FARLANE,

District Surveyor.

No. 78.

Mr. Surveyor Tuxen to Mr. District-Surveyor M'Farlane.

Sir,

Silvertown, 16 April, 1888.

In compliance with your instructions by telegram of the 12th April, 1888, I inspected portion 3, parish of Pieton, county of Yancowinna, on the 14th instant, and found the improvements to consist of:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|-----|----|----|
| 1 shaft in hard iron-stone, 4 feet by 7 feet, 45 feet deep, valued at 45s. per foot | 101 | 5 | 0 |
| 1 shaft in blue quartz, 4 feet by 5 feet, 6 feet deep, valued at 30s. per foot | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 shaft in blue quartz, 2 feet 6 inches by 5 feet, 8 feet deep, valued at 30s. per foot | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Costeaning | 2 | 14 | 0 |

Total £124 19 0

I have, &c.,

P. V. TUXEN,

Surveyor.

No. 79.

No. 79.

Telegram from Mr. C. Renham to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Silverton.

Sydney, 16 April, 1888.

JUST informed Brougham v. Renham case to be heard before Land Board, Silverton, 17th instant, but received no notice of such hearing.

M. C. RENHAM,
160, O'Connell-street.

At the hearing on 17th April, 1888, Mr. William Welsh, solicitor, appeared for Messrs. M. C. Renham and Charles Harper.—G.C.T., 17/4/88.

This paper is forwarded to the Under Secretary with a suggestion that it be placed with James Kennedy Brougham's conditional purchase papers C.P. 83-56, made at Wilcannia on 20th September, 1883.—G.C. TOMPSON, Chairman, B.C., Bourke, 5/6/88. The Under Secretary for Lands.

No. 80.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Lands to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Broken Hill.

Sydney, 17 April, 1888.

IN reply your yesterday's wire, Mr. District-Surveyor M'Farlane instructed on 12th instant to direct Mr. Tuxen to inspect Brougham's conditional purchase.

STEPHEN FREEMAN
(For Under Secretary, Lands).

No. 81.

Decision of the Land Board, Silverton.

Crown Lands Act of 1884—(Part II, section 14, sub-section 4).

New South Wales, }
to wit. } Mineral Conditional Purchase, 83-56, James Kennedy Brougham.

WHEREAS on the 17th and 18th days of April, 1888, it became a matter for investigation before us as to the fulfilment of the conditions of the Act on mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, being portion 3 of 40 acres in the parish of Picton, county of Yancowinna, made by James Kennedy Brougham, at Wilcannia, on the 20th September, 1883, and having taken evidence and inquired into the said matter, we find that the conditional purchase was not made for the exclusive use and benefit of the applicant, and recommend that the conditional purchase be declared forfeited.

Given under our hand, at the Local Land Board, at Silverton, in the Colony of New South Wales, this 18th day of April, 1888,—

G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
FRED. TROLLOPE, Member.

[Enclosures.]

Crown Land Act of 1884—(Part II, section 14, sub-section 1).

New South Wales, }
to wit. } Caption to Deposition of Witnesses.

THE examination of Thomas William Barnes, of Wilcannia, in the Colony of New South Wales, commission agent; James Kennedy Brougham, of Broken Hill; Patrick May, of Broken Hill; James MacClure, of Broken Hill; Julius Nickel, of Silverton; Otto Fischer, of Broken Hill; and Hugh Patterson, of Broken Hill, in the said Colony.

WHEREAS it hath been necessary to inquire into the application of James Kennedy Brougham for mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, being portion 3, parish of Picton, county of Yancowinna, and it hath been found necessary to investigate the said matter on oath, the depositions of the several witnesses are appended hereto.

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

THIS deponent, *Thomas William Barnes*, of Wilcannia, in the Colony of New South Wales, commission agent, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows:—

By Mr. Thonson: I know land forming subject of this inquiry, portion 3, parish of Picton; in September, 1883, I paid some money on account of it; I paid James Kennedy Brougham the sum of £20; that was to apply for the land within boundaries of portion 3, parish of Picton, county of Yancowinna, as a mineral conditional purchase, that was to pay deposit; I saw this land first on 18th May, 1885; I was in company with Patrick May; prior to 18th May, 1885; Kirkpatrick, Barnes & Co. had made an arrangement with Brougham to acquire an interest in this land; as a party interested I gave directions on that day—18th May; after inspecting the ground I instructed Arthur Hawson to sink a shaft on the land; he was working in neighbourhood at time; I asked him to give me an estimate of cost; in pursuance of this no work was done when I next saw land; it was subsequently jumped; he did not make arrangement for work to be proceeded with owing to Renham and Harper claiming land; we started work afresh in March, 1886; Matherson and Arnheim, as our agents, employed MacClure and Mason; sank a shaft of 25 feet; they received £2 a foot; I am not clear about their doing anything further; there was £5 expended in addition to this.

By Board: The shaft had been sunk certain depth, and 25 feet was in addition to this.

By Mr. Thonson: Top of shaft was secured with Mulga timber; that timber has since been removed; do not know by whom; I was, or my men MacClure and Mason, were sued in April, 1886, by Renham in Warden's Court; complaint was dismissed; Renham, on appeal, got a verdict for ls. and costs; on that occasion we failed to produce proof of mineral conditional purchase application; since then no work has been done; we were afraid to go on the ground; a man named Martin, whom Renham afterwards sued, and against whom a verdict was passed, had no connection with us; I did not lodge an objection to Martin's application.

By Mr. Welsh: In September, 1883, I was carrying on business with Alfred Kirkpatrick, under names of Kirkpatrick, Barnes, & Co., of Wilcannia, commission agents; Mr. Kirkpatrick also claims interest in the land on arrangement between us and James Kennedy Brougham; on 20th September, 1883, Brougham was a clerk in the employ of Kirkpatrick, Barnes, & Co.; he was with us about a year after; am not quite sure; forget when he left; I was in Land Office when Brougham made application; I was requested, or my firm was requested, to apply for this land, as a mineral conditional purchase, by Frank Hawson, for himself; I presume he did not state for whom; my firm had not special instructions from Hawson to select land for Julius Nickel; I cannot recollect if I had instructions to select on behalf of any specific individual at all; received instructions

instructions from Mr. Hawson by letter; he was residing 150 miles from Wilcannia; Brougham did not, on my instructions, execute a transfer to Julius Nickel on date of selection; that is my signature; that is also my signature to affidavit of verification; the first signature is to papers 83-24,649 C. S. Department to Lands; these documents were prepared by my instructions; at the time this selection was taken up by Brougham I think ten other blocks were taken up—ten blocks now known as Round Hill property, under instructions from Hawson; I received instructions from Hawson; they were to be for certain persons in whose names they were to be transferred; I received the names subsequently to the instructions; it appears I received instructions previously to transfer, which was executed in pursuance of instructions received from Mr. Hawson; on 20th September, 1883, I had no interest in this land beyond Brougham taking it up; I first became personally interested in this land about August, 1884; my partner and myself at the same time, by arrangement, with Brougham; this land was not selected by Jas. K. Brougham on 20th September, 1883, on his own behalf, and not with his own money—with my firm's money; I acted as agent for Hawson in taking up the land, and Brougham acted for the firm; Mr. Brougham is present to-day; I got description from Hawson of the land; Brougham, Kirkpatrick, and myself certainly claim free from any agency or trusteeship.

By Mr. Jhonson: We were in first place told by Hawson to take it up, and were afterwards told by him to keep it; at that time knew of nobody beneficially interested in the land but Hawson.

By Mr. Welsh: I know transfer was executed to Julius Nickel, but know of no subsequent arrangements; received no legal document from Hawson with regard to transfer.

By Mr. Jhonson: Mr. Hawson told me by letter.

By Board: At time Brougham applied in September, 1883, do not know if there were any improvements on the land; Brougham sunk 25 feet in a hole, but do not know who sank that hole; saw land first time on 18th May, 1885, portion 3, parish Pictou, county Yancowinna; there was a hole, apparently commencement of a shaft silt in bottom; it might be 6, 8, or 9 feet deep; value it £1 10s. a foot, total value of £9 or £10; Brougham sunk 25 feet in same hole, cost of sinking the 25 feet, £50; the shaft was sunk with a view to fulfilling our conditions for mining purposes; portion was measured at the time this shaft was in the lode; there are several lodes there; it might be 250 feet from north-west corner of portion in south-east direction, on western side of hill; if hill is correctly shown on plan, it would be about centre of block; there might have been small trench, but I am not sure; no other improvements on there that I know of; I walked all over it; improvements to value of £50 and £5 expended, but cannot specify for what before expiry of three years from date of application; cannot speak about timber at head of shaft; no more improvements put on since, on account of decision given at Menindie by Judge Backhouse; Brougham has been prevented from completing improvement; final declaration not made; five years not expired.

Sworn before us, at Silverton, this 17th }
day of April, 1888,— }

THOS. W. BARNES.

G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
FRED. TROLLOPE, Member.

THIS deponent, *James Kennedy Brougham*, of Broken Hill, in the Colony of New South Wales, sharebroker, being duly sworn maketh oath, and saith as follows:—

By Mr. Jhonson: I was the applicant for mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, made at Wilcannia on 20th September, 1883; it was a personal application, by instructions from Mr. T. W. Barnes; he gave me the money to pay the deposit; I was 18 years of age then; on same date I signed transfer, produced, of this land to Julius Nickel; this was done by direction of Mr. Barnes.

By Mr. Welsh: I had received instructions from Mr. Barnes, who had been instructed by Hawson; I selected this land for myself, and for no one else that I was aware of at the time; I repudiate the allegation that I took it up as agent or trustee for anyone else or as the servant of anyone else; I took up this land, and it is mine; that is position I take up to-day; it was Mr. Barnes who gave me the money; I had no interest in the money; I first became interested in 1884 in the money by which the land was taken up; previous to this I had no interest in the moneys; I did not understand what the transfer was; Mr. Barnes asked me for my signature, and I gave it; I cannot remember if I understood from Mr. Barnes at the time of making application that it was for anyone else; was under the impression at time it was for myself; I did not know where land was when I selected; I got the description from Mr. Barnes; in the description it says, beginning a peg marked J N; I did not know what J N meant; I did not understand Mr. Barnes to make me a present of the money; I understood it to be a loan; the time of loan was not given; did not understand it was for any time; I cannot remember when my mind was first disabused of idea that it was a loan; I have seen Mr. Julius Nickel; would not know him if I saw him; I have met him; he has claimed this land from me within the last two months, and requested me to transfer it to him; I cannot remember what amount he offered to pay, but he offered me a bag of sovereigns; he may have offered to pay all expenses in connection with land in writing; I do not know what the document was he gave me; I said on that occasion I should have to consult my partners to see whether I should transfer it or not; I meant Kirkpatrick and Barnes by my partners; I now repudiate the right of Mr. Julius Nickels to this land; transfer was not registered, because I was a minor; I can't say if I have repudiated this transfer to Mr. Nickel; I never wrote to Mr. Nickel repudiating it; I am 23 on 5th August; I became of age in 1886; I have only seen Mr. Nickel once in my life; within last two months, when he offered me the sovereigns; I heard Mr. Barnes' evidence; I heard Mr. Barnes swear that I took it up as agent for firm who was agent for Hawson; it is not true.

By Mr. Jhonson: In making this application for mineral conditional purchase and signing transfer to Nickel I acted merely by direction of Mr. Barnes; in making application knew no one to be connected with it except Mr. Barnes; in signing transfer to Nickel did not know Nickel to be interested in any way in this claim; I never knew Nickel to be interested in this claim till he came to me about two months ago; previous to that occasion Nickel had never made any demand upon me in any shape with regard to this land; I merely accepted the money to make the application as directed by Mr. Barnes at time of making application; I was doing as Mr. Barnes told me, and using his money.

By Board: That is my application 83-56, and that is my signature; it is dated 20th September, 1883; land since measured and numbered portion 3, parish of Pictou, county of Yancowinna, shown by red edging on tracing marked exhibit A, after selecting the land; it was eighteen months ago I first saw it; I did not give any instructions to effect improvements on land; left it to Mr. Barnes; I know shaft is there as I have seen it; I know that shaft, 25 feet deep, was sunk on that land for mining purpose, value, £2 a foot; value, £50; have put no improvements on since then; at end of first term of three years I believe Mr. Barnes made declaration; I left everything to Mr. Barnes; that is my declaration produced, dated 3rd November, 1886; that is to the effect that mining operations to the extent of £1 10s. per acre, other than gold-mining, had been effected on land; declaration is No. 36,257 of 87, Department of Lands.

Sworn before us, at Silverton, this }
17th day of April, 1888,— }

JAMES KENNEDY BROUGHAM.

G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
FRED. TROLLOPE, Member.

THIS deponent, *Patrick May*, of Broken Hill, in the Colony of New South Wales, miner, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows:

By Mr. Jhonson: I know portion 3, parish of Pictou; I visited the land about 18th May, 1885, in company with Mr. Barnes and two other gentlemen; there were two holes down, one 5 or 6 feet deep and one 4 or 5, and a little costeaning; I know a man named Maclure; I saw him working there afterwards; he was sinking a shaft; I think a continuation of one of the holes; depth was sunk to about 30 feet deep, I think.

By Board: I think Maclure put a shaft down for Mr. Barnes; I should say £2 to £2 5s. a foot for it; I never saw any other improvements beyond those mentioned; cannot state value of costeaning; there would be 9 or 10 feet of costeaning a foot deep.

Sworn before us, at Silverton, this }
19th day of April, 1888,— }

PATRICK MAY.

G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
FRED. TROLLOPE, Member.

THIS

THIS deponent, *James Maclure*, of Broken Hill, in the Colony of New South Wales, miner, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows:—

By Mr. Jhonson: I know portion 3, parish of Picton; I worked on it in early part of 1886, in March, I think; I was instructed to do the work by Matherson and Arnheim; work consisted of sinking a shaft 25 feet deep; I did not start from surface, but in a shaft sunk 5 feet before; it was near the middle of claim; I was paid £2 a foot for the work; I had a man named Mason assisting me; when I went on to the ground beyond these holes there was a little costeaning 8 or 10 feet, and 18 inches deep, perhaps; the costeaning was about a day's work for one man.

By Board: Have not seen ground lately; twelve months ago when I last saw land; only the shaft I put down on it; that shaft near the costeaning, about a chain south of it; I cannot say exact date I completed the improvements; cannot state date; I commenced some time in March or April; I was working part of March and April; commenced March and completed in April, 1886; I was paid £2 a foot; £50.

By Mr. Welsh: I am not sure of the date; I was working when sued in Warden's Court; I worked about a week after the proceedings in the Warden's Court; I was here when judgment was given in Warden's Court; I was working after that.

By Board: No other improvements beyond the one shaft and costeaning.

Sworn before us, at Silverton, this }

17th day of April, 1888,— }

G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
FRED. TROLLOPE, Member.

JAMES MACLURE.

THIS deponent, *Julius Nickel*, of Silverton, in the Colony of New South Wales, mine owner, being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows:—

By Mr. Welsh: I know the land now known as portion 3, parish of Picton, the subject of this inquiry; in 1883 I held a mineral license; I have looked for license and cannot find it; very early in the month of September, 1883, I was in possession of this land on my mineral license; in early part of September I discovered a silver lode on the land; I communicated having made discovery to Tom Hawson, Tom Purcell, and others; I became interested with other parties in ten adjoining blocks; Mr. Frank Hawson, of the Nine-mile, was instructed to get mineral conditional purchases of these eleven blocks made—as to ten blocks on behalf of myself and others, as to the eleventh, portion 3, on behalf of myself only; these ten blocks were to be paid by Frank Hawson in consideration of being let in as a partner; the ten blocks were duly selected and transferred to self and friends; I did not get a registered transfer of portion 3; got no transfer at all; during September and afterwards had a man working on this land for me—Otto Fischer, now sharebroker, Broken Hill; I never consented to Mr. Brougham obtaining a mineral conditional purchase of this land for himself; I never gave up my right under mineral license to anyone but Otto Fischer; I gave him half of it—a half share; some time before Christmas of 1883 I heard that transfer could not be executed from Brougham to me; I have lately applied to Mr. Brougham to transfer to me about two months ago; I offered to pay all moneys he had expended on the ground; tendered him 200 sovereigns; he said he could not accept, he would have to consult his partners; since September, 1883, Mr. Brougham has never sent me any document repudiating the transfer he signed on 20th September; I was not aware that Mr. Brougham has taken position that he had selected this land on his own account; I have filed a suit in Equity against Messrs. Kirkpatrick, Barnes, and Brougham to compel them to transfer to me.

By Mr. Jhonson: I never made any demand upon Brougham with regard to this land until about two months ago.

By Board: It was about 20th September it was taken up; improvements on the land—shaft, costeaning, 9 or 10 feet deep, an open trench running along the surface, value at about £50; I know of no shaft being put down by Brougham; I do not know of myself of a shaft being put down.

Sworn by this deponent, Julius Nickel, at Silverton, }

this 17th day of April, 1888,— }

G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
FRED. TROLLOPE, Member.

JULIUS NICKEL.

THIS deponent, *Otto Fischer*, of Broken Hill, in the Colony of New South Wales, sharebroker, being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows:—

By Mr. Welsh: I know portion 3, parish of Picton, subject of this inquiry; I knew it end of September, 1883—about the end of September, might have been first week in October; I was employed by Mr. Nickel to work there for him; he gave me a share; I worked there till first week in December; I dug the shaft between 9 or 10 feet; it would fill up by being let alone; have seen where shaft has been put down since; about 30 feet as near as I can tell.

By Board: I went to work about beginning of October, 1883; there were no improvements on land at that time; the shaft was put down an extra 20 feet; saw the land six or eight months ago; there were a couple of shafts about 6 or 8 feet on the land when I saw it last; I only looked at the one; I can't say as to value of two other shafts 6 or 8 feet deep; the costeaning I did must have been 20 feet long, and another trench 20 feet—40 feet altogether.

Sworn before us, at Silverton, this }

17th day of April, 1888,— }

G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
FRED. TROLLOPE, Member.

OTTO FISCHER.

THIS deponent, *Hugh Patterson*, of Broken Hill, in the Colony of New South Wales, mining manager, being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows:—

By Mr. Welsh: I know portion 3, parish of Picton; I knew it in the year 1883—in early part of September, 1883; I remember the discovery made by Nickel upon it; in consequence of that discovery I went out following morning and pegged adjoining ground peg and peg with Nickel's; I applied for mineral license; I was present when an arrangement was made with Mr. Frank Hawson, of the Nine-mile; Mr. Frank Hawson had no interest at that time; he was to get mineral conditional purchases for eleven blocks by that arrangement; previous to arrangement with Mr. Hawson, I saw Mr. Nickel's pegs on the ground.

By Mr. Jhonson: Beyond what he told me I did not know they were his pegs.

Sworn before us, at Silverton, this }

17th day of April, 1888,— }

G. C. TOMPSON, Chairman.
FRED. TROLLOPE, Member.

HUGH PATTERSON.

No. 82.

Office Memorandum.

HAS the Board reported on the conflicting case, Brougham and Renham, Wilcannia District. Case recently heard at Broken Hill. If so, let me have the papers.

C.O., 4/5/88.

Conflict between mineral conditional purchase and mineral lease. Urgent. Papers herewith.—
J.P.M., 4/5/88. The Under Secretary.

No. 83.

Office Memorandum.

SPECIAL.—Has any appeal been received in the Department in connection with the enclosed case? W.H.C., 4/5/88.

C.S. records. No.—J.P.M. (*pro* J.B.), 4/5/88. Mr. Capper. The Under Secretary desires that a telegram be sent to the Chairman, as to whether an appeal has been lodged in the local office in connection with this case.—W.H.C., 4/5/88. Yes.—F.H.W. (for the Under Secretary), 4/5/88. Wire. Noted, 4/5/88.—966.

No. 84.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Lands to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke.

Sydney, 4 May, 1888.

PLEASE state whether an appeal has been lodged in connection with James Kennedy Brougham's mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, Wilcannia.

STEPHEN FREEMAN
(For the Under Secretary for Lands).

No. 85.

Telegram from The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Bourke, 5 May, 1888.

NOT any appeal has been received in James Kennedy Brougham's mineral conditional purchase case.

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

Mr. Wilson.—C.O., 5/5/88.

No. 86.

Telegram from The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Bourke, 8 May, 1888.

JUST received telegram from Mr. Barnes, Wilcannia, that he has this day posted an appeal in Brougham's mineral conditional case; will reach me on Thursday.

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

Mr. Capper.—S.F., 8/5/88.

No. 87.

The Under Secretary for Mines to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir, Department of Mines, Sydney, 9 May, 1888.

With reference to Brougham's mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, recommended for forfeiture by the Local Land Board at Silverton, on the 17th ultimo, I have the honor to request that the papers (87-16,870, Mines), in connection with this matter, which were forwarded from this Department to the Department of Lands, on the 30th December last, may be returned to this Department if they can be spared.

I have, &c.,
GERARD. E. HERRING
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 88.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir, Local Land Board Office, Bourke, 10 May, 1888.

Appeal enclosed.

With reference to the enclosed appeal, lodged by Mr. James Kennedy Brougham against the decision of the Wilcannia Land Board, in finding that the conditional purchase, 83-56, of 40 acres, made by him at Wilcannia on the 20th September, 1883, was not made for the exclusive use and benefit of the applicant, and recommending that the conditional purchase be declared forfeited, I have the honor to inform you that section 37 of the Crown Lands Regulations of 1880, states that conditional purchases for mining purposes shall be subject to all the conditions set forth in the foregoing sections, 1 to 10. Section 2 states that conditional purchases must be for the exclusive use and benefit of the applicant, &c.

The evidence clearly showed that the land was not taken for the exclusive use and benefit of the applicant.

I have, &c.,
G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

[Enclosure.]

Sir,

As agents for Mr. James Kennedy Brougham we enclose notice of appeal to the Minister from decision of the Local Land Board at Silverton on the 18th ultimo, with respect to mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, Wilcannia, 40 acres, 20th September, 1883.

A remittance of £10 will be forwarded to-morrow by telegraph to the Commercial Bank, Bourke, in your favour as security for costs of this appeal. The irregularity of the mails at present, as shown by the non-arrival of to-day's mail, renders this course advisable, as the next mail to Bourke might not reach you with a bank draft within the prescribed time.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke.

We have, &c.,
T. W. BARNES & CO.

Receipt forwarded to James Kennedy Brougham, care of T. W. Barnes & Co., 10/5/88.

Crown Lands Act of 1884—(Part II, section 17).

Notice of appeal to the Minister from decision of Local Land Board to be lodged with the Chairman.
New South Wales, }
to wit.

WHEREAS on the 17th day of April, 1888, a certain matter, wherein an inquiry as to the fulfilment of the conditions of the Act on mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, applied for by myself on the 20th September, 1883, at Wilcannia (40 acres), came before the Local Land Board at Silverton, in the Colony of New South Wales, for report, I being a party to such proceeding, and the said Board, after having inquired into the premises, decided that the forfeiture of said mineral conditional purchase be recommended, the land not having been taken up for the sole benefit of the applicant: And whereas I am dissatisfied with such decision, and intend to appeal therefrom to the Minister. These are, therefore, to give you notice of my intention to appeal as aforesaid, and I herewith tender the sum of £10 as security for the costs of such appeal. And the grounds of such appeal are annexed.

JAMES KENNEDY BROUGHAM.

To the Chairman of the Local Land Board at Bourke.

Received the sum of £10 referred to above by wire. Commercial Bank, Chairman, credit public moneys account.
8th May, 1888.

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman, 10 May, 1888.

Grounds of Appeal.

THAT I made a *bona fide* selection of the land, and expended the required amount in improvements within the first three years which mining improvements could have been proceeded with had I not been prevented by hostile occupation.

That in consequence of a mineral conditional purchase not being subject to the conditions of residence the Regulation No. 2, Chap. II. of Regulations published in the *Government Gazette* of 29th May, 1880, does not apply to this case.

No. 89.

Receipt.

New South Wales, 10 May, 1888.

RECEIVED from James Kennedy Brougham, care of T. W. Barnes & Co., the sum of ten pounds sterling, on account of Notice of Appeal to the Minister from decision of the Local Land Board.

G. C. TOMPSON,

Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke.

£10.

Received by wire.

No. 90.

Receipt.

New South Wales, 14 May, 1888.

RECEIVED from James Kennedy Brougham, the sum of ten pounds sterling, on account of second Notice of Appeal to the Minister, from decision of Land Board, M.C.P. 83-56, Wilcannia.

G. C. TOMPSON,

Chairman, Land Board, Bourke.

£10.

Care of T. Jhonson, Esq., Solicitor, Silverton.

No. 91.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Land Board Office, Bourke, 14 May, 1888.

I have the honor to forward herewith second appeal lodged by James Kennedy Brougham, against decision of the Silverton Land Board, and to refer you to my communication of 10th instant, enclosing first Appeal. M.C.P., 83-56
Wilcannia.

I have, &c.,

G. C. TOMPSON.

[Enclosure.]

Crown Lands Act of 1884—(Part II, Section 17.)

Notice of Appeal to the Minister from decision of Local Land Board, to be lodged with the Chairman.
New South Wales, }
to wit.

WHEREAS on the 18th day of April, 1888, a certain matter being an inquiry as to the fulfilment of the conditions of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, on mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, applied for by me on 20th September, 1883, at Wilcannia, came before the Local Land Board at Silverton, in the Colony of New South Wales, for decision, I, being a party to such proceeding, and the said Board, after having inquired into the premises, decided that they would recommend that the said mineral conditional purchase should be declared forfeited on the ground that it was not made for the exclusive use and benefit of the applicant: And whereas I am dissatisfied with such decision, and intend to appeal therefrom to the Minister. These are, therefore, to give you notice of my intention to appeal as aforesaid, and I herewith tender the sum of £10 as security for the costs of such appeal. And the grounds of such appeal are annexed.

JAMES KENNEDY BROUGHAM

(By his Attorney,—THOMAS EDWARD JHONSON,
Solicitor, Silverton).

To the Chairman of the Local Land Board, at Bourke.

Received the sum of £10 referred to above.

G. C. TOMPSON,
Chairman.

Bourke, 14 May, 1888.

Grounds of Appeal.

1. That the within mentioned decision was against the evidence.
2. That the within mentioned mineral conditional purchase was valid.
3. That on the evidence the said Board should have decided that the conditions of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, in respect of the said mineral conditional purchase had been complied with by the applicant.

JAMES KENNEDY BROUGHAM

(By his Attorney,—THOMAS EDWARD JHONSON,
Solicitor, Silverton).

Office Memorandum.

Wilcannia—Mineral Conditional Purchase, 83-56 ; 40 acres, portion 3 ; James K. Brougham.

21 May, 1888.

THE facts of this case up to 26th October last are set out in my *précis* of that date on papers 87-50,102, Department. In view of the facts then brought forward, Mr. Secretary Garrett desired to be informed by the Mines Department of the circumstances of Renham's application, how it had been dealt with, and the conditions under which the area was alleged to be held under a mineral license. The papers were thereupon transmitted to the Under Secretary for Mines, by whom they were forwarded to Mr. Warden Brown for report. On 22nd November last the Warden, by telegraph (87-59,285*d*) reported that he could get no one to point out the work done by the respective claimants, and in view of this report the papers were recalled by the Under Secretary for Mines and returned to this Department. Numerous letters for and against the conditional purchase application having been received from the interested parties, Mr. Secretary Garrett decided, on 2nd February last, to refer the case to the Land Board, with a view to a full investigation being held, and all the parties interested being summoned to appear and produce any evidence they might deem proper. In view of this decision the papers were transmitted to the chairman on 9th March last, and on 17th and 18th ultimo the case was fully investigated by the Board, who found that the mineral conditional purchase was not made for the exclusive use and benefit of the applicant, and they therefore recommended it for forfeiture. At this inquiry the following witnesses were examined:—T. W. Barnes, J. K. Brougham, Patrick May, James Maclure, Julius Nickel, Otto Fischer, and Hugh Patterson. With the view of showing the grounds upon which the Board have made their recommendation, the following digest from the evidence is given:—At page 1 of the deposition, T. W. Barnes states that he paid the selector (Brougham) the sum of £20 to apply for the land in question, and prior to 18th May, 1885, Kirkpatrick, Barnes, & Co. had made an arrangement with selector to acquire an interest in the land. At page 4, he states that he, or his firm, was requested to apply for the land, as a mineral conditional purchase, by Frank Hawson, who instructed him by letter; but he could not recollect if he had instructions to select on behalf of any specific individual. And with reference to the transfer, he states at page 5 that it was executed in pursuance of instructions received from Hawson, from whom he (Barnes) subsequently received the names of the persons to whom the mineral conditional purchase was to be transferred. At page 6 he states that the land was not selected by Brougham on his own behalf, and the money was supplied by the firm of Kirkpatrick, Barnes, & Co. He (Barnes) acted for Hawson in taking up the land, and Brougham acted for the firm of which Barnes was a member. The selector (Brougham) in his evidence, at page 9, states that he applied for the land by direction of Mr. Barnes, who supplied him with the money to pay the deposit, and on day of selection he signed a transfer of the land to Julius Nickel, also by direction of Mr. Barnes. This transfer was not passed, as Brougham was a minor. He also stated he selected the land for himself, and for no one else that he was aware of, and he repudiated the allegation that he took it up as agent or trustee for any other person, or was the servant of any one else. At page 10 he states he had no interest in the money given him by Barnes, and he did not know where the land was situated when he selected, but he got the description from Mr. Barnes. He did not understand what the transfer was, but when Mr. Barnes asked him for his signature he gave it. He could not remember if he understood from Mr. Barnes at the time of making the application that it was for any one else, but was under the impression at the time it was for himself (Brougham); and at page 11 he states he did not understand Mr. Barnes to make him a present of the money, but understood it to be a loan, although the time of loan was not given. He could not remember when his mind was first disabused of the idea that it was a loan. Nickel claimed the land, and offered him (Brougham) some money to pay the expenses, but Brougham would not accept it, and said he would have to consult his partners (meaning Kirkpatrick and Barnes). He afterwards repudiated the right of Nickel to the land. At page 13 he states that in selecting he was doing so by direction of Mr. Barnes, whose money he was using, and he did not give any instructions to effect improvements, but left it all to Mr. Barnes. The mining improvements made in connection with the conditional purchase he valued at £50, being a shaft 25 feet deep, at £2 per foot (page 14). James Maclure, in his evidence (page 17), states that he sunk a shaft under instructions from Matherson and Arnheim.

Julius Nickel, in his evidence (page 25), states that he has filed a suit in Equity against Kirkpatrick, Barnes, and Brougham to compel them to transfer to him. He (Nickel), at page 19, states that early in September, 1883, he discovered a silver lode and communicated his discovery to other parties with whom he became interested in eleven blocks. A person named Frank Hawson was instructed to get mineral conditional purchases for these eleven blocks, ten of which were on behalf of himself (Nickel) and others, and the other, being the portion in question, on behalf of himself (Nickel) alone. The ten blocks were to be paid for by Hawson in consideration of being taken in as a partner (page 20).

Two appeals by Brougham against the decision of the Board have now been received, and special attention is drawn to the chairman's letter of the 10th instant (88-19,018 Dep.).
The Under Secretary.

W.H.C., 21/5/88.

J. Hurley, Esq., M.P., to The Secretary for Lands.

Dear Sir,

Legislative Assembly, Sydney, 22 May, 1888.

I shall feel deeply obliged if you will cause me to be supplied with a copy of the evidence and decision of the Local Land Board, taken and delivered at Silverton, on the 18th April last, in the case of Brougham and party *versus* Renham and party.

In the cause of justice and equity I should like to have this at once, for Renham and party have been subjected to great loss of time and expense in regard to their property, and it is high time they were placed in full possession.

I am, &c.,

JOHN HURLEY.

The

The copies asked for may be supplied on the usual terms.—T.G., 23/5/88. Let me have the papers, please, to-day.—S.F., 23/5/88. Mr. De Low. Cannot trace in this Branch.—R.H.D., 23/5/88. The Assistant Under Secretary. A conditional purchase case.—R.H.D. Are the papers conditional sales?—S.F., 23/5/88. Yes. They are now attached.—W.H.C., 23/5/88. The Assistant Under Secretary. Mr. Smith to copy.—S.F., 23/5/88. Papers copied.—J.A.R., 25/5/88. A notice has been sent to Mr. Hurley informing him that the copies are ready and that he may obtain them upon forwarding 16s. 8d., the cost of the copying.—J.A.R., 26/5/88.

No. 94.

Office Memorandum.

APPEALS (2) by James K. Brougham, against the proposed forfeiture of his mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, Wilcannia.

THE facts of the case are set forth in the accompanying *précis* by Mr. Capper.

F.H.W., 5/6/88.

J. K. Brougham (care of T. W. Barnes & Co., Wilcannia) informed that Court will be held on 26th instant.—F.H.W., 8/6/88.

Appellant, care of T. W. Barnes & Co., and respondent, care of W. J. Fergusson, Esq., informed in each case of decision.—7/7/88.

No. 95.

Mr. T. W. Barnes to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Wilcannia, 6 June, 1888.

Referring to the decision of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, given on the 2nd instant, in the appeal against the proposed forfeiture of the mineral conditional purchase noted in the margin, we have the honor to request, as agents for the applicant, that you will inform us as to Mr. Brougham's present position in connection with this matter, that is to say—Is it the intention of the Minister to validate the mineral conditional purchase?

As the balance of the mining improvements, sufficient to comply with the conditions, must be completed by the 22nd of September next, and as Mr. Brougham is naturally desirous of knowing how he stands before incurring further expenditure, we must beg the favour of a reply as early as possible.

We have, &c.,

T. W. BARNES & CO.

No. 96.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. T. W. Barnes.

Sydney, 23 June, 1888.

In reply to your telegram, Appeal Court adjourned until Monday, 2nd proximo.

STEPHEN FREEMAN,

(For the Under Secretary.)

No. 97.

Telegram from Mr. T. W. Barnes to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Wilcannia, 28 June, 1888,

Re appeal against proposed forfeiture mineral conditional purchase 83-56, Wilcannia, Brougham and myself having been both away only received notice of holding Court last evening. Can case be adjourned to next Court to enable us attend?

T. W. BARNES.

Inform (telegraph) that the Court will be adjourned until Monday, 2nd proximo.—S.F., 23/6/88. Telegram, 23/6/88.

No. 98.

Minister's Decision.

Crown Lands Act of 1884—(Part II, section 18).

Decision of Minister on a Case of Appeal from Local Land Board.

New South Wales. }
to wit. }

WHEREAS, on the 18th day of April, 1888, a certain matter wherein the fulfilment of the conditions by J. K. Brougham upon his mineral conditional purchase 83-56, Wilcannia, came on for investigation and adjudication before the Local Land Board at Silverton, Colony of New South Wales, and the said Board decided that the said conditional purchase was not made for the exclusive use and benefit of the applicant, and recommended that it be declared forfeited, and J. K. Brougham, one of the parties thereto, appealed from such decision to the Minister, and the said matter having this 2nd day of July, 1888, come before me, Thomas Garrett, on appeal, I, being the Minister charged with the administration of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, having heard the said appeal in open Court, do hereby decide as follows:—That the 9th clause of the Crown Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875 does not apply to mineral conditional purchases, and I therefore sustain the appeal, and order the deposit lodged therewith to be refunded.

Given under my hand, at the Department of Lands, Sydney, this 2nd day of July, 1888,—

THOMAS GARRETT,

Minister.

No. 99.

No. 99.

Minister's Decision.

Crown Lands Act of 1884—(Part II, section 18).

Decision of Minister in a Case of Appeal from Local Land Board.

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

WHEREAS, on the 18th day of April, 1888, a certain matter wherein the fulfilment of the conditions by J. K. Brougham, upon his mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, Wilcannia, came on for investigation and adjudication before the Local Land Board, at Silverton, Colony of New South Wales, and the said Board decided that the said conditional purchase was not made for the exclusive use and benefit of the applicant, and recommended that it be declared forfeited, and J. K. Brougham, one of the parties thereto, appealed from such decision to the Minister, and the said matter having this 2nd day of July, 1888, come before me, Thomas Garrett, on appeal, I, being the Minister charged with the administration of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, having heard the said appeal in open Court, do hereby decide as follows:—That the 9th clause of the Lands Acts Amendment Act, 1875, does not apply to mineral conditional purchases; and I therefore sustain the appeal, and order the deposit lodged therewith to be refunded.

Given under my hand, at the Department of Lands, Sydney, this 2nd day of July, 1888,—

THOMAS GARRETT,
Minister.

[Enclosure.]

J. K. Brougham.—Appeal against the proposed forfeiture of his mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, Wilcannia.—(Two Appeals).

AFTER due inquiry, the Board found that the said purchase was not made for the sole use and benefit of the applicant, and recommended that it be declared forfeited. Mr. Pring appeared for the appellant. Mr. W. J. Fergusson appeared to support the finding of the Board. The Minister decided that the 9th section of the Crown Lands Acts Amendment Act, 1875, did not apply to mineral conditional purchases, and therefore sustained both appeals. He also refused to submit the point to the Supreme Court, as requested by Mr. Fergusson. Deposit to be refunded.

B. J. ATTERBURY,
2nd July, 1888.

No. 100.

P. F. Richardson, Esq., to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

No. 1, Spring-street, Sydney, 4 July, 1888.

Wilcannia,
J. K. Brougham,
M.C.P. 83-56.

I have the honor to protest against the mineral conditional purchase of J. K. Brougham, noted in the margin, for the following reasons:—

1. A mineral conditional purchase, taken up on a proclaimed gold-field is, by the decision of the Supreme Court, illegal, and, therefore, null and void *ab initio*.
2. Sufficient improvements as prescribed by the Act, have not been effected during the first three years by the applicant on the land in question, and the amount stated by him is incorrect, as the work done could be carried out for nearly half the sum he claims to be allowed for.
3. The said J. K. Brougham being a minor, and having no status in the eyes of the law, could not take up the land as an agent, or in any interest but his own, as he was not in a position to transfer or otherwise deal with the property; and that this was attempted to be done is clearly shown by the papers, while his evidence before the Local Land Board at the recent inquiry is so unreliable and contradictory that he stands self-condemned of attempting to retain the land in question under false pretences, and to defraud those who are justly, legally, and equitably entitled thereto.

In conclusion, I have no hesitation in submitting these points to your most careful consideration, feeling certain that in the interests of justice you cannot uphold the mineral conditional purchase application in question.

I have, &c.,

PHILIP F. RICHARDSON.

Put with papers and submit case.—T.G., 5/7/88.

No. 101.

Final Declaration.

F.

[Alienation Act, 1861.]

Declaration of conditional purchaser for mining purposes.

I, JAMES KENNEDY BROUGHAM, of Broken Hill, do solemnly and sincerely declare that I am the lawful owner, by conditional purchase, of the land hereunder described, and that an expenditure equal to £2 5s. per acre for the area of the land has been made on mining operations other than gold-mining on the land, and since the selection in Wilcannia, on the 20th September, 1883, and I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the ninth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act for the more effectual abolition of oaths and affirmations taken and made in various departments of the Government of New South Wales, and to substitute declarations in lieu thereof, and for the suppression of voluntary and extrajudicial oaths and affidavits."

Description.

County of Yancowinna, parish of Picton, 40 acres, being conditional mining purchase No. 56, of 1883, in the district of Wilcannia (late Mitchell).

Taken and declared, at Broken Hill, this 31st day }
of August, 1883, before me,— }

JAMES KENNEDY BROUGHAM.

JUSTIN M'CARTHY,

Commissioner for Affidavits.

Entered, &c.—H.R., 19/9/88. J.R.Y.

No. 103.

No. 102.

Office Memorandum.

Wilcannia—Mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, 40 acres, portion 3—James K. Brougham.

THE facts of this case are set out in my *précis* of 28th May last, since which date the appeal referred to therein was heard before Mr. Secretary Garrett, who decided that the 9th clause of the Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875, did not apply to mineral conditional purchases. He therefore sustained the appeal, and ordered the deposit lodged therewith to be refunded.
The Under Secretary.

W.H.C., 31/10/88.

Has the conditional purchase been validated; I cannot trace the *précis* of 26th October, 1887, referred to in minute of 23th May.—S.F., 31/10/88. *Précis* of 26th October, 1887 (50,102 D.) now indicated by tab.

The mineral conditional purchase has not been validated; objections to validation have been raised, and the Mines Department have asked that it be not validated. See *précis*, 26th October, 1887.—W.H.C., 1/11/88. The Under Secretary.

No. 103.

Office Memorandum.

Conditional purchase, 83-56, 40 acres, portion 3, Section 19, Act of 1861—James K. Brougham. Claimed by M. C. Renham, under mineral lease.

THE main questions for consideration in this case apparently are:—

- 1st. Should the conditional purchaser, being the first applicant for the land, be upheld in his title, by the validation of same under section 3 of the Act 50 Vic. 21, provided he can satisfy the Minister that he has duly complied with the requirements of the law in regard to mining expenditure, and
- 2nd. Has Renham such a claim to consideration as would justify the establishment of his title in preference to Brougham's.

The papers do not disclose positive proof as to either Brougham's or Renham's mining expenditure, beyond a statement by the former in his evidence before the Local Land Board, on 17th April, 1888, that a shaft had been sunk at a cost of £50. Mr. Surveyor Tuxen in his report of 16th April, 1888—papers, 88-17,523 D.—states that mining expenditure to the extent of £124 19s, had been incurred. He does not mention by whom, so that in the absence of proof, as to date, value, and nature of such mining expenditure, and of the interest (*i.e.*, whether Brougham's or Renham's) in which it was incurred, it is hardly possible to fully determine in what direction the strongest claim exists.

Submitted therefore as to whether the case should be forwarded to the Local Board for an exhaustive inquiry in the direction indicated, and with directions to notify all persons interested of the date and nature of the investigation.

S.F., 3/11/88.

Mr. Secretary Bruncker will remember informing Mr. Fletcher, M.P., and Mr. Renham, that he would give no decision in this case until Mr. Fletcher had an opportunity of representing the case from Renham's point of view.—S.F.

The submission may be adopted. Important interests are involved. Consequently desirable that the fullest information should be elicited, and the circumstances connected with the holding, more explicitly stated before giving a final decision. A full and searching inquiry before the Local Land Board ought to be the most effective means of ascertaining the facts.—J.N.B., 9/11/88.

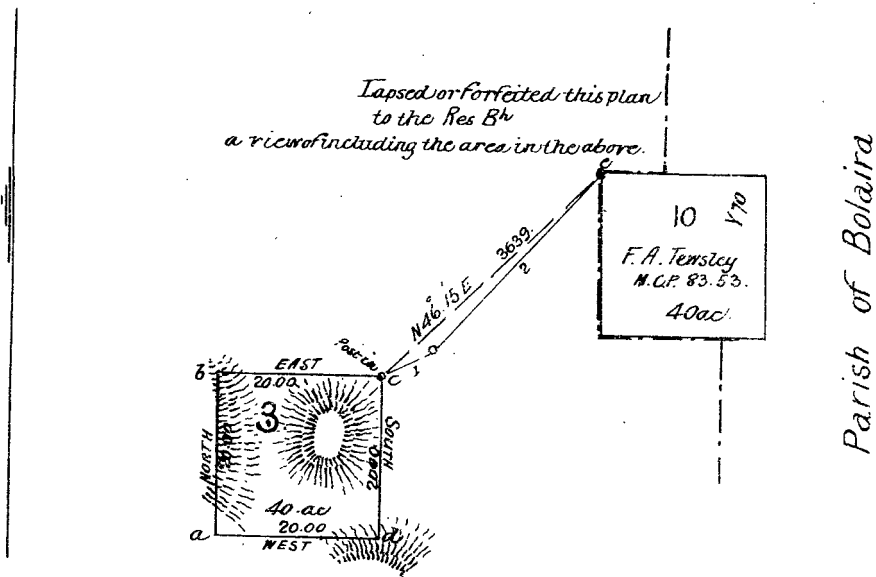
[Three plans.]

APPENDIX A
Enclosure to N^o 10.

TRACING
Of portion 3 in the
Parish of Picton.
County of Yancowinna
Scale 20 Chains to an Inch.

Applied for by James Kennedy Brougham now J. Nickle under the
clause of the G. L. A. Act of 18 M.C.P. 83/56. 20 Sep

Within the Albert Gold Field



| Reference to Corners | | | | Reference to Traverse | | | |
|----------------------|---------|------|-------|-----------------------|----|---------|-------|
| Corner | Bearing | from | Links | Tree | No | Bearing | Links |
| a | | Post | | 3 | 1 | 64° 02' | 670 |
| b | | " | | 3 | 2 | 42° 18' | 3000 |
| c | | " | | 3 | | | |
| d | | " | | 3 | | | |
| e | | " | | 10 | | | |

(Sig. 244-)

Instrument

Date of Survey 5th June

Improvements

Date of Letter 28th June 84/17

(Signed)

M. Jamieson.

Surreyor.

Survey approved
Signed M. A. T. C. Lear
31 Oct 84.

Traced by H. J. C. Mitchell
Examined by [Signature]
31 Oct. 88.

APPENDIX B
Enclosure to N^o 78.

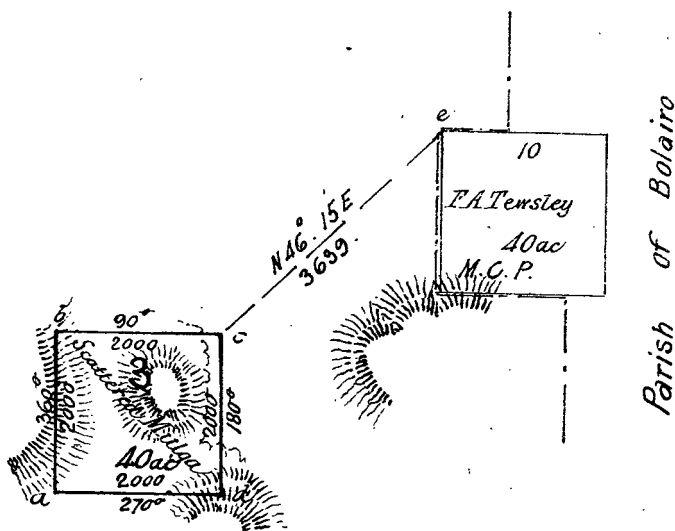
TRACING
Of portion 3 in the

Parish of *Pictou*
County of *Yancominna*

Applied for under the 19th Clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, by

James Kennedy Brougham

M.C.P. N^o 83/56 Sep 20th



| REFERENCE TO CORNERS. | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|------|--------|--------------|
| Corner. | Bearing. | From | Links. | No. on Tree. |
| a | | Post | | 3 |
| b | | " | | 3 |
| c | | " | | 3 |
| d | | " | | 3 |
| e | | " | | 10 |

(Sig. 244-)

Scale 20 Chains to an Inch.

Marked in accordance with regulations

Instrument used in Survey—Theodolite

Date of Survey 5th June 1884

Value of Improvements Nil

Situated in the

Transmitted to the Surveyor General with my letter of
the No.

Signed

William Jamieson

Licensed Surveyor.

Traced by H. J. C. M.

Examined by J. D.

Miscellaneous Contract Branch 24. 10. 84

Sketch shewing Improvements

Division

APPENDIX C.
Enclosure to No. 78.

Resumed Area No.

Pastoral Holding

ON PORTION 3

County of Yarcominna Parish of Picton

LAND DISTRICT OF

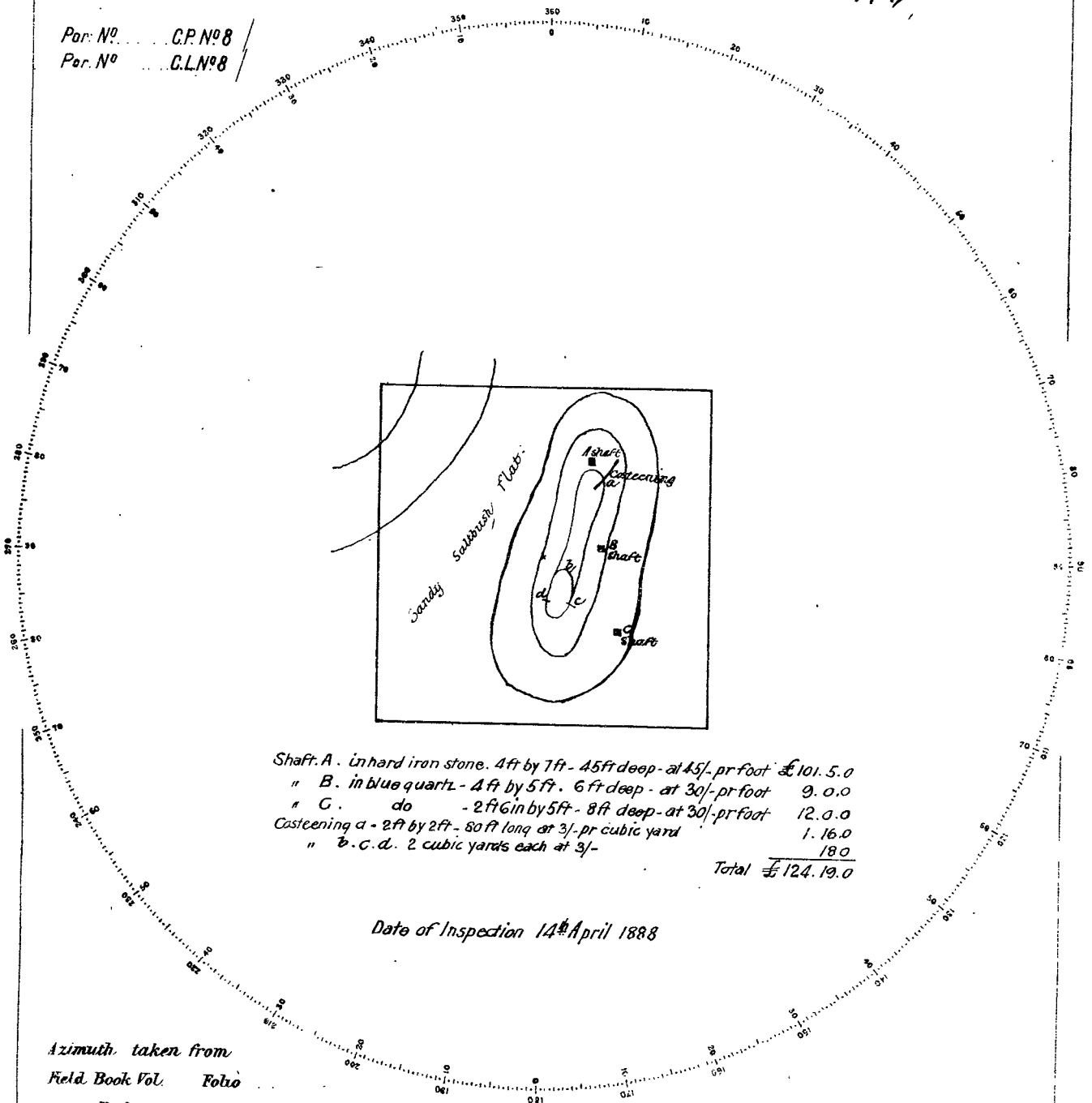
LAND BOARD DISTRICT OF

Applied for under the

Section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884 by

Handwritten signature/initials

Par. No. C.P. No. 8
Par. No. C.L. No. 8



Shaft A. in hard iron stone. 4 ft by 7 ft - 45 ft deep - at 45/- pr foot £101. 5. 0
 " B. in blue quartz - 4 ft by 5 ft - 6 ft deep - at 30/- pr foot 9. 0. 0
 " C. do - 2 ft 6 in by 5 ft - 8 ft deep - at 30/- pr foot 12. 0. 0
 Casteeing a - 2 ft by 2 ft - 80 ft long at 3/- pr cubic yard 1. 16. 0
 " b. c. d. 2 cubic yards each at 3/- 18 0
 Total £124. 19. 0

Date of Inspection 14th April 1888

Azimuth taken from
Field Book Vol. Folio

Reference to Corners

| Corner | Bearing | From | Links | ft on Tree |
|--------|---------|------|-------|------------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Reference to Traverse

| Line | Bearing | Distance |
|------|---------|----------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

I hereby certify that in person made and on the 1888 completed the survey represented on this plan, on which are written the bearings and lengths of the lines measured by me, and I declare that the survey has been executed in accordance with the regulations published for the guidance of Licensed Surveyors and the practice of the Surveyor General's Department.

Signed

P. V. Tuxen

Licensed Surveyor

Transmitted to the District Surveyor with my letter of 16th April

No. 88/160

Voucher No. Passed
Calculation Book No. Folio
Checked and Charted
Examined

Plus approved

188

Situated in the
Value of Improvements

Scale 8 Chains to an Inch

District Surveyor

(Sig 224-)

Traced by H. J. C. M.
Examined J. D. 29-10-88

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINERAL LICENSE TAKEN UP BY MICHAEL CHARLES
RENHAN, PARISH OF PICTON.

(CORRESPONDENCE, &c., IN REFERENCE TO.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 28 November, 1888.

RETURN to an Order made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 23rd July, 1888, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“Copies of all minutes, correspondence, papers, &c., relating to the Mineral License taken up by Michael Charles Renhan, in the parish of Picton, county of Yancowinna, Albert Gold-field, on the 20th day of September, 1888.”

(Mr. Chanter.)

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MINERAL LICENSE TAKEN UP BY MICHAEL CHARLES RENHAN, PARISH OF PICTON

No. 1.

Application by M. C. Renhan and C. Harper.

Mineral Lease Regulations.—Schedule 2.

To the Honorable the Secretary for Mines, Sydney,—

Silvertown, 8 June, 1885.

Sir,
We hereby make application for a mineral lease of that piece or parcel of land, situated about 20 miles south-east of Silvertown, in the parish of Picton, county of Yankowinni, and being surveyed portion No. 3, said parish and county, containing 40 acres, of which we took possession on the 8th day of June, at the hour of 7 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of mining thereon and therein for silver and lead for a period of twenty years, erecting posts and digging trenches at each angle thereof. The datum point is situated at the north-west corner of said portion.

Notice of our intention to make this application will be given in accordance with the regulations in that behalf. We hand herewith £10, being the first year's rent in advance of the said land.

We hereby acknowledge that this application is made upon the distinct understanding and condition that if we shall abandon or fail to proceed with it, or if it is refused, the Secretary for Mines for the time being may deduct from the sum of £10 deposited as aforesaid any cost to which, in his opinion, the Crown may have been put in or about or in respect of this application; and this application shall thereupon become and be void, and the possession aforesaid shall cease and determine. And if the lease shall be granted we shall and will commence mining operations upon or in connection with the demised land within one month from and after the granting thereof, and shall and will employ upon such land not less than three men during the first six months of the term thereby created, and not less than four men during the remainder of such term. And shall and will at any time when called upon in terms of the regulations relating to mineral leases to do so, execute, and take delivery of such lease, or failing therein for a period of fourteen days, after being so called upon, we shall and will forfeit the said sum of £10, and all right, title, or interest in and to the said land and the possession thereof, and the said lease shall be forthwith cancelled.

We have, &c.,

MICHAEL CHARLES RENHAN,
Silvertown.CHARLES HARPER,
Silvertown.

The address of the applicants is care of William Welsh, solicitor, Silvertown. We are satisfied with the survey as marked on the ground.

This application was received by me this 8th day of June, 1885, at the hour of 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and is numbered 1,028.—JOHN SAUNDERS, Warden's Clerk.

[Enclosures.]

Application No. 1,028, at Silvertown, for a Mineral Lease.

1. By whom application was received? Warden's clerk.
2. At what place? Silvertown.
3. Date and hour when received? 8th June, 1885, at 4 p.m.
4. Receipt for first year's rent, No. 609? 8th June, 1885.
5. To whom receipt was issued? Michael Charles Renhan and another.
6. Date when notice to survey was sent to Surveyor? Land previously surveyed as portion No. 3, parish of Picton.
8. Names of objectors, and dates on which they lodged their objections? Thomas William Barnes, 22nd June, 1885.
9. Dates of inquiry? 2nd July, 1885.
11. Is the land applied for exempted from leasing under the 34th section of the Mining Act, 1874? Claimed by objectors as a mineral conditional purchase.
12. Is the time proposed for commencing work reasonable? Yes.
13. Is the number of men proposed to be employed reasonable? Yes.

WYMAN BROWN,
Warden.

Questions to be answered by Applicants to lease.

WHEN receiving an application to lease land for mining purposes, the warden, warden's clerk, or an agent, as the case may be, shall require the applicant or applicants, or his or their agent, to answer the following questions, and shall take down such answers in writing. The statement, when complete, to be read over to, and signed by, the person furnishing the answers:—

3. What was the date and hour of the day when you took possession of the land referred to in application No. 1,028? This land has been held by the applicant, Michael Charles Renhan, under mineral license, since the 5th of May, 1885. Possession for the purpose of application to lease was taken on the 8th June, 1885, at 7 a.m.
4. Did you take possession by erecting posts and cutting trenches at each angle of the land? Yes.
If No. 4 be replied to in the affirmative, then 5, 6, and 7.
5. What was the diameter of the posts? 3 inches.
6. How high did they project above the surface when fixed in the ground? 3 feet.
7. What was the length of each arm of each trench, and what was the depth of each trench? 6 feet long and 9 inches deep.
9. At which angle of the land was the datum post fixed? North-west.
10. Did you affix a board or metal plate to the datum post? Notice signed by warden's clerk.
11. What was written or painted on each notice? Mineral lease applied for by Michael Chas. Renhan and another—
Application 1,028.

12.

12. Where did you post the notices Schedule 1? Warden's office, Silverton, and post office, Mount Gipps.
 13. When did you post such notices? 9th June, 1885.
 14. Did anybody claim or appear to be in possession of the land applied for, or any portion of it? No.

I, Michael Charles Renhan, on behalf of self and partner, declare that the foregoing questions have been answered by me truthfully in every particular, and the answers thereto have been read over to me and are correctly taken down in writing.

Witness to signature,—

JOHN SAUNDERS,
 Warden's Clerk.

M. C. RENHAN.

In this case it is admitted the holder under mineral conditional purchase has done no work since the mineral conditional purchase was made, in September, 1883. It is also in evidence that, on the 5th May last, the applicant to lease pegged out this land under his mineral license, but there is no evidence that he did any work on the land. Unless it be decided to validate such mineral conditional purchases as this, it will probably be necessary to take further evidence, and the application might therefore stand over till the course to be pursued in regard to mineral conditional purchases has been decided.—H. W., 13/7/85. Submitted. Approved.—J. P. ABBOTT, 14/7/85.

No. 2.

Application by M. C. Renhan and C. Harper.

Mineral Lease Regulations.—Schedule 6.

Notice of Application and Deposit.

Sir,

Silverton, 8 June, 1885.

We have the honor to inform you that we have this day deposited with Warden's clerk, at Silverton, the sum of £10, being the first year's rent, in advance, of 40 acres of land, near Silverton, for the purpose of mining for silver and lead. The number of our application is 1,028.

We have, &c.,

M. C. RENHAN.
 CHAS. HARPER.

The Under Secretary for Mines, Sydney.

Land previously surveyed as portion No. 3, parish of Picton, county of Yancowinna.

[Enclosures.]

I, THE undersigned, on behalf of myself and partners (Alfred Kirkpatrick and James Kennedy Brougham), do hereby give notice that I object to the application, No. 1,028, of Renhan and Harper, for a mineral lease of survey portion No. 3, parish of Picton, being registered for the following reasons:—

That the land applied for has hitherto been held by us as a mineral conditional purchase in the name of James Kennedy Brougham.

That as soon as we became aware of the decision of the Supreme Court that the mineral conditional purchases on a gold-field are illegal, I instructed an agent to apply promptly for a mineral lease of the land in the names of my partners and myself.

That notwithstanding our agent's action in the matter, was as prompt as possible, the application in our behalf was lodged one quarter of an hour after that of Renhan and Harper.

That no means have been neglected by myself and partners to secure our title to the land in a legal manner when the illegality of our former title from the Crown Lands Department became apparent.

And I hereby require the Mining Registrar to withhold the registration of the application of the said Renhan and Harper, pending the hearing of this objection by the warden.

Dated this 17th day of June, 1885.

THOS. W. BARNES, Objector.

(By his attorney, T. JOHNSTON, Solicitor, Silverton).

Warden's Court, Silverton.

Before Mr. Warden Brown.

Objection of Thos. W. Barnes to granting of land comprised in mineral lease application No. 1,028 to M. C. Renhan and another. Mr. Johnson appears for objector. Mr. Welsh, applicant. Objector's deposit receipt produced.

Thomas William Barnes, being duly sworn, saith:—I am the objector in this case on behalf of self, Alfred Kirkpatrick, and James Kennedy Brougham; I know the land in dispute; it is surveyed portion No. 3, parish of Picton; this land was taken up as a mineral conditional purchase by Brougham, on 20th September, 1883; it has been held by us as a mineral conditional purchase until the 8th June last, and I still claim under that title; hearing that the mineral conditional purchase titles were illegal, I instructed my agent to apply for a mineral lease of this portion.

Examined by Mr. Welsh:—Mr. John Brougham is my agent; since this land was taken up in September, 1883, no work has been done by us.

Taken and sworn before me, at Silverton, }
 this 2nd July, 1885,—

THOS. W. BARNES.

WYMAN BROWN, Warden.

John Brougham, being duly sworn, saith:—I was agent on the 8th June last for Barnes, Kirkpatrick, and Brougham, and by instructions received from them applied for a mineral lease of the land in dispute; I complied with all the regulations; I took possession of it about 9 a.m. of 8th June, 1885, and made the application between 4 and 5 p.m. of the same day; on the 17th served the applicants with notice of this objection.

Examined by Mr. Welsh:—Before pegging off this land on the 8th I saw other pegs and trenches; before making application I was told that a previous one had been lodged for this land; I did not serve the other applicants with notice in the form of Schedule.

Taken and sworn before me, at Silverton, }
 this 2nd July, 1885,—

JOHN BROUGHAM.

WYMAN BROWN, Warden.

Michael

Michael Charles Renhan, being duly sworn, saith:—I am one of the applicant's for this land, and produce my mineral license; I know the land in dispute; on the 8th June I marked it off, in accordance with the regulations, about 7 a.m., and applied for a lease of it on the same day; I got a notice from the Warden's clerk to post on the land; I put it there on the 10th; about the 5th May last I marked off this land by virtue of my mineral license.

Taken and sworn before me, at Silverton, }
this 2nd July, 1885,—

M. C. RENHAN.

WYMAN BROWN, Warden.

Minute on foregoing.

I am of opinion, from taking all the surrounding circumstances connected with this case into consideration, that the objection should be upheld, and would recommend that mineral lease application No. 1,028 should be refused.—WYMAN BROWN, Warden.

No. 3.

Application by Mr. A. Kirkpatrick.

Mineral Lease Regulations.—Schedule 2.

To the Honorable the Secretary for Mines, Sydney,—

Sir,

Silverton, 8 June, 1885.

We hereby make application for a mineral lease for twenty years of that piece or parcel of land situated about 18 miles south-east of Silverton, containing 40 acres, of which we took possession on the 8th day of June, at the hour of 9 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of mining thereon and therein for silver and lead; post and trench at each angle thereof. The datum point is the north-west angle of area applied for, and being mineral conditional purchase No. 3, parish of Picton.

Notice of our having made this application will be forthwith given in accordance with the regulations in that behalf, and we hand herewith a list of the persons who occupy or claim a right to the land aforesaid, or any part thereof, together with such consents as we have obtained. We also hand herewith the sum of £10, being the first year's rent in advance of the said land, to cover the cost of survey.

We hereby acknowledge that this application is made upon the distinct understanding and condition that if we shall abandon or fail to proceed with it, or if it is refused, the Secretary for Mines for the time being may deduct from the sum of £10 deposited as aforesaid any cost to which, in his opinion, the Crown may have been put in or about or in respect of this application; and this application shall thereupon become and be void, and the possession aforesaid shall cease and determine. And if the lease shall be granted we shall and will commence mining operations upon or in connection with the demised land within one month from and after the granting thereof, and shall and will employ upon such land not less than two men during the first three years of the term thereby created, and not less than four men during the remainder of such term. And shall and will at any time when called upon in terms of the regulations relating to mineral leases to do so, execute and take delivery of such lease, or failing therein for a period of fourteen days, after being so called upon, we shall and will forfeit the said sum of £10, and all right, title, or interest in and to the said land and the possession thereof, and the said lease shall be forthwith cancelled.

We are satisfied with the land as surveyed.

We have, &c.,

ALFRED KIRKPATRICK, Wilcannia.

THOMAS WM. BARNES, Wilcannia.

JAMES KENNEDY BROUGHAM, Wilcannia.

(By their Agent, JOHN BROUGHAM).

This application was received by me this 8th day of June, 1885, at the hour of 4.10 o'clock in the afternoon, and is numbered 1,029.—JOHN SAUNDERS, Warden's Clerk.

[Enclosures.]

Application No. 1,029, at Silverton, for a Mineral Lease.

1. By whom application was received? Warden's clerk.
2. At what place? Silverton.
3. Date and hour when received? 8th June, 1885, at 4.10 p.m.
4. Receipt for first year's rent, No. 610? 8th June, 1885.
5. To whom receipt was issued? Alfred Kirkpatrick and two others.
6. Date when notice to survey was sent to surveyor? Land previously surveyed as portion No. 3, parish of Picton.
11. Is the land applied for exempted from leasing under the 34th section of the Mining Act, 1874? This land was held by applicants as a mineral conditional purchase.
12. Is the time proposed for commencing work reasonable? Yes.
13. Is the number of men proposed to be employed reasonable? Yes.

WYMAN BROWN,
Warden.

Questions to be answered by Applicants to lease.

WHEN receiving an application to lease land for mining purposes, the Warden, Warden's clerk, or an agent, as the case may be, shall require the applicant or applicants, or his or their agent, to answer the following questions, and shall take down such answers in writing. The statement when complete, to be read over to, and signed by, the person furnishing the answers:—
In regard to an application for a gold lease:—

3. What was the date and hour of the day when you took possession of the land referred to in application No. 1,029? 8th June, 1885, at 9 a.m.
 4. Did you take possession by erecting posts and cutting trenches at each angle of the land? Yes.
- If No. 4 be replied to in the affirmative, then 5, 6, and 7.
5. What was the diameter of the posts? 3 inches.
 6. How high did they project above the surface when fixed in the ground? 3 feet.
 7. What was the length of each arm of each trench, and what was the depth of each trench? 6 feet long and 9 inches deep.
 9. At which angle of the land is the datum post fixed? North-west. 10.

10. Did you affix a board or metal plate to the datum post? Notice signed by Warden's clerk.
11. What was written or painted on such notice? Mineral lease applied for by Alfred Kirkpatrick and Thomas William Barnes, and another application, 1,029.
12. Where did you post the Notices Schedule 1? Warden's office, Silvertown, and post office, Mount Gipps.
13. Where did you post such notices? Silvertown, 8th June, 1885, and Mount Gipps, 9th June, 1885.
14. Did anybody claim or appear to be in possession of the land applied for, or any portion of it? The present applicants have held this land as a mineral conditional purchase.

I, John Brougham, on behalf of Alfred Kirkpatrick, Thomas William Barnes, and another, declare that the foregoing questions have been answered by me truthfully in every particular, and the answers thereto have been read over to me, and are correctly taken down in writing.

JOHN BROUGHAM.

Witness to signature,—

JOHN SAUNDERS,
Warden's Clerk.

No. 4.

Applications by Kirkpatrick and Others.

Mineral Lease Regulations.—Schedule 6.

Notice of Application and Deposit.

Sir,

Silvertown, 8 June, 1885.

We have the honor to inform you that we have this day deposited with Warden's clerk, at Silvertown, the sum of £10, being the first year's rent in advance of 40 acres of land near Silvertown for the purpose of mining for silver and lead, being the fees for survey of the said land. The number of my application is 1,029.

We have, &c.,

ALFRED KIRKPATRICK.

THOS. WM. BARNES.

JAMES KENNEDY BROUGHAM.

(By their Agent, JOHN BROUGHAM).

The Under Secretary for Mines, Sydney.

Land previously surveyed as mineral conditional purchase, No. 3, parish of Picton. Returned for signature of the applicants.—G.E.H. (for the Under Secretary). Warden's clerk, Silvertown.—G.E.H. (for the Under Secretary), B.C., 16/6/85. Notice, duly signed, is herewith returned to this Department.—JOHN SAUNDERS, Warden's clerk, 2/7/85.

No. 5.

Mr. W. Welsh to The Secretary for Mines.

Re Lease Application No. 1,028.

Sir,

Silvertown, 7 July, 1885.

I have the honor to request that, as attorney for the applicants, I may be furnished with a copy of Mr. Warden Brown's report in the matter of an inquiry held by him on the 2nd July instant, upon the application of Messrs. Michael Charles Renhan and Charles Harper for a mineral lease of portion 3, parish of Picton, county of Yancowinna, and the objections thereto of Messrs. Barnes and others. My reason for making this request to you is that I have already applied to Mr. Brown for such copy and he declines to furnish same, stating that his reports are confidential between him and yourself, and that he will not furnish copies thereof to anyone.

I think I need hardly point out that in this Mr. Brown holds an erroneous idea. I enclose a copy of the application made by me to Mr. Brown, and beg to request the favour of an early reply to this communication.

I have, &c.,

WM. WELSH.

[Enclosure.]

Sir,

Silvertown, 1 July, 1885.

I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to furnish me a copy of your report to the Secretary for Mines in the matter of the application, objections, evidence, and recommendation in the matter of the application of Michael Charles Renhan and Charles Harper for a mineral lease, No. 1,028, under the 47th section of the Mining Statute.

I shall be happy to pay any fees payable thereon.

I have, &c.,

WM. WELSH.

Wyman Brown, Esq., Warden, Silvertown.

The copy may be supplied. Forward through the Warden, who will collect and transmit the fee.—H.W., 22/7/85. Copy of decision sent to Warden, 27/7/85. Telegram to Mr. Welsh, No. 1,174, 27/8/85. Mr. Neate, 29/8/85.

No. 6.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Warden Brown.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 27 July, 1885.

Mr. William Welsh, solicitor of Silvertown, having applied, on behalf of Messrs. Renhan and Harper, for a copy of your report in the matter of the inquiry held by you with reference to mineral lease application No. 1,028, Silvertown, and the objection by Messrs. Barnes and others to the granting of same, I have the honor to forward you a copy of your decision, which is to be supplied to Mr. Welsh on payment of 1s. 6d., which you will be good enough to cause to be collected, and to remit to this office.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

Postage stamps for 1s. 6d. herewith.—WYMAN BROWN, Warden, Silvertown, 28/8/85. Postage stamps, 1s. 6d.—G.E.H., 4/9/85. H.T.

No. 7.

No. 7.

Mr. W. Welsh to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Silverton, 31 August, 1885.

I have the honor to acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of your telegram of the 27th instant, informing me that I could obtain copy of the Warden's decision in the case of the objections to Renhan's and Harper's application for lease, No. 1,028.

I have since obtained copy of the decision, by which I observe that the Warden reports as follows:—"I am of opinion, from taking all the surrounding circumstances connected with this case into consideration, that the objection should be upheld, and would recommend that mineral lease, No. 1,028, should be refused."

In the first place I am at a loss to understand what the expression, taking all the surrounding circumstances connected with this case into consideration, means. Again, there were four objections of Barnes & Co., to the application to the following purpose:—

1. That the land applied for had hitherto been held by objections as a mineral conditional purchase in the name of James Kennedy Brougham.
2. That as soon as objectors became aware of the decision of the Supreme Court the mineral conditional purchases on a gold-field were illegal, an agent was instructed to apply promptly for a mineral lease.
3. That, notwithstanding the prompt action of said agent, he was a quarter of an hour too late in lodging application.
4. That objectors had done their best to secure a title in a legal manner, when the illegality of the former title became apparent.

The Warden in his report says that he considers that the objection should be upheld without specifying which one. Is it because the land was presumed to be held as a mineral conditional purchase, or is it because the objectors were too late in taking possession of the ground legally, and that, therefore, the last ought to be first. If it is upon the first ground I must say that after the well considered judgment of the Supreme Court of this Colony, that there could be no such title as a mineral conditional purchase upon a gold-field, except for land originally demised under the Mining Statute.

I do not see how such an objection can be sustained; and as to the other objection, they are perfectly untenable. I may, however, observe that it was proved in evidence that my clients held the land in question under mineral license since the 5th day of May last, nearly a month before the Supreme Court gave their decision as to the illegality of mineral conditional purchases upon gold-fields, and such being the case, I cannot see how they can be deprived of their legal rights under the Mining Statute. Under the Mineral License Regulations, persons wishing to raise ore from land held thereunder, are obliged to apply for a lease under a penalty of forfeiting their mineral license title, and yet in the face of that provision it is attempted to say, "Yes, you are bound to apply for a lease, but it is of no avail your doing so, inasmuch as from surrounding circumstances we think we are entitled to decide as we like upon the matter."

I may also state that James Kennedy Brougham, in whose name the land was taken up as a mineral conditional purchase, was, and still is, an infant under age; I cannot, therefore, see how he could either transfer any rights to the other objectors or be himself an applicant for a lease under the Mining Statute, as he could not legally execute any lease if granted to him.

Hoping that the application of Messrs. Renhan and Harper will be dealt with upon its merits and those only.

I have, &c.,

WM. WELSH,

Attorney for Messrs Renhan and Harper.

P.S.—May I call attention to the facts admitted by objectors that although they held this land for nearly two years they never did any mining thereon whatever. Is it for such people that the so-called equitable discretion of the Crown is to be exercised.

WM. WELSH.

Mr. Welsh may be informed of the decision in this case on 85-7,573.—H.W. Submitted, 19/9/85. Approved.—J.P.A., 21/9/85. Informed, 24/9/85.

No. 8.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. W. Welsh.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 24 September, 1885.

Referring to your letter of the 31st ultimo, in which you take exception to the decision of the Warden in the case of the objections by Messrs. Barnes and others to mineral lease application, No. 1,028, at Silverton, by Messrs. Renhan and Harper, I am directed by the Secretary for Mines to inform you that the question of mineral conditional purchases on gold-fields has been under consideration, and it is thought that this case should be allowed to stand over until the course to be pursued in regard to such purchases has been decided on.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 9.

Mr. T. W. Barnes to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Wilcannia, 5 April, 1886.

I have the honor to apply for a refund of the sum of £5, lodged as a deposit, with my objection to mineral lease application, No. 1,028, Silverton, by Michael Charles Renhan and Charles Harper, on the 22nd June, 1885.

I have, &c.,

THOS. W. BARNES.

An

An objection was lodged by T. W. Barnes, for himself and others, to the granting of mineral lease application, 1,028, Silverton (Renhan and Harper). This application has not been refused (see 85-7,573), but the matter is to stand over till the course to be pursued in regard to mineral conditional purchases on gold-fields has been decided. Submitted as to whether the refund may be made until the objection has been finally dealt with.—W.R.C., 13/4/86.

No. Inform, 13/4/86. H.W., 14/4/86. Informed, 15/4/86.

No. 10.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. T. W. Barnes.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 15 April, 1886.

Referring to your letter of the 5th instant, in which you apply for a refund of the sum of £5 lodged as a deposit, with your objection to mineral lease application, No. 1,028, Silverton, by Michael Charles Renhan and Charles Harper, I have the honor to inform you that the question of the refund must stand over until the matter of mineral conditional purchases on gold-fields has been decided.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 11.

J. P. Abbott, Esq., M.P., to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Wentworth Court, Elizabeth-street, Sydney, 30 April, 1886.

On the 20th September, 1883, James Kennedy Brougham made an application at Wilcannia for 40 acres of land as a mineral conditional purchase, the number of such application being 83-56.

Subsequently the land so applied for was surveyed as portion 3, in the parish of Picton, county of Yancowinna.

It would appear that on the 25th February, 1881, a large area of land had been proclaimed as the Albert Gold-field, and within that gold-field the land applied for by Mr. Brougham is situated.

The title of Mr. Brougham to the 40 acres was assumed to be made under the provisions of the 19th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, and until the end of August, 1885, the Department of Lands allowed all applications similar to that of Mr. Brougham to be effective and valid, and in so acting the Department was guided by the opinion of Mr. Justice Faucett, who was Solicitor-General when he gave the opinion so far back as 1863, so that the practice of permitting the making of mineral conditional purchases on gold-fields has been sanctioned by the Department of Lands for twenty-two years.

In June, 1885, in the case of *Wood v. Scott*, reported in volume 6, New South Wales Law Reports, page 83, the Supreme Court held that a conditional purchase under the 19th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861 could not be made within a gold-field.

Consequently, upon that decision, the titles of many persons to land held by them became involved, and, amongst others, that of Mr. Brougham.

However, to secure his title to the land so selected he, on the 8th June, 1885, authorized an application to be lodged, in due form, with the Warden, for a lease of the 40 acres, in the names of himself, Alfred Kirkpatrick, and John Brougham. This application was lodged at 10 minutes past 4 p.m., and, on inquiry, it was found that Michael Charles Renhan and Charles Harper had made a prior application for the same land, on the same day, at 4 p.m.

I would most respectfully point out that the application for the mineral conditional purchase was bad and invalid *ab initio*, and the applicant is now entitled to demand his money back from the Government, under any and all circumstances, and, failing the return of the same, he can sue for its recovery.

By the lease applications it would appear that Brougham took possession of the land at 9 a.m. on the 8th June, 1885, whilst Renhan and Harper took possession at 7 a.m. on the same day. This being so, there can be no doubt that Renhan and Harper's application, in point of time, is before that of Brougham; and as they were in possession when Brougham took possession, Brougham's application was bad.

But I would submit, as an act of justice, that Mr. Brougham's party should be sustained; and the land secured to them, as the holders of the mineral conditional purchase (which the Lands Department permitted and encouraged); or since that was a bad title, and never had any effect, I have the honor to request that it may be ignored so far as Mr. Brougham is concerned, and as an act of justice both applications for lease should be refused, and that Mr. Brougham should have the first notice of the refusal, so as to allow him to secure the land which, in all honesty, is his property.

I have, &c.,

J. P. ABBOTT.

At an inquiry held by the Warden into an objection lodged by T. W. Barnes against the application, No. 1,028, of Messrs. Renhan and Harper, it was elicited that no work had been done on the mineral conditional purchase by the person who claimed it from the date of application to purchase, 20th September, 1883, till the date of inquiry, 2nd July, 1885. It was in evidence at that inquiry that Renhan, about the 5th May, 1885, took possession of this same parcel of land in virtue of his mineral license, but no evidence was given as to whether he performed any work upon the land in virtue of such possession. The late Minister in his decision (on 85-7,573), approved of further evidence on this point being taken, unless it should be decided to validate such mineral conditional purchase, as the one herein referred to. So far it has never been proposed to validate such a mineral conditional purchase as this. Before complying with the request contained in this letter, it will be necessary to decide that no further inquiry need be made into, and no further notice need be taken of Renhan's alleged title in virtue of his mineral license.—H.W., 1/5/86. Submitted.

[Enclosure.]

[Enclosure.]

I, JOHN BROUGHAM, of Silvertown, agent, do hereby make oath that on the 7th day of June, 1885, I received a letter from Thomas William Barnes, of Wilcannia, informing me of a certain decision of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, affecting mineral conditional purchases on a gold-field, and instructing me to peg out and apply for mineral lease of surveyed portion 3, parish of Picton, county Yancowinna, which hitherto had been held as mineral conditional purchase 8,356, Mitchell, by James Kennedy Brougham in partnership with the said Thomas William Barnes and Alfred Kirkpatrick, and which still stands on the books of the Department of Lands in the name of the said James Kennedy Brougham. That subsequent to the receipt of letter of instructions aforesaid, I saw William Welsh, of Silvertown, attorney-at-law, and knowing that he was interested in certain mineral conditional purchases, I communicated to him the contents of said letter in strict confidence. That when I reached said portion 3, on the morning of the 8th June, 1885, at 9 o'clock, I found the claim had been freshly pegged, and on reaching the Warden's office, at Silvertown, the same afternoon, at 4.10, I found that mineral lease application 1,028 had been lodged by Michael Charles Renhan in the names of himself and Charles Harper, at 4 o'clock of the same day. The above facts were stated by me in evidence before Mr. District Court Judge Backhouse in the mining appeal case, Renhan and Harper v. M'Clure and Mason, for trespass, heard at Menindie on the 10th May, 1886.

Taken on oath, at Wilcannia, this 13th day of }
May, 1886, before me,—

JOHN BROUGHAM, SENR.

J. W. FORSTER, a Commissioner for Affidavits.

Has the appeal been decided, and how? If we have no information, ask Warden Brown.
Urgent.—H.W., 23/. Telegram 297 to Mr. Warden Brown, 23/6/86. Remind.—G.E.H. (for
Under Secretary), 13/7/86. Reminded, 15/7/86. Submitted, 24/7/86.

[Enclosure.]

Messrs. Abbott and Allen, Wentworth Court, Sydney,

Ardmore, Wilcannia, 13 May, 1886.

Dear Sirs,

I have delayed acknowledging receipt of your telegram of 29th ultimo from various causes, and have now to advise you that I have, within the last few days, ascertained how Renhan and Harper became possessed of the information which led them to jump our claim, portion 3, parish of Picton, on Monday, 8th June, 1886. Mr. John Brougham, the agent whom I instructed by letter on the 5th of that month, to peg the land and apply for a mineral lease, received my communication on Sunday afternoon, the 7th, and has now confessed that he saw a Mr. Welsh, solicitor, of Silvertown, shortly afterwards, and incautiously informed him (in confidence, knowing that Welsh was interested in certain mineral conditional purchases) of the decision of the Supreme Court, and even told him that he would apply next day for a mineral lease on behalf of his son, Kirkpatrick, and myself, of our mineral conditional purchase. It appears Welsh took advantage of this information, and started Renhan same evening to peg the land. Of course Brougham found next morning, when he arrived on the ground, that he had been frustrated in pegging; but he ran Renhan very close with the application at the Warden's office, being only 10 minutes behind him. In consequence of our having started work about the middle of last March, in order to fulfil the mineral conditional purchase conditions, the men were summoned by the jumpers for trespass, and the case was heard by Mr. Warden Brown, at Silvertown (Renhan and Harper v. M'Clure and Mason), on the 13th April. The jumpers then claimed to have held the land in the first place as a mineral prospecting area, and Renhan swore that he took possession according to regulations, on 5th May, 1885, and that he worked regularly until 8th June following, when he applied for a mineral lease. Harper has figured in several cases in connection with Renhan, in which Welsh has been mixed up, and Renhan was examined by our solicitor, and by the Warden, as to the actual existence of such a person. He stated that he had never seen Harper and did not know him, except through Welsh. He would not swear that Harper and Welsh were not identical. The jumpers failed to satisfy the Warden that the regulations had been complied with by them, either as regards the mineral license title or the mineral lease application, and were consequently nonsuited, with costs. They then gave notice of appeal, which was heard at Menindie, on Monday last, the 10th instant, before District Court Judge Backhouse. Renhan's evidence was substantially the same as at the Warden's Court. My own evidence proved that I was twice on the land on the 18th May, 1885, having gone there with Hawson and others to arrange about the sinking of a shaft. I visited the four corners of the portion on that day, in company with Hawson, and there were certainly no posts, trenches, nor notice-board at any of them; in fact, no marks but the survey pegs and trenches. I went all over the claim with Hawson and, except some old workings by the original prospector, through whom we had the information respecting the claim, there were no signs of work on the land, nor was anyone on the claim, or camped near it. Our agent (Brougham) then gave evidence as stated in the enclosed affidavit. Welsh was also put in the box, and admitted the conversation with Brougham on 7th June, and that he acted as Harper's agent, and stated that Charles Harper is a gentleman in the Melbourne Post Office. Judge Backhouse reserved judgment; but, from his remarks, I fear it will go against us. Our solicitor had instructed me to obtain a certified copy of the mineral conditional purchase application from the Crown Lands Agent here. The Judge pointed out, however, that proof of the mineral conditional purchase should be by a certified copy of the original application from the Department of Lands, Sydney. I never knew how Renhan and Harper (or Welsh) had got their information, until Brougham confessed, shortly before the Court sat, his stupid action in confiding in Welsh. I think if the circumstances of the case were brought to the knowledge of the Minister for Mines, and he became aware of how we have been served in this matter, he would feel justified in refusing the jumpers' mineral lease application. We have been prevented, of course, from working the claim advantageously, through our uncertain title, but we have sunk a shaft sufficient to fulfil the mineral conditional purchase condition of improvement, which has been the cause of the trespass action and the appeal, and now the claim must lie idle until something is settled. I am advised that our own application for mineral lease is informal, on the ground that our agent (Brougham) failed to give Renhan and Harper the required notice, but if we knew that both their and our application would be refused, we could put in a fresh one the moment the *Gazette* notice appeared, and thus have some security for any outlay we may incur in further opening up the mine.

Trusting you may be able to get us righted in this unfortunate affair.

Yours, &c.,
THOS. W. BARNES.

No. 12.

Telegram from Mr. Warden Brown to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sydney, 23 June, 1886.

HAVE received no official information that Mr. District Court Judge Backhouse has given his reserved decision in appeal case Renhan and Harper v. M'Clure and another, but believe appeal allowed damages 1s.; each side pay their own costs in Warden's Court.

WYMAN BROWN,
Warden.

No. 13.

Mr. Warden Brown to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Warden's Office, Silvertown, 23 July, 1886.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 15th instant (No. 85-7,573), inviting my attention to your communication of the 23rd ultimo, in which I was asked to report the result of an appeal heard at Menindie on the 10th May last, viz., Renhan and Harper v. M'Clure and Mason, in
respect

respect to a case of trespass on Mr. J. K. Brougham's mineral conditional purchase, being portion 3, parish of Picton. In reply, I have nothing further to add than the information I forwarded when replying to your communication of the 23rd ultimo, viz., that neither officially or otherwise has the Registrar of the Appeal Court at Menindie given me any information that the Judge's reserved decision has yet been given. I have casually heard that the appeal was allowed, with damages for 1s., each party to pay their own costs in the Warden's Court.

I have, &c.,

WYMAN BROWN.

In view of all the circumstances surrounding this case, I think, perhaps, the best course will be to refuse both applications, and not to give beforehand notice to either of the parties.—H.W., 11/8/86. Submitted.

Approved.—J.F., 19/8/86. Refused, *vide* Executive Council minute, 86-12,246.

No. 14.

The Under Secretary for Mines to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 8 October, 1886.

I have the honor, by direction of the Secretary for Mines, to request that you will be good enough to move the Secretary for Lands not to validate the purchase of land, noted in the margin, as such land is claimed by one M. C. Renhan in virtue of his mineral license.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

M.C.P., No. 83-56, James K. Brougham, Wilcannia, 20th September, 1883.

No. 15.

Mr. T. W. Barnes to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Wilcannia, 17 November, 1886.

I have the honor to apply for a refund of the deposit of £5, made by my agent when lodging my objections to Renhan and Harper's mineral lease application, No. 1,028, Silvertown, which objection was heard by the Warden on the 22nd June, 1885, at Silvertown. Mineral lease application, No. 1,025, was gazetted "as refused," I believe, on the 24th ultimo.

I have, &c.,

T. W. BARNES.

Submitted. As to whether, as the application, 1,028, Silvertown, has been refused, the objector's deposit may be refunded provided the Warden reports no order made against or any part of it. The Warden may perhaps be asked whether (if approved) the refund should be made to Barnes alone, and whether the whole of the money is available.—W.R.C., 24/11/86.

Mr. Warden Brown, Silvertown, with refund voucher.—G.E.H. (for the Under Secretary), B.C., 24/11/86. No order was made against this deposit, which, I think, may safely be refunded to Mr. Barnes.—W. BROWN, Warden, Silvertown, 4/12/86. The Under Secretary for Mines, Sydney. It is submitted as to whether, in view of this report, the objector's deposit may be refunded to T. W. Barnes.—W.R.C., 13/12/86. The deposit may be refunded.—G.E.H. (for the Under Secretary), 13/12/86. Voucher to Warden Gower for signature by Barnes, 13/12/86.

No. 16.

Renhan and Harper to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Silvertown, 3 December, 1886.

We have the honor to inform you that we have been in possession, and held under our mineral license since 5th May, 1885, the claim known as No. 3 mineral conditional purchase, parish of Picton, county of Yancowinna, of the Albert Gold-fields, N.S.W., which is claimed by Brougham, Kirkpatrick, and Barnes as their mineral conditional purchase.

On 8th June, 1885, we applied for a mineral lease of the said claim, No. 3, mineral conditional purchase. Brougham, Kirkpatrick, and Barnes afterwards applied for a lease of said claim.

I, M. C. Renhan and C. Harper, brought a case before the District Court for damages for trespass. After the hearing of the evidence on both sides, the Judge ruled that Brougham, Kirkpatrick, and Barnes had no title to the said land; and that we, M. C. Renhan and C. Harper, had an indisputable title under our mineral license and mineral lease application, and gave us damages, with costs, against the said parties.

I was working on the said claim prospecting it when our application for lease No. 1,028 appeared in the *Gazette* as refused on the 22nd of October, 1886.

I wrote to ascertain on what grounds this application was refused, and whilst waiting a reply a man named James Martin applied for a mineral lease of said claim. I prevented him from pegging, stating at the same time that I held the ground under my mineral license; that I was working it every day; my pegs were up; my trenches kept clean; and a notice kept posted on the ground, as follows: Mineral prospecting area possession. 5th May, 1885.

M. C. RENHAN.

C. HARPER.

The said James Martin summoned me for an assault for shoving him off my ground. As a proof of my statement, I enclose your Honor scrap, cut from the *Broken Hill Times*, containing a report of my evidence heard before Warden Brown and another magistrate.

All this I humbly submit to your Honor as an objection to the granting of J. Martin's application for mineral lease. James Martin has since been served with a Supreme Court writ, also Brougham, Kirkpatrick, and Barnes, which will further prove our title to the said land.

We have, &c.,

M. C. RENHAN.

C. HARPER.

No. 17.

Memo. to Mr. Warden Gower.

Wilcannia—Refund voucher—T. W. Barnes—Objector's deposit to Mineral Lease Application, 1,028, Silverton.

Department of Mines, Sydney, 13 December, 1886.

THE attached refund voucher is forwarded for signature by Mr. Barnes. Please notify Mr. Barnes, and when completed return the voucher to this office.

GERARD E. HERRING,
(For the Under Secretary).

Herewith.—G. H. GOWER, Warden, Wilcannia, 17/12/86. The Under Secretary for Mines, Sydney. Refund voucher now herewith.—W.R.C., 29/12/86. Submitted. Refund voucher for objector's deposit sent to Treasury, 6/1/87.

No. 18.

Mr. W. J. Fergusson to The Secretary for Mines.

Claim 1,028, portion 3, parish of Picton, county of Yancowinna.

Sir, Fitz-Evan Chambers, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 25 June, 1887.

I am instructed by Mr. M. C. Renhan, of Broken Hill, to apply to you for information as to the above claim under the following circumstances:—

On 1st May, 1885, Mr. Renhan pegged and took possession of the above mentioned 40-acre lot under his mineral license. On the 8th June, 1885, he repegged the land (the said block) and applied for a mineral lease of same in accordance with the regulations, paying the lease application money, which has not yet been returned.

In March, 1886, Mr. Renhan brought an action against Messrs. Brougham, Kirkpatrick, and Barnes for trespass on his claim, and it was decided therein that he had an indisputable title to the said portion 3 under his mineral license and mineral lease application, and damages and costs were recovered by the plaintiff against the defendant.

On the 22nd October, 1886, a notice appeared in the *Gazette* that the mineral lease application, No. 1,028, had been refused.

At the latter end of October, 1886, the said M. C. Renhan was summoned for assaulting James Martin by putting him off the said claim, but such summons was dismissed on the ground that the said James Martin was a trespasser, the said M. C. Renhan being the proprietor of the said land.

On 4th January, 1887, the said M. C. Renhan obtained a suspension of work from the Warden for three months, thus showing that the Warden considered him the rightful occupant.

The said M. C. Renhan has been in the possession of the claim since such suspension expired, and has duly fulfilled all rules and regulations.

The above statement contains shortly the facts of the case, and I shall be glad if you will kindly inform me,—

1. The grounds upon which the application for the lease was refused.
 2. If, under the circumstances, the application for the lease could not be reconsidered.
- Awaiting the favour of an early reply,—

I have, &c.,
W. J. FERGUSSON,
(*pro* C. P. SOWTER).

No. 19.

Mr. W. J. Fergusson to The Secretary for Mines.

Portion 3, parish Picton, Yancowinna—Mineral Conditional Purchase 83-56.

Sir, Fitz-Evan Chambers, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 21 July, 1887.

I beg to claim the above allotment on behalf of Mr. M. C. Renhan, of Broken Hill, and to enter a protest against the same being dealt with in any way, or the title validated, without notice to me.

Mr. Renhan has been in possession since May, 1885, under his mineral license, and has fulfilled all the conditions required by the Act. Full particulars have already been given in my letter of the 25th instant, to which no answer has yet been received.

I cannot understand on what grounds the application for the lease was refused, as mineral conditional purchases within proclaimed gold-fields have been declared void (*Wood v. Scott*, New South Wales, report 1885, page 83), and the person, James Brougham, claiming in opposition, has not taken the land *bonâ fide* for himself, and is acting as a mere dummy; nor has he fulfilled the requirements of the Act.

A reply hereto will oblige,—

Yours, &c.,
W. J. FERGUSSON,
(*pro* C. P. SOWTER).

The writer may be informed that the voucher for refund of the deposit was forwarded to Treasury on the 6th January last. The application was refused because, upon the evidence submitted to the Warden, the merits did not appear to be on the side of the applicant, Renhan. The Lands Department deals with the question of validating mineral conditional purchases, and the writer might perhaps apply to that Department, or, if he would prefer to do so, he can submit facts relating to Renhan's title under mineral license, verified by declaration, and this Department might then consider what steps (if any) can be taken.—H.W., 22/7/87.

Mr. Fergusson, 30/7/87.

No. 20.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. W. J. Fergusson.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 30 July, 1887.

Referring to your letter of the 21st instant, in which you, on behalf of Mr. M. C. Renhan, claim the allotment of land, M.C.P. 83-56, portion 3, parish Picton, county Yancowinna; and later, a protest against the same being dealt with in any way without notice being given you, I have the honor to inform you that, in respect of Renhan's application to lease the same was refused because, upon the evidence submitted to the Warden, the merits did not appear to be on the side of the applicant. The Lands Department deals with the question of validating mineral conditional purchases, and you might apply to that Department, or, if you would prefer to do so, you can submit facts relating to Renhan's title under mineral license, verified by declaration, and this Department might then consider what steps (if any), can be taken in the matter.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

No. 21.

Mr. W. J. Fergusson to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Re Renhan, No. 3, parish of Picton—Mineral Conditional Purchase, 83-56.

Sir,

Fitz-Evan Chambers, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 2 August, 1887.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favour of the 30th, herein, and in reply thereto will submit, Renhan's title verified by declaration, as proposed.

Yours, &c.,

W. J. FERGUSSON,

(pro C. P. SOWTER).

No. 22.

Mr. C. Renhan to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Broken Hill, 6 August, 1887.

In reference to an interview I had with your Honor when at Broken Hill about a mineral lease, you instructed me to write you the particulars of the case, and when you got back to Sydney it would receive your immediate attention. The case is as follows:—

On 5th May, 1885, I pegged out and took possession of 40 acres of land, being measured portion 3, parish of Picton, county Yancowinna, of the Albert Gold-field, as a mineral prospecting area under my mineral license.

On 8th June, 1885, I repegged the said 40 acres, and applied for it as a mineral lease in accordance with the regulations. A party named Brougham, Kirkpatrick, and Barnes afterwards pegged and applied for the same 40-acre block, being portion 3, parish of Picton, county of Yancowinna, as a mineral lease, served me with a notice stating that when they found mineral conditional purchases were illegal on a gold-field, according to the decision of the Supreme Court, they applied for it as a mineral lease. This is the first intimation I had as to who claimed the said block, or that it had a claimant, as it had lain there for about two years without any work being done on the said block, not even a peg or a trench in it to show that it had been claimed or occupied by any person, and on inquiry I learned that a boy named J. K. Brougham, Wilcannia, applied for the said 40-acre block now in question in his own name, as a mineral conditional purchase for a miner on the Barrier, who sent the money to Wilcannia to defray all expenses in the taking of it up, which, according to the Act, is dummying Crown lands. The said J. K. Brougham not being of age could make no transfer of the said mineral conditional purchase to the miner for whom it was taken up.

The said mineral conditional purchase being afterwards claimed by Brougham, Kirkpatrick, and Barnes, which is shown by their mineral lease application.

In March, 1886, Brougham, Kirkpatrick, and Barnes put men on to work on the said portion 3, parish Picton, county of Yancowinna. I served them with notice that they were trespassing on my ground and brought an action against them for trespass and damages. The case was heard before the Warden's Court, and then appealed to the District Court, held in May, 1886, at Menindie, and after the Judge hearing all the evidence of both sides, he (the Judge) decided that Brougham, Kirkpatrick, and Barnes could show no title at all to the said portion 3, parish Picton, county Yancowinna, and decided that I, M. C. Renhan and party, had an indisputable title to the said portion 3, parish of Picton, county of Yancowinna, under my own mineral license and mineral lease application, therefore gave us costs and damages against the said Brougham and party.

This decision, your Honor, together with the decision of the Supreme Court, had a right to be sufficient to prove my title as being the rightful owner and in legal possession of said portion 3, parish of Picton, and that my lease should have been granted instead of not being, had not influence taken the place of justice.

I was working on the said portion 3 when a notice appeared in the *Gazette* of the 22nd October, 1886, of the refusal of my mineral lease application, No. 1,028, 8th June, 1885.

I wrote to the Mines Department to ascertain on what grounds my lease application was refused, and whilst waiting a reply, a man named James Martin came on the morning of the 11th November, 1886, to peg out the said portion 3 and take possession of it.

I put him off the said portion 3, and would not allow him to peg it, stating at the same time that I was in possession under my mineral license; that I was working on the said portion 3 every day, my pegs kept up, my trenches kept clean, and my notice kept posted on the said claim, as follows:—

Mineral prospecting area—Possession, 5th May, 1885—M. C. Renhan and C. Harper.

In the face of all this, he (J. Martin) applied for the said portion 3 as a mineral lease, and his application, No. 1,609, is still pending. I cannot understand why J. Martin's 1,609 lease application for said portion 3 is not refused, who has no right at all to the said portion 3.

He,

He, the said J. Martin, summoned me for an assault for putting him off my claim. The case was heard before the Warden and a J.P., who dismissed the case, on the ground that I was in possession of and working the said claim, and that he, J. Martin, was a trespasser and had no right there.

On 4th January, 1886, I got suspension of work from the Warden for three months for said portion 3. On 3rd March, 1886, my suspension was up, and I commenced work again, and have been working on the said portion 3 ever since, and intend to continue so until my lease is granted or approved of, after which I shall be able to start work with a good heart and to better advantage. Even getting suspension from the Warden shows that I am the acknowledged and rightful owner of said portion 3. The lease money that I paid when applying for the said portion 3, parish of Picton, county of Yancowinna, is still held by the Mines Department. Could not your Honor reconsider my application, No. 1,028, 8th June, 1885, and have it approved of, and my lease granted.

I think your Honor must see plainly that what I ask for is but justice, when taking into consideration that I have held the said portion 3 claim, for about two years and a half, and in that time it has been proved over and over again by law that I was the rightful owner, and according to the Judge's decision had an indisputable title.

What more proofs than this should be required, unless influence should take the place of justice, as I believe such had been the case when my application was refused. I therefore pray, hope, and trust to your Honor to do me justice, as I ask for nothing more.

I take the liberty of addressing the envelope thus to ensure direct communication, so as the case may receive your Honor's immediate consideration in accordance with your promise to me when at Broken Hill, Barrier Ranges.

I have, &c.,
M. C. RENHAN.

For report early.—F.A., 19/8/87.

Mineral lease application, M. C. Renhan and C. Harper refused, 22/10/86; mineral lease application, 1,609, J. Martin, awaiting action by Lands Department on mineral conditional purchase.—E.C.P., 31/8/86.

Although this matter has been before me on several occasions, I can give very little information respecting it. I think the appeal referred to was decided in Renhan's favour, on the ground that the other side were unable to prove that an application for a mineral conditional purchase had ever been made for this land, the respondent not having obtained to produce as evidence the application or a certified copy. I expect Renhan's mineral lease application was refused on the ground that the land was not available, this mineral conditional purchase standing in the way; in fact, the whole matter appears to me, hinges on the validity of Brougham's mineral conditional purchase.—WYMAN BROWN, Warden, Silverton, 14/9/87. The Under Secretary for Mines, Sydney.

Submitted.—E.P., 21/9/87.

Ask Lands Department if any steps are being, or are likely to be taken, to validate mineral conditional purchase No. 83-56, made by James Kennedy Brougham, at Wilcannia, on the 20th September, 1883, and request an urgent reply, as the land is held and being worked in virtue of a mineral license, and a lease application is pending. If the reply be in the negative submit Martin's application to be at once dealt with. See decision of the Circuit Court in Renhan v. Martin.—H.W., 29/9/87.

The Lands Department may be asked not to validate mineral conditional purchase 83-56, made by James Kennedy Brougham on 20th September, 1883, as the land in question is claimed by M. C. Renhan, in virtue of his mineral license.—H.W., 4/10/87. Submitted.

Approved.—F.A., 6/10/87. Lands, 8 October, 1887.

No. 23.

Mr. W. J. Fergusson to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Re Renhan, 87-8,130.

Sir, Fitz-Evan Chambers, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 31 August, 1887.

Herewith I have the honor to forward you declaration made by Mr. M. C. Renhan, in accordance with your letter of 30th July, 1887.

I shall be happy to give you any further details or information you may require.

I have, &c.,
W. J. FERGUSSON,
(pro C. P. SOWTER).

Submitted, *vide* minute on letter of Mr. Fergusson, of 21/7/87.—E.C.P., 5/9/87. Submitted.—E.C.P., 21/9/87.

[Enclosure.]

I, MICHAEL CHARLES RENHAN, of Broken Hill, in the Colony of New South Wales, miner, do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:—

1. On the 5th day of May, 1885, under and by virtue of my mineral license, dated 6th September, 1884, I pegged out and took possession of 40 acres of land known as portion 3, parish of Picton, county of Yancowinna, in the said Colony, upon behalf of myself and one Charles Harper, who was the holder of a mineral license, dated 21st April, 1885.

2. On the 8th June, 1885, I repegged the said land, and I and the said Charles Harper applied for a mineral lease thereof, and duly complied with the regulations, as prescribed by the Mining Act of 1874.

3. Objections were lodged to the said application by Thomas William Barnes, of Wilcannia, upon behalf of himself and Alfred Kirkpatrick and James Kennedy Brougham, and a true copy of the said objections are hereunto annexed, and marked "A."

4. The said objections were inquired into by the warden at Silverton, who made a report thereon in the word and figures following:—"I am of opinion, from taking all the surrounding circumstances connected with this case into consideration that the objection should be upheld, and would recommend that mineral lease application No. 1,028 should be refused.—WYMAN BROWN, Warden."

5. Upon learning the nature of the said reports I, on the 31st August, 1885, instructed our solicitor, Mr. William Welsh, of Silverton, to write a letter to the Under Secretary for Mines protesting against such reports and recommendation, as not being warranted by the evidence adduced before the Warden.

6. A true copy of the said letter is hereunto annexed, and marked "B."

7. On the 1st day of November, 1885, our said solicitor received a reply to the said letter, a true copy of which is hereunto annexed, marked "C."

8. In the month of March, 1886, two men, named James M'Clure and James Mason, having commenced to sink a shaft upon the said land under contract with the said Thomas William Barnes, Alfred Kirkpatrick, and James Kennedy Brougham, I and the said Charles Harper brought an action in the Warden's Court, at Silverton, against the said James M'Clure and the said James Mason for trespass upon our said land, and the Warden, on the 13th April, 1886, nonsuited us, the complainants—a true copy of the summons in the said suit is hereunto annexed, marked "D."

9. I and the said Charles Harper appealed against the said decision of the Warden to the District Court sitting at Menindie, as a Mining Appeal Court, and the said appeal was heard by the said Court on the 10th May, 1886, and judgment thereon reserved.

10. The said Thomas William Barnes was examined as a witness upon the hearing of the said appeal upon behalf of the said James M'Clure and James Mason, and admitted that they had done the work complained of under instructions and on behalf of himself and the said James Kennedy Brougham and Alfred Kirkpatrick, and that he and his partner were the real defendants in the matter.

11. Judgment was given in the matter of the said appeal in June, 1886, and the decision of the Warden was reversed with costs, the Court finding that the defendants had trespassed upon our said land, and that we were entitled to the possession thereof.

12. A true copy of the said judgments is hereunto annexed, marked "E."

13. The costs and damages awarded by the said judgment were paid by the said Thomas William Barnes and his copartners.

14. On the 22nd October, 1886, a notice appeared in the *Gazette* that our application for a mineral lease had been refused; and, hereunto annexed and marked with the letter "F," is a true copy of a letter received by me from the Under Secretary for Mines, stating the reason of such refusal.

15. In November, 1886, a summons for assault was issued against me in the Court of Petty Sessions, holden at Broken Hill, at the instance of one James Martin, for assault, in putting him off the said land while he was attempting to peg some, prior to making an application for a mineral lease therefor; but such summons was dismissed, on the the ground that I was the proprietor of the said land and in possession thereof.

16. That the said summons was heard by Wyman Brown, Esquire, Warden, and Richard Dawes, Esquire, Justice of the Peace.

17. On the 4th December, 1886, I and the said Charles Harper obtained an order from Warden Brown for license to suspend work for three months, which would show that the Warden considered us *prima facie* owners of the said land.

18. The claimant, James Kennedy Brougham, claims the said land under a mineral conditional purchase merely as a dummy, and not in his own rights; moreover, as I am informed and believe such purchases on proclaimed gold-fields have been declared void and have not since been validated.

19. I have at all times duly taken out my mineral license and have performed all rules and regulations in respect of the said land, and am now and have been in possession of the same since the 5th May, 1885, and have expended a considerable sum of money in mining thereon.

20. In carrying on such mining operations I have discovered silver ore in large quantities; but I am advised if I attempt to raise same without having a mineral lease, I will forfeit my title under mineral license.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the Reign of Her Present Majesty, intituled "An Act for the more effectual abolition of Oaths and Affirmations taken and made in various Departments of the Government of New South Wales and to substitute declarations in lieu thereof, and for the suppression of voluntary and extra-judicial oaths and affidavits.

Subscribed and declared at Round Hill, this 23rd day of

M. C. RENHAN.

August, 1887, before me,—

RICHARD DAWES, J.P.

(A.)

I, THE undersigned, on behalf of myself and partners, Alfred Kirkpatrick and James Kennedy Brougham, do hereby give notice that I object to the application, No. 1,028, of Renhan and Harper, for a mineral lease of survey, portion 3, parish of Picton, being registered, for the following reasons:—

That the land applied for has hitherto been held by us as a mineral conditional purchase, in the name of James Kennedy Brougham.

That as soon as we became aware of the decision of the Supreme Court that the mineral conditional purchases on a gold-field are illegal, I instructed an agent to apply promptly for a mineral lease of the land in the names of my partners and myself.

That, notwithstanding our agent's action in the matter was as prompt as possible, the application on our behalf was lodged one quarter of an hour after that of Renhan and Harper.

That no means have been neglected by myself and partners to secure our title to the land in a legal manner, when the illegality of our former title from the Crown Lands Department became apparent.

And I hereby require the Mining Registrar to withhold the registration of the application of the said Renhan and Harper, pending the hearing of this objection by the Warden.

Dated this 22nd day of June, 1885.

THOS. W. BARNES,

Objector.

(By his Attorney, T. JOHNSON, Solicitor, Silverton).

These are the objections marked "A," referred to in the annexed declaration of Michael Charles Renhan, declared before me, this 23rd day of August, 1887.—RICHARD DAWES, J.P.

(B.)

The Under Secretary for Mines, Sydney,—

Sir,

Silverton, 31 August, 1885.

I have the honor to acknowledge with thanks receipt of your telegram of the 27th instant, informing me that I could obtain copy of the Warden's decision in the case of the objection to Renhan and Harper's application for lease, No. 1,028.

I have since obtained copy of the decision, by which I observe that the Warden reports as follows:—"I am of opinion, from taking all the surrounding circumstances connected with the case into consideration, that the objection should be upheld, and would recommend that mineral lease application, No. 1,028, should be refused."

In the first place, I am at a loss to understand what the expression, "taking all the surrounding circumstances connected with this case into consideration" means. Again, there were four objections of Barnes & Co. to the application, to the following purport:—

1. That the land applied for had hitherto been held by objectors as a mineral conditional purchase, in the name of James Kennedy Brougham.
2. That as soon as objectors became aware of the decision of the Supreme Court, that mineral conditional purchases on a gold-field were illegal, an agent was instructed to apply promptly for a mineral lease.
3. That, notwithstanding the prompt action of such agent, he was a quarter of an hour too late in lodging application.
4. That objectors had done their best to gain a title in a legal manner when the illegality of their former title became apparent.

The Warden, in his report, says that he considers that the objection should be upheld, without specifying which one. Is it because the land was presumed to be held as a mineral conditional purchase, or is it because the objectors were too late in taking possession of the ground legally, and that, therefore, the last ought to be first?

If it is upon the first ground, I must say, that after the well-considered judgment of the Supreme Court of this Colony, that there could be no such title as a mineral conditional purchase upon a gold-field, except for land originally demised under the Mining Statute, I do not see how such an objection can be sustained; and as to the other objections, they are perfectly untenable. I may, however, observe that it was proved in evidence that my clients had held the land in question under mineral

mineral license since the 5th day of May last, nearly a month before the Supreme Court gave their decision as to the illegality of mineral conditional purchases upon gold-fields, and such being the case, I cannot see how they can be deprived of their legal rights under the Mining Statute.

Under the Mineral License Regulations, persons wishing to raise ore from land held thereunder are obliged to apply for a lease under a penalty of forfeiting their mineral license title, and yet, in the face of that provision it is attempted to say, "Yes, you are bound to apply for a lease, but it is of no avail your doing so, inasmuch as from surrounding circumstances we think we are entitled to decide as we like upon the matter."

I may also state that James Kennedy Brougham, in whose name the land was taken up as a mineral conditional purchase, was and still is an infant under age. I cannot therefore see how he could either transfer any rights to the other objectors, or be himself an applicant for a lease under the Mining Statute, as he could not legally execute any lease if granted to him.

Hoping that the application of Messrs. Renhan and Harper will be dealt with upon its merits, and those only.

I have, &c.,

WM. WELSH.

P.S.—May I call attention to the facts, as admitted by objectors, that although they held the land for nearly two years, they never did any mining thereon whatever. Is it for such people that the so-called equitable discretion of the Crown is to be exercised.—W.W.

This is the letter marked "B" referred to in the annexed declaration of Michael Charles Renhan, taken before me this 23rd day of August, 1887.—RICHARD DAWES, J.P.

(C.)

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 24 September, 1885.

Referring to your letter of the 31st ultimo, in which you take exception to the decision of the Warden in the case of the objections by Messrs Barnes and others to mineral lease application No. 1,028 (at Silvertown), by Messrs. Renhan and Harper, I am directed by the Secretary for Mines to inform you that the question of mineral conditional purchases on gold-fields has been under consideration, and it is thought that this case should be allowed to stand over until the course to be pursued in regard to such purchases has been decided on.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

William Welsh Esq., Solicitor, Silvertown.

This is the letter marked "C," referred to in the annexed declaration of Michael Charles Renhan, taken before me this 22nd day of August, 1887.

(D.)

Mining Statute, 1874—Twentieth Schedule—Warden's summons to defendant.

To James M'Clure and James Mason, of Broken Hill,—

You are hereby summoned to appear before me, or some other Warden of the gold-fields, at Silvertown, on the 31st day of March, 1886, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of the same day precisely, to answer the complaint of Michael Charles Renhan and Charles Harper, by which complaints they seek that it may be determined that you, at divers times between the 15th and 22nd days of March, 1886, trespassed upon certain lands situated in the parish of Picton, county of Yancowinna, and being portion No. 3, said parish, to the possession of which the complainants are entitled, under and by virtue of the mineral licenses, and for which land the complainants had, on the 8th day of June, 1885, applied for a mineral lease in accordance with the regulations in force, and applicable to such lease so far as such regulations were at the time of such trespass capable of being complied with, and that you may be ordered to cease from such trespass, and that the Court cause you to be removed from such land, and the complainants claim the sum of £100 damages.

If you desire the said complaint to be heard before assessors, you are entitled to have it so heard.

You may have a summons to compel the attendance of any witness, or for the production of any books or documents, on applying at my office.

Bring this summons with you when you come to my office.

Given under my hand this 22nd day of March, 1886.

WYMAN BROWN,

Warden.

The complainants' address is care of William Welsh, Solicitor, Silvertown.

This is the copy summons marked "D," referred to in the annexed declaration of Michael Charles Renhan, taken before me this 23rd day of August, 1887.—RICHARD DAWES, J.P.

(E.)

District Court at Menindie.

In the matter of appeal of Michael Charles Renhan and Charles Harper from a decision of the Warden's Court, Silvertown, given in a case, No. 7-86, in this Court, in which the said Michael Charles Renhan and Charles Harper were the complainants, and James M'Clure and James Mason were the defendants, of alleged trespass by the defendants to land, to occupy which the complainants claimed to be entitled by virtue of their having applied for a mineral lease of the same to the District Court held at Menindie sitting as a Mining Appeal Court.

THE appeal came on for hearing, and was heard, before me on the 10th day of May last, with consent of both parties. I reserved my decision, it being agreed that I should forward it to the Registrar as soon as I had come to a determination. My decision is as follows:—

With evidence before me which is evidently different from that before the Warden, the complainants have shown a right to the present possession of the land in question (whether a lease will be granted of course it is for His Excellency the Governor with the advice of the Executive Council to say), while the defendants and those who authorized them to do the acts complained of, have brought no legal evidence to show that they are, or any one of them, have any claim to the said land. Under the circumstances I must reverse the decision of the Warden and find a verdict for the complainants, and order that the defendants pay the complainants damages 1s., and that the defendants pay the costs of the appeal, and that the parties pay their own costs in the Court below.

ALFRD. P. BACKHOUSE,

D. C. J.

To the Registrar, District Court, Menindie.

This is a copy of the judgment "E" referred to in the annexed declaration of Michael Charles Renhan, taken before me this twenty-third day of August, 1887.—RICHARD DAWES, J.P.

(F.)

Gentlemen,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 22 October, 1886.

Silvertown, 1,028.

I am directed by the Secretary for Mines to inform you that your application for the mineral lease noted in the margin has been refused, it not being proved, upon inquiry, that the land was available at date of taking possession.

I have, &c.,

GERARD E. HERRING,

(For the Under Secretary for Mines).

Messrs. M. C. Renhan and another, Silvertown.

This is the copy of letter marked "F," referred to in annexed declaration of Michael Charles Renhan, taken before me this twenty-third day of August, 1887.—RICHARD DAWES, J.P.

15

No. 24.

Memo. from Mr. W. J. Fergusson to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sydney, 19 September, 1887.

Re Renhan.—I beg to draw your attention to my letter of the 31st ultimo.

No. 25.

Extract from the *Hay Standard* of 28th September, 1887.

BEFORE HIS HONOR THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

M. C. Renhan and C. Harper *versus* James Martin—Trespass on land held as mineral license at Silverton. Damages, £1,000.

Mr. Merewether, instructed by Mr. Brough, appeared for the plaintiff. The defendant did not appear.

Jury:—R. Woodward, A. Brown, J. Fallon, and R. Massie.

M. C. Renhan gave evidence of the defendant's entering upon the land and doing certain damage to it, knowing it to belong to plaintiff.

His Honor, in reviewing the evidence and directing the jury, stated that the plaintiff's had unquestionably established their claim to the land in question, and that the only matter with which they needed to concern themselves was the amount of damages which they thought the plaintiff has sustained by the wrongful action of the defendant. He added, in a case of this sort, although no actual damage had been proved, they would still be justified in awarding substantial damages, and cited a case in which the sum of £500 had been awarded as damages for trespass, which consisted only of the defendant persistently walking across the plaintiff's land in front of his windows.

The jury gave a verdict for 1s. and costs.

No. 26.

Mr. W. J. Fergusson to The Secretary for Mines.

Mineral Conditional Purchase 83-56, parish Picton, county Yancowinna.

Sir,

Fitz-Evan Chambers, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 4 October, 1887.

Referring to my interview with the Minister for Mines this morning, I beg to draw your attention to the 7th section of the Regulations of 1887, by which it appears compulsory that the owner of a mineral license should apply within thirty days for a mineral lease, and the regulations do not seem to even contemplate the possibility of a refusal of such lease.

I shall be glad, therefore (if Mr. Renhan's application is taken into consideration), if you will reconsider the decision of the 7th June, when the application was refused.

I shall be most happy if I can assist you in any way in expediting the matter.

Yours, &c.,

W. J. FERGUSSON,

(pro C. P. SOWTER).

Chief Draftsman.—E.F.P., 10/10/87. On 87-14,468 the Lands Department have now been asked not to validate mineral conditional purchase 83-56, Brougham. Chief Draftsman to note.—E.F.P., 18/10/87. Noted on plan Y 57-2,186.—E.P.M., 19/10/87. M.C., 19/10/87. Records—E.F.P., 20/10/87. Mines, 21/10/87.

No. 27.

Mr. W. J. Fergusson to The Secretary for Mines.

Re Renhan—Mineral Conditional Purchase 83-56.

Sir,

Fitz-Evan Chambers, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 8 October, 1887.

Referring to my interview with you yesterday, I have seen my client hereon, and he is most anxious that his application for a lease should be reconsidered, and that he should not be put to any further expense or delay in the matter.

You will perhaps remember it is two years since the application was made, and that if the matter has to be started entirely afresh, it may again prolong the time. The Warden's report would seem to prove my client's case, except in the matter of surrounding circumstances, and this objection, I take it, does not exist at present.

As Mr. Renhan has already proved his title in two Courts, I shall be glad to hear that his application will be reconsidered.

Yours, &c.,

W. J. FERGUSSON,

(pro C. P. SOWTER).

No. 28.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Warden Brown.

Sydney, 12 November, 1887.

Re Papers in connection with portion 3, parish Bolairo, sent you for report. You should inspect the land and if you require Renhan to give evidence as to work done, he will be advised on receipt of a message from you to that effect.

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary for Mines.

No. 29.

No. 29.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Warden Brown.

21 November, 1887.

CAN you report at once in regard to the mineral conditional purchase claimed by Brougham, and the holding under mineral license claimed by Renhan, as to what work has been done by the persons claiming under mineral conditional purchase and mineral license respectively.

If you cannot furnish this report without taking Renhan's evidence again, he shall be instructed to proceed to Silverton at once.

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 30.

Telegram from Mr. Warden Brown to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Silverton, 22 November, 1887.

Re your wire yesterday and portion 3, Bolairo, can get no one to point out the work done by respective claimants, therefore can do nothing in the matter until Renhan returns, which he should do as soon as possible. Please let me know when he is likely to return that I may advise other side of date of inquiry.

W. BROWN,
Warden.

As no report appears to have been received from the Warden, these papers may perhaps be returned to the Mines Department, in view of Mr. Secretary Garrett's minute of 28/10/87 on 87-50,102, Departmental.—W.H.C., 1/2/88.

No. 31.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. Warden Brown.

Sydney, 18 December, 1887.

PLEASE return papers relating to Renhan and Harper's case at once.

GERARD E. HERRING,
(For the Under Secretary for Mines).

All papers in reference to Renhan and Harper returned as requested.—W. BROWN, Warden, Silverton, 22/12/87. Mines, 28/12/87.

No. 32.

Telegram from Mr. Warden Brown to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Silverton, 22 December, 1887.

ALL papers re Renhan and Brougham returned by this day's mail.

W. BROWN,
Warden.

No. 33.

Mr. P. F. Richardson to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

1, Spring-street, Sydney, 24 April, 1888.

87-15,286 Mines,
portion 3, parish
of Picton, county
of Yancowinna.

As the Land Board at Silverton have recommended Brougham's mineral conditional purchase, 83-56, for forfeiture, at their meeting on 17th instant, I have the honor to request that the lease application of Mr. M. C. Renhan may be proceeded with, as he has been already a very long time debarred from dealing with the property, owing to Brougham's claim being in abeyance; but as it is now quashed, there is no reason why the matter should be any further delayed.

I have, &c.,

PHILLIP F. RICHARDSON.

87-16,870. The papers in this matter were forwarded to the Lands Department on the 30th December last; perhaps they might be asked for.—G.W.N., 25/4/88. Ask the Under Secretary for Lands to return the papers if they can be spared.—G.E.H. (for Under Secretary), 28/4/88. Under Secretary for Lands asked, 9/5/88.

No. 34.

Messrs. T. W. Barnes & Co. to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke.

Sir,

Wilcannia, 16 July, 1888.

M.C.P., 83-56,
Wilcannia; J. K.
Brougham;
40 acres.

We have received notice from the Honorable the Minister for Lands, dated the 7th instant, that the appeal lodged by the applicant for the mineral conditional purchase noted in the margin against the decision of the Local Land Board, given at Silverton on the 18th of April last, with respect to the fulfilment of the conditions of the Act, has been sustained, and that he has ordered a refund of the deposit of £10 which was lodged therewith.

As agents for the applicant, we have the honor to request that you will remit the above sum to us at your early convenience.

We have, &c.,

T. W. BARNES & CO.

Papers not to hand yet from the Appeal Court.—T.W.W., 27/7/88. The Under Secretary for Lands.—G. C. TOMPSON, 27/7/88.

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

ANTHRAX (CUMBERLAND) DISEASE IN
SHEEP AND CATTLE.

(TEST OF EFFICACY OF PASTEUR'S VACCINE OF ANTHRAX AS A PREVENTIVE AGAINST—REPORT
OF EXPERIMENTS AT JUNEES, &c.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 13 December, 1888.

Department of Mines, Stock Branch, Sydney, 14 August, 1888.

HIS Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of the appointment of the undermentioned gentlemen as a Board to watch and report upon the experiments to be made by the representatives of M. Pasteur, Paris (France), in demonstrating the efficacy of Pasteur's "Vaccine of Paris" as a preventive for Anthrax (Cumberland Disease) in Sheep and Cattle, viz:—

JOHN DE V. LAMB, Esquire, Chairman, Board of Sheep Directors, Sydney;
ARTHUR A. DEVLIN, Esquire, Chairman, Board of Sheep Directors, Narandera;
WILLIAM M. HAMLET, Esquire, F.I.C., F.C.S., Government Analyst;
ALEXANDER BRUCE, Esquire, Chief Inspector of Stock; and
EDWARD STANLEY, Esquire, F.R.C.V.S., Government Veterinarian.

FRANCIS ABIGAIL.

REPORT on experiments at Junees, during September and October, 1888, carried out by the representatives of M. Pasteur, Paris, under supervision of the members of the Anthrax Board, in demonstrating the efficacy of Pasteur's "Vaccine of Anthrax" as a preventive against Anthrax (Cumberland) Disease in sheep and cattle.

The Honorable Francis Abigail, M.P., &c., &c., Sydney,—

Sir,

We have the honor to submit our report upon the experiments recently carried out at Junees by Dr. Germont and M. Loir, the representatives of M. Pasteur, for the purpose of demonstrating the efficacy of his vaccine of anthrax as a preventive against anthrax, *i.e.*, Cumberland Disease; and we have to congratulate those gentlemen and the Colony on the unqualified success of their demonstration.

During the early part of August last, Mr. T. W. Hammond, of Junees, was asked if he would allow the experiments to be carried out on his run, when that gentleman at once placed some 30 acres of land adjoining the railway line, about a mile from Junees Junction, at the disposal of the Board. The site was inspected and found in every way suitable, and the necessary fencing and buildings were erected under Mr. Devlin's supervision.

First Vaccination.

Dr. Germont submitted a programme of the proposed demonstration (similar to that by M. Pasteur at Pouilly-le-Fort in 1881), which was approved by the Board, who proceeded to Junee on September 3rd to witness the first vaccination. In order to ensure that none of the stock were infected with the disease, thirty-nine sheep and six head of cattle had previously been purchased at Cootamundra, an uninfected district, and of these twenty sheep and four cattle were vaccinated by Dr. Germont, assisted by M. Loir, on September 4th, under the supervision of the Board.

The sheep were vaccinated on the inner side of the off thigh by the hypodermic injection of one-eighth part of a cubic centimetre (about two minims) of attenuated vaccine of anthrax—"First Vaccine of Pasteur." The cattle were similarly operated on behind the shoulder, each receiving one-fourth part of a cubic centimetre, *i.e.*, four minims. The temperature of each animal treated was taken immediately afterwards, and will be found recorded on page 3, the normal temperature being—sheep, 103 deg. to 104 deg.; cattle, 101 deg. to 102 deg. It was also taken on the 5th, when a general rise of the temperature of the sheep was discerned, and in the case of one of the sheep had risen to 106.2. On the following day the temperature had in most cases slightly fallen. This was also the case in regard to the sheep whose temperature had reached 106 deg. Another had gone up to 106, but was on the following day found to have gone down to 102.3. The sheep between this and the second vaccination continued to be closely watched, but exhibited no symptoms of being affected by the operation.

Second Vaccination.

The members of the Board (with the exception of Mr. Lamb, who was unavoidably absent) attended at Junee on September 18 to watch the second vaccination, when Dr. Germont and M. Loir re-vaccinated the twenty sheep and four cattle, this time with the same quantity of Pasteur's second vaccine of anthrax. The temperature of the animals was taken immediately afterwards, when it was found that it corresponded with that of the previous vaccination. On the following day a considerable rise of temperature was noticeable in those sheep which had shown no rise after the first vaccination, two of them going as high as 107 deg. On the following day there was a considerable fall in nearly all the sheep except one, which registered 105.2 deg. (See page 4.) The vaccinated and unvaccinated animals were allowed to run together, but no ill-effects were noticed.

On September 18, Dr. Germont also inoculated two sheep, in the presence of the Board, with a cultivation of the virulent virus of anthrax (Cumberland) disease. This virus had been originally procured by the Government Veterinarian (Mr. Stanley) in May last from Mr. A. A. Devlin's sheep at Uarah, and was handed by him to the Government Analyst (Mr. Hamlet), on September 13, for this inoculation, the object being to test its efficacy, and, if still effective, to obtain a supply of fresh virulent virus for the demonstration. The result showed that the virus had lost none of its vitality, the two inoculated sheep dying at 8 p.m. on the following day, being thirty-two hours after inoculation. Careful *post-mortem* examination of these sheep by Mr. Stanley and Mr. Devlin, in the presence of Mr. Hamlet and Dr. Germont, showed unmistakable indication of the disease anthrax, and the microscope revealed its characteristic bacilli. Blood was taken by Mr. Hamlet from one of these sheep for the purpose of preparing a cultivation for the final test, and the cultivation was carried out in the Government laboratory, Sydney, under his supervision by M. Loir.

Inoculation of Sheep with Virulent Virus for Demonstration.

The cultivation prepared under Mr. Hamlet's supervision was taken on September 29 to Junee, and on the 30th three sheep were inoculated with different quantities of this cultivation by Dr. Germont, in the presence of Mr. Devlin and Mr. Bruce, at the experimental station, with the view to have the deaths occurring at different times for the purpose of demonstration. Of these, the first sheep died at 6 a.m. on October 2, thirty-four hours after the inoculation; the second at 3.30 p.m. of the same day, forty-three and a half hours after inoculation; and the third sheep at 9 a.m. of the 3rd, fifty-nine hours after inoculation.

Final Experiments and Demonstration.

All the members of the Board attended at Junee on Tuesday, the 2nd instant, together with Dr. Thompson, of the Board of Health, the Chief Inspectors of Stock for Victoria, Queensland, and Tasmania, and the Government Veterinarians for Victoria and Tasmania. There were also present a considerable number of delegates from the Pasture and Stock Protection Boards, and a good many Inspectors of Stock and visitors from different parts of the Colony, in all about 200 people. At 3.30 p.m. one of the sheep inoculated on September 30 died, as anticipated. After *post-mortem* examination and inspection of the blood under the microscope, and the Board being satisfied that the death was caused by anthrax, Dr. Germont and M. Loir commenced the inoculation of the thirty-nine sheep with the blood of this sheep, at 4.45 p.m., doing the vaccinated and unvaccinated sheep alternately, using the same syringe and the same quantity of blood for each, *viz.*, one-eighth part of a cubic centimetre, equal to two minims. The six head of cattle were also inoculated with blood from the same sheep, and with the same syringe, receiving one-fourth part of a cubic centimetre. The whole of the inoculated sheep, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, were then placed in the same enclosure, fed upon the same food, and drank from the same trough. Green food was scattered about the floor upon which the unvaccinated sheep were dying, and sanious discharges contaminated the food. The vaccinated sheep, in addition to the inoculation, also had to undergo the risk of contracting the disease by taking up the blood or other excreta from the unvaccinated sheep which died in the same pen, where they were confined and fed for four days after the inoculation took place.

The first of the nineteen unvaccinated sheep succumbed to the disease at 8.15 p.m. on 3rd October, being about twenty-seven hours after inoculation, and the last of that number died at 5.30 a.m. on Friday, 5th October, sixty hours fifteen minutes after inoculation. Of the two unvaccinated cattle (Nos. 88 and 33) the former died at 10.30 p.m. on Saturday, 6th October, while the latter, though having been very ill, is likely to recover. All the protected sheep and cattle continued unaffected, and are in remarkably good health. Mr. Stanley made a *post-mortem* examination of all the sheep that died, and found the lesions of anthrax very decidedly

decidedly indicated in every instance. The diagnostic changes were the black semi-fluid blood, the enlarged, softened, blackened spleen, and the dark bloody colour of the urine. These conditions were well marked in each case. During the examination the changes produced by the disease, such as the bloodstains, patches of inflammation in various parts of the body, the gelatinous bloody effusion at the point of inoculation, and other points of interest, were explained to the visitors. A healthy sheep was killed for the purpose of comparison of the organs with those of a diseased sheep.

In order to remove any possibility of doubt as to the cause of death, the Board requested Mr. Hamlet (Government Analyst) to examine the blood of the sheep as the *post-mortem* examinations were made, and in every case the blood, when submitted to that test under the microscope, contained *bacilli anthracis*. The blood of the healthy sheep was also examined and exhibited for comparison.

At the request of one of the visitors present (Mr. R. G. Higgins), a sheep which had been protected by vaccination and afterwards inoculated on September 12 was killed, but did not show any trace whatever of the disease, neither was there any effect upon the wool. This was eighteen days after inoculation. Some additional experiments are being made by the Board to ascertain, if possible, why travelling sheep are more subject to the disease, and if there is any difference in the *post-mortem* appearances of inoculated and naturally-infected sheep, but as sufficient time has not yet elapsed it is premature to offer an opinion thereon. The results will form the subject of an additional report.

Opinion of the Board.

After carefully watching the whole series of experiments and giving the subject the fullest consideration, the Board are unanimously of opinion that Dr. Germont and M. Loir have conclusively demonstrated the efficacy of M. Pasteur's "Vaccine of Anthrax" as a preventive against that disease, and therefore recommend its adoption and use. In conclusion, the Board desire to express their appreciation of the untiring efforts of Dr. Germont and M. Loir, by whom the late demonstration was made most interesting and instructive to the large number of gentlemen attending. The Board also wish to express their appreciation of the able and efficient manner in which the duties of secretary have been discharged by Mr. E. C. Weller.

J. DE V. LAMB, Chairman.
WILLIAM M. HAMLET, F.I.C., F.C.S.
ALEX. BRUCE.
EDWARD STANLEY, F.R.C.V.S.
ARTHUR A. DEVLIN.

Dated at Sydney, this 12th day of October, 1888.

RECORD Notes of Animals vaccinated with "1st Vaccine" at Junee, while under observation, on 4th, 5th, and 6th September, 1888.

Sheep.

| Ear Tag Numbers. | Sex. | Age. | Temperature. | | | Seat of Vaccination. | Remarks. |
|------------------|--------|---------|--------------|-----------|-----------|--|----------|
| | | | 4th Sept. | 5th Sept. | 6th Sept. | | |
| 225 | Wether | 2-tooth | 103.2 | 104.0 | 103.0 | On the inner surface of the right thigh. Note.—The part was first washed with carbolic water. | |
| 227 | " | 6 " | 103.8 | 104.0 | 103.0 | | |
| 228 | " | 6 " | 103.4 | 104.6 | 106.0 | | |
| 229 | " | 4 " | 104.2 | 104.8 | 104.8 | | |
| 230 | " | 4 " | 103.4 | 104.4 | 104.0 | | |
| 231 | " | 4 " | 103.2 | 103.4 | 102.4 | | |
| 232 | " | 4 " | 104.0 | 103.8 | 103.6 | | |
| 233 | " | 4 " | 103.6 | 106.2 | 104.0 | | |
| 234 | " | 4 " | 103.8 | 104.6 | 104.2 | | |
| 236 | " | 6 " | 103.2 | 104.8 | 104.6 | | |
| 237 | " | 6 " | 103.0 | 103.2 | 103.4 | | |
| 238 | " | 8 " | 103.0 | 103.4 | 104.6 | | |
| 239 | " | 6 " | 103.0 | 103.0 | 102.8 | | |
| 240 | " | 6 " | 103.0 | 104.0 | 104.0 | | |
| 241 | " | 4 " | 104.2 | 104.4 | 104.0 | | |
| 242 | " | 6 " | 103.6 | 103.2 | 104.6 | | |
| 243 | " | 4 " | 103.6 | 103.8 | 104.4 | | |
| 244 | " | 6 " | 104.0 | 104.6 | 103.4 | | |
| 246 | " | 6 " | 103.6 | 103.0 | 104.6 | | |
| 247 | " | 6 " | 104.0 | 104.2 | 103.0 | | |
| | | Mean... | 103.54 | 104.07 | 103.92 | | |

Cattle.

| Fire-brand right horn. | Cow | Aged | 4th Sept. | 5th Sept. | 6th Sept. |
|------------------------|-----|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 41 | " | 4 years | 102.0 | 101.8 | 102.0 |
| 55 | " | 3 " | 102.2 | 101.4 | 102.0 |
| 22 | " | 3 " | 104.8 | 102.0 | 101.8 |
| 77 | " | 3 " | 102.0 | 101.8 | 101.8 |
| | | Mean... | 102.75 | 101.75 | 101.9 |

RECORD Notes of Animals vaccinated with "2nd Vaccine," at Junee, while under observation, on 18th, 19th, and 20th September, 1888.

Sheep.

| Ear Tag Number. | Sex. | Age. | Temperature. | | | Seat of Vaccination. | Remarks. |
|-----------------|--------|---------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | | 18th Sept. | 19th Sept. | 20th Sept. | | |
| 225 | Wether | 2-tooth | 103.0 | 105.8 | 103.0 | The inner surface of the left thigh. | * High temp. on the 19th. |
| 227 | " | 6 " | 103.4 | 105.0 | 103.0 | | |
| 228 | " | 6 " | 104.0 | 103.2 | 103.0 | | |
| 229 | " | 4 " | 104.8 | 107.0* | 104.8 | | |
| 230 | " | 4 " | 104.0 | 106.0 | 104.0 | | |
| 231 | " | 4 " | 103.6 | 105.0 | 102.8 | | |
| 232 | " | 4 " | 103.4 | 105.0 | 103.8 | | |
| 233 | " | 4 " | 104.0 | 104.0 | 102.8 | | |
| 234 | " | 4 " | 103.6 | 104.0 | 103.6 | | |
| 236 | " | 6 " | 103.0 | 104.0 | 102.4 | | |
| 237 | " | 6 " | 103.0 | 103.2 | 102.8 | | |
| 238 | " | 8 " | 102.6 | 103.0 | 102.8 | | |
| 239 | " | 6 " | 103.1 | 104.0 | 104.4 | | |
| 240 | " | 6 " | 103.6 | 104.0 | 102.8 | | |
| 241 | " | 4 " | 103.4 | 107.0 | 103.2 | | |
| 242 | " | 6 " | 104.0 | 103.0 | 103.6 | | |
| 243 | " | 4 " | 104.6 | 104.6 | 105.2 | | |
| 244 | " | 6 " | 103.8 | 105.0 | 103.0 | | |
| 246 | " | 6 " | 104.0 | 104.6 | 104.2 | | |
| 247 | " | 6 " | 103.8 | 106.0 | 102.8 | | |
| | | Mean... | 103.63 | 104.67 | 103.4 | | |

Cattle.

| Fire-brand right horn. | Cow | Aged | 18th Sept. | 19th Sept. | 20th Sept. |
|------------------------|-----|---------|------------|------------|------------|
| 41 | " | | 102.4 | 102.4 | 102.0 |
| 55 | " | 4 years | 102.0 | 102.0 | 102.2 |
| 22 | " | 3 " | 101.8 | 101.8 | 102.2 |
| 77 | " | 3 " | 102.4 | 103.0 | 102.3 |
| | | Mean... | 102.15 | 102.3 | 102.17 |

TABLE showing Deaths of Nineteen unprotected Sheep.

| No. | Date of Deaths. | Time. | No. | Date of Deaths. | Time. |
|-----|----------------------|------------|-----|---------------------|-----------|
| 2 | Wednesday, October 3 | 8.15 p.m. | 4 | Thursday, October 4 | 5.45 a.m. |
| 7 | Do do " | 8.26 " | 18 | Do do " | 6.15 " |
| 15 | Do do " | 10.40 " | 1 | Do do " | 7.0 " |
| 14 | Do do " | 11.25 " | 3 | Do do " | 12.0 p.m. |
| 11 | Thursday, do 4 | 12.55 a.m. | 9 | Do do " | 3.0 " |
| 19 | Do do " | 1.40 " | 17 | Do do " | 3.0 " |
| 6 | Do do " | 1.45 " | 16 | Do do " | 5.30 " |
| 13 | Do do " | 2.5 " | 8 | Do do " | 6.15 " |
| 12 | Do do " | 2.35 " | 5 | Friday, do 5 | 5.30 a.m. |
| 10 | Do do " | 3.40 " | | | |

Cattle.

Of the two unprotected cattle, one died on 7th October; the other, though very ill, recovered.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT A.

The Honorable Francis Abigail, M.P., Minister for Mines, Sydney,—

Sir,

We have the honor to report the result of the supplementary experiments carried out at Junee, with some of the sheep generously furnished by Messrs. Robertson Brothers, of Mimosa and Goree, for the purpose of ascertaining as far as possible,—

- i. The cause of the comparatively sudden deaths which at times occur among travelling sheep from anthrax.
- ii. Whether there is any difference, as it was alleged there is, in the *post-mortem* appearances of the spleens of sheep which died from infection contained in their food or water and those presented by sheep which died from inoculation with virulent virus.

I.—THE CAUSE OF SUDDEN DEATHS AMONG TRAVELLING SHEEP FROM ANTHRAX.

To test this, four sheep were inoculated at 2 p.m., on the 5th October, with blood taken from the heart of a sheep which had died of anthrax.

The sheep were then kept moving for six or seven hours in the paddock, as if they were being driven on the road. In this way their temperature was raised considerably over what it would have been if the sheep had been left quietly in the paddock; and they suffered in some degree from exhaustion, but not to anything like the same extent as if they had been long on the road, and had been weakened from want of grass and water and over-driving.

On the following day (6th October), at 2 p.m., one of the inoculated sheep died; at 4 p.m. another of these sheep died; at 6.30 a.m. of the 7th October, another inoculated sheep died; and at 7.30 a.m. of that date the fourth and last-inoculated sheep died.

From this it will be seen that the first two deaths occurred within a shorter time than those of any of the other sheep which died of inoculation with virulent virus during the demonstration, and that the average period of inoculation of the whole four sheep—thirty-three hours—is considerably less than that of the other inoculated sheep; and the result, we think, indicates that our supposition is correct, and that given conditions favourable to a speedy development and termination of the disease—such as fever, starvation, and exhaustion—we need not be surprised if deaths occur among travelling sheep within twenty hours of their coming on infected ground. While, however, the somewhat imperfect experiment points in this direction, the Board would advise that the matter be put to a more severe and thorough test, with the view to finally settle the question.

II.—THE DIFFERENCE, IF ANY, IN THE POST-MORTEM APPEARANCES OF SHEEP DYING FROM INOCULATION AND FROM NATURAL INFECTION.

It was decided to carry out this test by drenching the sheep both with blood from a diseased sheep and also with a cultivation of virulent virus, so as to have the germs in a similar state to those naturally infecting the sheep.

1. *The Drench with Diseased Blood.*—At 12.45 p.m. of the 6th ultimo four sheep were drenched with some of the same blood as the other four sheep were inoculated with, the sheep receiving the following quantities:—

- No. 1, branded ↑ in red on top of shoulder; with a strong dose—about 2 ounces.
 No. 2, branded ↑ in red on near rump; with a less dose—about 1½ ounces.
 No. 3, branded ↑ in red on off ribs; with a smaller dose „ 1¼ ounces.
 No. 4, branded ↑ on near ribs; with a still smaller dose „ 1 ounce.

Of these four sheep, the one which had received a dose of 1 ounce died on the 7th October, at 4 a.m., *i.e.*, in about forty hours; another, which had received 2 ounces, died on the 9th, at 2 a.m., *i.e.*, in about eighty-six hours; and another, which received 1½ ounces, died on the 11th, at 12.15 a.m., *i.e.*, in about 144 hours. The last sheep, which was drenched with 1¼ ounces, was apparently unaffected by the dose, and is alive and well.

The three sheep which died exhibited, on *post-mortem* examination, the marked symptoms of anthrax, and the bacilli were found in the blood; but these were in no way different from the symptoms exhibited by the sheep which died from inoculation.

2. *The Drench with Cultivated Virulent Germs.*—After some delay in obtaining a supply of cultivated virulent germs, arising through the first cultivation having been kept too long before being used,—

One horned wether, branded ↑ (in red) on shoulder, and
 One wether, branded ↑ (in red) on loin,
 were drenched, at noon on the 24th ultimo, each with 8 drams of virulent cultivation.

The first (the horned) wether died at 3 p.m. on the 26th, in fifty-one hours, and the other wether at 6.10 p.m. of that day, in fifty-four hours ten minutes after the drench was administered.

On the *post-mortem* examination these two sheep exhibited the characteristic symptoms of anthrax, and the bacilli were found in the blood, but the symptoms differed in no respect from those observed in sheep which died from inoculation with the virulent virus.

From these experiments it would seem the supposed differences in the appearance of the spleen of sheep do not exist, or that the sheep in which a difference had been observed had been dead for some time, and putrefactive changes had set up in the spleen.

J. DE V. LAMB, Chairman.
 ALEX. BRUCE.
 WILLIAM M. HAMLET, F.I.C., F.C.S.
 ARTHUR A. DEVLIN.
 EDWARD STANLEY, F.R.C.V.S.

Sydney, 15 November, 1888.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT B.

TEST OF EFFICACY OF MR. P. H. GEHRIG'S SPECIFIC FOR ANTHRAX.

To the Honorable Francis Abigail, M.P., Minister for Mines, Sydney,—

Sir,

We have the honor to report that, in accordance with your request, we made a close observation of the experiments made at Junee by Mr. P. H. Gehrig, of Albury, to prove the efficacy of his specific as a preventive and cure for the disease anthrax.

Six sheep from Cootamundra, an uninfested district, were provided, and numbered 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25.

On the 2nd October, Mr. Gehrig, under supervision of the Board, administered his specific to three of the six sheep set apart for him to prove its efficacy as a preventive. These sheep were numbered 20, 22, and 25.

During the afternoon all six sheep were inoculated by Mr. Government Veterinarian Stanley, with two minims of blood taken from the same sheep as that taken for M. Pasteur's experiment.

To show that his specific was a cure as well as a preventive, Mr. Gehrig, at 11.10 a.m. on the following day, drenched the sheep numbered 23, 24, and 21 (which had been inoculated with virulent virus the day previously) to protect them from the effects of the inoculation.

At 7.30 p.m. these sheep commenced to die, and at 3 a.m. on Thursday morning, 4th October, all the six were dead. The deaths took place in the following order:—

| | | | | |
|--------|--------------------|------------|-----|--------------|
| No. 23 | died at 7.30 p.m., | Wednesday, | 3rd | October. |
| No. 22 | do at 8 p.m., | do | do | |
| No. 25 | do at 8.35 p.m., | do | do | |
| No. 20 | do at 11.25 p.m., | do | do | |
| No. 24 | do at 3 a.m., | Thursday, | 4th | October, and |
| No. 21 | do at 3.45 a.m., | do | do | |

Opinion of the Board.—That Mr. Gehrig's specific is ineffectual, both as a preventive and cure of the disease anthrax.

J. DE V. LAMB, Chairman.
 WILLIAM M. HAMLET, F.I.C., F.C.S.
 ALEX. BRUCE.
 ARTHUR A. DEVLIN.
 EDWARD STANLEY.

Sydney, 15 November, 1888.

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

IMPORTED STOCK ACTS OF 1871 AND 1884.
(REGULATIONS UNDER.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 35 Vic. No. 6, sec. 13.

[Laid upon the Table of the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales by the Secretary for Mines "A copy of an amended Regulation issued under the Imported Stock Acts of 1871 and 1884.]

Department of Mines, Stock Branch, Sydney, 2 October, 1888.

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to cancel so much of the Regulations of the 22nd May last, issued under the Imported Stock Acts of 1871 and 1884, as will admit of Foreign Cattle being imported into this Colony on a Quarantine of ninety days.

FRANCIS ABIGAIL.

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

GLEBE ISLAND ABATTOIRS.
(REGULATIONS.)

Presented to Parliament by Command.

The Treasury, New South Wales,
13th November, 1888.

PUBLIC ABATTOIR, GLEBE ISLAND.

His Excellency the Governor having been pleased, with the advice of the Executive Council, further to amend the "Orders and Regulations" concerning the Public Abattoir at Glebe Island, as published in Government Gazette of 10th June, 1887, it is hereby notified that, in lieu thereof, the following shall be enforced, on and after the 1st day of January, 1889.

J. F. BURNS.

ORDERS AND REGULATIONS.

1. The Abattoir shall, during the period from 1st October to 31st March, be open daily (Sundays excepted) for the despatch of business, from the hours of 5 o'clock a.m. to 6 o'clock p.m. (except on Mondays, on which day the Abattoir will be open from 2 o'clock a.m. to 6 o'clock p.m., and on Saturdays from 2 o'clock a.m. to 3 o'clock p.m.), and during the period from the 1st of April to the 30th September, from 6 o'clock a.m. to 6 o'clock p.m. (excepting on Fridays, when the hours will be from 5 o'clock a.m. to 7 o'clock p.m., and on Saturdays, from 5 o'clock a.m. to 3 o'clock p.m.); and no slaughtering of cattle will be permitted during any other hour or day than the hours and days above mentioned, nor shall any person be allowed to come within or remain within the enclosures of the Abattoir except at such times as they are open for business. Pigs, lambs, and calves may, however, be slaughtered and dressed at the Abattoir during the nights of Friday, between the 1st of October and the 31st of March in each year.

2. The slaughter-houses shall, with the exception of six beef, six mutton, and two pig slaughter-houses, be retained in the hands of the Government for the use of the public.

3. Six beef, six mutton, and two pig slaughter-houses may be submitted to public competition, by lease, at an upset price to be announced at the time of sale should it be decided to submit the same to auction.

4. A fee of threepence for inspecting brands shall be charged upon every head of horned cattle slaughtered in the leased houses.

5. Parties desirous of using the slaughter-houses reserved by the Government shall be permitted to do so on payment of the following fees:—

| | |
|--|------|
| For every ox, cow, bull, or heifer, or steer (including s. d. inspection fee of 3d.) | 1 0 |
| For every calf not exceeding six months old (including an inspection fee) | 0 6 |
| For every sheep or lamb | 0 1½ |
| For every head of swine | 0 6 |

6. All fees shall be paid at the office of the Inspector of the Abattoir, on demand to such officer, or to his Assistant, and shall thereafter be paid into the Colonial Treasury under such directions as shall from time to time be given by the Secretary for Finance and Trade.

7. Printed receipts shall be given to all parties paying fees.

8. No person or persons shall yard or slaughter, or cause to be yarded or slaughtered, any animal without the sanction of the Inspector or Assistant Inspector.

9. The hours during which cattle may be driven in and yarded for slaughter shall be from 5 o'clock a.m. to 8 o'clock a.m., between the 1st October and the 31st March, and from 6 o'clock a.m. to 8 o'clock a.m., between the 1st April to the

30th September in each year, daily, including Sundays; and cattle shall in all cases be inspected before being slaughtered. Milch cows and stall-fed cattle may be driven in between the hours of 12 noon and 3 o'clock p.m. during week days only.

10. No person or persons shall slaughter, or cause to be slaughtered, any animal in any of the slaughtering-houses on Glebe Island, without the sanction of the Inspector or Assistant Inspector. And in all cases when carcasses are brought to the Abattoir dressed or to be dressed, notice shall be given to the Inspector or the Assistant Inspector on the arrival of the same; but no animal slaughtered outside the Abattoir and brought there with the head detached from the body will be allowed to be dressed there. In no case shall the body be brought into the slaughter-house until seen by the Inspector or Assistant Inspector. In all cases the owner thereof, the lessee, or the persons in privileged occupation of the slaughter-house, shall be held liable for any breach of this Regulation.

11. Any animal brought to the Abattoir for slaughter, which appears to the Inspector or Assistant Inspector to be diseased, shall be disposed of in such manner as the Inspector or Assistant Inspector may direct, to secure the slaughtering, examination, and final disposal of the same. If the owner, the lessee, or occupant of the slaughter-house shall object to the decision of the Inspector or Assistant Inspector with regard to the sanitary condition of the animal, the owner, lessee, or occupant may require the animal to be inspected by an officer of the Board of Health, whose decision shall be final. In all such cases the owner of the animal, the lessee, or person occupying the slaughter-house, shall be held liable for any breach of this Regulation.

12. The Inspector and Assistant Inspector are hereby empowered to control and direct the traffic, wheeled or otherwise, for the safety and convenience of business at the Abattoir.

13. Should any animal die while in the pens belonging to any slaughter-house, the owner of the animal, the lessee, or occupant of the same at the time, shall immediately remove the body entire from the Glebe Island; or should any animal die within the precincts of the Abattoir, the owner or person in charge of such animal shall be held liable for its immediate removal in its entire state from the Glebe Island.

14. All animals on which fees are charged shall be reported to the Inspector or Assistant Inspector without delay, and the fees paid forthwith; failing such payment either of the said officers may close and lock the doors leading from the pens to the pithing or slaughtering floors, until the said fees are paid.

15. Sheep and cattle will not be permitted to remain in the Abattoir pens for more than forty-eight hours from the time of being brought in.

16. No lessee or occupier of any slaughter-house connected with the Abattoir shall expose for sale any meat which has been condemned by the Inspector or Assistant Inspector; and any such lessee or occupier shall, when ordered to do so by the Inspectors aforesaid, immediately remove such meat from the Abattoir, and cause the same to be destroyed by fire or boiled down for the purpose only of extracting tallow. The Inspector or Assistant Inspector is hereby empowered, in the event of non-compliance with his order for the removal of the said meat, to destroy the same at the cost of such lessee or occupier.

17. The lessee or occupier of any slaughter-house shall thoroughly cleanse the same, to the satisfaction of the Inspector or Assistant Inspector, immediately after slaughtering has been carried on, and with respect to the offal and blood, may select and shall immediately remove, each day, at such time during the day as may be appointed by the Inspector or Assistant Inspector for the purpose, such portions, not being the whole of such offal and blood, as the said lessee or occupier may require for disposal for human food; and failing such removal at the time so appointed, the whole of such offal and blood may be removed by the Government.

18. No matter shall be allowed to remain overnight in any slaughter-house or premises, whether held under lease or privileged occupation, by which a nuisance may be created, and each slaughter-house shall be kept clean by the lessee or person occupying or using the same, to the satisfaction of the Inspector or Assistant Inspector of the Abattoir.

19. The lessees of sheep and pig slaughtering-houses shall severally furnish to the Inspector or Assistant Inspector, at their respective offices, on or before the 4th day of each month, a monthly return of all such animals as shall have been slaughtered at such houses.

20. No hide, carcase, or spleen of any horned cattle (not having been previously inspected) shall be removed from any slaughter-house until after the same has been inspected by the Inspector or Assistant Inspector of Abattoir.

21. Any meat found blown at the Abattoir may be condemned by the Inspector or Assistant Inspector, and the owner or person found blowing the same will be held liable.

22. The lessee or occupier of any slaughter-house shall cause the vessels and water used in dressing carcasses therein to be kept clean to the satisfaction of the Inspector or Assistant Inspector.

23. Cattle, as they are brought in for slaughter, shall be kept separate from those already in the yards, until the brands of those so brought in shall have been inspected.

24. All hides, skins, heads, feet, and offal shall be removed from the Abattoir only by way of the road at the rear of the buildings.

25. The hours fixed for driving animals into the pens of the reserved mutton slaughter-houses shall be from 6 o'clock a.m. to 6 o'clock p.m., between the 1st of October and the 31st of March in each year, and between the 1st of April and the 30th of September the hours shall be from 7 o'clock a.m. to 4 o'clock p.m. in each year.

26. It is strictly prohibited to place candles or lights of any description upon or against the walls, or upon or against any portion of the woodwork of the slaughter-house or stables, or any other building or buildings in connection therewith; and the lessee or person occupying the slaughter-house or stable where such prohibited candle or light is found will be held responsible for the same.

27. In cases where water is found running to waste in any slaughter-house, the lessee or occupant will be held responsible for such waste.

28. Gaming is prohibited at the Abattoir, also the tossing up or pitching of coin, throwing of dice, or playing of cards, under any pretext whatever.

29. Any person wilfully or negligently causing injury to any Government property of any description whatever at the Abattoir will be held responsible for the same.

30. The use of obscene or offensive language, the throwing of missiles, filth, or muck of any kind, or riotous conduct, or disorderly noise, is strictly prohibited within the enclosure of the Abattoir.

31. The lessee or occupier of any slaughter-house is prohibited from using, causing, or permitting to be used, any instrument for driving cattle from the pens to their respective houses other than such as may be approved by the Inspector or Assistant Inspector.

32. The Inspector or Assistant Inspector, or any other officer connected with the Glebe Island Abattoir, may at any time enter to view any of the slaughter-houses connected with the Abattoir, whether leased or otherwise; and no person or persons shall obstruct, molest, or assail with abusive, obscene, or offensive language, either the Inspector, Assistant Inspector, or any other person acting officially with or for the aforesaid officers.

33. It shall be competent for the Inspector of the Abattoir at any time, should any person or persons occupying any of the slaughter-houses reserved by the Government be found breaking or continuing to break any one or more of the Regulations made concerning the Public Abattoir at Glebe Island, to refuse to allow such person or persons to use any of the slaughter-houses reserved by the Government.

34. The lessees or occupiers of each slaughter-house shall keep any vehicle used for the transmission of meat from Glebe Island Abattoir, and the awnings and coverings used therewith, in clean and proper condition, to the satisfaction of the Inspector or Assistant Inspector.

35. It is also provided that no meat shall be loaded at the Abattoir into vehicles for transmission without the person while loading wearing a dark woollen jumper, and also a cap covering the head. In all cases the lessees of slaughter-houses, or the occupiers of unleased slaughter-houses, shall be held liable for any breach of this Regulation.

36. The contents of the paunches and intestines of the large animals slaughtered in the beef houses only will be allowed to be deposited on Glebe Island, in the manure pit at the rear of each slaughter-house; and the intestines of sheep, lambs, pigs, and calves shall have their contents discharged at such place as the Inspector or Assistant Inspector may direct.

37. The lessee of any beef slaughter-house or houses shall not slaughter, or cause to be slaughtered therein, any sheep, lambs, or pigs.

38. Persons are prohibited from bringing to and depositing at the Abattoir offal or other offensive matter.

39. Any person or persons offending against or failing to comply with any of the orders and regulations contained in paragraphs 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, and 38 shall for each and every offence forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding five pounds.

EXPLANATORY CLAUSE.

An occupant or occupier, as distinguished from a lessee in these "Orders and Regulations" is meant to apply to the persons or firm enjoying the privileged use of an unleased slaughter-house.

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

INTO

CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC TANKS
AND WELLS

OF

NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT, MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND

APPENDICES.



Presented to Parliament by Command.

SYDNEY: CHARLES POTTER, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1888.

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Commission.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender
of the Faith, and so forth,—

To our trusty and well-beloved—

The Honorable GEORGE HENRY COX, M.L.C. ;
MAJOR COOPER PENROSE, R.E. ; and
JOHN CHADWICK WOORE, Esquire, Police Magistrate, Queanbeyan,—

Greeting :—

Know ye, that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your ability, zeal, industry, discretion, and integrity, do, by these presents, authorize and appoint you or any two of you, as hereinafter mentioned, to make a diligent and full inquiry into certain allegations which have been made respecting the construction of Public Tanks and Wells in Our Colony of New South Wales : And We do by these presents give and grant to you or any two of you, at any meeting or meetings to which all of you shall have been duly summoned to call before you all such persons as you may judge necessary, by whom you may be better informed of the truth in the premises, and to require the production of all such books, papers, writings, and all other documents as you may deem expedient, and to visit and inspect the same at the offices or places where the same or any of them may be deposited, and to inquire of the premises by all lawful way and means ; also to visit and inspect, if considered necessary, such Tanks and Wells : And Our further will and pleasure is, that you, or any two of you, after due examination of the premises, do and shall within the space of three months after the date of this Our Commission, or sooner, if the same can reasonably be, certify to Us, in the office of Our Secretary for Public Works, under your or any two of your hands and seals, what you shall find touching the premises ; and We hereby command all Government officers and all other persons whomsoever within Our said Colony, that they be assistant to you and each of you in the execution of these presents : And We appoint you the Honorable GEORGE HENRY COX, aforesaid, to be President of this Our Commission, which said Commission We declare to be a Commission for all purposes of the Act 44 Victoriae No. 1, intituled, “ An Act to regulate the taking of Evidence by Commissioners under the Great Seal.”

In testimony whereof, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of Our said Colony of New South Wales to be hereunto affixed.

Witness our Right Trusty and Well-beloved Councillor, CHARLES ROBERT, BARON CARRINGTON, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Our Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Our Colony of New South Wales and its Dependencies, at Government House, Sydney, in New South Wales aforesaid, this twenty-eighth day of December, in the fifty-first year of Our Reign, and in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven.

(L.S.) CARRINGTON.

By His Excellency's Command,
(L.S.) HENRY PARKES.

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REPORT.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable CHARLES ROBERT, BARON CAR-
RINGTON, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of
Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of
the Colony of New South Wales and its Dependencies, &c., &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

We, Her Majesty's Commissioners, appointed by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the Colony, dated the 28th day of December, 1887, to make a diligent and full inquiry into certain allegations which have been made respecting the construction of Public Tanks and Wells in the Colony, have the honor to submit to your Excellency the following Report:—

We have held seventy-five meetings, and examined thirty-six witnesses, minutes of whose evidence are appended hereto.

We have also inspected a number of the works and appliances at the public watering places in the Hay District, with respect to which some of the more serious allegations have been made.

In this Report we have dealt as fully as the circumstances appeared to demand with the numerous allegations submitted for our investigation, confining our attention chiefly to the more prominent and important cases affecting public interests, and avoiding unimportant and tedious details.

We have dealt with the allegations as nearly as possible in the order in which they are given in the Minute Paper by the Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places, covering the *précis* of cases submitted to us, under the following heads:—

1. Faults of judgment in the selection of sites for public tanks on stock routes.
2. Defective design and faulty construction; too steep batters in most cases without reference to the nature of the soil, and the adoption of a certain form of tank without reference to the formation of the ground.
3. Excessive cost of construction of public tanks on stock routes, and sub-letting of contracts for same.
4. Incapacity of officers of the Department of Public Works, and frauds by contractors in the construction and measurement of public tanks.
5. Defective construction of flumes and inlet pipes.
6. Carelessness in laying out drains, and excessive cost of construction.
7. Expensive forms of machinery for lifting water, necessitating greater cost of maintenance.
8. Excessive cost and faulty construction of fencing; sub-letting of a contract for fencing, and excessive cost of gates.
9. Interference with Mines caretakers and overseers by officers of the Department of Public Works.
10. "Greasing" of service tanks.
11. Faulty sites of wells.
12. Faulty construction of wells; sinking, timbering, and centering of shafts, and erection of head works—whim, service tank, and troughing—before testing for supply and quality of water.
13. Excessive cost of construction of wells, and supply and quality of water.
14. Costly hutting for caretakers.
15. Defective construction of troughing.
16. Unfortunate effects of dual control, and suggested remedies.

We

We have also ventured to touch upon subjects incidentally introduced in the course of our investigations, which, though not strictly within the authorized limits of our inquiry, are nevertheless so intimately connected with the matters submitted to us, and with the interests of the public, that we trust the brief expression of our views and suggestions with respect to them will not be considered out of place in this Report.

We have dealt with these subjects under the following heads:—

- (A) Cost of maintenance of public watering places.
- (B) Caretakers.
- (C) Condition of stock routes.

Although the witnesses have been allowed considerable latitude in giving their evidence, and in putting in documents which in some instances are inadmissible as evidence, we have endeavoured to base our conclusions upon evidence of facts within the personal knowledge of the witnesses, carefully disregarding all hearsay and extraneous statements.

We have also been guided by our personal inspection of the works and appliances at many of the public watering places, and by our personal knowledge and experience in connection with the several matters submitted to us.

NO. 1.—FAULTS OF JUDGMENT IN THE SELECTION OF SITES FOR PUBLIC TANKS ON STOCK ROUTES.

The construction of public watering places was commenced by the Department of Public Works in 1869, and originally, the selection of sites for, as well as the construction and maintenance of these works was entirely in the hands of that Department; but when, some years later, the Department of Mines was charged with the control and, to a limited extent, the maintenance of public watering places, it was arranged that that Department should indicate generally the position in which a watering place was required, and that the Department of Public Works should fix the exact site, which arrangement does not seem to have been adhered to in some cases. (See Q. 9, 16, 3042, 3304, 3306, and 4406.)

Mr. Gilliat states that when he was appointed Inspector of Public Watering Places, on the 6th October, 1879, there were only about twenty such places in the Colony. (See Q. 24, 25, and 121.) It appears that it was not always possible to obtain very good sites, as the selection was restricted within the limits of stock routes, and to approximately equal distances on those routes (See Q. 2934 and 3374.)

It is alleged that the Department of Public Works has committed faults of judgment in the selection of sites for tanks. Amongst the earlier works constructed by that Department are those named respectively—*Peri*, *Yentabangee*, *Warramutty*, and *Goomboolara*, on the Paroo stock route.

The chief objections advanced against these tanks are that they have been placed in close proximity to natural waters which, it is suggested, might have been improved and utilized as public watering places, in lieu of the tanks; therefore the tanks were not required, and that public money was unnecessarily expended in constructing them, particularly *Peri* tank. It is also stated with regard to the site of *Goomboolara* tank that the catchment is defective.

In order to form a correct opinion of the action of the Department of Public Works with regard to the selection of sites for these tanks, it is necessary to take into consideration the period of their selection—1879—and the surrounding circumstances.

The district in which these tanks are situated is subject to long periods of drought; the climate is intensely hot; and generally, the natural water supply is very precarious, and the rainfall very limited and uncertain. The pioneer Crown tenants of that part of the Colony may justly be regarded as the reclaimers of a region which, in its natural state, was not inaptly described by the early explorers as a desert unfit for the habitation of man.

The natural waters, excepting *Peri* Springs, near which the sites for these works were selected, were certainly not permanent; but their degree of permanence was greatly increased by earthworks constructed at the expense of the pioneer Crown tenants of the pastoral runs on which they were situated, and they were at that time of the utmost importance and value to them, and doubtless were used by them as bases of operations for the conservation of water upon, and occupation of, the adjacent waterless country.

Peri

Peri Springs are the only absolutely permanent waters in that locality yielding a large supply, and were used by the first occupants of the extensive pastoral holding on which they are situated (during whose tenure Peri tank was constructed) as a refuge for the whole of their stock during periods of protracted drought.

The improvement of these natural waters at the public expense, with the object of making public watering places of them, as suggested by Mr. Gilliat (see Q. 117), would have necessitated reservation from lease; and, at the time the sites were selected, reservation of these natural waters—especially those improved at the expense of the Crown tenants—would have been, in our opinion, an unjustifiable violation of vested rights, and a very serious obstruction to the improvement and profitable occupation of the adjacent waterless country.

With regard to the statement that the catchment at *Goomboolara* tank is defective, Mr. David Brown, of Kallara, a witness suggested by the Department of Mines, states in his evidence that if a tank was required there at all, he does not think that a better site could have been had within a reasonable distance from the road (Q. 951); that in 1875 and 1876 there was no water at all at Mungundie Lake within 4 miles of the tank (see Q. 946 and 949); that he has not seen the tank dry (Q. 960); that he leased it for about two years formerly, and had the general supervision of it for three or four years after that (Q. 961 and 962); and that it was not dry during the drought of 1884. (Q. 963.) Mr. Gilliat, also, states in his evidence in reference to the tanks in question that there is no fault that he knows of as regards catchment. (Q. 107.)

Considering these statements in connection with the evidence of Mr. Hanna (Q. 3767 to 3775), we find that the site of this tank, as regards catchment, is not open to any objection.

We also find that sound judgment, a proper regard for the improvement of the public estate by Crown tenants, and a just appreciation of private rights and enterprise, were exercised in the selection of the sites for all the tanks in question; and that proximity to natural waters must have considerably facilitated and diminished the cost of their construction.

In reference to these cases see evidence, Q. 75 to 77, 96 to 121, 682 to 743, 944 to 970, 984 to 986, 989 to 995, 1021, 1022, 1867 to 1908, 2399 to 2433, 2446 to 2459, 3689, 3690, 3767 to 3775.

Dry Lake Tank.—This tank is on the road from Wilcannia to Mount Brown, and has not yet been transferred to the Department of Mines. Notwithstanding that it has been submerged by an unprecedented rainfall, which could not have been foreseen, the site is admitted to be, and undoubtedly is, a very good one under ordinary circumstances, both as regards catchment and position on the road, and was reserved from sale specially for water supply many years ago by the local Commissioner of Crown lands. The Department of Mines did not recommend the site for a public watering place, which is alleged to be unnecessary on the ground that a Mr. Smith, a publican of Dry Lake, had made sufficient provision there for watering stock. The Department of Public Works on the other hand, recognizing the importance and urgency of providing *public* watering places on that road during the "rush" to Mount Brown, constructed the tank at Dry Lake, deeming it injudicious to leave the public entirely at the mercy of the publican Smith, who had the power in seasons of drought, not only to demand excessive rates for water, but to refuse it altogether, if he thought fit.

We find that in this instance the Department of Public Works acted judiciously and in accordance with the best interests of the travelling public; and that the Department can scarcely be blamed for the tank being submerged, seeing that the lake was never known to have been flooded before. It may here be noted that this is not a parallel case to Cobham Lake, inasmuch as that lake is much more liable to be flooded, being supplied by two of the largest creeks in that part of the country, and was known to have been flooded two or three times before the tank was made there. It is also very much larger than Dry Lake, where the tank is more sheltered than that at Cobham; and consequently less liable to be damaged by wave action.

In reference to this case, see evidence, Q. 122 to 128, 580 to 582, 3302.

Old

Old Copago Tank.—This was one of the earlier tanks constructed by the Department of Public Works. It was situated on the Paroo stock route, and consisted of a dam and excavation in the channel of a creek, at its entrance into Copago Lake. The dam has long since been washed away, and the excavation silted up, necessitating the construction of another tank a little higher up the creek.

We find that great want of judgment and foresight were displayed in selecting the site for this tank, as the result has amply proved; and that the officer who selected it is responsible for a great waste of public money.

In reference to this case see evidence, Q. 239, 734, 1957 to 1959, 1962.

Seaville's Tank.—This tank is on the road from Wilcannia to the Paroo; the site is objected to on the ground that it is only 7 miles from the river Darling.

We find that the tank is within about 7 miles of the nearest point of the river, which is about that distance off the Paroo stock route; that it is properly situated on the stock route about 12 miles from Wilcannia, and that there is no reasonable objection to the site.

In reference to this case see evidence, Q. 239, 2191 to 2211, 3688.

Tarella Tank.—This tank is on the road from Wilcannia to Mount Brown, and is alleged to be unnecessary on the ground that it is situated between Koonawatta and White Cliff dams, about eight miles apart, on Bunker or Teralla Creek. These dams were constructed at the expense of the Crown tenant on whose run they are situated; and we are of opinion that the water in them, conserved by his enterprise and the expenditure of his money, is as much his property during the currency of his lease as the grass upon his run; and that no person has a right to take the one or the other without his consent; and although Mr. Quin, the present occupant of the run, has generously allowed the public to use the water in his dams, there is no guarantee that he will always do so, or that his successor will be equally obliging, or that the dams will always be equal to all demands, especially as silting up is said to be inevitable. (See Q. 1960 and 3691.)

Therefore, to protect the public from inconvenience, and possible disaster in seasons of drought, when the Crown tenant would probably require all his water, the Department of Public Works chose this site as a convenient stage on the road for a public watering place; and in doing so in this and other similar instances, prior and subsequent to this, acted upon a principle laid down in a Minute by Mr. J. P. Abbot when he was Minister for Mines, referring to J. K. Well, dated 3/7/84, the justice and expediency of which we have no reason to doubt.*

We therefore find that in this instance the Department of Public Works did not commit any fault of judgment in the selection of the site, which we believe to be the best that could have been chosen, and that proximity to water must have considerably facilitated and diminished the cost of construction.

In reference to this case see evidence, Q. 132, 133, 404 to 410, 1909 to 1920, 1931 to 1939, 2219 to 2223, 2477 to 2491, 3305, 3306, 3691, 3692, 3698, 4848.

Cobham Lake Tank.—This tank is at Cobham Lake, on the road from Wilcannia to Mount Brown. The objections made to the site are that it is in the lake; that the tank has been submerged for about three years; that when the waters of the lake subside the tank will be nearly silted up; and that the expenditure on it was useless, especially as there is sometimes water in the lake.

This lake has no outlet and is capable of containing a great depth of water; it is known to have been filled—or partially filled—at least two or three times since 1865; and the water in it is known to have lasted for about seven years; it is also known to have been dry for several years in succession.

The tank is situated on the south-eastern side of the lake far above the level of its bed, but considerably below the level to which it is capable of being filled. The last time it was filled the embankments of the tank were some four feet under water, as admitted by Mr. Hanna (see Q. 3684), who acknowledges the responsibility of having selected the site. (See Q. 3672.) The water in the lake will, in all probability, be fit for general use for two or three years without further replenishing; consequently the tank will be useless as a public watering place for about six years from the time it was submerged. The

* See minute of Minister of Mines, dated 8/7/84 (quoted in Q. 3306, p. 159):—"I think tenders should be accepted for a well, as by this means a more permanent water supply is likely to be had, and entirely independent of the lessee."

The lake covers a large area and the wave action, as the water subsides, in our opinion, cannot fail to do considerable damage to the tank—which is in an exposed position—by washing away the embankments and partly silting it up.

We find that the tank, not being required for so long a period, in consequence of the temporary supply of water afforded by the filling of the lake—does not in itself render the site objectionable, but its liability to considerable damage by wave action every time it becomes submerged, or partly submerged, is in our opinion a serious objection, which shows want of judgment and forethought in the selection of the site; and it may be deemed advisable to abandon the tank rather than risk any further expenditure upon it.

As to the suggestions of the Mines Department for a tank 3 or 4 miles south-east of the lake (Q. 2439 and 2440) or a well a mile south of it (Q. 237), the former would be too near Murlippa tank, and would make the distances between that and Cooilly still more unequal. As to the latter, the saline nature of the country and the proximity of a very large salt lake—divided from Cobham by a sand ridge only about a mile in width—is much against the probability of obtaining suitable water in an ordinary well, though artesian water of fair quality might perhaps be obtainable by boring.

In reference to this case see evidence, Q. 149 to 154; 237; 583 to 589; 2212 to 2218; 2434 to 2444; 3296 to 3302; 3669 to 3685.

Ivanhoe Tank.—This tank is on the village reserve at Ivanhoe, on the road from Booligal to Wilcannia. The allegations against the site are that, being in the centre of the township at Ivanhoe, it is inconveniently situated for watering stock; that the drainage from the township past stables and piggeries flows into the tank; that the townspeople cannot get near it; that it has never been used for supplying the town; and that it does not hold water well, the soil being very porous.

It appears that a site for this tank was first chosen on the Ivanhoe to Balranald road, about 1 mile west of the town; and a tender was accepted for construction; but it is stated pressure was brought to bear against this site by the lessees of Kilfera run and some of the townspeople. Consequently it was abandoned; and a site was then chosen at Box Swamp, about 1 mile east of the town on Ticehurst run.

Trial holes were put down and contract for construction was let, but between the time of sinking the trial holes and the arrival of the contractor on the ground, the lessees of Ticehurst run selected—*i. e.*, conditionally purchased—the site and ordered the contractor off it, no precaution having been taken to have the land reserved from sale, which Mr. A. P. Wood frankly admits was an omission on the part of his Department. (See Q. 4844, 4845, and 4846.) The Department of Public Works was then apparently forced to adopt the alternative of placing the tank in its present position on the village reserve.

This site was approved of by Mr. Gilliat in his minute of the 18th March, 1885, quoted by Mr. A. P. Wood (see Q. 3350), and appears to have been the only one then available free from the drainage of the town. Mr. Stilwell, under whose supervision the tank was constructed, states that he consulted the residents of the locality as to the suitability of the site, and did not hear anything against it until some time after the work had been in progress. (See Q. 4417.)

We find that although this tank is on the village reserve, it is a short distance (about a hundred yards) apart from, and not in the centre of the town as alleged, which consists of only a few buildings.

That it is somewhat inconveniently situated for watering stock on account of being so near to the buildings.

That the drainage from the buildings does not flow into the tank by the drains, though it is *possible* that it might do so by an indirect course, and from the main road through the lower silt tank during heavy rains.

That the tank is accessible to the townspeople, and though there is no evidence showing whether it has been used for supplying the town or not, it could be used for that purpose, if the inhabitants wished to avail themselves of it, and were permitted to do so.

That the soil is porous and some of the water is now lost by absorption, but the deposition of silt will, no doubt, in time, render the tank sufficiently retentive, the holding powers of the tank having very much improved already.

That notwithstanding that the site is somewhat objectionable, mainly on account of its proximity to the buildings, the tank is a useful work and answers the purpose for which it was intended.

That the site chosen at Box Flat is, all things considered, preferable to that on the village reserve; and the Department of Public Works is responsible for omitting to have it reserved from sale.

In reference to this case see evidence, Q. 158 to 167; 656 to 674; 393 to 400; 1119; 2640 to 2646; 3347 to 3359; 4412 to 4420.

Walla Walla Tank.—This tank is on Petrie's Creek about 25 miles north of Albury. The site is objected to on the ground that it is in close proximity to natural water and that the tank was therefore unnecessary.

We find that the site was suggested by the Stock branch of the Mines Department; that the natural water near it is not permanent, and when it fails, the inhabitants of the locality are entirely dependent on the tank; and that the tank is not an unnecessary work, and the site is not in any way objectionable.

In reference to this case see evidence, Q. 177, 178; Mr. Low's report, paragraph 9, page 58; Q. 1141, 1142; 3417 to 3432; 4332 to 4337.

Gilgai Tank.—This tank is on the road from Nymagee to Nyngan. The site is objected to on the ground that there are some gilgai holes within half a mile of it which are not included in the tenants' lease.

We find that in this case the objection is of a frivolous nature, and that the site is not open to any objection whatever.

In reference to this case see evidence, Q. 181 to 183; 2940, 2941.

Gunaramby Tank.—This tank is on the road from Ivanhoe to Balranald. The allegations with regard to the site are that it is in a swamp, in rotten copai ground; and that it would have been better if it had been situated about 300 yards away on red ground, where the catchment would have been much quicker.

We find that the tank is placed on the edge of a swamp; that it has a good catchment from the swamp and the adjacent high ground; that it is capable, with proper care and management, of conserving a large quantity of water above the berm; and that the site is in every way satisfactory.

In reference to this case see evidence, Q. 838 to 840; 2636, 2637; 3362 to 3367; 4454, 4455, 4457; 4765, 4766.

Clare Tank.—This tank is on the road from Ivanhoe to Balranald. The allegations with regard to the site are that it is on low ground, in a boggy black-soil swamp, and that the works are liable to damage from being surrounded by water when the tank is full.

We find that the tank was placed on low ground in the swamp with the object of commanding as large a catchment area as possible by tapping a neighbouring swamp; that during an exceptionally wet season the water from this swamp—added to that in which the tank is situated—caused an excessive supply, which surrounded the works and made the ground about them boggy; that this state of things was prolonged by the valve being left open, allowing the water to escape from above the berm level of the tank into the swamp; that very little damage was done to the works by the excess of water in the swamp, which could easily have been prevented by cutting off the supply from the upper swamp, and preventing the water above berm level from flowing back into the swamp by closing the valve; that the site probably is the best that could have been chosen in the locality; and that there is no reasonable objection to it.

In reference to this case see evidence, Q. 1098 to 1112; 2625 to 2635; 4421 to 4432; 4765.

Box Creek Tank, and New Tank 16 miles from Balranald.—These tanks are on the road from Ivanhoe to Balranald, at the junction of stock routes. The sites are objected to on the ground that better sites could have been obtained.

We find that the sites are in every way satisfactory.

In reference to these cases see evidence; Mr. Low's report of 17th January, 1888, pp. 60 and 61; and Q. 4459 to 4466.

Tom's Lake Tank.—This tank is on the road from Booligal to Ivanhoe. The allegations with regard to the site are that it is in a rotten, boggy swamp; that there is much better holding ground three-quarters of a mile northerly; and that the tank is quite half silted up.

We

We find that the tank is partly in a swamp, in good holding ground, and where a larger catchment area is obtained, than if it had been placed in any other position; that the troughs are on the edge of the swamp, clear of the bad ground; that there is only about one foot of silt in the tank; and that the site is satisfactory.

In reference to this case see evidence; Mr. Low's report of 7th January, 1888, p. 59; and Q. 4417 to 4451, 4453, 4770 to 4774; and diagram in Appendix.

Kerrigundi and Mulya Tanks.—These tanks are on the road from Cobar to Louth. It appears to have been impossible to obtain good sites in suitable positions on the portion of the road on which they are situated; and we have no reason to doubt that the sites chosen are the best that could be obtained within the limits of the stock-route, and with due regard to approximate equal division of distance.

According to the return of the Department of Mines for the week ending 10th January, 1888,—produced by the Department at the request of the Commission—the first-named tank contained 14 feet of water; and there is no evidence showing that it has not answered the purposes for which it was intended. *Mulya tank* is said to have contained 12 feet of water at one time; and the catchment has been increased by extending the drains so as to make it fill more readily.

We find that any faultiness in the sites of these tanks is due to circumstances beyond the control of the Department of Public Works, and not to any want of judgment in their selection.

In reference to these cases see evidence, Q. 1075 to 1081; 1645 to 1653; 1671, 1672; 2777 to 2786; 3374; 3844 to 3847; 3855 to 3861; 3975 to 3984; 4140 to 4142.

Lowsdale Tank.—This tank is on the road from Corowa to Urana. The site is objected to on account of the sandy and unretentive nature of the soil, which at first resulted in loss of water by absorption; but it is admitted that the tank has been made retentive, and holds well now; and, from the weekly returns of the Department of Mines relating to public watering-places, it appears that the depth of water in this tank during nine months from the 1st January last has been from 16 to 18 feet.

We therefore find that there is now no objection to the site on the ground stated.

In reference to this case see evidence, Q. 200 and 1430.

Thirty-five Mile Tank.—This tank is on the road from Ivanhoe to Wilcannia. It is alleged that the site was badly selected, and that the tank never had any water in it to the knowledge of witness G. W. Townsend. On reference to the weekly returns of the Department of Mines relating to public watering-places—produced by the Department at the request of the Commission—it appears that the depth of water in this tank during nine months from the 1st January last has been from about 16 to 19 feet.

We therefore find that the site is satisfactory.

In reference to this case see evidence, Q. 1845 to 1847; 2174; 2175; 2984.

Booorooban Tank.—This tank is on the road from Deniliquin to Hay. This is a case of alleged faulty site mentioned in the *précis* of cases submitted to us—p. 220. The objections advanced against the site are that it is in a swamp, and that it is near a waterhole which is admitted not to be permanent.

There is no evidence supporting these allegations; or showing that the tank is an unnecessary work; or that it has not fulfilled the purposes for which it was intended.

Youhl Plains Tank.—This tank is on the road from Ivanhoe to Balranald. This, also, is a case of alleged faulty site, mentioned in the *précis* of cases submitted to us—p. 219. The objections advanced against the site are that the drains have had to be taken over porous ground, and that the watershed is very small.

There is no evidence supporting these allegations; and on reference to the weekly returns of the Department of Mines relating to public watering-places, it appears that the depth of water in this tank during nine months from the 1st January last has been from about 14 to 17 feet.

In

In concluding this portion of our report, we desire to point out that there are 113 public tanks on stock-routes in the Colony, including those in course of construction. With respect to twenty-two of these, it is alleged that the Department of Public Works has committed faults of judgment in selecting the sites. It will be seen from our report on the sites of these tanks that there is one case—namely, Old Copago—of total failure and loss of public money on account of injudicious selection of site; that there is one case—namely, Cobham—which may result in total failure and loss of public money on account of injudicious selection of site; and that there is one case—namely, Ivanhoe—in which the site, and the action of the Department of Public Works with respect to it, are, to a certain extent, unsatisfactory.

It is a well-known fact—and it is within the personal knowledge of two of your Commissioners—that in the selection of sites for the conservation of water the squatters themselves have made great mistakes, resulting in loss of money and disappointment; and Mr. Tully, of the Department of Mines, who has had considerable experience as a station manager, admits that in the early days “mistakes were made all round” (See Q. 2491.) Therefore, infallibility in this respect cannot reasonably be expected from a Government department; and taking into consideration the restrictions previously mentioned,—by which the Department of Public Works was limited in selecting sites for public tanks, and the novel nature of the duty to the Department,—the result is somewhat remarkable; and cannot fail to be regarded as highly satisfactory to the public and creditable to the Department.

NO. 2.—DEFECTIVE DESIGN AND FAULTY CONSTRUCTION; TOO STEEP BATTERS IN MOST CASES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE NATURE OF THE SOIL, AND THE ADOPTION OF A CERTAIN FORM OF TANK WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE FORMATION OF THE GROUND.

A great deal of evidence was taken in reference to this comprehensive allegation, which may be resolved into the following more specific allegations.

- (a) That in most cases the batters are too steep, and will not stand.
- (b) That in some cases the tanks are too large.
- (c) That in many cases advantage has not been taken of the lie of the ground to conserve water over the natural surface by a proper disposition of the embankments.
- (d) That the steep batters have unnecessarily increased the cost of construction.

(a) The latest type of tank approved by the Department of Public Works and the specifications are shown in Appendices.

This type is the outcome of many years' experience of tank-construction in all parts of the Colony; and we are of opinion that it is admirably adapted to the requirements of a public watering-place on a large stock-route.

The form is square, the batters of the excavation 2 to 1, and the depth 18 feet. Assuming that experience has shown that this batter is the steepest advisable in most cases, this form of tank—putting aside one of circular plan—will conserve most water with the smallest evaporation and soakage areas; the mean depth will be greatest; the surface exposed to wind and sun will be least; and the probability of the tank holding water through a long drought will be a maximum.

In some of the earlier tanks batters of 1 to 1 and $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 were adopted, with a view of still further reducing the areas for soakage and evaporation in relation to the cubic contents. Much fault has been found with these earlier batters, and, we think, much exaggeration indulged in as to the evil effects said to have been produced by the crumbling away of these slopes under wave-action. We inspected two of the tanks specially referred to as instances of this falling-in of the batters, viz., Ivanhoe, a new tank, and Gunaramby. We are of opinion that the damage done by wave-action at these tanks is practically insignificant, and that it will probably cease as age and exposure consolidate the sides. In the older tanks, the growth of water-plants on the batters, which are undisturbed by stock, appeared to afford an excellent protection against wave-action.

We

We find that the charge of blindly adhering to one form of tank, irrespective of varying local conditions, has not been made out.

The Commissioner for Roads points out in his evidence that when he first started these works everything was necessarily of a tentative character, and that every latitude was given to his local officers to modify the type designs and specifications. This is borne out by the evidence of his officers. Long experience has caused a reduction of the slope of the batters from 1 and $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1, to 2 to 1, and in some instances even to 3 to 1.

(b) As regards the statements that tanks are in many cases too large, we are of opinion that the evidence does not bear out the allegation, and that the Department of Works has, as a general rule, constructed the tanks of the cubic capacity requested by the Department of Mines. Some witnesses have said that the tanks in the Cobar district are about twice as large as required, owing to the quick and good catchments generally available there; but Mr. A. P. Wood, of the Department of Public Works, shows (in Q. 3416 and Appendix XII), that the size of many of these tanks (20,000 yards) was fixed by the Department of Mines. He also proves that the *Walla Walla* tank, the size of which is complained of by some of the Mines witnesses, was constructed of its present capacity in accordance with a minute by Mr. Bruce, Chief Inspector of Stock of the Department of Mines. (See Q. 3425 to 3431.)

(c) That in many cases advantage has not been taken of the lie of the ground to conserve water over the natural surface by a proper disposition of the embankments.

Although the formulated allegations of the Mines Department do not contain the above charge in so many words, yet the evidence given with regard to tanks generally—and those in the Cobar district especially—led us at first to suppose that much stupidity and ignorance had been displayed in the adaptation of the works to particular sites where natural advantages existed for conserving water over the surface of the ground.

We find, however, that such is not the case; and that the allegation has not been substantiated. We consider that considerable skill and judgment have been displayed in many instances in adapting the tanks to local circumstances, so as to catch water from different levels; on one side up to—or nearly up to—berm level; and on the other side above the natural surface—*e.g.*, *Tom's Lake*, *Mossgiel* and *Gunaramby* tanks,—which we personally inspected. At *Tom's Lake* and *Gunaramby* tanks the embankments are run out to the high ground to impound the water above the natural surface, and we find from the evidence that this has been done wherever practicable.

We find, also, that the shape, depth, and ratio of batters have been left very much to the discretion of the local officers, subject to approval at headquarters, and that an admirable code of instructions was issued by the Commissioner for Roads to these officers to guide them in this particular branch of their work. (See evidence, page 148.)

At *Tom's Lake* tank, which has been the subject of much adverse comment by officers of the Mines Department, there are two catchments as already explained, feeding the tank through silt-tanks at different levels. From the neighbourhood of the upper silt-tank a large deep drain has been led for about three-fourths of a mile to a shallow creek or swamp on a slightly higher level than the main tank; this creek has been dammed by a low embankment which was constructed to throw the water down this drain to the upper silt-tank and raise the water in the main tank some feet above the natural surface. When we inspected this tank we found that the water in the upper creek had been allowed to scour a channel round the dam; the intercepting drain choked up with vegetation and silt, and a cutting made through the lower side of the drain near the tank to prevent any water going into the upper silt-tank; so that the object of this drain has been completely defeated. We have no doubt that this drain has at one time brought water down to the tank as intended from the creek, partly because the upper silt-tank was quite full of silt; and from the evidence adduced, we believe the present state of the work to be due to want of proper maintenance and care on the part of those in charge of the tank. This appears to us a notable instance of the lamentable result of the divided control of these public works.

(d) That the steep batters have unnecessarily increased the cost of construction. There

There is no doubt that the steep batters have increased the cost of construction, but not, we think, to the extent supposed by some. To obtain any material reduction in the cost of excavation due to the batters alone (apart from depth and other conditions) would have involved very gentle slopes of 4 or 5 to 1; and we are of opinion that in view of the many undoubted advantages conferred by steep batters, the Department of Works have been wise in keeping them as steep as possible; and that the consideration of the permanence of the water so conserved far outweighs the slightly increased cost of first construction. Taking the increased cost of construction due to steep batters at 2d. per yard in an 18,000 yard tank the increased cost of excavation is £150; and this is but a small fraction of the total cost of such a work.

We are of opinion that the holding qualities of the tanks have not suffered to any appreciable extent owing to the steepness of the batters; and that although at first a tank with steep slopes possibly may not hold as well as one with gentle slopes, yet the published records produced by the Department of Mines of the depths of water in the public tanks during the past dry year afford no indication of any undue leakage. Some of the tanks appear to have leaked when first filled; but there is no evidence to show that any undue loss is now occurring from this cause.

It has also been alleged under the head of "faulty construction," that in some instances the embankments have not been completed to the full height,—notably at *Pulletop* and *Rathole* tanks,—and that as these tanks conserve water over the natural surface, the embankments have been in considerable danger in consequence. It has been explained by Messrs. Hanna and Stilwell, the Works officers in charge, that the contractors in each case failed to complete their embankments, and thereby forfeited some of their retention money; and that if any danger to the embankments has arisen, it has been the fault of the caretakers in not having diverted the water from the drains into the creeks and natural by-washes, and in not having made up the embankments themselves to the proper level. It is evident that unless care is observed in cutting off the supply of water to tanks conserving much above the natural surface, the best finished embankments are liable to be washed away in exceptionally heavy rains.

We took the opportunity when visiting the tanks of sounding some of them in order to test the amount of silt deposited. At *Tom's Lake* tank—which one of the Mines Department witnesses believed to be half silted up—we found only about 10 inches of silt. In an older tank, *Til Til*, we found about 2 feet of silt. This question of the silting up of tanks—which does not appear at present to be a very pressing one—and also that of pumping outlying water over the embankments, are, we think, deserving of careful consideration by the responsible authorities, as being intimately connected with the question of the permanency of the supply of water at these public tanks.

We do not consider it necessary to touch upon all the alleged instances of faulty construction and defective design cited by the Department of Mines, as it would unduly lengthen this report. We are of opinion that the design and construction of Government tanks is excellent, that the batters are not too steep in most cases, and that it is not the case that a certain form of tank has been adopted without reference to the formation of the ground.

For evidence *re* "defective design and faulty construction," see Q. 190 to 211; 265 to 269; 353 to 365; 418 to 426; 458; 593 to 624; 757 to 759; 819 to 821; 960 to 967; 998 to 1000; 1026 to 1027; 1096; 1130 to 1152; 1167 to 1200; 1382 to 1385; 1394 to 1418; 1460 to 1464; 1477 to 1522; 1525; 1586 to 1596; 1644 to 1646; 1665 to 1677; 1804 to 1816; 1824 to 1827; 1831 to 1836; 1964 to 1975; 2040 to 2049; 2078 to 2082; 2097 to 2118; 2147 to 2148; 2334 to 2347; 2363 to 2367; 2460 to 2470; 2490 to 2491; 2556 to 2562; 2573 to 2585; 2637 to 2639; 2646; 2652 to 2655; 2661 to 2666; 2790 to 2795; 2831 to 2836; 2848 to 2850; 2862 to 2886; 2946 to 2960; 3075 to 3125; 3154 to 3161; 3170 to 3176; 3375 to 3396; 3415 to 3434; 3619 to 3631; 3638; 3708 to 3711; 3776 to 3799; 3822 to 3825; 3835 to 3841; 3870 to 3875; 3999 to 4002; 4024 to 4037; 4160 to 4189; 4324 to 4345; 4394 to 4400; 4447 to 4483; 4688 to 4712; 4766 to 4770; 4774.

No. 3.—EXCESSIVE COST OF CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC TANKS ON STOCK ROUTES AND SUB-LETTING OF CONTRACTS.

It is alleged that the Department of Public Works has given very excessive prices for the construction of public tanks on stock routes, and that these prices are very much higher than those given by squatters for the construction of their tanks. (See Q. 246 to 252; Mr. Boulton's report, paragraphs 3 & 6, pp. 35 and 36; Q. 793 to 797; 1063 and 1064; 1387, 2073, 2109, 2494.)

The principal reasons given for the alleged excessive cost of construction are,—

- (1.) That the design is unnecessarily expensive, especially in respect to steepness of batters and formation of embankments round and at a given distance from the excavations. (See Q. 263, 344, 360; Mr. Boulton's report, paragraph 6, p. 36; Q. 1019, 1501, 1803, 1824, 1825, 1831, 1832, 1984, 2310, 2311, 2661, 2797, 2864.)
- (2.) That the specifications adopted by the Department of Public Works were framed for the purpose of consuming public money and contain a great many unnecessary provisions. (See Q. 459, and Appendices V and VI.)
- (3.) That unnecessary, absurd, and ridiculous precision and nicety of finish of the works has been insisted upon. (See Q. 264, 267, 454, 455, 462; Mr. Boulton's report, paragraph 6, p. 36; Mr. Chesney's letter, sub-paragraph 1, paragraph 2, p. 76; Q. 1513, 1802, 1803, 1983, 1984.)
- (4.) That delay in payment of contractors has induced them to tender at higher rates than they would have otherwise. (See Q. 264, 345; Mr. Boulton's report, paragraph 6, p. 36; Q. 440; Mr. Mackenzie's report, paragraph 18, p. 84; Q. 1385, 1976, 2312, 2313; 2348 to 2351; 2495, 2658, 2797, 2864; 2956 to 2958.)
- (5.) That contracts have in some instances been let at excessively high rates and sublet at much lower rates. (See Q. 240 to 245; 257, 446; 849 to 852; Mr. Boulton's report, paragraph 3, p. 35; Q. 1325; 1562 to 1565; 1796 to 1801; 1818 to 1822.)

A remarkable fact in connection with the allegation as to the excessive cost of public tanks—as compared with private tanks—is, that the witnesses of the Department of Mines on this question do not seem to have had any knowledge of the prices per cubic yard actually paid by the Department of Public Works for excavating tanks, excepting from hearsay statements, which do not appear to have any foundation in fact. Mr. Gilliat, for example, states that he has been unable to ascertain the cost of the public tanks, yet he says the cost is excessive, because it exceeds the prices given by squatters. (See Q. 245 and 246.)

The cost of squatters' tanks cannot reasonably be taken as a basis for the cost of public tanks, inasmuch as in each case the character of the works, the purposes for which they were intended, and the conditions under which they were constructed, are totally different. The squatters' tanks are often comparatively temporary and shallow works, intended to provide sufficient water for a limited number of stock depastured on their holdings; they are generally designed and constructed as cheaply as possible, and their cost is often considerably diminished by concessions to contractors—such as grass and water for their animals, meat and stores at moderate prices, and sometimes the use of bullocks, &c.—and by taking advantage of favourable seasons and positions, in which they are comparatively unrestricted.

On the other hand the public tanks are national works, suitably designed and constructed, much deeper as a rule than squatters' tanks, and intended to last for all time, and to provide a never-failing supply of water in all seasons for an unlimited number of usually thirsty travelling stock, and for the travelling public. Concessions to Government contractors—such as those mentioned—cannot possibly be made by a public department; but, nevertheless, their money value has to be paid to the contractors, who frequently have to cart water and forage long distances, and to pay high prices for meat and stores; and the works have sometimes to be carried out under pressing public necessity, regardless of bad seasons and other unfavourable conditions. So that if the value of the concessions referred to be added to the prices paid for squatters' tanks, the difference between the cost of them and public tanks cannot be so great as represented, and is, in our opinion, amply justified by the unquestionable superiority in every respect of the public tanks.

With

With regard to the reasons advanced for the alleged excessive cost of construction, we find—

1. That the design, especially as to steepness of batters and construction of embankments, is not unnecessarily expensive for the character of the works, and is fully justified for the attainment of the objects for which they were constructed, and which they appear, generally, to have satisfactorily fulfilled.
2. That the specifications adopted by the Department of Public Works were not, in our opinion, framed for the purpose of consuming public money, but for the purpose of binding contractors to carry out the construction of the works in such a manner as to secure to the public the full value of the money expended upon them, which they appear to have done, and that they do not, in our opinion, contain any unnecessary provisions.
3. That the works appear to have been carried out in a neat, business-like, and substantial manner, in accordance with the spirit of the specifications; and, so far as we have been able to ascertain, no unnecessary, absurd, or ridiculous precision and nicety of finish has been insisted upon.
4. That a system of progressive and prompt payment appears to have been carried out for some years for the convenience of contractors; and that since that system was adopted delay in payment has not taken place, excepting such delay as is inseparable from the necessary routine of large Government Departments, and in cases where contractors have made default in carrying out their contracts, or where disputes have arisen in reference to their claims.
5. That the allegations in respect to the letting of contracts for the excavation of tanks at excessively high rates, and the sub-letting of them at much lower rates, are based entirely upon hearsay, and do not appear to have any foundation in fact, as the sequel will show. And we would here remark that the apparent heedlessness with which this very serious allegation has been made has naturally created in our minds certain doubts and misgivings as to the correctness and *bonâ fides* of numerous other allegations made against the Department of Public Works by the Department of Mines.

Reverting to the evidence under this heading, it will be seen that Mr. Gilliat states that he has been informed that certain tanks at *12-Mile*, *35-Mile*, and *48-Mile*, on the Booligal road, and *Box Creek*, *Til Til*, and *Youhl Plains* tanks, on the road from Balranald to Ivanhoe, were let to Burton Brothers at contract price for 2s. 6d. per cubic yard; and relies principally upon Mr. Low, Mr. Boulton, and Mr. Townsend to prove it. But these gentlemen have utterly failed to prove it, as will be seen on reference to their evidence. (See Q. 242, 851, 852; 1796 to 1801; 1818 to 1822.)

And Mr. Abigail, in speaking of the cost of public tanks, states:—"There can be no doubt about it—there can be no question about it—that as much as 2s. 6d. has been paid away to contractors, who have sublet the work at much smaller rates." (See Q. 446). To prove beyond the possibility of doubt the incorrectness of these statements, Mr. Bennett, Engineer-in-Chief for Roads and Bridges, has exhibited to us copies of vouchers for the tanks in question, showing that they cost from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d. per cubic yard; and Mr. Gregory, of the Auditor-General's Office, produced the originals—see his evidence, p. 238. (See also Q. 4837.)

In reference to the evidence under this heading generally, see Q. 240 to 269; 277; 334 to 365; 373 to 378; Mr. Boulton's report, paragraph 3, p. 35, and paragraph 6, p. 36; Q. 440 to 463; 745 to 747; 793 to 799; 1002 to 1019; 1063, 1064; 1385 to 1428; 1500 to 1501; 1502 to 1512; 1562 to 1567; Mr. Mackenzie's report, paragraphs 7 to 10, p. 83, and 19 to 22, p. 84; Q. 1796 to 1810; 1818 to 1834; 1976 to 1984; 2073; 2109 to 2111; 2119 to 2133; 2258, 2259; 2263 to 2265; 2301 to 2359; 2494, 2495; 2658 to 2671; 2796 to 2812; 2873 to 2875; 2940 to 2974; 3108 to 3112; 3131 to 3155; 3383 to 3414; 3632 to 3636; 3663 to 3666; 3937 to 3941; 3946; 4003 to 4017; 4034 to 4037; 4390 to 4398; 4473 to 4500; 4764, 4765; 4829 to 4837.

We find that in letting contracts for the construction of public tanks it has been the practice of the Department of Public Works to invite public competition by tender, and to adopt other measures calculated to insure the construction of the works at fair and reasonable prices, with due regard for the urgency of public requirements :
That

That the cost of these works has ranged from 10½d to 1s. 9d. per cubic yard, excepting in four instances mentioned in Appendix III, in which prices exceeding 1s. 9d. per cubic yard were given for the removal of rock and hard cemented gravel met with in the excavations ;

That, considering the national and substantial character of the works, the purposes for which they were intended, the unfavourable conditions under which, doubtless, many of them have been constructed, and the fact that the contractors who constructed them have not, as a rule, made large profits, but in some instances have become insolvent, the prices paid for the construction of the works have not been excessive.

No. 4.—INCAPACITY OF OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND FRAUDS BY CONTRACTORS IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND MEASUREMENT OF PUBLIC TANKS.

It is alleged that Mr. A. P. Wood has been terribly embarrassed by the incapacity of the officers under him, and that these officers have been repeatedly misled by contractors making up the soil round the tanks so as to make the excavations appear deeper than they really are, in some instances by 2 or 3 feet ; that they have been imposed upon by contractors in measuring the work ; and that in one instance cement was represented to the Road Superintendent as gravel, in consequence of which he told the contractor not to go any deeper. (Q. 2259 to 2262 ; 3018 to 3020.)

Mr. A. P. Wood emphatically denies the incapacity of the officers under him (see Q. 3290) ; and from what we have seen of these gentlemen under examination before us, and learned from the evidence in defence, we are of the opinion that it is extremely improbable that they have been misled or imposed upon by such very simple and perceptible artifices as those described, or that frauds to any appreciable extent have been perpetrated. (See Q. 3170 to 3176 ; 3290 ; 3528 to 3530 ; 3532 ; 3638 to 3646 ; 3915 to 3924 ; 4135 ; 4399.)

No. 5.—DEFECTIVE CONSTRUCTION OF FLUMES AND INLET PIPES.

Very little evidence has been elicited in support of this allegation, and what has been given is comparatively trivial and unimportant.

We are of opinion that as a rule the flumes and inlet pipes are of good construction ; and that, with ordinary attention from those in charge, will fulfil—and have fulfilled—the purpose for which they were designed. At Tom's Lake tank, which has been constructed some years, we noticed an open flume failing for want of a little ordinary care on the part of those in charge of the tank.

Great exception has been taken by some of the Mines Department Officers to the method in which the water is led into Gunaramby tank from one side. There are two silt-tanks at opposite sides of the main excavation ; the water from the upper silt-tank is led round both sides of the excavation in drains cut in the berm to the flume on the further side. It is said that this will endanger the edge of the excavation and carry it away into the tank. We fail to see why this should happen with ordinary care and attention, and the explanation offered by the Department of Works, viz., that it was done to save a second flume and apron, costing £100, appears to us reasonable and satisfactory.

At Box Creek tank we found a defective valve on the inlet shoot, which has probably been the cause of a great loss of water. The tank has had 19 feet 6 inches of water in it, which, if this non-return valve had been in repair, would have been impounded in the tank as the outside water fell. We cannot say whether this valve was out of repair before the water filled the tank ; but we do know that it was out of repair at the time of our inspection, long after it might have been repaired by those in charge of the tank. (See Q. 553 ; 838 to 848 ; 1096 ; 1644 to 1678 ; 2637 ; 3128 to 3130 ; 3706 to 3707 ; 4039 to 4044 ; 4455 ; 4781 to 4792.)

No. 6.—CARELESSNESS IN LAYING OUT DRAINS AND EXCESSIVE COST OF CONSTRUCTION.

A good deal of evidence has been received on this subject, chiefly in regard to tanks in the Hay District. Having carefully considered the evidence and visited many of the works complained of, we are of opinion that the Department of Public Works has successfully rebutted or explained away the allegations,

We consider it desirable to specify some cases—three of which came under our own notice :—

Tom's Lake Tank.—Mr. Low, Inspector of Public Watering Places, in a report read before the Commission (p. 59) states:—"Drains. These are badly constructed, especially one alongside of road, which for some distance from its commencement runs water from instead of to main tank, having a direct and sudden fall into same without the water, as is usual, passing through a silt tank. Owing to no silt tank being here and the drain being much cut up by traffic and nature of ground much silt must have been carried into main tank which I feel confident is quite half silted up. This drain could easily and practically have been led to opposite end of tank when water could have run through swamp and silt tank, thus allowing silt to settle and not be carried into main tank."

These statements are further corroborated in his sworn evidence (Q. 1161.) Mr. Stilwell, the Works officer in charge, in Q. 4452, says:—"That statement is directly at variance with the facts. There is a silt tank on this side of the creek through which all the flow must pass into the tank, &c."

Having carefully examined this watering place we found the upper silt tank full of silt, showing that the drain referred to by Mr. Low as running water away from the tank must at one period have run water into it. Moreover, had Mr. Low's proposal of running the water from this intercepting drain into the swamp been adopted, the whole object of the drain would have been defeated, as it was intended to run water in above the natural surface by means of this drain on the upper side, the embankments having been run out as wings for this express purpose. At the time of our inspection the lessee was clearing out the silt tank, which Mr. Low says does not exist; but the drain referred to had been blocked, and the water diverted into the swamp, thus defeating the object of the original design.

In the same report, referring to *Dowdigans*, or the *new tank 16 miles from Balranald*, which had not, by the way, been transferred to the care of the Mines Department, Mr. Low states:—"Drains.—There were 50 chains 6 ft. by 9 in. excavated here. Although there had been heavy rains shortly before my inspection, these had run no water into silt tank; in fact they never will as both drains in some places were full of water but quite dry near the tank, thus showing they would run water from instead of to main tank." In reply to this, Mr. Stilwell, the engineer in charge, states (see Q. 4467 to 4469), that the statement is at direct variance with the facts; that when he visited the place about November, 1887, he was unable to measure up the silt tank, as it was overflowing with water brought down by these drains; that there was no water standing in the drains themselves; and that the water had to be dammed back from the main tank which was not quite completed.

We examined this tank at the end of August, 1888, and found the silt tank two-thirds full of water after a long spell of dry weather. We are of opinion that Mr. Low's criticisms are not borne out by the evidence and the facts of the case.

Ivanhoe Tank.—The allegation in respect to these drains is that they have been carelessly laid out and badly graded; that one important drain (the northern drain) leading to the upper silt tank is ineffective for a good distance at the end furthest from the silt tank; and that another drain leading to the lower silt tank runs through the town and collects filth from stables and piggeries. The Road Superintendent in charge of the work, Mr. Stilwell, in his evidence states that after a portion of the northern drain referred to had been constructed, he found by levelling that an advantageous extension of this drain could be made by cutting through a small rise 3 feet 6 inches in height, and continuing the drain on the other side for some chains. This work he gave to the caretaker to do just before the tank was handed over; the cutting has never been continued or finished properly; and therefore that extension of the northern drain is still ineffective.

We see no reason to doubt that Mr. Stilwell's explanation is satisfactory as far as he is concerned. As regards the lower drain passing through the township allotments we found on inspection that this drain ran through the allotments above the stables and piggery referred to, and consequently did not carry the drainage from these places to the lower silt tank. We concur in the action taken by the authorities in closing this drain, which has been found unnecessary for the supply of water to the tank, as it cuts through many township allotments. We strongly recommend that the allotments near the tank should be resumed, and the catchment area of the tank be kept quite clear of human habitation. From

From the ample supply of water in the tank at the time of our inspection after a long period of drought, we see no reason to doubt that the drains, with the exception referred to—which has never been completed—efficiently fulfil the purpose for which they were constructed.

Hulong Tank.—Exception is taken to the state of some drains at this tank, which are said to run water away from instead of to the tank; and it is further alleged that the Department of Public Works was obliged to lower the level of the flume to get the water to run into the tank owing to carelessness in levelling the drains. (Q. 533, 879, 1096. *Précis* pp. 185–186.)

The engineer in charge replies (see Q. 4445, 4781, 4806), that the drains were not completed by the contractor, who also left the tank excavation unfinished; and the flume set at the wrong level, that the retention money was more than enough to cover the cost of completing the work by day and contract labour; that he had the flume put right by his own men as soon as possible, and not in consequence of seeing water lying in the drains; that in order to save expense he left the completion of the drains to be done by the caretaker; and that the ineffective drains complained of could easily be put right at small expense and trouble.

We are of opinion that the Department of Public Works acted in this manner from a desire to save undue expense and hand over the work to the Department of Mines for use by the public as soon as possible; but that it was unwise to so hand over the work to another Department in an incomplete state.

Excessive Cost of Construction of Drains.—Mr. Low in his report read before the Commission (p. 59 and Q. 1166) states that the cost of the drains at Ivanhoe tank was 15s. per chain—about three times what they should have cost—and this is corroborated by Mr. Yeo. (Q. 2673.) Mr. Stilwell, the engineer who constructed the tank, admits that the price paid for these drains was excessive. It would appear from his evidence (Q. 4508 to 4516) that the drains were offered for public tender, and that he was forced to let them at an excessive price to get the work done at once; and that by so doing he was able to catch the first fall of rain, which would otherwise have been lost.

It would appear that the drains were not included in the tank contract, and that had they been included they would probably have been done much cheaper.

We consider that under the circumstances the Department of Public Works acted judiciously and in the interests of the public in paying this excessive price, rather than run the risk of losing the first opportunity of filling the tank by leaving the drains unconstructed until more moderate tenders were obtained; but that an error of judgment was committed in not including the drains in the tank contract originally.

We have had no evidence to lead us to believe that drains as a rule have been constructed at excessive prices.

For evidence *re* drains, see Q. 553; 667 to 670; Mr. Low's report, p. 58; Q. 1157 to 1166; 1654 to 1658; 2673 to 2687; 3000 to 3001; 3126, 3127; 3350 to 3361; 3699 to 3705, 3762; 3899; 3975 to 3984; 4418 to 4420; 4434 to 4436; 4444 to 4453; 4466 to 4467; 4501 to 4502; 4508 to 4521; 4775; 4818.

No. 7.—EXPENSIVE FORMS OF MACHINERY FOR LIFTING WATER, NECESSITATING GREATER COST OF MAINTENANCE.

The Mines Department, some years ago, strongly urged the adoption of watering appliances at public tanks; and we are of opinion that the recommendation was a wise and proper one. Objection is, however, strongly urged to the alleged expensive nature of the water-lifting appliances adopted by the Department of Works in accordance with this recommendation. The M'Comas horse-gear lift was first tried by the Works, found wanting, and condemned, as it involved expensive timbered wells and staging, and was very difficult to put in order, if anything went wrong when the tank was full. The Mines Department strongly advocated a double whip to be worked by a horse, and sent in a sketch of proposal, which the Works Department found involved the same expensive and perishable timbering as the M'Comas horse-gear lift.

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The Works Department then determined to adopt pumps, involving little or no woodwork in the tank itself, and selected some simple and effective forms of steam and horse-gear pumps for trial. The steam pumps are placed at tanks where wood is easily obtained, and horse-gear pumps where wood is not easily obtained.

Many witnesses of the Mines Department now state that neither horse nor steam-power is required for these tanks in many instances, and that the hand-power M'Comas lifts would amply suffice in these cases. We can find, however, no evidence that the Department of Mines recommended the adoption of hand-power lifts at the time the question of watering appliances was first taken in hand; and we do not consider that hand-power lifts would have been adequately powerful for these works, taking into consideration the possible maximum demand for water, the depth of the tanks, the severity of the climate, and the uncertainty as to the physical powers of the caretakers or lessees.

We are of opinion that the Department of Public Works has acted wisely in adopting the forms of machinery now in use; that the pumps—both steam and horse-gear—are simple and effective; not easily put out of order with ordinary precautions and care, and neither unnecessarily expensive in first cost nor in maintenance, considering the conditions which they are bound to fulfil at public watering places.

For evidence *re* machinery for lifting water, see Q. 324 to 327; 553 to 557; 854 to 858; 890 to 905; 470 to 471; 761 to 769; 1096; 1201 to 1219; 1527 to 1539; 1614; 1690 to 1706; 1851 to 1855; 1985 to 1996; 2134 to 2139; 2496 to 2516; 2672; 2688 to 2704; 2813 to 2830; 2890 to 2894; 2986 to 2993; 3177 to 3201; 3208 to 3227; 3324; 3372; 3435 to 3462; 3473 to 3475; 3712 to 3716; 3862 to 3869; 4051 to 4065; 4190 to 4208; 4316 to 4352; 4523 to 4536.

No. 8.—EXCESSIVE COST AND FAULTY CONSTRUCTION OF FENCING; SUB-LETTING OF A CONTRACT FOR FENCING; AND EXCESSIVE COST OF GATES.

It is alleged that the cost of fencing at public watering places has been excessive as compared with the cost of squatters fencing; that in some instances the construction is faulty; that in one instance a contract for fencing was sub-let with enormous profit to the original contractor; and that the cost of gates has been excessive.

We find that the prices paid by the Department of Public Works for fencing at Public Watering Places, consisting of fencing inclosing the tanks and caretakers' paddocks, have usually ranged from £58 15s. to £100 per mile; and that in one or two instances £112 and £120 have been paid.

The extent and description of fencing appears to have been decided upon by the Department of Mines (see Appendices X and XI) under departmental arrangements (see "Public Tanks and Wells—Departmental Arrangements;" Class A, No. 7; p. 175), no distinction having been made in the description of fencing for inclosing tanks, and that for lessees or caretakers' paddocks. But the Department of Public Works, finding the description of fencing decided upon very expensive for these paddocks, substituted a No. 4 wire for the top rail, or two No. 6. wires, decided upon by the Department of Mines; and placed the posts 10 ft., instead of 8 ft. 6 in., apart.

Notwithstanding that the posts were sunk 2 ft. 6 in. in the ground (which we consider unnecessary and costly), this is a somewhat less expensive description of fencing than that decided upon by the Department of Mines, and quite as effective. And in Wilcannia district a still less expensive description of fencing has been constructed.

We find that the description of fencing decided upon, and that constructed, is not too substantial or costly for inclosing the tanks, it being absolutely necessary that these valuable national works should be very substantially protected; but that the same description of fencing, and that constructed, is unnecessarily substantial and costly for tenants' leases or caretakers' paddocks; and that the Department of Mines having, under Departmental arrangements, decided upon a very expensive description of fencing for the purpose, is responsible for the somewhat extravagant expenditure that has taken place with respect to it.

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The cost of these fences per mile cannot reasonably be compared with the cost of squatters' fences, inasmuch as they are—as a rule—immeasurably superior to squatters' fences in every respect; and the conditions under which they were constructed—as in the case of tank-sinking—were probably more favourable to squatters' contractors than Government contractors. Then the timber in some instances had to be procured under great difficulties and carted long distances—in some cases 60 miles—and the contracts were very small as compared with squatters' contracts, which also has materially increased the cost.

There is ample proof that public competition was invited for the erection of the fences—in some cases repeatedly—and that the lowest tenders were accepted.

We may fairly conclude from this and from our inspection of some of them that—as fences—they are, as a rule, worth the prices that have been paid for them.

The following statement is made by Mr. Abigail in evidence (see Q. 387 p. 24):—
“At one watering place a simple piece of fencing required renewing which at the most would have cost £3. The officer reported that the fence should be removed as suggested. This had to go to the Works Office, and ultimately the cost of reporting upon the removal of the fence was some £50.” (See also Q. 388.)

This statement is based entirely upon hearsay. Mr. Hanna states that the work referred to was not done, and that no expense was incurred in connection with it, and gives a full explanation which we consider perfectly satisfactory. (See Q. 3758 to 3761.)

The faulty construction complained of consists chiefly in erecting fences without straining posts, running the wire out to its full length, and straining and fastening to posts only 3 inches thick, which it is said will not stand the wiring plug being driven in; and are splitting and giving way, being unequal to the strain.

We find that this description of fencing has been erected in several instances, experimentally, to lessen the cost and to avoid splicing the wire; but it was discontinued on account of the objection raised by the Department of Mines.

We inspected some fencing of this description in the Hay district; it was in very good order, and seemed to be well and substantially constructed; and we did not observe any of the posts splitting or giving way; but we are of the opinion, nevertheless, that a fence constructed in the usual way with special straining posts is better.

With regard to sub-letting Mr. Abigail states (see Q. 477) “There was one case (Boonoona tank) which cost more than £120 per mile. It was sub-let by the contractor to another man, and the former pocketed about £40 per mile.” And referring to sub-letting fencing at Ivanhoe tank Mr. Yeo states (see Q. 2710):—“The first contractor must have made a profit of £60 per mile on the transaction;” and Mr. Low referring to this case (see his report, last paragraph, p. 59) puts down the profit from first contract price at “at least £33 11s. per mile.”

We find that no evidence excepting hearsay has been tendered in support of these statements.

With regard to excessive cost of gates constructed by the Department of Public Works at a cost of from £10 to £15 each (see Appendix XX), we are of the opinion that these gates are not too substantial for access of stock to public watering places, and that their cost is not excessive.

It is stated that at some of the paddocks to which travelling stock are not admitted these expensive gates are provided (we observed some of them at paddocks in the Hay district), but as no reason is given for this apparently extravagant expenditure, we have no alternative but to find that the Department of Public Works is responsible for it.

In reference to the evidence under this heading generally, see Mr. Boulton's report p. 36, paragraphs 2 and 3; and Q. 882 to 889; 473 to 487; 800 to 801; 821 to 825; 1031 to 1033; 1063; Mr. Low's report, page 58, paragraphs 2 and 3, p. 59, paragraph 13; and page 60, paragraphs 13, 17 and 18; Q. 1220 to 1261; 1437, 1541, to 1557; Mr. McKenzie's report, page 84, paragraphs 8 and 9; Q. 1707 to 1731; 1997 to 2007; 2149 to 2154; 2171; 2390; 2517 to 2521; 2589, 2590; 2705 to 2714; 2841 to 2847; 2895 to 2899; 3228 to 3238; 3476 to 3498; 3536 to 3541; 3719 to 3739; 3740 to 3761; 3876 to 3897; 4066 to 4099; 4209 to 4242; 4357 to 4365; and 4537 to 4582.

No. 9.—INTERFERENCE WITH MINES' CARETAKERS AND OVERSEERS BY OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

It is alleged that caretakers and overseers of the Department of Mines, at public watering places, have been interfered with by officers of the Department of Public Works, and that the interference has taken place chiefly in the Hay district. (See Q. 502 to 510; Mr. Low's report, last paragraph on page 61; Q. 1289 to 1314; 2522 to 2524; 2715 to 2733; 3010 to 3014.)

We find that with the exception of the interference admitted by Mr. Coleman, which appears to have been justified (see Q. 4100 to 4107), there is no admissible evidence of direct interference with the caretakers and overseers of the Department of Mines by officers of the Department of Public Works; but that Mr. A. W. Stilwell, Road Superintendent of Hay district, Mr. A. P. Wood, Mr. W. J. Hanna, and Mr. J. Coleman have, we believe, in the execution of their duty, and in the interests of the public, indirectly interfered by reporting to the head of their Department cases of negligence and incompetence of caretakers of the Department of Mines, that have come under their notice. (See Q. 3240 to 3242; 3500 to 3510; 3523 to 3527; 3657 to 3662; 3785 to 3799; 4100 to 4107; 4584, 4593, 4594, 4624; Mr. Stilwell's letter of 9th February, 1887, p. 227.)

That such negligence and incompetence is amply proved by the evidence of Mr. Stilwell, Mr. Wood, and Mr. Adams (see Q. 4610 to 4614, Mr. Stilwell's reports, pp. 222 to 224, and Q. 4588, 3503 to 3505, 4716) and by the fact proved by the evidence of Mr. Abigail, Mr. Boulton, and Mr. Low, that several of the caretakers were reported and suspended for neglect of duty and dismissed on account of their unfitness for their positions. (See Q. 507, 876, 877, 1290, 1312, 1313.)

As far as we were able to observe, the caretakers on the Hay and Ivanhoe and Balranald roads were capable and attentive to their duties.

No. 10.—“GREASING” OF SERVICE TANKS.

It is alleged that service tanks were “greased” with a composition of tar, tallow, and pitch (Q. 907); that 7,000 sheep were lost on the borders of a tank because they would not drink the water owing to the mixture which the Department of Public Works has been in the habit of dressing the inside of service tanks with, causing a film to arise on the water and rendering it undrinkable by stock (See Q. 452 and 2769); that the Mines Department strongly objected to this being done, and has evidence to show that it was done after it was objected to. (See Q. 510.)

We find that a mixture, composed of tar, tallow, and pitch, was in three instances applied by the Department of Public Works to the inside of service tanks, a somewhat similar mixture having been reported by Mr. M'Kinney, C.E., of the Mines Department, to have been used with success in Victoria and having been recommended by him to Mr. A. P. Wood.

That the statement that 7,000 sheep were lost on the borders of a tank because they would not drink the water owing to its being rendered undrinkable by the use of the mixture is not substantiated.

That the mixture at first produced a film upon the water but its effects appear to have been only temporary.

That the Department of Mines objected to further use of the mixture on service tanks, and its use was at once discontinued by the Department of Works in deference to the objections of the Department of Mines.

That no evidence whatever has been offered showing that the mixture was used after it was objected to. (See Q. 3254 to 3259; 3511 to 3519; 913 to 915; 2770.)

No. 11.—FAULTY SITES OF WELLS.

J. K. Well and Menamurtie Well.—These wells are on the road from Wilcannia to Mount Brown. The objection advanced against them is that they are unnecessary, having been placed near permanent waterholes, which might have been used as public watering places. (See Q. 129 to 148; Mr. Boulton's report, p. 36, paragraph 4; Q. 411, 412; 1921 to 1931; 2527 to 2531; 3306, 3307; 4848; 3346.) The waterholes referred to are named respectively “J. K.” and “Menamurtee.”

Though they are fine waterholes they certainly did not afford a permanent supply of water in their natural state; but the supply was largely increased by dams constructed at the cost of the first occupants of the runs on which they are situated.

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The fourth, sixth, and ninth paragraphs of our report upon the sites of Peri, Yentabangee, Warramutty, and Goomboolara tanks (see pages 6 and 7), and the second and third paragraphs on the site of Tarella tank (see page 8), apply generally to these wells, rendering repetition here unnecessary.

It will be seen that the action of the Department of Public Works in these cases is covered by Mr. Abbott's minute. (See note, foot of page 8.)

Willandra Well.—This well is on the road from Balranald to Ivanhoe. The site is objected to on the grounds that the Department of Mines did not ask for a well there; that one watering-place, namely, a tank, would have been sufficient between Clare and Ivanhoe; that the Department of Public Works constructed two watering-places there, namely, a tank and the well in question; and that the well is absolutely unnecessary on such a road. (See Q. 169 to 172; 3323, 3324; extract from Mr. Gilliat's report of 13th January, 1880, upon the road from Balranald to Ivanhoe, on page 27, Mines *précis* of cases; Q. 4766.)

We find that in constructing two public watering-places between Clare tank and Ivanhoe the Department of Public Works was guided by Mr. Gilliat's recommendations for 1884, for two works (see Appendix XII); and in our opinion one public watering-place between Clare tank and Ivanhoe would not be sufficient, and that a public watering-place at this site is necessary.

Roto Well.—This well is on the road from Hillston to Cobar. The site is objected to on the ground that it is almost alongside of a permanent waterhole in Willandra Creek. (See end of Q. 521, Q. 3295 and 3296.)

We find that the site, though now objected to, was approved of by the Department of Mines, and the Department of Public Works acted in accordance with that approval (see Q. 4848); that Willandra Creek at this point does not afford a permanent supply of water; that the well is a very necessary and useful work; and that there is no reasonable objection to the site.

Normanstone Well.—This well is on the road from Gunnedah to Coonabarabran. The site is objected to on the grounds that it is not identical with that fixed by Mr. Gilliat, and that it is in basalt country. (See Q. 179, 233; latter part of Q. 521; Q. 1739 to 1743; 1756 to 1758.)

It appears from the evidence of Mr. A. P. Wood that this well is in basalt, and was sunk within a few chains of the site fixed by Mr. Gilliat; that many wells sunk through basalt have proved very good water-yielding wells; and that wells sunk in the neighbourhood have given an abundant supply of water. (See Q. 3326 to 3340.)

We find that in this instance the arrangement between the Departments with respect to sites (see Q. 9) appears to have been adhered to by the Department of Public Works; that the fact of the site being in basalt country is not sufficient to justify us in condemning it, and that there is no evidence showing that a supply of water would have been more readily obtained by sinking the well in the exact position defined by Mr. Gilliat.

NO. 12—FAULTY CONSTRUCTION OF WELLS—SINKING, TIMBERING, AND CENTERING OF SHAFTS AND ERECTION OF HEAD-WORKS (TO LINE SERVICE TANK AND TROUGHING) BEFORE TESTING FOR SUPPLY AND QUALITY OF WATER.

There are about thirty wells at public watering-places, and the Department of Mines allege that many of these wells have been constructed, and great expense incurred, without a proper test being made of the supply and quality of the water.

Exception is taken to the sites of *Baloola* and *Normanstone* wells as not being in the exact sites prescribed by the Mines Department, and also that they have been sunk in basalt rock; that no water has been found; and that the whim and service tank were erected or commenced at one of these wells before any water was found.

No trial shafts were first put down in these cases, as the ground was basaltic and it was thought cheaper to sink the main shaft at once.

We are of opinion that it would have been wiser to have bored in these two cases; and that the Department of Works committed an error of judgment in not doing so, as admitted by Mr. Wood (see Q. 3549), although they appear to have had good grounds for their action, as wells in the same district through basalt are said to give a fair supply of good water.

We

We find that head-works were not put up at *Normanstone* well, as stated, and that at Baloola the contractor was stopped constructing the service tank, the whim having been put up most probably to help in the sinking of the shaft. It would appear that these wells are not yet done with, and further boring and driving operations are either in progress or contemplation, so that water may yet be obtained.

Old Gunbar, *Holy Box*, and *Dolmoreve wells* are cited as cases where the Department of Works have completed the shafts and head-works without testing the quality of water and that in each instance the money has been thrown away, owing to the water being quite unfit for stock.

In the case of *Old Gunbar Well* we find that the Department of Works received a sample of water which was good, which purported to come from the trial shaft; and that having sunk the main shaft some distance away from the trial shaft, bad water was obtained, and that the water has remained unfit for stock ever since.

We are of opinion that in this instance the Department of Works has not evinced enough care in testing the quality of water previous to erecting costly head-works and fencing.

In the case of the *Holy Box Well*, we are of opinion that the Department of Works were justified in proceeding with the erection of head-works; and that although the quality of the water is not so good as it might be, it has much improved, owing most probably to constant baling. We visited this work, and found that a large number of travelling and station stock were watering at it, and our own horses drank readily of the water. (Q. 4755 to 4760.)

Dolmoreve Well.—The water at this well is not at present fit for stock; and we find that in this instance also the Department of Works is responsible for having completed the head-works, &c., without properly testing the quality of the water. Seeing, however, that there is within a mile of this well a private well where the water is very good, and from which water is constantly being drawn, we recommend that the well should be leased, if possible, to the lessees of Til Til station, for, say, two years, with a view of its being given a thorough trial, and of testing the value of constant baling in improving the water. We have reason to believe that the manager of Til Til station would be ready to take the well over for a time.

Willandra Well is cited as an instance of faulty construction and excessive cost without any supply of water for stock having been obtained.

We find that this well has given great trouble to the Department of Works, which is still endeavouring to get the well completed and to obtain a supply of stock-water. It would appear that in sinking the main shaft the contractor failed to get the shaft to stand in soft drift at the bottom, and it had to be abandoned, and a new one sunk in close proximity, three contractors failing to complete the well. It appears that the whim, service tank, and troughing have been erected, and two shafts partly sunk, the sums paid to contractors amounting to £752, or considerably less than the first contract. As the operations in connection with this well have not yet been concluded, we are of opinion that the time has not yet arrived for criticising this work, which may, after all the difficulties that have been encountered, prove a useful public watering-place. (Q. 4819 to 4821.)

Wooloondool Well is cited as an instance of faulty construction, in that the Works Department omitted to put a floor and pipe at the bottom of the well; and that in consequence of this omission the bore at the bottom of the well became choked with silt. The Department of Works affirm that no floor or pipe is necessary, and that baling or the occasional probing of the bore is all that is required to keep the well in order. We believe a floor and pipe, as suggested—and, we understand, constructed—by the Mines Department to be unnecessary; and fail to see how it will get over the silting up of the bore, unless constant baling is kept up.

It appears to us doubtful whether wells are satisfactory as public-watering places where brackish water is known to exist, seeing the uncertainty that seems to obtain as to whether the water when struck will be fit for stock or not, and as to where the line is to be drawn between good and bad stock-water. Seeing, however, that wells are so much cheaper than tanks, and afford a more permanent supply of water, we are of opinion that both the Departments of Works and Mines have evinced a proper regard for the public purse in making every effort to put down wells as often as possible, and that the Department of Works is by no means singular in its failure to provide good stock-water in every instance. For

For evidence *re* "faulty construction and excessive cost of wells," see Q. 172 to 176; 179; 212 to 234; 272 to 279; 514 to 523; 553; 802 to 806; 924 to 934; 1035 to 1060; 1096; 1145 to 1149; 1326 to 1343; 1441 to 1448; 1644; 1733 to 1759; 1848 to 1849; 2011 to 2014; 2178 to 2180; 2744 to 2761; 3002, 3003; 3035; 3160 to 3169; 3260 to 3276; 3310 to 3345; 3543 to 3576; 3925 to 3936; 4265 to 4293; 4615; 4640 to 4650; 4819 to 4823.

No. 13.—EXCESSIVE COST OF CONSTRUCTION OF WELLS.

It is alleged by the Department of Mines that the cost of construction of wells has been excessive.

We are of opinion that no comparison can be made between the wells constructed by the Department of Works at public watering places, and those constructed by squatters as regards the material and workmanship. We find that the total cost of some of the wells has reached a sum of £1,000, but this includes the whim, service tank, and troughing, and frequently repairs and alterations. We believe the construction of these works to have been let by open tenders, and that the Department of Works has exercised due reluctance to accept high tenders. We do not consider the class of work at these wells unnecessarily good or expensive for such important national works. Our remarks as to the disadvantages under which tanks are often constructed, tending to raise the cost of construction, apply in some degree to wells.

No. 14.—COSTLY HUTTING FOR CARETAKERS.

The Department of Mines allege that the caretakers' huts designed by the Department of Works were too expensive, and that by undertaking the construction of these huts themselves they have effected a saving of something like 50 per cent. Having compared carefully the drawings and specifications of the huts designed by the Works Department with those constructed by the Mines Department, some of which we have inspected on the spot, we find that no comparison can fairly be instituted between the two classes of buildings. (See Appendices.) The designs of the Department of Works, which were estimated to cost about £100, provide for three rooms, with spouting, and a tank for rain water, while the constructive details are far stronger and better than those of the huts put up by the Department of Mines.

Having examined some of the huts erected by the Mines Department, we consider that they are of very inferior construction; that they will probably in their present condition, fail to withstand a strong gale of wind; and that they are scarcely fit habitations for human beings in the severe climate of the western district. In these huts only two rooms are provided; the gauge of iron and scantling of timber are of the lightest description; there are no braces to walls or roof; no painting of wood work is done; and no guttering or drinking tank is provided—even at brackish wells, such as Holy Box, where we found the caretaker carting his drinking water from Mossgiel, distant 16 miles.

We believe that it would have been a truer economy to erect the more expensive huts designed by the Department of Public Works.

For evidence *re* hutting, for caretakers, see Q. 282 to 295; 1071 to 1073; 1344 to 1354; 1574 to 1577; 1760 to 1764; 2015 and 2016; 2535 to 2537; 2602; 3277 to 3283; 3577 to 3579; 3800 to 3817; 3942 and 3943; 4294 to 4298; 4717 to 4726; and Appendices.

No. 15.—DEFECTIVE CONSTRUCTION OF TROUGHING.

Exception is taken by the Officers of the Mines Department to the original type of railing put round the watering troughs to prevent cattle and sheep from getting into them.

We find that this railing was at first experimental, and that the Department of Works submitted a sketch of the railing as used at some private troughing for the approval of the Department of Mines; that this form of railing was generally approved by the Inspector of Public Watering Places, but that it failed to give satisfaction to the public. We find that a superior design of troughing has been adopted

adopted by the Department of Works, and that a rail down the centre as proposed eventually by the Department of Mines, has also been adopted. We think the latest type of troughing and railing to be excellent. We find that the Department of Works adopted the form of railing which was the best they knew of at the time, and that the subsequent alterations are the outcome of experience. We noticed that the alterations now being carried out to existing troughing rails by the Mines Department are by no means uniform; and while those at Ivanhoe tank appear to be excellent, those at Mossgiel tank seem to us quite the reverse.

We do not find that the Department of Public Works has been to blame in this matter, which has been the subject of experiment for some years by the pastoral community.

For evidence *re* troughing, see Q. 427 and 428; 529 to 531; Mr. Boulton's report, pp. 36-7; Q. 807 and 808; 916 to 923; 1355 to 1366; 1372 to 1378; 1568 to 1572; 1578 to 1580; 1765 to 1773; 2017 and 2018; 2158 to 2165; 2391; 2538 to 2540; 2763 to 2770; 2900 to 2916; 3580 to 3582; 3944 to 3946; 4114 to 4116; 4299 to 4300; and Appendices.

No. 16.—UNFORTUNATE EFFECTS OF DUAL CONTROL, AND SUGGESTED REMEDIES.

We find that the evidence throughout discloses that the dual control exercised by the Department of Public Works and the Department of Mines over the public watering places, and the laxity in adherence to arrangements between them—doubtless framed with the best intentions, but in which the seeds of discord are sown broadcast (see p. 175)—has, as a natural consequence, for some years past, been productive of frequent unseemly differences and recriminations, and much unnecessary and irritating correspondence between the Departments, the tedious details of which we have deemed it unnecessary and unprofitable to enter into in this report.

This very objectionable state of things has no doubt for a corresponding length of time been highly prejudicial to public interests, and to the decorous and regular conduct of public business by the Departments in question. We therefore deem it incumbent upon us to suggest the adoption of the following remedies:—

- (1.) That the Department of Public Works, be charged with the construction of all public watering places, whether tanks, wells, or artesian borings, and with the entire supervision, maintenance, and control of them.
- (2.) That the necessity for constructing public watering places on any stock route, be in all cases reported to the Department of Public Works by the Stock Branch of the Department of Mines.
- (3.) That the sites for such watering places be fixed by the Department of Public Works, dividing the distances between them as equally as the circumstances may permit.
- (4.) That before entering upon the construction of such watering places a report be obtained by the Department of Public Works from the Government Geologist, or other competent authority, as to the advisability of sinking wells or boring for artesian water.

In concluding this portion of our report we desire to point out that for some time past three classes of officers have been employed in the supervision, control, and maintenance of public watering places, namely: Road Superintendents, under the Department of Public Works; Inspectors of Public Watering Places, and Overseers of Public Watering Places (who are also Inspectors of Stock), under the Department of Mines. (Q. 647 to 649.)

But in the event of the Department of Public Works being charged with the entire supervision, control, and maintenance of all public watering places in accordance with our suggestion, the services of the Inspectors and the Overseers of Public Watering Places would be unnecessary, and the duties now performed by them might conveniently (with necessary assistance) be undertaken by Road Superintendents resident in the several districts, who presumably being trained engineers, and having supervised the construction of these fine works, and the erection of all the appliances connected with them, must naturally have a better knowledge of their management, and a greater interest in them than could be expected from unprofessional officers of a foreign department.

SUBJECTS REFERRED TO AT PAGE 6.

(A.) COST OF MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC WATERING PLACES.

It appears that the revenue derived from public watering places, provided at great cost for construction and maintenance, is so insignificant that the maintenance of them is a burden upon the community.

The principal reason for this appears to be that in good seasons—or after heavy rain—there is usually sufficient natural water along stock routes to enable stock to travel independent of public watering places, which—irrespective of such conditions—have to be continuously maintained up to the normal standard of efficiency, notwithstanding that they may sometimes remain unused for long periods.

We are of the opinion that these works should be at least self-supporting, and that they might with perfect justice be made so, by making owners or drovers of travelling stock pay for the water along the particular stock route they wish to travel, at the time they take out their travelling permit.

The revenue from public watering places would thus be collected by officers of higher responsibility than caretakers over whom, under the present system, there does not appear to us to be any sufficient or satisfactory check.

The proposed mode of payment would not be applicable in the case of teamsters' stock, the collection of charges for which, being comparatively a minor matter, would probably have to be entrusted to the caretakers as at present, if no better arrangement could be made.

(B.) CARETAKERS.

Intimately connected with the question of cost of maintenance is that of caretakers, who, under present arrangements, are employed at most of the public watering places, and we think are indispensable for the protection of the works.

In some cases public watering places are leased, but lessees appear to us not to be so much under control, and in case of any default, such as negligence or incompetence, cannot be so readily and promptly dealt with as caretakers.

Leasing, moreover, appears to involve the expense of erecting several miles of fencing which, where steam water-lifting appliances are used, is unnecessary for the efficacy of the works; and even where horse-power appliances are used, less fencing would perhaps suffice for caretakers than for lessees.

For these reasons we believe caretakers to be preferable to lessees, and in the event of our suggestions as to payment for water by travelling stock being carried out, caretakers might be allowed the use of existing paddocks in part payment for their services.

(C.) CONDITION OF STOCK ROUTES.

We desire to direct special attention to the fact that although a very large expenditure has been incurred in constructing public watering places on the stock routes of the Colony with the object of rendering them available for the passage of stock—especially during seasons of prolonged drought—that object is partially nullified by the usually bare condition of the stock routes, owing to their not as a rule being reserved from lease, and otherwise protected.

The holders of runs over which they pass—naturally desiring an equivalent for the rental they pay—usually divest the portion of their runs embraced by the stock route of every vestige of sustenance, thereby in dry seasons rendering the passage of stock in parts of the Colony not yet traversed by railways very hazardous—if not impossible—just perhaps at a critical time when it may be necessary to remove them to save their lives; the situation being that they must either perish miserably on drought-stricken country, or face the terrors of starvation on a stock route abundantly supplied with water, but utterly devoid of any other sustenance.

This appears to us to be a matter of considerable moment, and we have ventured to introduce it into our Report in the interest of the public and in the cause of humanity.

We

We observe that reference is made to the condition of reserves and driftways for travelling stock in the Annual Report of the Stock and Brands Branch of the Department of Mines for the year 1881 (page 9).

Understanding that the Department of Mines wished to reply to the evidence of the Department of Public Works, we expressed our willingness to receive oral evidence in reply, in denial of facts spoken to by the witnesses of that Department; but although ample opportunity was afforded, no such evidence was tendered.

In conclusion we deem it but just to record our opinion that, although the construction of public watering places and the works connected with them has not been altogether faultless, the large degree of success attained in so extensive, and to some extent experimental an undertaking, is very satisfactory, and highly creditable to the Department of Public Works.

Certified at Sydney under our hands and seals, this thirteenth day of December, 1888.

(Signed)

GEO. H. COX, President.

J. C. WOORE.

COOPER PENROSE, Lieut.-Col.

ERRATA.

Question 106, page 6. *Before* the words "Are these springs not known to be the most permanent water in that part of the country back from the river" *insert* the word "Chairman."

Question 1645, page 84. *For* "Mulga tank" *read* "Mulya tank."

Question 2206, page 110. *For* "3 miles" *read* "9 miles."

Question 2218, page 110. *For* "40 feet" *read* "20 feet."

Question 3115, page 146 ; and Questions 3391 and 3394, page 166. *For* "main depth" *read* "mean depth."

Question 4842, page 238. *Add* to note attached to question the following—"The witness subsequently produced the original vouchers."

ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC
TANKS AND WELLS.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

THURSDAY, 12 JANUARY, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.
MAJOR PENROSE, R.E., | J. C. WOORE, Esq.

Harry Gilliat called in and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] What position do you occupy in the public service? I am Chief Inspector of Public Watering-places.
2. You are aware that various charges have been made against the Works Department—that portion of the Works Department which has the construction of tanks and wells: You are aware that certain charges have been made against them? I desire to explain at once that I can hardly regard what has been said as charges, as these papers which I have placed on the table are communicated to me by my local officers in many cases, and submitted by me to my Minister. Of course it would be necessary for me to point out that according to these statements there appears to be considerable waste of public money in the construction of these works; and in the covering paper forwarded to you the other day you will find these cases set out. The full papers from which they were drawn will be submitted to you.
3. Of course you are aware that when I speak of making charges, I do not mean that they are criminal charges; but, rather, charges of carelessness and neglect? Exactly; this is the point which the Minister desires me to clearly explain to the Commission. As a matter of fact the charges are rather against this department than against the Works Department.
4. Well, in that light we can scarcely call them charges; but have not the Roads and Bridges Department charge of the public watering-places? I should say that the Roads and Bridges Department had not charge of the public watering-places.
5. But they have charge of the construction? Yes.
6. Have you yourself any knowledge of these defects or want of skill in construction? To a very large extent I have. I used, until lately, to spend nine or ten months out of every year in the interior. Up to 1885 I visited every part of the colony, but since then the duties have so increased that I could not make the inspections so frequently.
7. *Major Penrose.*] Do you not think it would be well to get a clear definition how far the duties of each department extend?
8. *Chairman.*] Yes; there is a sort of dual control. As soon as the work of one department is completed it is handed over to the other department.
9. *Witness.*] It is handed over to the Mines Department. We can recommend any number of sites for tanks, but it remains for the Works Department to decide which shall be selected. The arrangement arrived at between the two departments will be seen from the printed papers. It was a matter of some discussion, the final decision being that the Mines Department should indicate the position in which they wished the watering-place to be put, and that the Works Department should fix the exact site; so that, if in a report I recommend a certain site, the Works Department are supposed to fix it exactly. I objected to that arrangement at the time, but was overruled. This arrangement has been in force ever since; although, I may add, a number of watering-places have been constructed by the Roads and Bridges Department without reference to the Mines Department.
10. Are you aware upon whose recommendation these were made? The matter was never referred to us, and I knew nothing about them officially until we received an intimation that they were ready to be handed over.
11. *Major Penrose.*] Within what limits would the Works Department be allowed to vary the site of a tank? There was no actual rule established. It was merely that the Mines Department should indicate generally the position of the tank. The Works Department fixed the exact site.
12. *Chairman.*] Then I understand that the general site would be fixed by the Public Watering Places branch: the Works Department to construct it within a suitable distance therefrom? Yes; in two of the cases that are brought before you, of wells, I attached so much importance that I fixed the exact sites by mile-posts; in both of these cases the position was altered.
13. To what extent? In one case to about 4 miles, and in the other to about a third of a mile.
14. *Mr. Woore.*] Are there any papers to define the arrangements and relations between these two departments? Yes; and they will be submitted to you. They will be submitted with the printed papers; and that is the reason why I was anxious not to be examined until the printed papers were laid before you, so that I could be able to refer to them while under examination.
15. *Chairman.*] I think we ought to exhaust this subject now before we touch another. We can in that way make our inquiry as symmetrical as possible. We can proceed point by point, and there will be no confusion in referring back to anything we have dealt with. You say that in the first instance the Mines Department were not consulted as to the localities in which tanks and wells were to be sunk? The arrangement was that we should recommend; but cases have occurred in which watering-places have been constructed without reference to the Mines Department.

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16. *Mr. Woore.*] The arrangement has not been strictly adhered to, then? No.

17. Was it adhered to at first? For the first few years I had great difficulty in getting works constructed; but, latterly, owing to the recognition of the importance of the works, the Works Department have proceeded with greater rapidity.

18. *Chairman.*] So that the Commission may understand, is it not a fact that when the Public Watering Places Act came into force it was then arranged that no tank or well should be constructed without reference having been previously made to the Mines Department, and the work recommended by it? That arrangement came into force previous to the inception of the Public Watering Places Act. This measure should have altered the whole affair, because it gave the whole power to the Secretary for Mines—that is, the whole power of construction. As a matter of fact this Act took the whole power out of the hands of the Works Department.

19. So I gather from you that the present construction of tanks and wells by the Works Department is in contravention of the Public Watering Places Act of 1881? Yes, it is. But I may further say that soon after Mr. Abigail took office he directed that certain of the papers showing the relations between the two departments should be put before him. These were submitted to the Cabinet, and by its direction a letter was subsequently addressed to the Mines Department, directing that for the future it should undertake the construction of these works. My first action was to place before the Minister a statement of what would be necessary before we gave practical effect to the Cabinet minute, and we wrote to the Roads and Bridges to know what arrangements they had entered into for the construction of the various works recommended by the Mines Department during the last few years. They were again reminded, but we have received no reply, and my hands are tied in regard to doing anything except with further works; because I cannot get the information as to what engagements have been entered into.

20. *Mr. Woore.*] I should think the letter referred to ought to be produced.

21. *Witness.*] I will have it put in.

22. *Chairman.*] When did the construction of tanks and wells first begin under the Government—do you remember? I took charge in 1879, but to the best of my belief the earliest tanks that I heard of were the three little tanks that had been completely destroyed, which were constructed by the Surveyor-General's Department. The first constructed by the Roads and Bridges branch was, I believe, the Boonoono tank, on the Booligal to Wilcannia road, about 92 miles from Wilcannia. The 48-Mile tank on the same road was constructed before I took charge. The 35-Mile tank, the Holybox well, the Jumping Sand Hill well, the Mossgiel well, the Mount Manara well, were also constructed prior to my appointment. Then, on the road from Balranald to Ivanhoe, the Box Creek, the Youhll Plain, and the Til Til tanks. These are all that I recollect at the present time, besides those on the road between Cobar and Bourke.

23. *Mr. Woore.*] Is there not another, the 25-Mile tank? That has been completed since. There are a number of others; one at the 26-Mile, and another at Ivanhoe. Those of which I speak are prior to 1879—to October of that year. On the road between Cobar and Bourke there were several. I would like to qualify that statement, as I am not quite certain that these latter were not constructed in that very year. Of course, I am merely giving an approximate idea of the dates.

24. I asked this question because I wanted to know how these tanks were taken over, and in whose charge they were previous to your taking charge of them? There was absolutely no one—no caretaker—in charge. There were some other tanks on the Cobar to Bourke road, and the Cobar to Nyngan road. I think I am approximately correct in stating that there were not more than twenty tanks and wells for public watering-places constructed in the colony at that time. Our present list of available works is 165.

25. You were first appointed overseer of public watering-places? I was appointed inspector. I was first appointed in the year 1879.

26. *Major Penrose.*] Is that position conferred under an Act of Parliament? I was appointed by the Governor and Executive Council, and in consequence of the rapid increase of public watering-places, the Act became necessary.

27. *Chairman.*] Previous to your appointment, who took care of the tanks and wells? They were without caretakers, and the principal objection—the original element of discord—is my having been obliged to point out to my Minister in a departmental communication that no care was being taken of the tanks and wells after construction, and that some of them were useless. That was the subject of a report, which I am sorry I cannot put in evidence, because the document was destroyed in the Garden Palace fire. Prior to the appointment of caretakers, the tanks and wells were mainly in the hands of the various road superintendents.

28. *Mr. Woore.*] Were not some of these public watering-places let to squatters? I think in one case this was done. The Waiko well was so let.

29. What about the tanks on the Booligal road? I think not. I can only speak from hearsay.

30. Was it not a general practice? I cannot say. Until we introduced the system of leasing I never heard of it.

31. *Chairman.*] Then we are to understand that prior to your appointment there was absolutely no control exercised over these tanks and wells after construction? To the best of my knowledge and information, none but that of the local road superintendent. I received authority from my Minister to take delivery of these works from the different local road superintendents.

32. So that they were really under the control of the road superintendents? Yes.

33. Then after your appointment did you take steps to have caretakers appointed on all these tanks? I called attention in a number of reports, showing the condition which these works were in; and I think it was early in 1880—I cannot be quite positive about it—it was decided to appoint caretakers. It was very soon after my appointment. I also, at an early date, pointed out that the appointment of caretakers would necessitate additional outlay by the Government, and urged the importance of leasing the works. This gave rise to the steps subsequently taken.

34. We are anxious to go through the whole process, so that we may find out who are responsible.

35. *Witness.*] The Department of Works were hardly aware of the importance of these works to the travelling stock at the time, and my recommendation was made that a certain area of land should be attached to each of these tanks and wells by which the lessees would benefit, and would add to their inducements to rent them.

36. *Mr. Woore.*] You are quoting now from the report? Yes, I am quoting roughly from it; but I cannot put it in, because the papers were, as I have already said, destroyed in the Garden Palace fire.

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37. Is that the substance of them? Yes; so far as I can recollect.

38. *Chairman.*] What I am trying to lead up to is to ascertain who the parties are who had these tanks in charge from the earliest time to the present. I want to find out when they took charge, so that we may know who are responsible for the work from the beginning to the end? I may state that the general substance of these reports has been frequently re-stated in reports that will be placed before you.

39. No doubt the papers, when they come before us, will give more information, but any papers that are printed are of no value to us, except they are supported by oral testimony. We must get our information *viva voce*, and on oath, so that every statement made in the papers must be verified on oath. I may add that any statement made in the papers is useless to us, excepting so far as it will help us to elicit information for ourselves. Now in the year 1880, some few months after your appointment, you recommended that instead of giving the tanks over to the caretakers they should be leased, and that small portions of land should be attached to them—in fact, that a sort of common should be made around those tanks and wells for the use of travelling stock? Yes. In the original recommendation the arrangement was that 200 acres should be given around the tanks as a special lease. But my duties kept me constantly in the field at that time, the office duties being then performed by the Chief Inspector of Stock. He brought before the Minister for Mines my reports from time to time, and amongst these was a recommendation that we should give over 200 acres to the lessees under special lease.

40. Were these leases to be disposed of by tender? Yes; they were originally to be invariably let by tender.

41. Was that arrangement carried out? That was given effect to, but I cannot say exactly the date. It would be in the course of a year or two afterwards, and some of the public watering-places referred to would be in these reports.

42. Then, you say that your report was acted upon some time subsequently, and that these tanks and wells—or most of them—were leased, with small portions of land attached? Oh, no; only a few of them, because we had a very great difficulty in getting satisfactory surveys from the Lands Department. In some cases of special lease asked for at a work, 200 acres were prepared; but the surveyor, not understanding the requirements of public watering-places, placed the work in the centre; the consequence was that as a leasehold the land was of very little value, because so large a slice would be taken away to admit stock.

43. What was the object of this leasehold: was not the land to be a sort of common? No; it was intended as an additional inducement to a person to come forward and lease the works. The water would enable him to keep a little stock of his own and to have a garden; but the tank was supposed to be always on a reserve.

44. *Major Penrose.*] Having the water, these leases would be useful to the caretaker in the way you state? Yes.

45. *Chairman.*] Then, you had some difficulty in having the surveys made to enable you to issue those leases? Yes; that is the better way to put it, because what I have said before might be considered a reflection on the Lands Department. I certainly had no intention of making any such statement in this connection. I think it was really a difficulty to obtain suitable surveys. We had a difficulty also, inasmuch as there was some trouble in obtaining the services of men understanding the requirements of the watering-places. The lease of the 200 acres was intended for the use and convenience of the tenant, so as to give him a small property which he could cultivate in the neighbourhood of the work.

46. And unless this survey was made on one side of the tank, so that the tank should not be in the centre of the ground, the land would be valueless to the lessee; because it would be a mere common, for the use of travelling stock? Yes.

47. Were there any other causes of delay beyond the want of appreciation, and the difficulty in having surveys made? No; but there were other causes mentioned in my earlier reports. In these I pointed out that where the tanks had been constructed there was no continuity in the line of water; one tank might be placed here, and there might not be water for a great number of miles on either side. I called attention to the necessity of having these works at regular distances, to enable travelling stock to pass from one to the other without suffering from any risk of thirst.

48. Do you think that that could be the fault of the Department? I may point out that this was the view I took in my recommendations of the object to be attained for the future.

49. Well, suppose there was no water for 50 miles. The Government would put a tank midway or 25 miles from the nearest water—that would give temporary accommodation, but they could not put a tank at 12 miles, except after a long time. Yet, after putting the other tanks through, the route was made available at once? I recommended that tanks should be put down at points which would enable us to bridge over dry places; that subsequently they should be put down at intervening points. This has since been carried out, and some routes are magnificently watered now.

50. Then, for various reasons, the system of leasing the tanks was not followed? It is in force, but was not availed of to the full extent that I hoped it would, and which I think it will be in the near future.

51. But in the meantime you had caretakers? Yes.

52. When do you take charge of the tanks and wells, and by whom are they handed over to you—by the Works Department? We usually took over the tanks and wells from the local road superintendents; but in some cases arrangements were made by which we nominally took transfers. I, for a time, visited and took the transfers myself, and placed the men in charge, who were to be directed by overseers. I believe it was about 1881 that we took charge of the first new works.

53. So that they were absolutely placed in charge of the Mines Department as soon as they were handed over by the person in charge under the Works Department? Yes.

54. And you became responsible for them? Yes; but as a matter of fact one of the questions which arose at the time was as to who should undertake repairs. The maintenance of the tanks is vested in the Mines Department, but in case of accident or break-down, or a “wash-away,” or anything of that sort, it became necessary under the old arrangements to refer the matter to the Department of Works.

55. *Major Penrose.*] Then you had no constructive power? No, for there was a clause in one of the arrangements that we were not to spend more than £10 per annum for minor repairs at each tank. We looked, therefore, to the Works Department to repair any accident of a serious or disastrous character.

56. *Chairman.*] What were the duties of the caretaker? Exactly what is detailed here in these printed instructions. These are the instructions issued to the caretakers, which were prepared by me for the officers of the Department; and with them are the regulations and the Act. The pamphlet gives general instructions to inspectors, overseers, and caretakers.

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57. In accordance with the regulations at the end of the Act? Yes; they were practically the same as those in the Act and Regulations. Of course, experience has shown us what was desirable and what was not, and we have altered the regulations; but they are fundamentally the same.
58. *Mr. Woore.*] What I understand is that, after the tanks were completed, they were handed over to the Mines Department?
59. *Chairman.*] Yes, unless some break-down occurred.
60. *Mr. Woore.*] Let us hear what this "break-down" means? It means that anything that requires the expenditure of money we are required to refer to the Works Department.
61. In case of silting up of the tank, would that be repaired by the caretaker? Yes.
62. Then, all you could do in the way of repairs was what the caretaker could do? Exactly so.
63. Beyond that, it was the duty of the Public Works Department? Yes; we were allowed the sum of £10 to be expended on each tank by our department; that was outside what the caretaker might be able to do. Substantially, these are all the instructions issued to caretakers.
64. *Chairman.*] Then, what you mentioned just now—that only substantial damages were made good by the Works Department; and that, where damages are of less cost, they are not referred back to that department—does not that show that the Works Department do not finally give up all charge of these tanks and wells, even when handed over to you; because, in any heavy breakages, you state that the matter might be referred back to them for repairs? Yes.
65. Is not that likely to be the cause of disagreement? It was the whole cause of the annoyance and friction which have arisen. When the printed papers come before you, they will show that.
66. We are not going into that now. We want to confine your remarks now to the fact that various tanks and wells were sunk in improper places. The other matter is only incidental? I think I may safely say, to the best of my belief, this was one of the fundamental causes of the disagreements between the two departments. I stated this substantially to the Minister in a draft which I gave to him, and which he took to the Cabinet meeting; but it was never seen afterwards. The document was not registered nor copied. My statement to him was this—that, when we called for certain repairs to be made, the Works Department said that the repairs were necessitated by the carelessness of the Mines officer, while we contended that it was through the works not having been properly carried out in the first instance.
67. *Mr. Woore.*] Was it optional with the Mines Department to take over these tanks or not? Were you obliged to take them over whether in good order or not? I am very glad indeed that you have asked that question. We did not desire to take works over unless in good order. On the contrary, on one occasion I refused distinctly to do so unless I received instructions from the Minister; but I was instructed to take over everything that Mr. Bennett handed to us.
68. *Chairman.*] You have no discretion in the matter? No; none whatever. I have a discretion now; because, since Mr. Abigail came into office, I raised the question with regard to certain works.
69. *Mr. Woore.*] You were obliged to take the tanks and wells over whether you approved of them or not? Yes; whether I thought they were properly carried out or not. As soon as the papers are placed before you, you can turn up all the points and the deductions to be derived from them.
70. When these tanks were completed, was the construction of them approved of by any person, either in the Mines or Works Departments, before they were handed over to you? In many cases they were not approved of by us; but I assume that they were approved of by the duly authorised officer of the Works Department.
71. Do you know who he is? Mr. A. P. Wood and the local officer, I believe, dealt with the contractor. I am very much afraid that until the case is properly before you, with all the papers, it will be difficult for me to make myself clear to the Commission. In many cases years have elapsed since the matters referred to in the papers were dealt with.
72. *Chairman.*] We met here on Tuesday, and had the *precis* of the papers handed to us. We then determined to examine witnesses first on the faults of judgment in the selection of sites for tanks and wells; second, on defective design and faulty construction; third, on expensive forms of machinery; fourth, on faulty construction and excessive cost of fencing; fifth, interference with contractors; sixth, subletting of contracts; seventh, faulty construction of wells, sinking and centring of shafts, erection of head-works, service tanks and troughing before testing supply and quality of water; eighth, excessive cost of construction; ninth, cost of hutting for caretakers; and tenth, defective construction of troughing? Well, I will deal with the first point, and I can state that some of these tanks have been under water since 1885.
73. Well, we will not go into that now. I merely wished to point out to you how we want to carry out this inquiry. We want to exhaust one subject before we go into the next.
[*A discussion ensued, with the result that it was arranged the Commissioners should not read the papers for the present, but go on with the points given in the précis.*]
74. *Chairman.*] Then all tanks were placed in the hands of caretakers? When I say that all were placed under the charge of caretakers, there may be one or two tanks where (being close to natural water) we did not think it necessary to employ men. We did not think that we were warranted in going to the expense of engaging caretakers for them.
75. What tanks were these? Peri Sand Hill, Yentabangee, Warramurtie; and, I think, Goomboolara.
76. These were the tanks that you declined to put caretakers on? We really found that no stock would come there to water, and on that account we did not think that the expense was warranted.
77. *Mr. Woore.*] You thought that, being close to natural water, the tanks would not be required? Yes; that the tanks would not be used, owing to the presence close by of natural water.
78. *Chairman.*] The number of tanks became so numerous, and the expense so large, that you considered it desirable to have legislation on the subject? Yes.
79. And you recommended that such should be done? Yes. I recommended it, but not in writing. It was more in the nature of a conversation with the Minister.
80. Well, we will put it in that way. There was a large expense incurred, and in view of the great importance and necessity of legislation you advised certain changes, which were made in the Act of 1884? Yes, that is a very fair way of stating it.
81. Now, did this Act lessen the difficulties that you were labouring under with regard to the unfortunate disagreements between the two departments? Oh, no; I don't think so in the least. I do not think that as the Act has been administered it would be likely to reduce departmental friction. The Act legalised the construction of public watering-places, and enabled their being placed under caretakers; but as administered,

administered, the Act did not in any way reduce the friction between the two departments—not in the least. 82. Are you in a position to point out how the Act could be remedied in this direction? Well, the fifth clause of the Act provides that the construction should be vested in the Minister who administered it, and there is another clause providing that the works should be leased by the Mines Department.

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83. Then the Act was not carried out in its integrity, although the fifth clause said that the Minister for Mines shall have the construction and maintenance of the tanks? No.

84. And notwithstanding that this provision is in the Act of 1884, the law has not been carried out? No; it has not been carried out.

85. Can you give any reason why the Act was not carried out in its integrity? I can give no reason for it. I have pointed out from time to time to the Minister how urgent and desirable it was that the whole of the construction and maintenance of these tanks and wells should be placed under the control of one department.

86. What is the Minister's opinion on the subject? Well, he is the first Minister who has taken a very strong view of the matter. The other Ministers were very much pressed with other business, and have allowed this matter to stand.

87. *Major Penrose.*] I may point out to you what the Act says: "It shall be lawful" to make a change? According to my reading of the Act, I should say the Minister has the power at any time to take over the construction of the tanks.

88. *Chairman.*] Are you aware why the Minister of your department does not carry out the law in its integrity? Can you tell us why he does not take on himself the powers and duties conferred on him by this Act? That I cannot say; I have no evidence to show. I really do not think there is any reason to show why it has not been done.

89. But there is a Cabinet minute on the subject? Yes; it was written about September or October last.

90. Can you put it in evidence? I will do so at the next meeting.

91. *Mr. Woore.*] What is the substance of this Cabinet minute? That the construction of public watering-places and the maintenance shall in future rest with the Department of Mines.

92. But if there is an Act giving that power already to the Minister for Mines, is this minute needed? No; I don't think there is any necessity for it.

93. *Chairman.*] Can you tell us why that minute has not been acted on? Well, when the minute directing the construction of watering-places should be taken over by the Minister for Mines was received, the period of retrenchment came in. We asked the Works Department to make arrangements to enable us to carry out the construction. Before I could go on I had to ascertain how far the Works Department had gone with letting contracts. I therefore submitted to the Minister, that in accordance with the instructions from the Cabinet, it was necessary we should be informed to what extent the Works Department had made engagements with contractors for works, and also the names of those works. To that letter we have received no reply. I could do nothing further with regard to these works, and could not put down in the estimates for this year the sum of money which I thought would be necessary to carry them out until such information was supplied.

94. And having no money you could not go on with the works? Certainly not; because the money voted hitherto was for the Works Department, and it was impossible for me to make any provision or prepare estimates for the carrying out of the work, until we received the information as to how the other department stood with regard to contracts. We have been waiting for that reply ever since, and have not yet received it. We thought that an amicable arrangement could be made for the transfer of the vote, as was done with regard to the vote for hutting. When the Works Department submitted the tenders they had accepted, or had arranged to accept, they were sent on to us; but the average cost was thought too high. The vote was transferred to us, and we have since carried out these works.

95. *Major Penrose.*] We have got clearly now the position of affairs.

96. *Chairman.*] You tell us that the papers show that Peri Springs tank has been constructed within 500 yards of permanent springs, one of which gave 7,000 gallons per day. If this is proved, it is clear that the tank was constructed near permanent water? Upon this I can give you personal evidence, because I have inspected it several times.

97. Is it a fact that this tank was constructed within 500 yards of permanent water? I will not say that it is within 500 yards, but the spring is within the tenant's lease. As one method of recouping money that had been unnecessarily expended on the tank, I had a survey made to include the springs within the tenant's lease at the Peri Springs tank. A person said that if he were allowed to develop the Peri Springs himself he would make the Paroo run into the Darling. This tank has certainly been sunk within half a mile of permanent springs. One of these springs was opened by Mr. Hogarth, the manager of the Momba Pastoral Company, whose letter on the subject is attached to these papers.

98. *Major Penrose.*] Who asked that the tank should be made at that spot? From recollection I cannot now say.

99. You do not remember at whose instance this tank was sunk? No; it certainly was not sunk through any action taken by the Mines Department, as the papers will show.

100. *Mr. Woore.*] Where are those springs situated—are they not in the lake? They are on the edge of the lake.

101. Are they not right in it, or, at all events, right on the margin of the lake? Yes; on the margin. The lake itself is about 5 miles by 18, and when full lasts about three years with drinkable water. After that the water becomes brackish and finally salt. When completely full, the water in the lake will last five or six years.

102. *Chairman.*] It is filled now? Yes; it has been filled by an overflow.

103. *Mr. Woore.*] Have you ever known the supply of water for stock to fail in the Peri Springs during the driest season that you have known? I have been through the country during the severest drought that the colony has known, and there was then plenty of water there.

104. If the supply of water had failed in the spring, were there other springs that could have been opened, and would have given a further supply? Certainly; Mr. Hogarth's letter says that by an expenditure of £300 he could have supplied sufficient water there to water every hoof that came down the Paroo.

105. Are these springs on the travelling stock reserve, or are they on private property? If they are not available for travelling stock, it would necessitate a tank being put down, and there may be some reason why

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why the Works Department put the tank there in this case? I am going to explain still further. In wet seasons the Paroo, by overflowing the country, forces teamsters and the travelling stock to go close to the shores of the lake. The tank has been put on the wet weather road, and in close proximity to the springs. This diagram shows the edge of the Peri Lake, and the tank on the east side of it; while here is the road in which the stock has to travel in time of flood. The tank, instead of being put on the dry weather road, and where it might have done some good, was put there 3 miles further back upon the wet-weather road, where there is always a supply of water. In this case, the route goes along the clay-pan and sand ridges, along the shores of the lake, and regains the main road further on.

106. Are these springs not known to be the most permanent water in that part of the country back from the river? I should say so unquestionably. I think they are the most permanent water on the Paroo, or even in the whole of this part of New South Wales, with the exception, perhaps, of certain springs on the other side of the Paroo between Yantabulla and the Paroo. They are the same line of springs, but on the Bourke to Hungerford road.

107. *Major Penrose.*] Are there any other faults with regard to the size of these tanks—is there any fault as regards catchment? No fault that I know of as regards catchment. Of course, there are places on this line where tanks would have been useful. My original report is against these particular ones. The Peri Springs tank was bottomed on cement, which is very difficult to take out.

108. *Mr. Woore.*] This tank was constructed after you took charge? Yes, after I was appointed inspector; but I think the selection of the site was made about the time of my appointment. I am not sure that I was not consulted myself about this tank.

109. You do not know at whose instance the site was selected? I know this by looking through the papers—that it was selected by the Works Department at the instance of two Sydney stock firms, who asked that water might be supplied *en route* between Hungerford and Wilcannia. I see by the papers the sites of both tanks were selected by Mr. Cambridge, who was the Works Department local road superintendent at Wilcannia.

110. *Chairman.*] This is a very important matter? Yes; and it will be shown fully in the papers.

111. Then the site of this Peri tank was selected by Mr. Cambridge of the Roads Department? Yes.

112. *Mr. Woore.*] I suppose you have his report on it? The Peri Springs tank papers give the whole history of the case. They show that letters were received calling for a tank at this place.

113. This man was quite a stranger in the district at the time? I believe he was.

114. Will you please read the report made by Mr. Cambridge on the matter? Yes.

Report by Mr. Road Superintendent Henry Cambridge.

Tanks, Paroo Road.

Hay, 30 June, 1879.

Sir,

In accordance with your instructions, I visited the Paroo respecting proposed tanks on that road. I found that the following would be about the stages from Wilcannia to—

1. Copago dam, 27 miles—dam and tank here already made by Department.
2. Momba dam, 50 miles—nothing required here.
3. Peri Sand-hills, 70 miles—tank required here.
4. Nipper's Creek, 83 miles, or Yentabangee Lake, 89 miles—good sites for tank at either.
5. Warramurtee, 106 miles—tank.
6. Goombalara, 131 miles—tank.

I think the £6,000 available will make four tanks, at £1,500 each. They need not be very large—say, 12,000 cubic yards each. I should recommend that tanks be put down at Peri Sand-hills, Nipper's Creek, or Yentabangee Lake, Warramurtee, and Goombalara. At this last place the Paroo channel becomes defined, and water is found in the water-holes. The places recommended are all cane-grass swamps, and have good drainage area. The sites recommended have been suggested by some of the oldest residents in the district, to whom I am indebted for a great deal of information respecting the road and sites suitable for tanks. I should have mentioned that we already have a tank and dam at Copago. At Momba there's a good billabong, which is very seldom dry, and has at present a good supply of water; so that the tanks I suggest will cover the portion of the track at present unwatered. My visit was very hurried, and consequently I had not such a good opportunity of thoroughly examining the country as I could have wished, especially as it rained the whole of the time I was away from Wilcannia; but I think that very little more can be said of these sites I propose than that they are suitable.

I should not think of recommending any tanks with pumping gear for this portion of the district, but similar ones to those that are being put down between Hay and Booligal. I am, &c.,
The Commissioner for Roads.

HENRY CAMBRIDGE.

I should suggest that these tanks be let as soon as possible, to enable contractors to take advantage of grass and water. This will save at least 20 per cent.

With respect to Major Penrose's question just now as to whether there were other objections, it appears to me, in the first place, that it was radically wrong to put a tank there on account of its close proximity to water which is much more permanent than the tank. There is also the fact that no trial shafts were sunk to ascertain the nature of the soil in which they were going to put those tanks down. Then Mr. Cambridge writes:—

PERI TANK.—On the 22nd January I received the enclosed letter from the contractor, advising me that he had got on to a hard sandstone in the drinking tank, and asking for extra remuneration on that account. I wrote him in reply herewith, and on my visit found matters as described by the contractor. I found powder was being used to blast out the stone. I brought a sample with me, which I send by post. I think some slight allowance might be made. Will you kindly inform me if the stone being in the tank, and not having shown in any of the trial shafts, will nullify the contract? I have never had such a case before, and shall be glad to know for future guidance. The main tank and also the silt tank were completed. A good deal of gritty material came out of the main tank. The banks round the tank were well consolidated and were well trimmed. I laid out a series of drains, shown on accompanying plan. They follow the water-courses, which at this tank are fairly plain and are well graded—in fact, the fall throughout is about 1 in 200 to 1 in 100. I laid out about 113 chains of drains, which will be quite sufficient here. The water at this tank will be good, as it all runs off sand hills and hard ground. I find a great deal of salt in all the ground about; but I do not think this will injure the water.

There are a good many clay-pans. These places are hollows that have been coated with clay from water lying in them. These will all be drained into the main drains.

Reduce the size of the tank. Arrange it so that the cattle will stand on the stone as far as possible when drinking. I find that it is objected to that they bog in these tanks.—W. C. B.

One would think Mr. Cambridge's common sense would guide him here. Of course the man must be paid extra; but I cannot conceive how Mr. Cambridge laid out a tank in a place where there was the slightest possibility of meeting rock. I hope such a thing will not occur again. If the printed specification was complied with, it could not. Will the tank be water-tight?—W. C. B.

I do not wish to put this in evidence; but I may remind the members of the Commission that in dealing with this gentleman's report a considerable amount of latitude must be allowed, because he was
subsequently

subsequently convicted of a serious crime. He was convicted of embezzlement, and was confined in gaol for a number of years. I believe the embezzlements took place in connection with supplies to these very contractors. Cambridge stated that tanks would be put down after consultation with a certain number of the oldest residents of the district. I wrote to Mr. Hogarth, the manager of the station on which this tank was placed, and told him the whole story. My letter is as follows:—

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My dear Mr. Hogarth,

I wish to obtain an opinion from an independent observer with regard to the value of the Peri Sand-hill, the Yentabangee and Warramurtie Government tanks, on the Paroo, and whether they are or are not so close to other sources of water as to interfere with their being leased.

Any remarks you may have to make upon them will be sure of careful attention.

As I am preparing a paper on these works, I shall be glad if you will let me hear from you as early as possible.

I am sorry to say that the tracing you lent me, with the other papers connected with the wells of the Colony, were destroyed in the fire at the Garden Palace.

I expect to be on the Paroo in four or five months' time, when I hope to have the pleasure of meeting you.

W. Hogarth, Esq., Manager, Momba Pastoral Company.

HARRY GILLIAT.

The following is Mr. Hogarth's reply:—

My dear Mr. Gilliat,

Momba, 27 January, 1883.

Yours of the 18th to hand, *re* tanks in this district.

Peri Sand-hill tank I don't think you will ever be able to let, simply because it is within a quarter of a mile of the Peri Springs, therefore I think putting the tank down in the present site a great waste of public money. Had the Government and station-owners (M. P. Co.) combined and spent say £300 on the Springs, they would have watered all the stock that ever came down the Paroo, and all station stock that the country would carry.

Yentabangee is almost similarly situated, being within about 3 miles of the Tongo waterhole, which is almost permanent on the one side, and Olpoloko waterhole on the other side, also about 3 miles distant from tank. In my opinion this tank should have been put down at the Olpoloko waterhole, as it would have divided the distance between the Peri Springs and the Tongo waterhole, making about 10 miles from the former and 6 or 6½ from the latter.

Warramurtie tank I don't know anything about, as I have never seen it. I note the tracing, &c., I sent you, got burnt. Should it be of any further use to you, I could get you another, and also showing another well where I was fortunate in getting good stock water at 148 feet. The supply is not great, but I believe by going down 5 or 6 feet there will be an abundant supply. Hoping to see you in the course of a few months,

I am, &c.,

Mr. Gilliat, Inspector of Tanks and Wells.

W. HOGARTH.

115. *Mr. Woore.*] Well, we will go on to the next tank—Yentabangee—where is that situated? Yentabangee is the next tank to the Peri Springs. It is not so serious a case as the Peri Springs case, except that it is close to water, which would give a large supply at a less cost had the natural features been utilized.

116. Have you thought of the possibility of floods washing away dams? I know that some of the dams on the Paroo have been washed away, but far above Yentabangee and Olepoloko; but all danger could be avoided by increasing the earthworks, and allowing flood waters to go off by the natural by-washes. I am speaking now of what could be done at either of those places.

117. What is the next tank? The next tank is No. 118—Warramurtie. This is within half-a-mile of a waterhole that lasted during the whole drought. The point we raise is a twofold one: If the tank is excavated within reasonable distance of permanent water, it is absolutely impossible to lease it. The question is, then, whether it is not more desirable to improve permanent water where it exists, than to make new tanks and wells. The point I am raising is this: that the tank has been put down near a permanent waterhole. So permanent is it that I have never known this place to be dry, even during the last drought; and Mr. David Brown, of Kallara, on whose run this place is situated, can give you testimony to this effect.

118. *Major Penrose.*] Is this another tank recommended by Mr. Cambridge? Yes.

119. Did the Works Department know at this time that the tanks were going to be leased? I cannot say that.

120. Because your objection on that ground to leasing to squatters would fall through? I should say it was extremely likely that they did not know that the tanks were to be leased; but it is a point on which I cannot say whether they were informed or not.

121. *Mr. Woore.*] Were there any reports since the reports received from Mr. Cambridge? Mr. Cambridge's reports came in June, 1879. I was only appointed on the 6th of October of the same year, so that it would have been some months before my appointment. Consequently, these tanks were recommended before the Works officer knew anything about me, or about the proposal to lease the tanks.

122. So that no idea of leasing could have been brought forward? No. The Dry Lake tank has never been transferred to us, because it was under water the whole time.

123. In regard to this Dry Lake tank, you say there was no necessity for it? I was sent up at the time of the water famine at Milparinka. Sir John Robertson was Colonial Secretary at the time, and I had to report upon a scheme of water supply for this road. I made a full report, and it will be placed in evidence here. My recommendation concerning this place was that a tank was unnecessary. A man named Smith had put down two tanks and a well, and had made provision for the watering of travelling stock which I considered sufficient, and I called attention to that fact.

124. You thought a Government tank there unnecessary? Yes; and I drew attention to the fact that as Smith had gone to considerable expense to put down water, we should not enter into competition with him; and that so long as his charges were reasonable I did not think we should interfere. I considered it a legitimate enterprise and expenditure of private capital, and I believed we should not put a tank there. I also made a series of recommendations as to where in my opinion water should be provided, and as the watering of this road is one of the most serious errors that have been committed from our point of view, I should like to be examined upon it. The Works Department in this instance put a tank where we recommended there should not be one.

125. Was there not a public-house there? Yes; a very respectably-kept place, indeed.

126. *Major Penrose.*] If this Mr. Smith placed a tank and well there, and made them profitable, surely the Department were justified, in case they wanted to construct a tank there, in thinking that they could do the same? Quite justified, if they thought the tank necessary; but I thought that under the circumstances it was not necessary, because this man Smith had made arrangements to water stock, and did, as a matter of fact, water stock all through.

127. When you were there did you foresee that the place was likely to be flooded? No; and I did not object to the general site at all. I merely thought that a watering-place at that point was entirely unnecessary in view of the local provision that had been made. I recommended also that the whole of the lake should be reserved as a water reserve in case it might ever be required for that purpose.

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128. *Mr. Woore.*] Was it not already a water reserve? I was informed there were frequent applications made for it. The reserve was in danger of being alienated. Applications were being made for it as a conditional purchase.

129. *Chairman.*] You know something about Meenamurtie? This is another case in which a well was constructed in the vicinity of permanent water. This well had been sunk within half a mile of permanent water on the Bunker Creek.

130. *Mr. Woore.*] When was that well sunk? Within the last year or two. I submitted a scheme for this road between Wilcannia and Wampah waterhole. I thought a work at this place was unnecessary, on account of the Meenamurtie waterhole.

131. Is there a well on the water reserve? I cannot say, but we objected to a well going down there on account of its being close to a permanent waterhole.

132. *Major Penrose.*] When did you object? As soon as we heard of it. Instead of adhering to our scheme they put a tank down at Dry Lake and a well at Meenamurtie, in contravention of our report. The Tarella tank is in close proximity to two dams yielding water. These belong to Mr. Quin. There was one on each side. I pointed out in 1883 that there was no necessity along the Bunker Creek for additional water.

133. *Mr. Woore.*] But you could not fairly take away the water that the lessees had conserved and use it for travelling stock? Mr. Quin told me that it was unnecessary, and that he never prevented the travelling stock from being watered at his place. The next work on that road to which we have to take exception is No. 75. There is a waterhole there—the J. K. waterhole; and I recommended that it should be dammed and fenced, and a small horse-pump put there. If this had been done it would have given us an ample supply to meet the necessities of the road. However, that was not acted upon, and they have sunk a well there, but have not got water.

134. What depth is this well? I have no information about it.

135. It is used? I presume so. This has been going on for two or three years or more. At least that period has elapsed since the work was commenced.

136. *Major Penrose.*] Have you written a report, saying that you wanted water in a certain place, and never afterwards heard anything about it from the Works Department? I will not say that they have not treated us with sufficient courtesy; but they have not complied with what we might say was departmental etiquette; and where they have departed from our recommendations they have not informed us, and gave no indication of desiring to do so.

137. Did you ever suggest that the officers engaged in the construction department should go around with your officers? Not exactly in the selection of sites, but for a short time an officer of the Works Department travelled with me while we were taking delivery from the Works Department.

138. But never in the selection of sites? No.

139. *Mr. Woore.*] Still these recommendations from your Department for the supply of water were simply ignored by the Works Department? Yes; and in those that they carried out they expended a great deal more money on the roads than was necessary.

140. And your recommendations as to sites? They were not adhered to; not closely. As a case in point: they put a tank in Dry Lake, where there was no necessity for one, and at Meenamurtie, where a well was not only unnecessary, but where we reported against it. Again, they put a well at considerable cost at the J. K. waterhole, where we considered all that was necessary was that the existing dam should be slightly added to.

141. And the well is useless in consequence? Well, we know nothing about it, because it has not been transferred, on account of the Works Department having failed to find water.

142. Is there now no other water there? There is a permanent waterhole; but if there was danger that that water might give out I would at once make provision to have that waterhole made effective. Since I have been Chief Inspector I have found it necessary on several occasions to take action of that kind.

143. *Major Penrose.*] Then the only watering-place on that road was taken over by you? Had it been open to me to decide, I should have recommended that we should not take over Meenamurtie, because I do not think there is the least chance of its being leased. However, it is near a public-house, and drovers may use it occasionally.

144. *Mr. Woore.*] Are you aware that a large expenditure on a dam has been made at the Meenamurtie waterhole? Yes; and it was an expensive one. As long as the water is made on the travelling stock reserve I think the public have a right to water their stock there; but I suppose that is a question which will have to be fought out.

145. If the public have no right to water at this place, where the water is conserved by a squatter, then the Works Department would be justified in constructing a tank—would they not? Well, I look for precedents to those countries where water conservation is dealt with as a national question, and where the water is retained as the property of the Crown. The water in every creek, stream, and river and lake is held as the property of the Crown, and the Crown has the right to adjudicate in respect to it without reference to private interests or private rights as opposed to public needs. At the time I was in that country I stayed at Meenamurtie and went very carefully over it with the manager of the place. I consulted him on the subject, and he said that there was ample water for travelling stock if they were confined to a certain point of entrance. My recommendations dealt with that point, as will be seen in my report. The view I took was that there was available local permanent water that had been used for years by everybody that passed that way.

146. But they might have been using it only on sufferance? Then they could have continued to use it on sufferance.

147. But might they have been prosecuted at any time? I think not. Well, that, I will admit, is a most important point; but there was ample water there for everybody that required it.

148. And this well was sunk close to a waterhole, where the public had a legal right to get water? That is my opinion.

149. Are there any other watering-places on this road? Yes; I called attention to Cobham Lake, No. 77. I recommended no watering-places there, to the best of my recollection. I thought that a well back from the lake would have been better. We knew the lake was frequently filled and to a large extent; but having no outlet, it became salt in time. The Works Department constructed a tank so far within the boundaries of the lake that it has been under water ever since January, 1885.

150. *Major Penrose.*] That might be a perfectly good tank in dry weather? Yes; but fancy the state the tank will be in when the water dries up! It will be very nearly silted up. You have yet to examine these tanks with high banks all round them.

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151. But do you not think that this would be a perfectly good tank in dry weather? Yes; I think it would, provided it had not been under water for three years.

152. *Mr. Woore.*] When you recommended the well, was there no other probability of getting good water there? I had made a careful inquiry at Milparinka from a number of persons, and I learned that there was no prospect of doing it.

153. Were any other wells sunk there? Yes; I was informed other wells had been sunk about the country, and good water obtained.

154. Were you aware when you recommended this that there is a large salt lake close by? Yes, I was perfectly aware of it; but the Cobham Lake is just as salt as that when it stands for a few years.

155. *Major Penrose.*] When will you be able to take this place over? I can hardly say; but if you will permit me I will read Mr. Abbott's minute on the subject:—

The Minister for Mines with reference to an Extract from the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

Department of Mines, Sydney.

In an article published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on the 10th instant I find the following:—"Tanks and wells have been repeatedly constructed where they were not wanted, and where no local authority would ever have placed them. For example, on Menamurtee station a Government well has been sunk within a mile or two of permanent waterholes, both on the stock road. A Government tank has been constructed on Tarella station, close to the Coonawatta dam, on the stock route. This dam has been used by travellers and drovers for a long time; and although a station work, it is available for the general public, there being abundance of water. A Government tank has been made on the Paroo Road, close to the Peri springs—a natural reservoir on the stock reserve, sufficient for all the stock that can ever travel that way. Now for a case of another kind. On Mount Manara an expensive well has been sunk, securing abundance of water good for stock. This well has been abandoned, and no one is looking after it. It is said that some years ago one of the slabs with which the well is lined got loose; the bucket stuck, and could not be brought up. No attempt was made to put it right, and there it remains. As the well is sunk in hard rock, there is not the least risk of its giving way, and it is believed that it could be put in working order for a few pounds; but no official has any instructions to deal with it, and though the public suffer by the want, nothing is done. This is certainly a burlesque on centralization and officialdom."

It is alleged that a Government tank has been sunk within 1 mile of two permanent waterholes, on a stock road on Menamurtee station. I shall be glad if Mr. Gilliat will inform me whether this allegation—first, is true; second, if true, why was the tank so constructed?

10 May, 1884.

J. P. ABBOTT.

Mr. H. Gilliat, Inspector of Public Tanks and Wells, in reply to the memo. of the Minister for Mines.

The Peri Springs and Public Tank.

20 May, 1884.

In reply to the minute of the Hon. the Secretary for Mines, T. and W. 542, with reference to the statement in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of the 10th instant, that a public tank has been made close to the Peri Springs, I have to say it is correct.

Early in 1881 I was directed by the Secretary for Mines to take delivery and report upon the tanks on the Paroo, between Wilcannia and Hungerford. My report was submitted in April of that year, and pointed out that it was improbable that tenants would ever be obtained for the Peri, the Nipper's Creek, or the Warramurtie, on account of their neighbourhood to good water supply.

The Peri Springs are within 500 yards of the Peri tank, and are practically inexhaustible.

The Nipper's Creek tank has the Olepoloko waterhole 5 miles on one side, and the Tongo waterhole 3 miles on the other side.

The Warramurtie tank is about half-a-mile distant from the Warramurtie waterhole, one of the finest in the Lower Paroo.

The attention of the Department has on various occasions been directed to these works. I may add that it is only within the past ten months that the Department of Mines has been admitted to have any voice in the selection of sites for works, and that I am not aware of any instance in which it has been consulted with regard to their construction.

HARRY GILLIAT.

156. Were the faults of judgment in the selection of sites a general thing? No; I do not say that. There are numerous other cases referred to in the papers; but those I have given you are the principal ones.

157. I presume they have traversed all these statements? Yes; and traversed this very report on the subject. They referred to Mr. Woore again about it. The following is the reply of Mr. Bennett on the subject, and I think it should be put in evidence along with the other papers. I am now merely stating my view of the case. All these papers afford information, although they traverse our opinions on the subject. The following is the letter:—

Minute by the Commissioner and Engineer for Roads and Bridges.

Roads, Sydney, 8 August 1884.

In compliance with instructions to report on the strictures contained in a paragraph by letter from in the *Herald* of 10th May, on the operations of this Department in the dry country, I think it necessary to deal with the paragraph in its entirety.

It begins by pointing out the desirability of a Local Government Act. As I have long advocated such a course, I append two paragraphs from reports of mine, dated 31st March, 1865, and 9th February, 1871, respectively.

It is generally represented that the Department is opposed to such a measure. The extracts appended show, on the contrary, that I have always advocated it, but from reasons different to those generally put forward, as I cannot admit that the works would be better done, as throughout the Colony where municipalities do exist it will almost without exception be found that the best roads and bridges therein have been made under this Department either prior or subsequent to the formation of the municipality.

As to not giving consideration to the wishes of those on the spot, Mr. Cambridge reports that the sites were recommended by the oldest residents, and Mr. Quin's letter of approval was an evidence that Mr. Wood gave satisfaction.

The first specific accusation in the paragraphs is with reference to the Peri tank. The Minister for Mines asks that the Minister for Works will ascertain who is responsible for this gross waste of public money, and the cost or amount so wasted.

The amount is £1,500. The tanks in this Paroo route were demanded in very strong terms by the local press, by a petition forwarded and urged on by the then Member for the district, Mr. Colin Simpson, and by letter from Mr. W. Brown, of Wilcannia. Mr. Cambridge, Road Superintendent at Hay, was directed to report.

I attach copy of his report with parts underlined; but, not satisfied with Mr. Cambridge's examination, as he was then new to the locality, and liable to be misled by interested persons, I requested that the opinion of the gentleman whom I considered, and had a right to be, the best and most disinterested authority—Mr. Woore, the then Commissioner for Crown Lands—should be obtained, and asked Mr. Cambridge to confer with him. His letter is attached.

The waterholes referred to by Mr. Gilliat either have been made since, or it was considered that they were private property, and not available for public purposes, as Mr. Brown distinctly states there was not a drop of water on the line in dry seasons, and that great losses of travelling stock had been sustained. I am not sufficiently informed on this point, but will endeavour to ascertain.

It is no doubt extremely easy to find fault, now that the country is known and of easy access, water conserved, and communication facilitated.

H. Gilliat.
12 Jan., 1888.

When the inquiry as to works was being made, the course of post was at least six weeks, and there was no railway nearer than Junece.

It should not be forgotten that tenders were invited for the construction of these works in *Gazette* and local papers for some weeks. No one during that time objected, and excessive pressure was put on the Department to get the work executed during the season when it was alone possible.

If there has been a gross waste of public money, which, notwithstanding Mr. Gilliat's assertions, I doubt very much, I alone am responsible, if it is considered I could have done more and laid the Department open to accusations of delay and accountable for loss of stock.

Mr. Wood had nothing whatever to do with these Paroo works; but that the springs were not overlooked is evident from the sketch plans sent by Mr. Cambridge.

I have not had time to get detailed information about the relative positions of other works and respecting adjacent waters; but Mr. Woore's approval applies to all on this line.

I need not further dwell on accusations made after seven years, when the whole circumstances of the case have changed; but, in the interests of the future, I think that Mr. Gilliat's recommendation as to further expenditure on these works should be considered in the light of Mr. Higman's recommendation of 26th November, 1878, as to the probability of this route being superseded when rail opens to Bourke. I will therefore not proceed with the alterations and additions suggested by Mr. Gilliat until further instructed—at most the Copago tank or well there, which I believe would be most advisable; and, as instructed at the Peri, Mr. Hanna reports that the slopes are easy and the ground firm, and stock can be watered with safety and despatch, thus avoiding expense which the erecting of pumping-gear would involve.

As regards Mount Brown road and Mr. Abbott's memo. on Mr. Gilliat's paper, requesting that searching inquiry be made into the matter, I append Mr. Wood's paper.

There were a number of communications from the district urging on the construction of some sort of water supply about the commencement of 1881, and at the urgent and pressing request of those interested, Mr. Wood was despatched to let such works and take such steps as seemed to him necessary for the permanent opening of a route to a large goldfield which was then pronounced to have been proved. Mr. Wood's mission gave great satisfaction at the time, and I might say an unparalleled letter was written by Mr. Quin, M.P., expressing approval of the action taken.

The Under Secretary for Public Works.

W. C. BENNETT.

[The Commission adjourned until the afternoon, when the sitting was resumed.]

158. *Mr. Woore.*] I want to ask you about Ivanhoe tank? Yes; that is one which I ought to have brought up this morning. It is a case that shows very clearly, in my opinion, the evils which a divided control between the two Departments has brought about. I am not sure whether the Ivanhoe tank papers are amongst the papers yet before you or not. Still I can give you a general account of it, reserving the point that the evidence I am giving is merely from recollection; and, as I am on my oath, I want to be particularly careful.

159. *Chairman.*] Can you remember at whose instance this tank was sunk? The general question of the construction of the Ivanhoe tank was at my instance—on my absolute instance that it was necessary the work should be done. It is situated at a central point between the Lachlan and the Darling—that is, on the road from Hay to Booligal, and at the junction of the Paddington and Balranald roads. The abandoned Waiko well had been sunk about half a mile or three quarters from it.

160. By whom? By the Works Department. It was done some years previously—(I cannot give the date; perhaps Mr. Woore could give it);—probably about 1874 or 1875, or perhaps before that time. I found that this Waiko well had been leased to the Kennedy's, of Ticehurst. It was in drift, and there was always a danger of such a bottom caving in. I had a careful examination of this well made, and I obtained information from all the neighbouring stations about it.

161. What was the depth? I think it was about 120 feet.

162. *Major Penrose.*] What do you call drift? I mean very fine sand. It is suspended in the water, it is so light. By the least disturbance it floats, but it will again settle on the bottom. Shafts in drifts frequently form cavities behind the slabbing, and then the whole thing collapses. After carefully considering the question, we found no proof that absolutely pure water had been discovered at any of the wells on the neighbouring stations. The water at all was more or less brackish. I therefore recommended, on account of the probable increase of population at a central point like Ivanhoe, that a tank should be made at a site which would necessitate the resumption of a portion of purchased land. Mr. Williamson, who was the owner, offered to exchange this for other land in the neighbourhood. Being a field officer at the time, and not in charge of the branch, there was a good deal of delay; but at length the Works Department was urged to construct the tank. Instead of carrying out my recommendation with respect to the site, another was selected. This was upon Ticehurst Run, and the excavation was commenced.

163. *Chairman.*] How far was this distant from the township? As to that, I can only speak from hearsay; but I believe it was about a mile or a little more from the township. After having commenced this tank (being at the time in Hay) I received information that the tank was being excavated on a conditional purchase or an improvement purchase. From subsequent information I obtained, it appeared that the officers of the Works Department then removed the site of the tank, and had sunk it directly in the township.

164. *Major Penrose.*] Why did they move it? Because it was on private ground. Of course we understood that they had to pay compensation to the contractor for shifting him from the place where he had commenced. It was simply a piece of carelessness in not obtaining a knowledge of where they had a right to put the tank down.

165. *Chairman.*] This is the way it is put in the memorandum:—"The Waiko or Ivanhoe well fallen in through neglect prior to 1879. Tank required for use of township and townspeople; and after much correspondence, the Works Department consented to construct it. A site was recommended by Mr. Gilliat, but not adopted. Another site chosen for tank upon Waiko private property. Tank site was altered to present position in main street of Ivanhoe. Compensation paid to contractor for moving. Tank sunk in sand-drift. Papers relating to prices paid for fencing and drains, also to character of drains and fencing in this case?" I have no personal knowledge myself that compensation has been paid to the contractor, but I understand that it was paid. Everything else is quite correct.

166. And this tank was first sunk in the sand? Oh, no; bottomed on sand-drift.

167. What is the meaning of the sentence, "sunk in the sand-drift"? I do not know that. It was probably reported on as leaky—that is, having sand-pipes in the sides or bottom, and after filling, the water sank away. The defective selection of site was caused by not putting down trial shafts.

168. There are also questions in regard to fencing, but we do not intend to touch them? That is an entirely distinct matter. Of course the present objection —

169. *Mr. Woore.*] Which is No. 10? No. 10 is the Willandra well. The *précis* states, in regard to that well: "The construction of this well not asked for by the Mines Department. Site selected by Works Department."

Department. When nearly completed, a supply-tank, troughs, and whim erected, it was found that a portion of the headworks were upon Kilfera private property. Chief Inspector recommended one tank between Clare and Ivanhoe. Works Department constructed the tank and the well. He also pointed out that from experience gained in district, wells were not suitable. Construction so defective that although only 102 feet deep, the cost has exceeded £1,050."

H. Gillist.
12 Jan., 1888.

170. How did it happen that the well was being sunk on private property? The papers will show that.

171. You have no personal knowledge? None; except that all the papers came through me. I dealt with the matter fully, and here are my minutes on the subject. They first commenced sinking a shaft on the edge of a reserve. After they got the headworks erected, they found that the service-tank and the troughing were encroaching upon an improvement purchase.

172. *Chairman.*] This states that the sites that were fixed by the Mines Department were not adhered to in the Willandra case? As a matter of fact they were not. In reference to the Clare tank, I wrote a report in 1882 or 1883 as to the want of watering places on this road. I thought one would be sufficient (as it was not a first-class road) between Clare and Ivanhoe. Instead of this the Works Department put down a well and a tank where one would have been quite sufficient. My whole experience in this district showed me that wells were undesirable, because when sunk the water was found to be very salty. This is also shown in the papers. Without consulting the Mines Department, or in any way referring to my report on the matter, they proceeded and put down this tank, No. 58, No. 57 being Willandra well. The water in this is absolutely salt. The well is between 98 and 102ft. deep. I considered it absolutely unnecessary upon such a road. The case is a very long one, and the papers will be given *in extenso*. In regard to the Holy Box well, I find a statement in these papers which shows that evidence as to salty condition was submitted, and that it was quite unfit for the travelling public; but it is not shown that the well is salty just now. Another question comes in, in No. 18—Mount Manara. It appears that this well was sunk on the shoulder of a hill, the tank being some 5 miles away.

173. Are you aware of the circumstances in connection with this well at Mount Manara? This is not one of the very salt wells, but of insufficient supply. It was constructed about the same date as Waiko.

174. Before the Mines Department had anything to do with it, I suppose? Yes; but still these reports show that we reported against it. We showed that the supply was so small that it was practically useless for a road supply. We recommended the construction of a tank, which has since been carried out; and the well has been abandoned.

175. The chief charge here is that the whim and tank were constructed without testing the value of the water? It was generally the case. Mount Manara well is not a good one, and No. 10, Willandra well, shows it more completely. There was no proper test of the quality of the water in this case.

176. Now, in regard to Roto well—this too has been constructed, I believe, in the vicinity of permanent water? In a recent case against the lessee, the Bench declined to find against him, on the ground that the well had been constructed near permanent water. They forgot that he was proceeded against for a breach of contract, and a breach of the Regulations under the Act.

177. Have you dealt with the Walla tank? This is one of those minor cases which are of lesser importance. It was constructed on a road where it was used by a few selectors. I reported in 1883 that it was absolutely unnecessary at the time; still the Works Department constructed it.

178. This is what the *précis* says on the subject:—"Walla Walla tank. Papers indicate that this tank is in close proximity to large swamp, although this site was reported upon adversely by the Chief Inspector, Public Watering Places. Even if required at its present site, the rainfall is sufficiently great to have rendered a very much smaller tank sufficient?" The statement there is substantially correct. I reported against it altogether.

179. What about the Balloola and Normanstone well? This is a case where three wells were recommended, and in each I defined on a tracing the exact points. I was very short-handed at the time, and sent the original papers to the Works Department with the tracings. I have not since been able to recover the tracings. The Works Department sank two wells at points that do not correspond with those fixed in my report. The Normanstone well is one of these I have referred to in the papers, in which I give general deductions. The headworks were put down before testing for the supply and quality of the water. The whim and a skeleton of service tank remained there for years, but the money spent on them was thrown away. The work has since been abandoned. The Willandra well is another case.

180. What about the tanks on the road between Bourke and Wanaaring? It is said that these tanks have been sunk in close proximity to artesian bores, without reference to this Department.

181. *Mr. Woore.*] With regard to these tanks and wells being put near permanent water, are they not still useful for the purpose of watering travelling stock? Well, speaking generally, I should say that they are not useful. The Peri Springs tank is not useful, generally speaking; it is not often used. We have a number of cases to be submitted to you to confirm this. The Gilgai tank was leased to a tenant for £60 per year. The gilgai holes are within half a mile of it, but are not included in the tenant's lease, and the poor fellow who has leased the tank has been absolutely left out in the cold.

182. But those gilgai holes dry up? Always in dry seasons; but this is not a dry season.

183. But you say the tank is not used at all? Not in good seasons. Roto well is another case. I think this well has not collected anything at all since it was leased. It was rented by Mr. Evan Evans, of Roto, who is said to have taken it because he wanted to control the well himself.

184. Take the Peri Springs, which are the most permanent water in that part of the country, and can you say that the supply of water in these springs is sufficient for all demands upon them in all seasons? I cannot give evidence that this is the case; but Mr. Hogarth, the manager of the station on which the springs are situated, will distinctly state that they are; and my own impression, so far as my knowledge goes, is that they are quite sufficient. In all seasons, so far as my experience goes, there has been quite sufficient water there.

185. You were not there in 1865? No, I was not.

186. *Chairman.*] We now want to settle the matter of the selection of sites? I think a great want of judgment has been shown in placing the tanks and selecting the sites at places that are too low. I should prefer intercepting the water before it reaches the lower ground, and get it into the tank before reaching the swamp.

187. *Mr. Woore.*] For what reason? For various reasons. If you can get the tanks on the side of a slope, with the same amount of excavation, you can conserve a great deal more water.

188. *Major Penrose.*] What are the contents of these tanks? From 12,000 to 18,000 cubic yards; and I think there are two or three of about 20,000 cubic yards.

- H. Gilliat. 189. Then the catchment area is very small? Not necessarily. In some cases it is very large. One thing I am of opinion should be specially watched: Instead of putting tanks down where the drains run over black soil they should be put down where the drains collect from red soil or clay pans. The clay pans are always firm, whether covered by water or not. I do not think that sufficient care has been exercised in the selection of these sites. In most cases the tanks have been put down in the flats. I should prefer putting them at a little above, on the fall of the ridge, so as to intercept the water before it gets to the flooded lands. Wherever practicable the tanks should be so situated as to drain from red land.
190. *Chairman.*] The next thing to consider is "the defective design and faulty construction, with but little concern of the formation of ground or selection of catchment area so as to avoid collection of silt; of too steep batters in most cases, and apparently the adoption of a certain form of tank without reference to formation of ground or nature of soil; the defective construction of flumes and erection of inlet pipes, with carelessness in laying out drains and excessive cost in construction." Now, this is what we want you to show, and unless you are an expert, you can only speak as a practical man. I assume that you do not say that Mr. Bennett is not a man competent to undertake the theoretical part of his duties. No hard and fast rule for construction could be made to apply to all localities. I have seen a great many tanks in my time, and I know that some localities will stand a very much steeper batter than others? You have made my answer for me. The character of the soil in various parts must be taken into account; some will allow almost perpendicular sides;—for instance, the Peri tank was in cement; and practically might at a certain depth have been put down with vertical sides.
191. One in I would be quite ample in such a place for embankments? Yes, wherever the embankments could be so placed as to protect the tanks from prevailing winds it would be a great advantage. This was one of the points that I took, and I believe that unnecessary expense has been gone to on the embankments. I think a hard and fast rule in the construction of tanks is certainly objectionable.
192. Have you ever known an instance where the batter has not been sufficient to retain the bank and it has slipped under? I am sorry to say that this is the case in nearly every instance.
193. And has the attention of the Works Department been drawn by you to this subject? I believe so. I have called their attention lately to it, and I think we have often done so before. I can refer you to the papers, which will be placed before you, dealing with those works in the Walgett district—Boro, and Bung Hill tanks—and in each the trouble with the batters is shown. The batters on several other tanks caved in and fell into the tank.
194. Do you know of your own knowledge that a large portion of these tanks have slipped in;—are you aware that a large number of these steep embankments have fallen in on account of the want of batter? Yes.
195. *Major Penrose.*] But does it do much harm? Yes, it reduces the depth of water and increases the evaporation.
196. *Mr. Woore.*] Are any of these tanks made so that the water can be pumped over the embankments? They are now usually made that way.
197. But I think you stated there was an opening in the embankments? Yes, to allow the flood water to get in.
198. Is the opening right down through? Yes. The only advantage of putting down the four-sided tank is protection from wind, and to enable the water to be pumped above surface level. As a matter of fact, it is not a practice that has been generally followed. In any case, it has always been my desire to pump the tanks full during good seasons; and I did it quite recently in one case—in that of the Kulkine tank.
199. *Chairman.*] Are you aware that it is very desirable to put down steep sides in these excavations? Yes, wherever the nature of the soil will admit of it. I am quite well aware of the desirability of confining the water to the smallest possible surface, and having as steep batters as the soil will admit of.
200. It is for that reason, probably, that the Works Department have had these works carried out in that way. Have you ever known tanks sunk where the soil has been so porous as to allow the water to run out? Well, no; I have not. The only tank which I know of, and which I can recollect now, is the Lowesdale tank; but it was handed over to us in good order some time ago. It was sunk in a sandy, porous bottom. No; we have not, as a rule found a great many leaky tanks. The Ford's Bridge tank is also a leaky tank. We have not had Lowesdale tank long enough yet in our hands to show whether it is a leaky tank or not. I was down in the district with the local superintendent, and saw it with him; and I heard that he carried out certain repairs. When I saw this tank it had not a drop of water in it.
201. *Mr. Woore.*] Is it not usual for tanks to leak at first? Certainly not. I have known one tank that did leak at first to be made afterwards to retain water; but when I speak of leaky tanks, I refer to the exceptional leakage; I was not referring to ordinary leakage.
202. *Chairman.*] Sometimes a tank may leak, without any fault of selection of site, after the trial shafts have got to a good bottom? Yes; you may find sand pipes.
203. And no fault must be found, because every precaution has been taken, and trial shafts have got on to retentive soil? Oh, no.
204. *Major Penrose.*] This is one of the hazards of engineering? I would never dream of constructing a tank without at first putting down trial shafts.
205. Has it been the practice of the Works Department to do this? I cannot say.
206. Or did they go and sink a tank without making any examination of the ground? I have not the slightest idea what they did. We are not able to give any evidence of that sort, because we are not in a position to know what they have really done.
207. If there was any case in which the Works Department did adhere to the ordinary batter—the $1\frac{1}{2}$ in 1—and got into hard ground, they might have had a steeper batter than that? In the Peri Springs sand-hills they clearly got into cement after they got a little way down. The batter might have been very much steeper there; but they should not have constructed a tank at all. As a rule, the batters have been made too steep.
208. *Chairman.*] Of course, you are aware that the Government have specifications for all these works, and that these specifications are insisted on, and have to be adhered to strictly? Yes.
209. Now, in the case of a squatter getting a tank made, he would occasionally visit the tank himself, and modify the conditions and specifications in case the tank-sinker had got on to rock. In that case he would not insist on having a batter? Yes.
210. I suppose that that is not the rule with the Government? Well, I do not know what the rule really is. I should not like to state objections unless I am asked about particular cases. My reply is general that

that the fault was not having sufficiently close supervision. In the Peri Springs case, when they reached cement the batters should have been changed.

211. *Major Penrose.*] What do you mean by "cement"? It is not the proper term to use, as it is not cement in the ordinary sense, but a hard indurated clay.

212. *Chairman.*] It is a kind of clay with a mixture of coarse gravel, and is excessively difficult to work. In some instances it has been blown up with powder, but it is really harder than rock. Sometimes the men who get into this kind of stuff could not earn rations upon it. Now, we will go into the matter of wells. Do you know any fault in the construction of wells? We know of serious faults that have occurred in the construction of a number of wells that are alluded to in these papers. The Willandra well presents some of the faults.

213. Then there is the Wooloondool well. You state that "this well has been bored from the bottom of shaft; neither pipe nor floor placed in well; bore liable to, and is constantly, choked from silt; constant baling, even when water is not required, necessitating great wear and tear and useless labour, insisted on by Works Department as necessary to keep bore from silting; bore choked on many occasions, and has caused much needless labour and correspondence; the Works Department endeavouring to show that it is the fault of the Mines' caretaker or lessee"? A floor to well and pipe in bore would not be very expensive, and would prevent choking from silt, and allow the well to be worked much more cheaply than now.

214. *Mr. Woore.*] Is it a usual thing to put a pipe and floor in wells; and if so, why was it neglected in this case? I believe it is the general practice. I should always do so.

215. Do you know why it was not done in this case? No, I do not. They have not given us their reasons. The papers show that our request has been refused by the Works Department, and we are requested to bale the well constantly. This necessitates the labour of man and horse unnecessarily. We propose to relieve the Department of Works of all repairs in future.

216. That is the action to be taken in the future? Yes.

217. A number of wells having been proved to be unfit for drinking purposes, was machinery erected? Yes; we have had such cases as these. I am only venturing as an opinion, from what I have seen of their method of construction, that they leased the contract for the sinking of wells and at the same time the construction of the head works—the whim, service tank, and so forth. The objection I take to this proceeding is that these costly head-works and main shaft should not be erected before a trial shaft had been put down to test the quantity and quality of the water. One of the cases I have referred to was the Willandra well. I question very much, although it has cost an enormous sum of money, whether it will not be necessary to put a new work down there. If the construction was transferred to the Mines Department I should not put a well there at all, because I am quite certain I could never get any but salt water. Then, again, there is the Holy Box well, from which I do not think 5s. has ever been taken for the sale of water.

218. *Major Penrose.*] Is it a usual practice to make trial borings? It ought to be. It is done in the colonies I have heard of; but I do not say a bore is absolutely necessary. If not a bore, a trial shaft should of course be put down, as is done on a goldfield.

219. *Mr. Woore.*] Has the watering of stock been tried at Old Gunbar? Yes; when I inspected it on the date of completion with the officer of the Works Department, I telegraphed down: "Re Old Gunbar well. Have accepted transfer, subject to Minister's approval, but require analysis of water. Report to follow." That analysis was made, and the following is what was said by Mr. Watt, the Government Analyst:—

REPORT respecting sample of water received from the Honorable the Minister for Mines. Sample received 21st March, 1885, Old Gunbar Well, near Carathool.

| | 25th March, 1885. |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Total solids, grains per gallon | 932·00 |
| Soluble solids | 826·20 |
| Insoluble solids | 68·00 |
| Volatile at red heat | 87·80 |
| | 982·00 |
| Chlorine | 313·25 |
| Saline ammonia, parts per 100,000 | 0·029 |
| Organic ammonia | Not determined. |

This water has been found to contain a very large quantity of organic impurity, derived partly from animal and partly from vegetable origin. This alone is quite sufficient to condemn it for domestic use.

There is also an excessive amount of saline matter, consisting chiefly of common salt, carbonate, and sulphate of lime. The water may be used for cattle if no other is to be obtained in the neighbourhood, but it should never be used for domestic purposes without first being boiled or properly filtered. However, no amount of boiling or filtration will remove the extraordinary quantity of soluble matter present. Distillation would be the only method of properly purifying such a water, and as I am not acquainted with the history of the water and its surroundings I am unable to indicate the sources of pollution.

CHAS. WATT,
Government Analyst.

The Honorable the Minister for Mines.

Upon this report reaching me (17/4/85), I wrote as follows:—

THE report of the Government Analyst upon the water of the Old Gunbar well cannot be regarded as satisfactory, but I would point out that the organic impurities, especially those derived from animal origin, in water from a well shaft recently sunk 100 feet deep, lead to a suspicion that the water may not have been taken from the source intended. I would recommend that a gallon jar be packed and forwarded to Mr. Keighran, with a request that he should draw the water himself and forward for analysis.

On the 23rd April, 1885, I also wrote in reference to a newspaper extract, which stated that there was not an animal in Riverina that would drink the water from this well unless actually starving from thirst:

WATER was sent down from this well, and condemned by the Government Analyst; but as there appeared some reason to suspect that the sample procured was not a pure one from the well, a fresh sample has been sent for. In any case, I have no hesitation in saying that in its present state horses will not drink it, and I am doubtful if sheep or cattle will. I have withheld making a recommendation to the Works Department upon the subject until the analysis of the water could accompany the paper.

This

H. Gilliat.
12 Jan., 1888.

H. Gilliat. This was followed by a second analysis by Mr. Watt, who writes:—

12 Jan., 1888. MEMO.—The sample of water was found to contain 1,094·4 grains of solid matter per gallon. The water is quite unfit for use. The remarks made in the report dated 25 March apply to this sample even more strongly than to the previous one. It is possible that the organic matter may arise, at any rate, in part from the well not having been thoroughly cleaned out after the workmen left it. Nevertheless, the saline matter alone condemns the water.

Government Laboratory, 12 May, 1885.

CHAS. WATT,
Government Analyst.

The Under Secretary for Mines.

220. *Major Penrose.*] That was certainly a very extraordinary thing to find? Yes; and, as you will see, a second analysis showed that the water was worse than ever. Mr. Keighran, who obtained the water on the 4th May, 1885, wrote:—

Sir,

Referring to instructions contained in No. 83-613 Tanks, of the 15th ultimo, I do myself the honor of informing you that I visited Old Gunbar well, and drew a jar of water from the well, which I am forwarding you by rail to-morrow per Messrs. Wright, Heaton, & Co.

I have, &c.,

JOHN KEIGHRAN,
Inspector of Stock.

The Chief Inspector of Stock.

A copy of these papers, with a report of the analysis, was forwarded to the Works Department before the fencing of the special lease was proceeded with.

221. *Chairman.*] Then it has been fenced? Yes; but we submitted that they should delay it. I recommended then that the papers might be forwarded to the Engineer-in-Chief for Roads and Bridges. The object of doing this was that we might ascertain whether measures could not be taken to improve the quality by boring.

222. *Mr. Woore.*] Has this water been used by stock? No; no stock ever drank it.

223. Well, where did the stock water while travelling along that road? They went to the next well, or wherever else they could get water.

224. And this has gone on for two years? Yes; and a caretaker kept to protect all these expensive works, which would have been otherwise destroyed.

225. *Chairman.*] You have come to the conclusion that the Department of Works went to unnecessary expense in making the head works until the quality of the water had been proved; and the water has now been proved to be so bad that it is utterly undrinkable? Yes.

226. But the caretaker has been placed there at much expense? Yes; because, if we had left the place unprotected, these works would have been destroyed. The Works Department were always urging us to bale the well in the hopes of improving the quality of the water. We have kept this man baling for some years; but I have maintained that this baling arrangement is an absurd one. My request was for the Works to bore until we got drinkable water, or else abandon the well altogether.

227. *Major Penrose.*] Have you ever known the quality of the water to be improved by baling? Personally, I never have. I have heard it said that water is improved by baling, but I never had an instance of it coming under my own personal knowledge, and I do not think that a very salt-water well would improve. There is another case about which you will probably be asking me questions. I refer to the Holy Box well. A very remarkable change in the water took place; but, in my opinion, this was simply owing to overground drainage.

228. *Chairman.*] You came to the conclusion it was a mistake to erect all these head works until the quantity and quality of water was ascertained by boring? Unquestionably.

229. This well is now stated to be useless;—is that so? Utterly useless; and it will have to be abandoned.

230. We now come to the Holy Box well. You state that the well has cost over £1,000. Also, in the *précis*, “that this well was sunk, and small supply of fresh water tapped, followed by a great flow of salt water, which when twice analysed was declared unfit for use. Evidence as to saltiness was submitted. Well was abandoned, and tank commenced. Works Office stopped work at tank when about 3 feet deep, declaring well-water good. Well again handed to Mines, and constant baling insisted on to improve quality of water. This done without result. Depth of well and price referred to, 94 feet deep, cost over £1,000. Mines has to bear cost of maintenance, and employ caretaker to bale and protect head works. There is no prospect of leasing salt wells. Caretaker has carted drinking water 17 miles. Whim, service tank, and troughs erected before quality of water proved suitable. Iron in troughs destroyed by action of salt. Well almost useless for stock; quite unfit for travelling public?” I would like to mention what I have done at this well. I have seen as much as 40 or 50 pounds of crystals of salt under the troughs and around the service tanks. Of course, it is not a pure salt. There is sulphate of lime and sulphate of magnesia in it. When the troughs were filled with water you would find a quantity of crystallised salt after evaporation in the stock troughs.

231. You also came to the conclusion that this well should not have been sunk without previous testing? Yes. The papers in this case are very voluminous; and many gentlemen in the district wrote to me protesting against this well. The Works Department then commenced a tank, and subsequently abandoned it. This is the present position of affairs.

232. We now come to the Mount Manara well. I suppose that in all these works the same contractor apparently contracts to sink and supply the well with all the head works? That I am not in a position to say.

233. Well, it looks like it; because if the well is sunk, and it proves a failure, this expensive work goes on notwithstanding? I do not know about that at a well which has never been completed. I have seen the contractors sinking and timbering main shafts before discovering any water at all. The case I refer to is that of Normanstone, on the road from Gunnedah to Coonabarabran. I visited the well on two occasions, and found that the contractor was down about 80 feet in basalt without water, and putting up the same time the whim and service-tank. The average capacity of Mount Manara was about 3,000 gallons a day. They tried to increase it by driving, but unsuccessfully.

234. *Mr. Woore.*] The supply was never considered very large, but the quality of the water was good? The Government, by advertising, guaranteed that a certain supply of water would be forthcoming; but the water obtained here was not sufficient for the requirements of this road.

[The Commission adjourned.]

FRIDAY,

FRIDAY, 13 JANUARY, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R.E.

J. C. WOORE, Esq.

Harry Gilliat called in and further examined:—

235. *Chairman.*] You mentioned that in one instance tanks had been sunk on the sites of dry lakes and were now under water;—do you refer to Dry Lake and Cobham Lake? I know that both are under water now. I have not been there since they have been submerged, but I have reports from my officers on the subject, showing that they are still under water. H. Gilliat.
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236. At whose instance were these sites selected? As I stated yesterday, in making my recommendations for water along the road from Wilcannia to Milparinka, there was water supply provided by this man Smith, at the Dry Lake, which was amply sufficient for the time. Mr. Smith is a very respectable man, who had a licensed public-house there. He had sunk one or two tanks and a well for the use of travelling stock. As stated yesterday, he having gone to this expense, I thought it was very undesirable for the Government to interfere and put a tank there.

237. Did not you give your support to the sinking of tanks at Dry Lake and at Cobham? My report, which will be submitted to you, distinctly states that I objected to the construction of a watering-place at the Dry Lake, and that I recommended a well to be sunk about a mile south from Cobham Lake.

238. Then you did not support sites selected for the construction of tanks at Dry Lake and Cobham Lake? Most certainly not.

239. There are also tanks at Seaville's and Copago;—were not these also chosen by the Works Department, and also supported by the Mines Department, or by officers of yours? My report on this subject will also be submitted to you. It will show that I selected a site, to the best of my recollection, about 4 miles northerly from Seaville's. I passed over the road at the time when the cane grass had been cut from the site of the tank. I rode down to look at it, and found that no further work had been done. I wrote an urgent minute, asking that the tank should be stopped at Seaville's, and that a site 4 miles further on, which I had previously recommended, should be taken. With this minute you will have a letter from Mr. Hogarth, showing that the site which I selected was a much better one. The old Copago tank was constructed long before I entered the service. It was a dam and excavation at the entrance to the Copago Lake, and I always anticipated the first heavy flood that came down would sweep it into the Copago Lake and cover the excavation. I then recommended that as the Copago Lake became salt in time that a new watering-place should be made on higher ground. The old tank was made before I entered the service, and the new tank I had had nothing to do with further than recommending its construction at some suitable spot in the neighbourhood.

240. A memorandum has been handed to us, showing the cost of the various tanks sunk under the Works Department, and I see that the prices run from 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. up to 1s. 9d. Now, I believe the assertion has been made that tanks have cost up to 2s. 6d. per cubic yard? Of that I have no knowledge. It is a matter about which I have never spoken to contractors. The statement was made to me, recently, by Mr. Townsend, Civil Engineer, who stated that he was camped upon the Booligal to Wilcannia road at the time Burton Brothers received their contracts in that district at 2s. 6d. per cubic yard, and immediately afterwards sublet to Ford Brothers at 1s. 3d. He volunteered that statement to me, and said that he would give evidence, if desired, before the Commission.

241. What tank was that price given for? I am not quite certain; but you will find it in the papers. Mr. George Williamson, of Ivanhoe, has recently stated the same. Of this I am informed by letter from one of my inspectors, which is as follows:—

Department of Mines, Public Watering Places,

Sir,

Ivanhoe, 12th November, 1887.
I have the honor to report that Mr. G. Williamson, Ivanhoe, informs me that a contract for excavating 12-Mile tank was, by Works Department, let to Burton Brothers, Balranald, at 2s. 6d. per cubic yard, who afterwards sub-let to Ford, tank siukers in this district, at 1s. 3d. per yard, who performed contract and made money at it.

I have, &c.,

JOHN LOW,

Inspector Public Watering Places.

The Chief Inspector, Public Watering Places, Sydney.

242. That is the 12-Mile tank you are referring to? I think so. I have been informed that certain tanks at 12-mile, 35-mile, and 48-mile on the Booligal road; and Box Creek, Til Til, and Youhll Plains tanks, on the road from Balranald to Ivanhoe, were let to Burton Brothers at contract price for 2s. 6d. per yard. I may add that my other officers are prepared to make more positive statements about this matter. Mr. Inspector Low can give you direct information on the subject, and so can Mr. Inspector Boulton.

243. *Mr. Woore.*] But in what manner do you intend to substantiate those statements? Other officers attached to the Mines Department will give you evidence upon them. I am speaking from the reports which have been sent to me, and from what I have heard from Townsend and others, who are prepared to give evidence here.

244. *Chairman.*] You are head of the Public Watering Places Branch of the Mines Department, and therefore we wish to get all the evidence in connection with these charges? The papers contain the statements that have been made by our officers, which can, I have no reason to doubt, be proved by them when they are called on.

245. We want such information as you can give us on the matters stated in the *précis*? I may say that these reports are departmental reports, made to me by my field officers, and of course I have been obliged to place them by departmental rule before the Minister of Mines. I have reports from Mr. Inspector Low, in one or two cases in connection with this very matter—*i.e.*, the cost of excavation. In one case he reports to me that the contracts were let at 2s. 6d. per cubic yard; and Mr. Townsend informs me personally that he was on the ground when the contract was let. The Minister for Mines, six months ago, called upon me for a report. This report embraced the cost of each of the public watering-places in the Colony, the revenue from each of them, and the cost of their maintenance. I could

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could only prepare the latter clauses, and pointed out to him that the replies to the first questions must be obtained from the Works Department. We have asked the Works Department repeatedly for this information, but have not yet received it.

246. Now, why do you consider that the cost of tanks is excessive;—is it because they exceed the prices given by private individuals? Certainly; because, to a large extent, they exceed the prices given by the squatters. From my experience, I am confident that I could obtain the performance of the work at much less cost.

247. *Mr. Woore.*] And could you have done it at less cost at the time when the tanks were sunk? The present is an exceptionally good season; but even at any time I think it could be done more cheaply. The prices given for work during the last two good seasons have been very high in many cases.

248. *Chairman.*] Were the rates excessive when these contracts were let? [No answer.]

249. *Mr. Woore.*] Perhaps they were let in the middle of the drought? I am confident that the work could have been done at much lower cost at any time.

250. Do you know of any tanks that have been sunk by private individuals at very much reduced rates? Yes; I know many tanks that have been sunk at less rates.

251. At that time? To the best of my belief, at that time.

252. Can you remember any instance of tanks in the same locality constructed at the same time at a less price? I can hardly commit myself to such a statement as that, because I do not think I could give personal evidence with regard to it. I am judging by the rates I have ascertained in travelling through the Colony, as to the average prices—and I may say that I was travelling during the greater part of the drought; and at all times the amounts given by private individuals for sinking tanks were much less than the amounts given by the Government.

253. It is most important that we should see these contracts, so that we may know what the contractors bound themselves to do.

254. *Chairman.*] The forms of tender are included in the papers submitted by the Works Department.

255. *Mr. Woore.*] Are you aware whether these contracts are let by public tender or otherwise? I always understood they were let by tender.

256. Then it seems rather odd that the Government should pay so much more than private individuals;—how do you account for that? You will find amongst the papers submitted to you (with the field officers reports to me) that if it is known that material is to be purchased by the Government, it will cost from 25 to 30 per cent. more than if it was purchased by private individuals.

257. For what reason? Well, I believe for this reason—that Government contracts have been let at much higher rates than they should have been.

258. Are you aware that in most instances the Government tanks are sunk very much deeper than tanks put down by private persons? Usually; but I believe the largest of ours do not exceed 18 feet deep.

259. Are you aware that the prices increase as the depth increases? Certainly.

260. And these tanks are deeper than private ones? We have some tanks that are deeper than private tanks; our larger tanks (those of 18,000 cubic yards) are certainly deeper than the average. They range up to 18 feet, while private tanks range in depth from 12 to 15 feet.

261. Then that alone should account for the increased prices which the Government have had to pay? I do not think so. I do not think it would account for the large price to any great extent, and it certainly would not account for some of the prices that have been paid.

262. You are also aware that the cost of excavation is increased by tanks having steep sides, or steep batters, rather than sloping batters? Well, that raises the question of construction, which I would point out can only —

263. I am only now speaking as to the cost;—would the steep batter not cost more than a sloping one? Unquestionably it would, unless it were constructed on improved principles. The practice is to leave a roadway along the batters, so that the drays could be taken out by this roadway. Unless this is done it adds very much to the expense; but in a tank, as I consider it should be constructed, I would leave in all cases a permanent roadway going out. Then the batter and the bank can be dressed down and the soil removed by drays.

264. *Chairman.*] Would you like to make any comments on the remarks that I made with regard to contracts let by the Works Department? I think the points you have mentioned very fairly indicate the errors that have been made in letting contracts. There is a good deal of unnecessary work and finish about the tanks. I think that the same amount of water might be conserved at a very much less cost. There is unnecessary work in the dressing and general construction, and I believe that suitable works for storage of water at public watering-places can be constructed at very much reduced prices. I believe that more prompt payment to the contractor and closer supervision, so that the contractor will have no claim for any mistake or error, will enable these works to be constructed probably as much as 25 per cent. less than at the present time.

265. Have you gone into the question with regard to the relative merits and cost of construction of tanks with steep batters and very considerable sloping batters—the cost of construction as against the loss of water caused by having a larger surface exposed to evaporation? Exactly, and my firm conviction is that the steep batter, when obtainable, in certain characters of soil is preferable to the sloping batter. The steep batter is preferable for any watering-places where stock are not allowed to enter, because it is always necessary that these watering-places should be used to a greater or less extent for domestic purposes. They are intended not only for travelling stock, but for the use of carriers, teamsters, and travellers. My general opinion is that the tanks can be constructed to the same depth and in the same soil, and at much more moderate prices than the Government have paid.

266. You have based your information on this matter, on the contracts that have been taken from the Government, and, as alleged, sub-let to other contractors at very much reduced rates? Yes, in many instances; and from the fact that in other works I have by careful measurement convinced myself of the high prices given.

267. *Major Penrose.*] Then you complain of the form of specification? I am not acquainted with the form of specification adopted by the Works Department; but I know what their works are when completed; and I know there is very much about those completed works that is entirely unnecessary. I take the ground that to accept a standard form of tank to be put down in all places, is wrong. I think a tank should be constructed in accordance with the nature of the ground in which it is sunk.

268. And are all specifications for tanks of the same character and nature? Yes, as a rule, as you will be able to see for yourself.

269. *Chairman.*] The specifications seem very full and very stringent? I understand they are.

270. *Major Penrose.*] There is another question—that of fencing—in respect of which there is a large amount of correspondence.

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271. *Chairman.*] We will come to that directly.

272. *Major Penrose.*] About the excavation of wells—what was the cost per foot? In regard to wells, I may say we are not aware what the cost is per foot. We know in some cases the total sum; but I am prepared to put down wells from 150 to 180 feet deep, substantially the same as those put down by the Works Department, for from £450 to £750. You will see that the cost of some wells reaches to £1,100 and £1,200.

273. *Chairman.*] Yes; for yesterday we read of a case of a well 90 feet deep which cost over £1,000? We have numbers of cases of the same kind. One well, I think, has cost £1,400, and is under 200 feet in depth. I may add, in explanation, that, with respect to obtaining tenders, when the vote for building cottages was handed over to us I found great difficulty indeed in obtaining tenders at anything like suitable prices. Many of the contractors refused to reduce the prices that they had been asking under the Works Department, and I gave instructions to the local officers to entertain none of those high prices at all, with the result that after a few months I was able to let the contracts at reduced rates.

274. *Major Penrose.*] What is your estimate based on? It includes everything.

275. What would you have done in a case of urgency? Well, I question whether any such case has arisen. In the midst of severe droughts very few stock travel, and it would be undesirable to commence the construction of a tank at such a time. There are very few instances, if any, in which an emergency of that kind has occurred.

276. You cannot conceive of a pressure being put on? Oh, yes, I can; but not in such cases as these. It would be in some case of a remote mining township; but for ordinary watering-places and the ordinary requirements of travelling stock, I think it would be unnecessary. Mining townships often spring up very rapidly. A large population collects, and there is always a danger of suffering from want of water. Then, if the Government desire to supply the water to that township, it becomes an entirely different question, and one which has very little resemblance to the supply of water at public watering-places.

277. *Chairman.*] The same remark which applies to the excessive cost of wells applies also to the excessive cost of tanks. Yes; I think the tanks, too, can be constructed at very much reduced rates.

278. We have here remarks about faulty construction of wells and timbering of shafts before testing the supply and quality of the water? Yes; we went into that yesterday. I believe a rule should be absolutely and universally carried out that bores or trial shafts should always be made in order to test the supply and quality of the water.

279. You mean that a trial shaft or bore should be put down before constructing the head works? Yes; but even if they put down the shaft before timbering and centring, it would reduce the expense very much. I have here reports from my field-officers, showing the faulty construction of drains, and also the high cost per chain of fencing. Contracts have been taken from the Government at 4s. 6d., and immediately sublet at 3s. 6d. This is a fair price for the class of drains that are used. They are 6 feet by 9 inches in depth. I put these reports in, as I cannot verify them from personal knowledge.

280. Now, with regard to fencing? The same thing applies here. These papers, handed in by my field-officers, show the facts. The officers themselves will be before you for examination, if necessary.

281. *Major Penrose.*] But you can give no personal evidence on this matter? No, except to indicate that certain works, which are noted in the paper, have been constructed. For the last three years my departmental duties have kept me at headquarters, and I have been unable to make a personal inspection.

282. *Chairman.*] Now, we have heard of the cost of hutting. I have some documents here in connection with this matter, and the estimate of the Mines Department for a two-roomed cottage was £100. This was in 1883? I never heard of that before. I expect that that was when Mr. Bruce was attending to the departmental business. We have refused tenders of £60, and since then we have got them done for about £40. We refused many of the first tenders received.

283. Did the contractors find all material? Yes, all material. These papers show our case exactly. At Cobar we have completed sixteen cottages at £50 each. The Works Department approved tenders for the same buildings at £82 6s. At Corowa we have completed three cottages at £40 7s. The price approved by the Works Department was £68. At Silverton we have completed five cottages at £50. These are all of iron. Another was completed for £47 10s.; while the tender received by the Works Department was £69 10s. Others were completed for £44; and at Forbes we built some for £30 11s. 2d.

284. *Major Penrose.*] Did you really get this done for £30? Yes; we merely insisted on the Government getting the work done at the same rates as were paid by private persons.

285. *Chairman.*] Information has been furnished to us alleging that where the Mines Department purported to have a cottage at Deniliquin built for £44 3s. 6d., the materials alone have cost £50? I have no hesitation in saying that that information is untrue.

286. Of course these cottages consisted only of two rooms? Yes.

287. *Major Penrose.*] Can you produce the accounts? Yes; and the specifications and the vouchers, in all cases. I shall be very glad if you direct that they shall be called for.

288. I see in one case at Forbes that a hut has been built for £26 1s. 6d.? The explanation is this: This man guaranteed to put up a hut, the cost of which was £21 1s. 6d. This was irrespective of iron for roofing, which cost £4 10s., bringing the total cost up to the amount stated.

289. Do you line the roofing of the cottages? No; we let the caretakers do that for themselves. We merely put up an ordinary bush hut. You rarely see lining, except in the head stations. The occupants themselves often put bark or boughs over the roof.

290. *Chairman.*] It has been said somewhere that some of these huts have been very badly placed. Is it a fact that some of the huts are now submerged by water? Certainly not; not to my knowledge. The strictest instructions have been given to the inspectors, and in nearly every case the site has been selected by the inspector. We have never had a report that a hut was submerged, nor even that a hut had water near it.

291. We have had it in one of these papers received here from the Works Department that one of the huts which were built by you is now up to the eaves in water? I would like to see the case, because I will then be in a position to get a report from the caretaker. If it has occurred, it has been most carefully kept back from me.

292. *Major Penrose.*] You say that the hutting work has been passed over from the Works Department

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to the Mines? The papers, which will be submitted to you, show the whole history of the case. Briefly, it was this: Tenders received by the Works Department were sent to the Mines after they had been approved of. We disapproved of the cost, and pointed out that the work could be done for one-half the money. The Ministers for Mines and Works agreed that if this were the case the works should be transferred to us. We have been constructing huts ever since for something like one-half the price approved by the Works Department. Our average now for thirty-three to thirty-six huts is about £46 10s. The huts I refer to are two-roomed huts.

293. Why were the plans for huts sent to you for approval, if it had not been done in the case of the tanks? I cannot account for it. It was certainly a most unusual thing. My answer to the question is, that I am not aware why they were sent; but the papers in the case will show all the action.

294. *Mr. Woore.*] Was it not in consequence of your making a statement that the huts could be put up for less money than the Works Department were paying? No; that statement was only made after we received the papers.

295. *Major Penrose.*] It seems a very curious thing that this should be done in one case and not in another. Arguing from the case of the huts, the same economy might be practised in all other cases? Yes, in all other cases. I may add that upon the question of fencing we have distinctly guaranteed to the Minister for Mines that fencing throughout the Colony can be done for an average of £48 to £50 per mile.

296. *Chairman.*] I notice in the *précis*, in Dry Lake it is stated that a hut built at a slight elevation over the tank was submerged to the eaves? Well, that was Smith's house, built by a private individual. We have nothing whatever to do with that.

297. From the statement made in the papers it would appear that several of these huts had been erected by the Mines Department? Well, that is not so. This particular hut of Smith's was put up by a private person.

298. When you took over the tanks and wells and placed your caretakers in them, were they then solely under the charge of the Mines Department? I consider that they should be, except when we were asking for repairs to be made, which were inevitable under the vicious system of double control. The caretakers in that case are told to lend every assistance to the man making repairs.

299. When you or your officers think that repairs should be made, and that the caretaker is not capable of making them, you send a letter to the Works Department requesting their assistance? I at once place the matter before the Minister for Mines and give him my opinion, recommending that the Works Department may be requested to carry these repairs out. If the matter is approved of, a letter is sent to the Works Department, asking that the repairs should be made; but I hold that until the Minister for Mines approves of the proposed repairs the Works Department have no right whatever to interfere.

300. As a matter of fact, you have already stated that all repairs involving a sum of more than £10 would be referred to the Works Department? As a matter of fact, we have referred almost everything to them.

301. Why do you do that;—why do you refer all these trifling matters? Well, we have to refer everything to them which the caretaker is unable to do. In the case of a break-down or a smash, it is usually so referred; but in some cases of urgency we have had repairs effected ourselves, without reference to the Works Department.

302. *Major Penrose.*] Have the Works Department officers continued to inspect the works? [No answer.]

303. *Chairman.*] I am coming to that. Do you apply to the Works Department to carry out any necessary repairs that might be required;—what made you apply to them if you thought that you had the works under your own charge? We have tried to adhere to the original arrangement that was proposed. I certainly think it was an error to have done so, and I frequently moved to have the whole thing taken over by the Mines Department under the Public Watering Places Act.

304. For instance, suppose the simple matter of a pump getting out of gear, owing to the want of new leathers, would you apply to the Works Department to put that right? Certainly not.

305. Are you aware that it has been done? No, not to the best of my belief. At the Boonoon tank something radically wrong with the pump was reported. Mr. Boulton made a very full inquiry, a report of which appears in the papers. We never intentionally referred a small matter of repair that could be attended to by the caretaker, to the Works Department.

306. Is it a fact that many men are placed in charge of tanks and wells who are utterly incompetent to take charge of them? Not many men—I should say certainly not. As a rule our caretakers are fairly good average men. I might point out that these appointments do not rest entirely with the head of the Department, but have been made at times by Ministers over the heads of their officers. Immediately a caretaker is found to be, or is reported to be, unfit or incompetent to discharge his duties, he is subjected to a strict inquiry, and if the report proves true he is dismissed.

307. Are you aware that on one occasion the pump at One-tree tank was stated to be out of repair by the caretaker, owing to disconnection of the piston-rod between the piston and the plunger, and that application was made to the Works Department to put it right? I am not quite certain about this case. I should certainly like to make inquiries about it. I may state that this man Kelly was not appointed by me at all, but was put on by the late Minister for Mines, Mr. Fletcher.

308. Is it the duty of the officers of the Roads Department to send reports if they see anything wrong with regard to tanks, to headquarters? I should think that we might be notified about it if they see anything wrong.

309. Then you think it is right, for instance, for a road superintendent, or a roads officer, in the event of anything being wrong, to interfere? No, not to interfere. I think a road superintendent should communicate with the local Mines officers, and avoid all unnecessary correspondence. A simple memorandum to the local Mines officer would often cure the whole thing.

310. Do you know who Mr. Stilwell is? Yes; he is a road superintendent at Hay, I think.

311. He made a complaint in July last that breaches in the bank at Pulletop tank had never been repaired; that the silt tank had been neglected; and that the troughing was not clean. This was reported to the Commissioner for Roads, and hence we can understand how the friction arose? This case is not the case of a caretaker. The whole of it is very fully dealt with in these papers. Pulletop was leased to a very unsuitable man, who commenced by giving a great deal of trouble to the Mines officers by violating the conditions of his lease. At the very time those letters were being written, arrangements were being carried out for the cancelling of this man's lease, and removing him from his position. This has since

been

been done, and immediately a man was sent up to put the tank in good order. Mr. Boulton inspected H. Gilliat and made a careful report of what occurred.

312. We have here a letter dated 1st July, 1887, referring to the Hulong tank. It is addressed to the Commissioner for Roads, and is as follows:—

Sir,

On the 24th ultimo, I found 17 feet of water in this tank, and the appurtenances in fair order; but the caretaker and his family were residing in the pump weathershed, and keeping up a fire under the boiler for domestic purposes. The defects in the construction of the weathershed—R. Duncan, contractor—had not been rectified, the framing being imperfect, and some of the iron used, 26 instead of 24 gauge. The contractor has been notified by me of this.

I have, &c.,

A. W. STILWELL.

Upon this Mr. Wood wrote:—

I think it might be advisable to refer this to the Mines. I could not have credited such practices being allowed, were the report not signed by one of our own officers.—A. P. W., 4/7/87.

I have never heard of it, and I do not think the papers were ever referred to the Mines Department. There are plenty more papers in connection with Hulong and Mr. Stilwell.

313. *Major Penrose*.] Does this friction of which you speak (and which purports to exist between the various officers)—is it confined to the head office in Sydney, or does it extend to the officers in the country districts? I think the greater part of the friction arises in the district of which Mr. Stilwell has charge.

314. *Mr. Woore*.] What district is that? The district of Hay. In the other districts the officers get on pretty well together. The trouble arises chiefly in this one district.

315. *Chairman*.] Are you aware that Mr. Hanna, the road superintendent, has frequently complained to Mr. Crommelin, overseer of Public Watering Places, that the Wilson reservoir had been neglected by the caretaker, and subsequently found that his remarks with regard to the want of repairs had not been attended to? I have no special recollection of this particular case.

316. Well, now, do you think Mr. Hanna had any right in his public capacity to write, drawing attention to this neglect? No doubt he had a right to draw attention to it; but I think that the management of these public watering places, having been transferred to the Mines Department, should be left with that Department. I think Mr. Hanna, as a zealous officer, might fairly have called attention to any neglect that came under his observation. That is the way I think I should act myself.

317. But was Mr. Hanna justified first in making these complaints, and then, finding that they were not attended to, in communicating in an official manner with the head of his Department in Sydney? [No answer.]

318. I think the answer is one which we ought to have. Was Mr. Hanna justified in making these complaints; and then, finding that the matter was not being attended to, was he right in communicating, in his public capacity, with the head of his Department in Sydney? I think that Mr. Hanna had no right as an officer of the Works Department in interfering at all; but I think that he would have been quite justified if he noticed any neglect to call attention to it—to call the attention of the local officer to it, who was in charge of the works at that place. Then if he found that the matter was not being attended to, as an extremely zealous officer, I do not know that he would not be justified in reporting it to Sydney, in order that attention might be called to it there. If an officer of mine neglected his duty, I cannot find it out unless it is reported to me in some such way; and I think that the officer of another Department would be justified in reporting it to me; but to hinge a complaint against a whole Department on such a ground is not fair.

319. In the abstract of reports on tanks and wells in the Hay district, I notice the following having reference to the Til Til tank:—

Report of 21st January, 1885: That Mine's caretaker was without a horse to work the McComas lift, and without oil for bearings; that the public worked the pump with their own horses, when requiring water, and it had thus sustained considerable damage. Report of 3rd April, 1885: Found caretaker absent on leave—only a lad in charge; sheep and cattle had been admitted inside tank enclosure to water at silt tank, and the embankment was thus being damaged; fence rails were missing, apparently used for fuel by travellers. Report of 1st May, 1886: As to pump (Holman, horse-power) being reported by caretaker as out of order and quite ineffective; that there was no defect, except that bucket leathers required renewal, and this should have been done by caretaker instead of requiring mechanic to be sent for from Hay—100 miles; also that much negligence was evinced in keeping drains and fence in repair, and that sheep have been allowed inside tank fence, damaging the embankment. McLeod, Mines' overseer, reported, in reply to this, that caretaker had been told by travelling mechanic never to open the pump for repairs, and that the sheep had been removed from tank enclosure as soon as observed. Report of 6th August, 1886: That statement of caretaker, as to repairs of pump, was incorrect; had not been directed not to touch it by mechanic; did not know how to overhaul the pump; and that there was no other defect than as to leathers being worn; that Mr. Nicholson reports that sheep had remained inside fence by caretaker's admission for some days until they were too weak to walk out.

—? You will find that we will have rebutting evidence on all these points as soon as the papers are placed before you.

320. Then we have the following statements in reference to the Lignum Hut well and the Mossgiel tank:—

Report of 22nd October, 1886: Connecting-rod of pump broken; pump does not receive due attention from caretaker; am having a ladder put in well, so that the caretaker should have no excuse as to want of access to pump. Report of 8th November, 1886: Breakage of plunger-rod. Report of 5th December, 1886: Breakage of windmill connections; it is evident that there is much want of attention on part of caretaker, &c.

Then in regard to Mossgiel we have—

Report of 30th July, 1887: Embankment batters scoured by rainflow; negligence in keeping in repair; horse has been admitted inside fence and on the embankment, destroying the vegetation, which it is so desirable to protect; that caretaker had taken up the dwarf fence from troughing, leaving the post-holes open; had evidently been so for a long time; were full of rain water, impairing stability of trough sleepers; the fence was being used to construct a rail laid on the posts as bearers along the middle of the trough.

Now I would like to have a little more information from you in reference to this friction between the two Departments. How do you propose to remedy or remove this friction? Of course it has been proved in various letters and papers that considerable friction does exist between the Works and the Mines Departments;—how do you propose to remedy this very undesirable friction? I have submitted recommendations to the Minister for Mines on this subject. My recommendation was that the whole construction and maintenance and administration of the Public Watering Places Act should be transferred to one Department. I would have one Department responsible for the whole work. Under present circumstances the responsibility is divided, and both Departments decline to assume it.

H. Gilliat. 321. *Major Penrose.*] But duality of control still has a good effect where the officers of one Department happen to be inefficient? I do not want to be understood in that way. I was asked whether Mr. Hanna had any right in his public capacity to make a report concerning the neglect of an officer of another Department. I said that a very zealous officer might have been justified in calling attention to the neglect of an officer of another Department.

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322. You said that in this far-away district one officer is a check upon another? I might certainly have conveyed that impression. But Mr. Hanna might merely have said that there was an inefficient officer there. But this is picking out a trivial case. I have no doubt but that the caretaker and inspectors will deny a good deal that is contained in these papers. That is why I can say nothing about them just now. We simply have to deal with these matters from the reports which come in from the officers who are in charge.

323. *Chairman.*] Now, these papers come from Mr. Stilwell, who is, I understand, the road superintendent at Hay. Then, in these various reports which have been read from Mr. Stilwell, do you think he exceeded his duty in bringing those matters before his chief? I am not aware what his instructions are. He is, of course, a subordinate officer, acting under instructions from the Engineer-in-Chief and Commissioner for Roads and Bridges. I think it very undesirable that Mr. Stilwell should make such reports; but if it is admitted that there is dual control I do not see how he can avoid making reports to his own Department. Whether it is desirable that it should be so, is another matter. That is for the Commission themselves to say.

324. *Major Penrose.*] What are the expensive forms of machinery that you object to? I think the use of steam-pumps necessitates the employment of skilled workmen, and increases the cost of maintenance. I am quite certain that, in view of the allegations of the Works Department as to the character of the caretakers employed, we get the best men available, so that the simplest forms of machinery may be used.

325. Are there many steam-pumps? I should say that to the best of my recollection there are between thirty and forty. I strongly objected to them for public watering places. They may be very desirable and useful at or near a township, and occasionally some of our watering places are in the immediate neighbourhood of townships. At other places I would recommend the very simplest sort of appliances.

326. *Chairman.*] Your objection to the steam-pump is that it necessitates the employment of more expensive labour as caretakers? Yes; and it raises the average cost of the work.

327. *Mr. Woore.*] What would you substitute for them—windmills? No; I would not.

[The Commission adjourned until the afternoon, when the sitting was resumed.]

William Sawers called in and examined:—

W. Sawers. 328. *Chairman.*] Where do you reside, Mr. Sawers? I am living down in the country at present; but for many years I have been a resident of the Western Division of this Colony. I have lived for some time west of the Barwon or Darling River.

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329. You formerly represented the electorate of Bourke in the Legislative Assembly? Yes.

330. Are you aware that a Commission has been appointed to take into consideration the difficulties that exist in working this particular branch of the Public Works Department having reference to tanks and wells, and also to consider the difficulties and differences that have arisen between the two Departments—the Works and Mines;—you know that some difficulties have arisen? I was aware of the difficulties you refer to, and have noticed through the press that a Royal Commission had been appointed on the subject.

331. Will you kindly state what has been your experience in connection with the district you have represented in procuring the initiation of tanks and wells. Be good enough to state how this matter worked, and the difficulties you experienced in getting your applications for necessary works replied to and dealt with? I may mention that, as representative of the Bourke district, I had occasion to apply for the construction of several tanks during the time that I held that position. The usual procedure was to apply by letter to the Minister for Mines, stating the necessity for these works, and putting forward the reasons why such tanks should be excavated. That letter would be simply acknowledged, and I would have to follow the matter up by several interviews with the Minister, and also with the officer-in-charge (Mr. Gilliat), with whom I would have various conversations on the subject. Mr. Gilliat would submit a report to the Minister for Mines; and, as I have said, I would also make representations myself to the Minister during the course of an interview. In every case I believe there has been attached to my applications a satisfactory report from Mr. Gilliat in favour of my contention that the work should be done. In every case the Minister approved of the tanks being excavated and constructed; and, in my innocence, I thought that that had ended the matter. But I afterwards found that the papers had to be sent on to the Department of Works. Anxious to serve my constituents, I followed the matter up to the Works Department, and was in the habit of reviewing the matter with the Minister on various occasions. I also interviewed the Commissioner and the Engineer-in-Chief for Roads and Bridges (Mr. Bennett), who has charge of this Department. I represented to him that the construction of the works for which I had applied had been sanctioned and authorized by the Minister for Mines, and should be carried out. Mr. Bennett, in effect, said that he must wait and act upon the report of his own officers, and that he had nothing whatever to do with the Mines Department. His contention was that he had to rely upon his own officers, to whom he referred the matter. I believe Mr. Bennett received favourable reports from his own officers in each case, and when I pressed him to carry out the works he said that he had no money for the purpose. I desire to point out to this Commission the absurdity of a Member of Parliament having to carry his application to one Department, and having received the sanction of the Minister of that Department to the work, having afterwards to go and get the approval carried through another Department. And I would like, further, to point out the absurdity of one Minister sanctioning work—not only one Minister, but two Ministers in this case—and afterwards in the Cabinet so cutting down his Estimates that the work could not possibly be performed, because there was no money to pay for it. In my opinion, the construction and management of the tanks of the Colony should be placed altogether in the hands of one Department; but as to the Department to which it should be given, I express no opinion.

332. Have you found, from your own personal experience, that it is more satisfactory, and that less friction would take place than otherwise, if this dual control by Departments were abolished? I cannot say from actual

actual personal knowledge. From the fact that my residence has not been in the immediate neighbourhood of tanks, I have it only from hearsay.

W. Sawers.

333. *Major Penrose.*] Might I ask if the witness considers that the tanks that have been so constructed were constructed in an economical manner; the witness may have seen some of the tanks? I have represented a large portion of the Colony; but my own station is on a watered portion, and I have not much knowledge on the subject.

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334. You have nothing to say as regards construction or cost of works? Well, I am not in a position to give a reliable opinion on the matter. I have sunk many tanks myself, but of course private tanks are different from the Government tanks. There is no similarity whatever between the tanks constructed by private individuals and those constructed by the Government. The Government tanks that I have seen have a larger earth excavation, and embankments are invariably made round the tank, which I have never done at all.

335. *Mr. Woore.*] Were these Government tanks which you have seen more expensively constructed than private ones? Yes; but the excavation is quite the same. The only difference is, that the earth is built around the tank with the object of holding the greater quantity of water.

336. *Chairman.*] Necessarily, then, the Government tanks are the more expensive? Yes.

337. *Mr. Woore.*] Are not the Government tanks generally deeper than other tanks, and have they not steeper sides? I cannot say. I can, of course, give you particulars regarding the batters that I have made myself, and what their expense has been. My firm conviction is that, had I the batters steeper I would have had to pay very much more money. I have excavated in tanks, I suppose, about 200,000 cubic yards. In various tanks (with one exception) the slope of the batter was 3 in 1. I have in every case excavated with bullocks, with ploughs and scoops, and have dressed the sides afterwards. The average price which I have paid for such work as this is 1s. per cubic yard, and I am convinced that I could not have got this work done at the price had I the batter 2 in 1.

338. What was the depth of these tanks that you refer to? The average depth was, I think, from 15, but nothing over 16½ feet. I may state that the greater part of the trouble and difficulty I have had was in the last 2 or 3 feet of the excavation. The contractors would sink down to 15 feet at a trifle less than they would be willing to receive for taking out 18 feet. I think I may amend my evidence by saying that the average depth of these tanks was about 16 feet. The contractors have very great objections to go beyond 14 feet. In one instance or two I believe they have gone down to 18 feet, or, rather, I wished them to go down to that depth; but in spite of all persuasion I was unable to get them to go down that far. The bullocks cannot possibly draw the stuff up at that depth. The time I refer to was in a fair season.

339. Supposing you made your tanks 18 feet deep, would you not have had to pay a considerable sum more than you paid for the tanks sunk to 15 feet? Yes; I would probably have had to pay 1s. 3d. per cubic yard instead of 1s.

340. *Chairman.*] And if you had steeper banks what would be the result? I could not get the work done with ploughs and scoops. In going down the extra 2 feet I would have had to pay a-third or a-half more for the excavation below 15 feet.

341. *Mr. Woore.*] Then you say that tanks cannot be sunk to that depth with scoops? I cannot say that it could not be done, but I have had always the greatest difficulty in getting the contractors to go beyond 15 feet.

342. *Chairman.*] Can you give us the reason why the Government have had to pay very much more for their tanks than private individuals;—Is it for this reason or any other that has come to your knowledge? The reason I have mentioned is probably one of them.

343. Are you aware of any other reasons that would necessitate the Government paying more for their tanks than other persons? I am not positively aware of other reasons; but I believe it is because the Government are needlessly particular. The Government require that their tanks should be mathematically correct.

344. *Mr. Woore.*] Where a professional man is employed to pass the tanks, would he not be bound to see that they were properly made, and to insist upon their being carried out in the strict spirit of the contract? In the case of a squatter, if a man has worked well, and has not made money out of the work, the squatter is apt to take the whole of the circumstances into account. Of course a tank not well finished would not do an inspector so much credit as one nicely finished. Another most important consideration in the matter of expense is the distance that the contractor has to deposit the earth from the edge of the tank.

345. *Chairman.*] Is there any other reason that ever came to your knowledge. Does not a squatter pay cash down on completion of the tank, after measuring it up, while the Government go through a good deal of red-tapeism before the money can be paid. The accounts must first go to the Department, then to the Auditor-General, and then to the Treasury before the money can be paid? I have heard very serious complaints on that point.

346. *Mr. Woore.*] Now what is the usual distance that squatters in your experience have had the earth which has been taken out of the tank removed from the edge of the tank? I cannot say from memory.

347. In the case of Government tanks it is, I believe, about 30 feet. In your own case how far do you remove the earth? Speaking from memory, I should say we put the earth away from the bank from 12 to 13 feet. I may point out that there has been serious trouble with the contractors in order to get them to put the earth far away, even in our locality. If we always insisted on moving the earth twice the distance I have named I would not like to say what we would have had to pay for the tank.

348. There is another matter you do not always insist upon having—this earth put up in a bank with uniform sides? No.

349. That would entail a greater expense, would it not? Certainly; considerably more expense. I have no knowledge of what the expense would be to do that. We simply ask that the earth should be shovelled out beyond a certain point.

350. *Chairman.*] All the squatters care for is that the earth taken out does not go back again? Yes.

351. *Mr. Woore.*] This bank that you say is erected around the Government tanks is made with the object of conserving more water by pumping over the bank from outside when there is surplus water? That is the object, I believe.

352. From your observation of the Government tanks, do you believe that they are made in an unnecessarily expensive way for public works. Further than that there is a good deal of neatness and finish;—

do

- W, Sawers. do you think that the tanks are made in an extravagant way? I do; I think that they are made in some cases extravagantly.
- 13 Jan., 1888. 353. Will you explain? Where there is an excellent catchment—a hard ridge like the roof of a house—I think in any season almost sufficient water would come into an ordinary tank without having these additional expensive embankments built all round. Of course, I refer now to a case where there is good catchment area.
354. Of course, you will admit this—the greater the depth of water, and the more water the tank contains, the more permanent and valuable it is likely to become to the public? Yes; I quite admit that.
355. Then, suppose you conserve 25 feet of water instead of 15 feet, is it not all the better? I admit that it is; but I think that it would be better still, where there is a good catchment area, to make two tanks instead of one.
356. Then you think the quantity of water conserved is unnecessarily large? I do, where the catchment is good.
357. But the catchment is no good without rain? What I mean is, that an inch of rain falling into a tank from a good catchment will put plenty of water into it; but in some parts of the country two inches of rain will not make so much water as one inch will elsewhere—that is, where the soil is porous.
358. But you will admit that as a rule the general design of these tanks, and utilising the earth that comes out of them, is an economical way of constructing these public watering places? I think it is business-like and substantial, but expensive. I think a hard and fast rule as to the size of the tanks must be absurd, so much depends upon local circumstances and the quantity of water required from these tanks.
359. Is it not more economical to utilise the earth taken out of the tank, by building it around the tank, to conserve more water than by not using it in any way at all? In answer to that I would say that it may be so in some cases, but circumstances must determine in each.
360. But, generally speaking, is it not a more economical system? Only where the catchment area is not good. My opinion is founded upon a proof that additionally heavy expenditure is caused by these embankments.
361. Are you sure that it is not by the steepness of the batter? No; not by steepness of batter. Steep batters are unnecessary where the catchment is good, and the money expended upon one tank would probably have excavated two;—but on the simple merits of whether, *per se*, a tank with embankments round it is not better than one differently situated, there can be no question.
362. *Major Penrose.*] Will not a tank of this kind hold just double the amount of water by putting up embankments, especially where there is a caretaker in charge? Certainly, there can be no question about that; and especially where the expenditure is of no moment. The same caretaker might be looking after two tanks, provided they were not more than 8 miles apart.
363. *Mr. Woore.*] You admit, then, that these tanks with banks around them are better than squatters' tanks;—do you admit that? Certainly, in some cases; just as I admit that a new fence is better than an old one.
364. Then, if that is so, why do not the squatters make their tanks in this way;—is it because the engineering skill is not available? No; because it would not pay us to do so.
365. *Major Penrose.*] But your tanks have not to fulfil the same conditions as Government tanks? Though the conditions are entirely different, we would find it much better to make two tanks for the same money.
366. *Mr. Woore.*] Now, if you wanted to augment your water supply at a certain place, and had six months' supply at that place in a waterhole, and the banks were not suitable to a very much increased depth of water, would you think it better to sink a tank near that place, if you had good catching ground, than to make banks around this waterhole, which would be liable to be washed away by a flood;—would you bank the whole all round, or would you prefer, if you had a good place for a tank, to make a tank apart altogether from the creek? It would entirely depend upon the features of the case.
367. The reason I ask this question is because we have evidence here as to the making of tanks near natural waterholes? As a practical squatter I should be guided entirely by the circumstances.
368. But I have given you the circumstances? If the waterhole was not a permanent one, I should think it would be a waste of money to bank it; and my experience brings me to the belief that in the far western flat country of New South Wales tanks are much more satisfactory than anything in the way of dams.
369. They are not so liable to wash away? That opinion which I have given you only refers to the western country.
370. Do you know the Paroo? No; but I can speak of those creeks—the Narran River, the Bokkara, the Birie, and the Culgoa Creeks—on which dams have been a very doubtful success indeed. Unless you have a first-class place for a dam it is no good.
371. *Chairman.*] In Riverina they are the commonest things you can have? I regard this hitherto dry back country as the most permanently-watered country we have now. I know the country on the Bokkara, and the dams in that creek. They are expensive dams; but I now regard our back-country (previously dry owing to the want of tanks) as the most permanently-watered country we have got. But the circumstances of each case must guide a practical man.
372. *Mr. Woore.*] Have you had any experience of springs? No, not much.
373. Is it within your knowledge that to try and do anything with springs—that is, to try and open them up—sometimes results in a decreased water-supply instead of an increased supply? Yes, I have heard of that being the case out in the Irrara district—in the country west of the Warrego. The opening up of springs is not always followed by an increased supply of water; indeed it is sometimes the reverse. In speaking of the prices we have given for tanks, I may say that the country where we have sunk, and where we gave 1s. per cubic yard, was very good sinking. There was no difficulty in ploughing off a layer of soil with a plough and bullocks, and then scooping off the soil.
374. Is there no provision in contracts for hard ground or cement? No; we always sink a shaft.
375. *Major Penrose.*] Has there been water near where the contractor was working? Yes, there was water not very far away.
376. *Mr. Woore.*] But if, owing to unforeseen circumstances, a contractor had taken a contract to make a tank, and the price had proved to be too low, is it usual with squatters to make any concessions? It would be usual with nine squatters out of ten—that is, if they wanted the work finished.

377. Are you aware that it is not usual for the Government to make any concession of that kind? I was going to point out that I have seen Government tanks which it was impossible to complete beyond a depth of 7 or 8 feet. The contractors worked at it, and left it. Around Byrock I should not be surprised if a man had to pay from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. for the excavation of such soil. W. Sawers.
13 Jan., 1888.

378. And have you known contractors on some of these Government works not to make even wages? Yes; they could not make wages on that kind of stuff. I found it necessary in many cases to make tanks oblong instead of square. I have one 180 yards long and 40 wide, or something of that kind. We took the stuff out the way that was shortest. An oblong tank is much easier to construct than a square one.

James William Boulton called in and examined:—

379. *Chairman.*] What is your position in the Public Service? I am an inspector of public watering places. J. W.
Boulton.
13 Jan., 1888.

380. Are you aware of the objects of this Commission? Yes, I am.

381. You are aware that there has been—to use the mildest term—considerable friction between the Departments of Mines and Works with regard to the construction and maintenance of tanks and wells? Yes; there has been a considerable amount of—I would not like to call it friction.

382. I use this term as being the least disagreeable? Well, I think there has been what it is safe to call friction between the two Departments.

383. To what cause do you attribute this feeling? To a certain extent, the feeling has been engendered by the tone of the minutes adopted by the Works Department. The tone of their correspondence with us is not calculated to engender good feeling between the officers of the two Departments. Besides this, I think it is attributable to the system of dual control—to having two sets of officers over the same work. The feeling is only the natural consequence of this.

384. *Mr. Woore.*] I suppose it was this dual control that caused this correspondence? Just so. [*Witness then read a document entitled, "Abstract of Reports on Tanks and Wells in Hay District," signed A. W. Stilwell, 20/8/87, a copy of which will be found in Appendix.*]

385. *Witness.*] As to the complaints as to the caretakers, we employ the best men we can obtain; and when a complaint was made against the caretakers, each case was investigated, and the man dismissed if he was found guilty.

[The Commission adjourned.]

THURSDAY, 19 JANUARY, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R.E., | J. C. WOORE, Esq.

Francis Abigail called in and examined:—

386. *Chairman.*] You are a member of the Legislative Assembly, and Secretary for Mines? Yes. F. Abigail.
19 Jan., 1888.

387. In the inquiry we are now making, we are going through the charges *seriatim*, so far as we can, in order that in our summary of evidence we shall have all these matters in regular order, which will be more conducive to the end that we have in view. It will save trouble if we go through the same system with you, asking you at the end your opinion with regard to the friction that has arisen between the two Departments, its probable cause, and any suggestions which you may wish to make with a view to a remedy? Perhaps you will permit me to start by describing the circumstances which led me to take up this matter. That will explain very fully the position I have taken up, because I look upon this inquiry and the appointment of this Commission as the result of my action. I will state what I have to say as briefly as possible. When I took charge of the Department of Mines I immediately became aware of the fact that great loss of time and public inconvenience arose from the division between two Departments of the work in connection with the construction and maintenance of tanks and wells. What I had learned in this way led me to inquire from the officers of my Department the causes of this loss of time, and I then ascertained that some portion of the work was done by the Mines Department, but that the constructive part of it was under the charge of the officers of the Department of Public Works. About that time also a large number of complaints came in to me, as Minister for Mines, about the faulty manner in which the works were carried out. Complaints were made as to the bad selection of sites, and in some cases I was told that tanks were constructed where there was no necessity for them. I was so impressed by all these circumstances that I made a representation to the Cabinet by minute on the 21st of March last. The following is the minute:—

Minute by the Secretary for Mines.

Department of Mines, 21st March, 1887.
The administration of the Public Watering Places Act, 48 Vic. No. 16, which gives statutory authority for the construction, control, and maintenance of works for storing or providing water, adjacent to any public road, is charged to the Department of Mines.

The administrative arrangements of 1880, which are still in force, also allot to that Department the charge of works for the storage of water in the pastoral districts. In addition to the control, maintenance, and leasing, the surveys of watering places and the construction of huts have more recently been undertaken, and it is now found necessary to assume the charge of fencing, and provision has been asked for that purpose on this year's Estimates.

The construction and repairs still remain with the Department of Public Works; but this division of authority is accompanied by drawbacks, such as much unnecessary correspondence, great loss of time, and a resulting want of economy, which, it is thought, will be obviated if the service is placed under one Department.

The Secretary for Public Works will perhaps agree with me that, under the circumstances, it might be desirable, in the public interest, that the whole of the business connected with these works, including construction and repairs, be handed over to this Department.

FRANCIS ABIGAIL.

That minute went in due course to the Cabinet, and they virtually decided to carry out the suggestions I had made. About that time, also, I was informed by Mr. Quin, who was at one time a Member of the Legislative

F. Abigail.
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Legislative Assembly, of circumstances which strengthened me in the conviction that, in connection with the construction of public watering places, there was a great deal of abuse and defects which required alteration. At one watering place a simple piece of fencing required renewing, which at the most would have cost £3. The officer reported that the fence should be removed as suggested. This had to go to the Works Office, and ultimately the cost of reporting upon the removal of the fence was some £50. I considered, as a business man, that any arrangement of that kind, which resulted as it did, was simply a waste of public money, and on that account I urged the matter on the Cabinet so that the thing should be stopped. At that time there was upon the Estimates a sum of £30,000 for the construction of new works. The Roads Department immediately called for a lot of tenders for works for tanks and wells in various parts of the Colony, which absorbed the whole of this money. This was done, as I believe, for the purpose of preventing the Mines Department from having the spending of the money.

388. *Mr. Woore.*] In reference to this expenditure on the repairing of the fence, might I ask how it was incurred—was it incurred on the repairs which were necessary? I believe some officers of the Works Department had to make very long journeys, travelling some hundreds of miles to report on the matter. That is the way, I understand, the expenditure was incurred. The officer had to make two or three journeys backwards and forwards to see that the work was done.

389. *Chairman.*] Is it not a fact that the Public Works Department have now road superintendents in all parts of the Colony? I believe that is so.

390. And do you know the reason why the services of these men were not obtained for this thing? I have the impression that most of these men have not the necessary knowledge; and my authority for that statement is the opinions of men possessing large station experiences—such men as Mr. Quin, Mr. Russell Barton, Mr. Chesney, and a number of others. These gentlemen have made to me very strong reports in reference to the selection of sites and the manner generally in which the work was carried out.

391. *Major Penrose.*] Were those tenders that you have mentioned called for by the Works Department before the proclamation of the Cabinet minute? I think they were called for about that time; if not, immediately afterwards. It was immediately prior to the issuing of the minute.

392. Because they would hardly have done it after the minute was issued? [No answer].

393. *Chairman.*] I made one or two notes as to what you have mentioned to the Commission. Has not the selection of sites been made by some of your own officers? These papers will prove the contrary; and in proof of what I say I will just turn to one—a most extraordinary one—that giving the history of the Ivanhoe tank. I can speak with authority on this matter, because during my western trip some months ago I inspected the tank and saw the absurdity of it. The site was selected in direct opposition to the wishes of the Department of Mines. It is the 16th case in these papers.

394. Yes; it is alluded to in the *précis* as follows:—

Ivanhoe Tank.—The Waiko (or Ivanhoe) well fallen in through neglect prior to 1879. Tank required for use of township and travelling stock, and, after much correspondence, the Works consented to construct it. A site was recommended by Mr. Gilliat, but not adopted—another site chosen for tank upon Waiko private property. Tank site was altered to present position in main street of Ivanhoe. Compensation paid to contractor for moving. Tank sunk in bad holding ground. Papers relating to prices paid for fencing and drains, also to character of drains and fencing in this case.

—? Well, now, the site of this Ivanhoe tank is in the centre of the town. As a matter of fact, I have now under consideration a proposal to open a new stock route at the back of the township, because stock will not travel through it. The site selected for the tank is such that the townspeople cannot get near it. I saw it was silted up and leaky; and altogether in the district it is looked upon as a huge joke that a tank should be constructed in that locality.

395. Can you give us any reasons for the alteration in the selection of the site from that originally chosen? I cannot tell; except that the Works officers saw a difficulty, and our officers found it necessary to go in the opposite direction.

396. Might it not have been the case that upon putting down a trial shaft the site chosen was found to be ineligible? I think a close scrutiny of the papers will show that that was not the case. It was clearly pointed out to the Works Department before they undertook the work. It was merely a difference of opinion between the officers of two Departments, and the result shows that the officers of the Mines Department were sounder in their judgments than the officers of the Works Department.

397. But this tank was supposed to supply the town as well as travelling stock? Yes.

398. And it is found to be useful for one purpose, but not for the other? Well, the site recommended by Mr. Gilliat would have been very much more suitable for both purposes. It would have been very much cheaper and very much better.

399. But this tank is necessary to supply water to the town? Well, it has never been used for that purpose.

400. I suppose that in the present season it is not required? During my trip no deputation waited on me, as was done in other places, to ask that the tank water should be allowed to be used by the townspeople.

401. Then, as a matter of fact, the selection of sites which was supposed to have been made by the Mines Department, has not always been carried out, and you think to the detriment of the public? There can be no doubt of that. Now I will read, if you please, a portion of report received from Mr. Inspector Low upon this very tank. It is dated 12th December, 1887:—

The drains here have evidently been constructed with no respect as to what a drain is for. One drain, for a good half mile, running water from tank. Another is brought along road to Mossgiel, and cut up very badly by both stock and teams. The water from this drain overflows silt tank, which is very small, and partly upon main road, and runs into Elliott's tank on opposite side of road, which water Elliott afterwards sells to the public. Another long drain runs through township allotments which have been sold, and is now being blocked up.

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402. *Mr. Woore.*] Was that work done by the Works Department or by the Mines? Well, I cannot tell you now. I have also in another report, referring to the fencing of the same tank, a statement which shows that a tender was let for this fencing at from £116 to £120 per mile. It was sublet to Elliott, and afterwards to a man named Anderson, whose price for doing the work was £32 per mile; showing that the first contractor, without doing anything at all, had cleared a profit of £33 11s. per mile. When these facts came under my notice I came to the conclusion that it was about time I did something to put a stop to the practice.

403. *Chairman.*] Have any of these sites selected for tanks besides that of Ivanhoe come under your notice? Yes; Mr. Quin pointed out to me that the dam at Tarella tank had been constructed on his run, and quite close to good permanent water, in direct opposition to his recommendations and to the recommendations

recommendations of the Department. The tank had been under the charge of a keeper for some years without bringing in the slightest revenue to the State.

404. I have it here, "Tarella and Meenamurtie"? Yes; these are the places.

405. *Mr. Woore.*] Was this place close to which the tank had been erected permanent natural water, or was it made by the lessee? Partly natural, and partly made by Mr. Quin; but in my opinion the Government had a perfect right to use the place without any charge.

406. *Chairman.*] In what way? By Mr. Quin's offer in writing to that effect.

407. *Mr. Woore.*] Are you aware of a minute, written by Mr. Farnell when he was Minister for Lands (I cannot tell you the year), stating that the foreshores of all waters artificially conserved by lessees of runs would be protected, and that a number of the lessees took advantage of this inducement, and made some very expensive works for the conservation of water? I am not aware of that. All I know is that if Mr. Farnell did so, he had not the authority of law in his favour.

408. But he did actually issue this minute, and I, myself, acted upon it? Well, I am not aware of it; but even if what you say occurred, it could have no reference to the Tarella tank, because Mr. Quin freely offered the use of it to the Government.

409. I merely point this out to you that you may see that it would not have been fair for the Government to take these waters, artificially conserved by lessees, away from them? The papers show no reason for the non-acceptance of Mr. Quin's offer; but they do show that the work was proceeded with in spite of his protest against this wrongful expenditure of money.

410. *Chairman.*] The Tarella tank and Meenamurtie well minutes are referred to in these papers? I would like to say in reference to this matter that Mr. Quin lately came to me and spoke to me about it again. I at once called for a return of the cost of maintaining these two wells, and also the revenue that had been derived from them since they had been constructed. Mr. Quin, on this occasion, reiterated all that he had previously said to me, and I showed him a minute from Mr. Bennett, the Commissioner for Roads, who stated that the work had been carried out at Mr. Quin's request. On this Mr. Quin immediately wrote me a letter, denying the statement in the most indignant terms, and protesting against being placed in such a false position. He concluded by again denying in the most emphatic way the statement that had been made by Mr. Bennett.

411. Are there any other cases besides this that you are personally aware of? There was the Meenamurtie well, which is also in close proximity to waterholes. This well is only a very short distance away, and although a man has been put in charge of it, it has never been used, and has not brought in any revenue. In fact, at the present moment I am thinking of having the well battened down, and the man removed from it.

412. Do you know how many years this well has been sunk? It has been sunk now for a good many years, but I cannot state exactly. It was not during a wet season, but I believe it was during Mr. Quin's term in Parliament, six or seven years ago. Had the well been opened in a good position it would undoubtedly have been used.

413. Have there been any other cases brought before you in which faulty judgment has been displayed? No; these are the most prominent ones that have been brought under my notice.

414. We have evidence rather fully from Mr. Gilliat on this matter. He had remarks to make upon them all; but it is only in regard to special ones that we require your evidence? Certainly.

415. *Mr. Woore.*] Did you see in all cases the sites of those tanks that were chosen by the Works Department? No; not in all cases, but I saw some of them. In some cases that were referred to the Works the Mines recommendations were approved of.

416. In some cases I understand you to say the recommendations of the Mines Department with regard to sites were approved of and adopted by the Works Department? Yes; and I have not heard of any of these being afterwards complained of as unsuitable, because in selecting the sites they had the experience of the stock inspectors, as well as their own, in connection with these public watering-places.

417. Do you know anything about the tanks on the Nyngan to Cobar Road? No; I do not know by whom the sites of these tanks were selected.

418. *Chairman.*] Now, in regard to defective design and construction, and excessive cost? In connection with these matters, of course, I can only state to you that which I have learned myself. I cannot, of course, give you anything like professional testimony or information gained by practical knowledge. I can only say this, that during my Western trip, which occupied close on a month, travelling in the country for close on 600 miles, it was subject of complaint by nearly everyone that I met with that had any knowledge on the subject, that these designs were faulty.

419. In what way? It was said by nearly everyone that the sides of the tank were too steep—that the batter was too steep. I believe that in most cases it was 1 in 1.

420. *Mr. Woore.*] How does this affect the tanks? Well, I will merely say what I was informed. The batter is made so steep that when the cattle are driven on to the ground they go straight into the water and down go the sides of your tanks.

421. Is there no troughing at the tanks? Not always; in many cases there is not.

422. But is there not a place made specially for the cattle to water at? There is still a part of the tank they can get at, and the result is what I have stated to you. Steep sides are very nice to look at if you can keep them in that position and keep out the cattle.

423. Is there not a fence round the banks to protect them? There are cases where this has been done, and others where it has not been done. Where you have a mob of cattle you cannot confine them except by a strong fence, and this does not exist in many places.

424. *Chairman.*] Is it a reasonable supposition that when the tanks were constructed with steep sides it was not intended to water cattle at all in the tanks, but to pump the water into troughs? I think that is very probable indeed.

425. Consequently, stock getting into tanks shows no defect of design in constructing the tanks? Well, I take it that there is still a want of knowledge; and in support of what I say in this respect, I point to the fact that no squatter constructs on his run tanks with the same steep sides.

426. Mr. Sawers has already given us valuable information to the effect that pumping the water into troughs would be too expensive for squatters? Well, I think there is a lot of expensive machinery on many of these tanks for which there is no necessity. I think this is a question to be dealt with by skilled inspectors, who would have more practical knowledge of this particular subject than I could possibly have.

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427. *Mr. Woore.*] With regard to troughing, has faultiness of design come to your knowledge? Our Department is now altering all the troughing. The alteration was pointed out to the Works Department times without number, and it was shown that the first construction was so unsuitable that cattle could not drink at the troughs; and we are now proceeding to alter the thing by taking down the top rail.

428. But you are speaking now generally? Yes; I am referring to a general rule, and the Department of Works has since admitted that the alterations which we have carried out are wise and good ones.

429. *Chairman.*] Are you aware that one of the reasons for the construction of these steep batters was for the purpose of lessening evaporation; because you must allow that the greater the surface of water exposed to the sun the greater will be the evaporation, and that in a long batter there is a greater amount of water exposed to the surface than in a steep batter. It is for that reason apparently these steep batters were designed by the Department of Works. In two places, the fact of these steep batters being adopted was for this reason: Tanks necessarily cost considerably more than they would otherwise have done if there had been a very long slope, because, in constructing a steep batter, it is impossible to get bullocks to draw ploughs up the sides. The next reason for the apparent excessive cost is that so far as we have learned yet the Government tanks are much deeper on an average than the squatters tanks. This adds, as you must know, very materially to the cost of the works? I do not think the reasons stated by you can be sound. If they were sound the squatters would adopt the Government system of tank-making, because they are more intimately concerned than the Government can be in the storage and saving of water.

430. But if the squatter could make a tank for 1s. per cubic yard of excavation, would he not rather prefer to make two tanks for that price than to make one which would cost him 2s. per cubic yard? My opinion is that the squatter would construct his tanks in the deepest and most effective manner, having all the knowledge which men gain by living out in that part of the country.

431. Then there would be some apparent antagonism between cheapness and effectiveness. The Government would, perhaps, adopt this plan, not thinking it necessary to save a few pounds; but the squatter, wishing to get as much water as he could, and as cheaply as he could—would it not be reasonable to suppose that he would prefer to have two tanks at 1s. per cubic yard than one tank at 2s.? Well, all I can say is, that gentlemen with professional knowledge outside the Department of Public Works, say no. Mr. Chesney is an engineer as well as a squatter, and you will find in the papers valuable information from him on the subject. It is generally admitted that his conclusions are correct, and his judgment sound on the question.

432. But I am now speaking presumably from the squatters' point of view. The Government make tanks, say, every 10 miles, but the squatter wants his tanks nearer than that. In consequence of having to make more tanks he cannot afford to pay so much as the Government, who have one over every 10 miles? But the Government do not have one every 10 miles.

433. But that only bears out the argument which I am adducing. A squatter having to make more tanks than the Government cannot afford to go to the expense that the Government (whose tanks are further apart) can afford to undergo? That may be so.

434. *Mr. Woore.*] Are not the demands made on the Government tanks much larger than the demands made on the tanks of the squatters? Well, the revenue obtainable from them does not show that. There are a number of these places which return no revenue whatever. I called for a return recently on the subject, and was simply astounded at the fact that men are being paid £3 per week to take care of places which are not used at all, and which bring in no revenue whatever.

435. Does that occur in a great many instances? In several—in numbers of instances. I think I shall be able to supply the Commission with a copy of that return. I shall have it prepared and sent down.

436. No doubt some of these tanks seem unnecessary, especially in good seasons; but a caretaker has to be appointed there, so that in time of severe drought the tank which is now considered unnecessary, and which is not used at all by the public, may prove of good service. It is not in good seasons at all, of course, that tanks are required. People can do without them altogether then? Certainly, and I have no doubt that some of these tanks were constructed in some of the seasons when they were wanted by the public; but what I have said shows that they were either put in the wrong place

437. *Chairman.*] Can you enumerate one or two cases where this occurred, so that the other side may have an opportunity of replying to them? I would rather that this information was given directly by one of the officers, who can speak with authority, and give the whole of the surrounding circumstances, which I cannot do.

438. With regard to excessive cost, there is one other matter I should like to ask you about

439. *Witness.*] In speaking about the last question, I would like to refer to the Jumping Sand-hill well case, the report of which showed that the tank need not have been made, as there was good water a mile away. I have a list of cases here with respect to Low, but he will be here himself. This report is written by an officer, and comes with authority; but at the same time it would be much better to have it from the officer himself.

440. Now, one other matter. As a rule, when a squatter has a tank excavated he of course gives every facility to the contractors to carry out the work, and advances money to pay wages; so that when the tank is finished he goes there, measures it, and pays the money at once. I believe this is not the case with regard to the Government. In the first place only 50 per cent. of the whole amount to be paid for construction is given, and inspectors are sent up to see that the work is being carried out properly, and sometimes several months' delay occurs before the contractor is paid. Necessarily, therefore, the contractor has to ask a higher price from the Government, because it means that no one can take a Government contract unless he has a considerable sum of ready money available to pay off his workmen. Do you not think that this delay that occurs between the inspection and the survey, and the final passing of the work and final payment, therefore necessitates larger prices being asked? I think there can be no doubt that the delay which takes place in paying the contractors by the Works Department has led to excessive prices being charged, and I gave instructions seven or eight months ago that the contractors were to be promptly paid. I believe that it is for this reason the Mines Department have been able to obtain the erection of huts and other works at very much reduced prices.

441. *Major Penrose.*] Might not the excessive cost be due in some instances to the works having to be constructed in very bad seasons—in seasons when there is a great drought, scarcity of provisions, scarcity of grass and water, and under great pressure from outside—a great want for the works having been pointed out, and a tank having to be constructed whether the Department wished it or not? That would no doubt be

be the case in some of these works ; but it could not affect the cost per cubic yard. For instance, if a squatter were to carry out an excavation of a similar character in the same district at 9d. to 1s. per cubic yard, there would be no reason whatever for the Government allowing their works to cost them 1s. 9d.

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442. But suppose the conditions were not the same? Well, there would still be a great disparity in the cost.

443. But the Government tank might be much further from water than the squatter's tank? Yes.

444. And the facilities given by the squatters? I think in most cases the Government give better and greater facilities to the contractors than the squatters.

445. *Chairman.*] There is yet one other matter? I would like to say now in reference to the cost of excavation that seven months ago I made a request to the Department of Public Works through the Minister that I should be supplied with a return, showing the cost of excavations. I have received no reply, and have addressed some ten or twelve other communications to the Department, every time being put off with one excuse or another; and this led me to the conclusion that the Works Department did not desire to furnish me with this information, as it might prove too much. I at once wrote to Mr. Sutherland (you will see in the papers some very strong minutes on the subject), but up to the present moment we have not received the information that we asked for.

446. We have here a list, but it is not a complete one, in which we find that the cost of excavation has varied from 10½d. to 1s. 9d. per cubic yard. In the evidence given by Mr. Gilliat, the Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places, he stated he heard as a fact that as much had been given as 2s. 6d. per cubic yard for this work? There can be no doubt about it. There can be no question about it, that as much as 2s. 6d. has been paid away to contractors, who have sublet the work at much smaller rates.

447. Well, the Commission have made a minute that the cost of the other tanks should be sent in to us, so that we may know each case thoroughly. There is another matter in connection with this. In some cases where the population was rapidly growing, such as Broken Hill and Silverton, great pressure is brought to bear on the Government that roadside wells and tanks should be constructed at any cost? But no such representations have been made to the Government with regard to Broken Hill; and, as a matter of fact, before the Government knew anything whatever about the accumulation of a great population there, the Works Department had authorized the construction of a tank near the town. This tank I saw when I was up there, and it is only since my visit that communications were sent to me urging greater speed.

448. *Mr. Woore.*] I think the place about which Mr. Gilliat gave evidence was not Broken Hill but Milparinka? Yes; Milparinka and out that way were referred to in Parliament on one or two occasions, and I gave a promise that the works would be proceeded with, with all the speed that we could command. These works cannot apply to the question, because they are only just recently started.

449. Still it is possible that similar costs may have been incurred in years past, where the requirements of the population were urgent and where the Government were compelled to carry out the works at any cost? No doubt. I think that that was the case with regard to the Paroo Road tanks.

450. *Chairman.*] The facts stated would necessitate an apparent excessive cost of Government tanks over those constructed by private individuals; but is it the duty of the Government to construct expensive tanks where there is no certainty of getting water and no public necessity, and is that a proper action of Government officers who are paid to select proper sites and to carry out the works with all the skill and professional knowledge that they can command? I think not. I may be strange in my conclusions; but, as a business man, I would not care to have an officer with me who would not make an endeavour to do his duty properly.

451. The public will agree with you there; but, in the case of loss of life occurring, the Government would have to do almost anything, and to incur almost any expense, rather than that lives should be lost? Certainly, if it were to supply the population I should not consider the expense at all, or if life could be saved; but in most cases there is no population to be supplied, and that is what I complain of.

452. *Mr. Woore.*] But then as to stock. I know one man who lost 12,000 sheep through there being no drinkable water in Copago Lake? And I know a case where a man lost 7,000 sheep on the borders of a tank, because the sheep would not drink the water. It was owing to this mixture which the Works Department have been in the habit of dressing the inside of service tanks with, causing a film to arise on the water, and rendering it undrinkable by stock.

453. But the making of tanks was a new thing at that time; and if the work had been in charge of any other Department inexperienced in such matters, it would have been liable to make the same mistakes? There is no doubt about it; but, then, the Works Department ought to admit that they have made a mistake, and not stick to the contention that they have done the correct thing. When their mistakes have been pointed out to them, the usual thing for the Works Department to do was to return offensive replies. Mr. Abbott, when he was Minister for Mines, received the same replies that I have received; and these papers will show that I considered their replies so offensive that I appealed to the Minister for Works.

454. *Chairman.*] There is one other matter still in connection with the charge of excessive rates of payment to contractors for Government tanks. It is this, that where a squatter is quite content to have earth excavated at a certain distance from the tank, the Government insist by very strict regulations and specifications that the earth must be placed a certain number of yards from the excavation, and they also insist that the banks shall be nicely trimmed, merely making them look well, but doing no real good? There is no doubt that that is so; and if you go to expense in having the banks nicely trimmed, it may be very agreeable to the eye, but it will be of no practical benefit. This is one of the things which involve unnecessary expense.

455. *Major Penrose.*] Then you think that the embankments round the tanks are of no practical utility? No, there is no practical benefit in making the tank as level as a billiard table, because it cannot remain so if the tank is to be used.

456. *Mr. Woore.*] The Government employ professional men to look after these matters, to plan these tanks, and to see that they are constructed in accordance with the plans? I suppose that is so; but I think in many cases if they got a good bushman he would do the work very much better than a professional officer.

457. That is your opinion; but is it likely if an engineer were employed that the work would be completed in any but a proper and workmanlike manner? They might be completed in the manner in which he would consider proper and workmanlike; but it would not follow that the work would be done properly.

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458. A private owner would, perhaps, be content at having the work done less nicely? Perhaps it would be just as well. I do not say anything about that, or if I did I might say something that would not be very flattering to the Works Department. I do not believe that at the present time the works in connection with tanks and wells are carried out well or neatly or cheaply, and that is the cause of the country calling out so loudly for a Local Government Bill.

459. *Chairman.*] What do you think about the specifications adopted by the Works Department? I can see that they were framed for the purpose of consuming public money, and contain a great many unnecessary provisions.

460. *Mr. Woore.*] But specifications of any kind are necessarily precise? Exactly.

461. And, of course, the Government would be more particular in carrying the works out through their officers (who are responsible for their proper completion) than would be a private individual? The officers are responsible for carrying out the works strictly in accordance with the spirit of these specifications? Yes, of course; a business man would have his specifications exact, but he would not overload them with a number of provisions which are entirely unnecessary.

462. *Chairman.*] Now, no squatter ever dreams of cutting down stumps, but he would take care that no trees were left standing in the vicinity of the tank, because the boughs might keep falling in? I see here that one of these specifications states that the bottom of the tank shall be perfectly level. Now, that alone is really an absurd thing. It is ridiculous to so construct a tank as to put a spirit level on it.

463. *Mr. Woore.*] But it is the spirit and not the letter of these specifications that it is intended should be carried out by the contractors? No; the terms of the specifications have to be carried out exactly. Your Chairman here has had practical experience of this question, and if he goes through these specifications carefully he will simply laugh at many of the conditions, and would never think of spending his own money in having them carried out.

464. The tendency of your argument is in favour of non-professional men being employed to carry out these works? I did not say that. I said men —

465. You said good bushmen would do as well as professional men? Yes; because a good bushman would have practical knowledge of what was necessary for the work. An engineer sent from Sydney without having any practical knowledge of the country, and the necessities of the works to be constructed, has not the local knowledge which is necessary.

466. Then, is your argument not in favour of having a non-professional man to take charge—to plan and to carry out these works? I would have good men, whether they possessed professional training or not. In connection with our Department we have inspectors who have had years of service on large stations, and who have acquired a knowledge of stock, and how best they may be encouraged to drink. They know what form the work should take, the kind of fences to be erected, and troughing to be supplied. We have a number of men of that kind; and men having this practical knowledge are better than engineers who have not the same experience. Not that I would select men off the streets of Sydney and send them up there; but we have practical men who are able to construct the works better and cheaper than the Works Department have done them.

467. *Chairman.*] The next matter on our list is that dealing with expensive forms of machinery. We would like to have your opinion on this? In many cases the Works Department have put on engines, necessitating the employment of engineers. Our officers have repeatedly reported to me that this expensive machinery is not required, and that the work might be done by a very much simpler process.

468. In many instances, we understand, steam-pumps have been erected? Yes; here is what is said about this:

Polygonum Hut Well.—No better site for a tank could be desired than this, which, in my opinion, would have been much more suitable for traffic. The mode of lifting the water here, which is by a windmill, condemns itself, as the windmill is continually getting out of repair and breaking. Sufficient water for requirements could easily be drawn by a single whip, the cost of which would not exceed £5. The water here is unfit for use, and is, consequently, unfit for travellers.

469. *Mr. Woore.*] Is it not the case in some instances that it is not possible to obtain water fit for human use from wells used for stock? No doubt; but it opens up the question whether it is a wise thing to open up expensive wells until you have acquired the knowledge by boring whether you can get fair water or not.

470. *Chairman.*] We are still on this question of the excessive cost of machinery and the greater cost of maintenance. Of course we are aware that a caretaker who could merely take care of a common pump or whim would not be competent to take care of a steam pump? Certainly not.

471. You think that these steam pumps are necessary at some places and that at other places they are not necessary? I do; and we are compelled to keep an engineer in charge of machinery at these places where there is no water whatever. A more simple form of machinery which would require the services of a man at 7s. a day, would be quite sufficient; but at the present time we would have to pay an engineer at the rate of £4 per week.

472. *Major Penrose.*] I suppose you can specify instances of this, given by your own officers? Yes; but I should prefer that it should come from the officers themselves, as they can speak with greater authority.

473. *Chairman.*] The next point of inquiry is as to the excessive cost of fencing? In reference to the fencing, the excessive cost will be found to be in this way: A very expensive style of fence was adopted, and one which I conceived to be altogether unnecessary. During my trip in the west I actually came across some fencing paid for by the Government at the rate of something like £100 a mile.

474. *Mr. Woore.*] Was not that fence put around the tank to protect it? Yes; but there are very extensive fences, sometimes including land, to the extent of 400 or 500 acres.

475. It is not around the tanks, then? No; the fence is around the caretaker's paddock. We have evidence that men working in the district have offered to put it up for from £40 to £45 per mile.

476. Then these fences around the caretaker's paddocks are put up in just the same manner as fences around the tank? They must be.

477. Are these fences wire fences? No; I understand that a good many of them must be of sawn timber. The gates erected at many of these places were something like those which might be seen at the entrances to some gentlemen's residences in Sydney. I asked where those gates led to—in my simplicity and ignorance thinking that they led to some palatial residence near at hand—and was told to my astonishment that they were the entrance to the caretaker's paddock. There was one case (Boonoona tank) which cost more than £120 per mile. It was sublet by the contractor to another man, and the former pocketed about £40 per mile.

mile. The cost of each gate was about £15; when any form of the simple fence that I had seen in my 600 miles journey round the country would have done just as well.

478. *Chairman.*] Will you describe the fence—how many wires had it? It was of sawn timber.

479. *Mr. Woore.*] You mean sawn rails and posts? Yes.

480. Were they painted? Yes; the gates were splendidly painted. They had a beautiful white paint coating, and I supposed I was reasonably correct in imagining that the gates led up to some gentleman's residence.

481. *Major Penrose.*] Then it was the gates that you referred to as being made of sawn timber? No; it was the fences. At the Ivanhoe tank there was a six-wire fence of a description which was new to the inspector, and it cost £35 per mile.

482. *Chairman.*] Are you aware of any instance in which straining posts were dispensed with at the instance of one of your own officers? No; I am not aware of that.

483. *Major Penrose.*] The specifications are very clear with regard to straining posts.

484. *Chairman.*] I have a memorandum here to the effect that in one instance straining posts were dispensed with by one of the officers of the Mines Department? Has that been confirmed by Mr. Gilliat?

485. No; I do not think that Mr. Gilliat knew anything about it. I suppose you do not complain that the fence around the tank is unnecessarily strong? No; but I think it unnecessarily good.

486. Of course you are aware that a mob of 1,000 cattle, almost dying with thirst, require a very strong fence to restrain them, else they would break it down? The trouble is that the fence is expensive without being strong. I am quite sure that if a mob of cattle ran up against most of these fences they would have to give way. I have a list here which I will read:—

Forty-eight-mile Tank.—Fencing not yet completed; this of split belar, none of it being carted more than 5 miles. Contractor would not tell price, but told me it was between £90 and £100 per mile.

Mount Manara Tank.—Fencing in good order; not yet transferred. This has lately been erected by Works Department at £120 per mile. Is of pine, half split, and the balance round young pine, with no straining posts. The round pine will last only a few years.

Boonoonoo Tank.—Fencing in fair order; not yet transferred; lately erected by Works Department at £120 per mile. Gates in good order; lately erected by Works Department at £15 per gate; not yet transferred.

Thirty-five-mile Tank.—Fencing in good order; not yet transferred. This has been erected at £95 per mile; none of the timber was carted over 4 miles.

487. I think we have gone sufficiently into that unless you want to supplement your evidence in some way? No; I have nothing further.

488. Then we will go into the next; but first of all I would like to read to you a report from Mr. W. J. Hanna, on the Wilson reservoir. He writes from Menindie on the 13th June, 1887:—

MEMO.—*Wilson Reservoir.*—On last inspection the caretaker was absent, and very little work appeared to have been done since my last visit. Mr. Crommelin informed me the pump is now in working order. I would again suggest that the caretaker be instructed to keep the various parts clean, and to lubricate more frequently. The ruts in the embankment could be filled up by shovelling up the material washed down instead of breaking in the sides, which tends to weaken the embankment. This evil of rutting can be reduced to a minimum by drawing off the top water at one or both ends of the embankment, as recommended in previous report. If small drains were cut round excavation and kept in proper order the storm water would be collected, and would run into the creek instead of flowing down the excavation slopes and causing deep ruts. It should also be part of the caretaker's duty to remove the sand from the bed of the creek, especially near the weir, as opportunity offers. This report has been unavoidably delayed.

The Engineer-in-Chief for Roads, Sydney.

W. J. HANNA,
Road Superintendent.

—? I may say, with reference to Mr. Hanna, that he is a very efficient and careful officer, and I should be happy to give great attention to any report coming from him, although he is an officer in another Department.

489. Now, when these works are completed and handed over to the Mines Department, what right has Mr. Hanna, or anybody else, to report on them or to interfere? I think he was encouraged to do so by his chief.

490. But is it recognized at all that the Roads officers have the right to report on works that have passed out of their hands? Well, I should resent any interference by any officer of the Works Department of anything that happened to be under my control. I should resent it as a very improper interference.

491. But suppose an officer of the Works Department saw works that had cost the country large sums of money going to destruction, would he not be right in reporting that fact to the head of his Department? Yes; I should say so under these extraordinary circumstances. If that had been done the officer would deserve to be commended for it; but what you say does not contain the case as it occurred.

492. Well, it seems clear that Mr. Hanna reported on the want of Mr. Crommelin's attention, and the next time he visited the reservoir he found that the caretaker had not attended to the instructions, and that Mr. Crommelin did not compel him to do so; and he not only found fault with the caretaker, but with Mr. Crommelin as well, both persons being officers of the Mines Department? Was the document which you have read sent to the Mines Department? I ask that question because I have dismissed several caretakers for neglect of duty.

493. The document is endorsed—"I think a copy might be sent to the Mines Departments"? If a copy had been sent the matter would have been at once inquired into; and if the statement therein contained was found to be correct, then the caretaker would be dismissed.

494. And Crommelin would have got a reprimand? Certainly.

495. But do you think that Mr. Hanna stepped out of his way in reporting this matter to his Department? In a case of this kind, I would not think that Mr. Hanna would be guilty of doing such a thing.

496. We have some documents here which I would like to read to you. They relate to the One-tree tank:—

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that Caretaker Kelly, at the One-tree tank, has reported that the plunging-rod belonging to the pump has become disconnected. I have reported the matter to the assistant-engineer, Mr. Stilwell.

I have, &c.,

JOHN A. KEIGHRAN,
Overseer of P.W.

The Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places, Sydney.

This is a matter which should have been attended to by the caretaker, and this appeal to this Department is scarcely consistent with the claims made by the Mines as to the maintenance of these works being in their hands. I would point out that this system of routine causes unnecessary delay—in this case three weeks—and to deal with a matter which should be attended to at once by the caretaker.—A.P.W., 24-6-87.

Telegram

F. Abigail.
19 Jan., 1888.

F. Abigail.

19 Jan., 1888.

Telegram from Sydney to A. W. Stilwell, Roads Office, Hay

Keighran reports piston-rod, One-tree pump, disconnected. Presume it has been attended to?

A. P. WOOD,
Assistant-Engineer.

The Commissioner and Engineer for Roads.

One-tree Tank.

Roads Office, Hay, 26th June, 1887.

Sir,
Mr. Wood's telegram attached. I visited One-tree tank on the 24th instant, and found that the piston-rod had become disconnected with the plunger-rod, owing to the key which fastens the two together having fallen out. This I attribute to negligence on the part of the caretaker. I repaired it, and the pump is now in working-order. This might have been remedied by the caretaker himself.
I have, &c.,
A. W. Stilwell, A.E. W. B. NICHOLSON.

This is another proof of the absurd nature of many of the complaints forwarded to us by the Mines. Long correspondence, and an official set in motion to rectify carelessness that could have been dealt with by the most stupid of labouring men.

Sir,

Roads Office, Hay, 2nd July, 1887.

As instructed by you, I visited the One-tree tank on the 24th June, and found that the piston-rod had become disconnected with the plunger-rod, owing to the key which fastens the two together having fallen out. This I attribute to negligence on the part of the caretaker. I repaired it in five minutes, and left the pump in working-order. This repair might have been effected by caretaker, who, when I asked him the reason, replied that he did not know anything about the pump, but reported the break-down, and was waiting till some one was sent to repair it. To do this five minutes' work I had to ride 50 miles over country almost impassable. This man is evidently unfit for the post of caretaker, as he has no knowledge of any portion of his work.
I am, &c.,
A. W. Stilwell, A.E. W. B. NICHOLSON.

An unnecessary journey of 50 miles across flooded country, equal to 150 miles in a dry season, has been caused by the carelessness and incompetence of this caretaker of the Mines Department.—A.W.S., 1/7/87.

—? Well, I should want that confirmed before I believed it.

497. This man says that he rode 50 miles in order to attend to what might easily have been put right in five minutes? Well, I have a case in which Mr. Stilwell countermanded the instructions of the officers of our Department, and caused a great amount of public inconvenience.

498. *Major Penrose.*] Was he within his rights in doing that? No; certainly not.

499. Who moved Mr. Stilwell to do this? It is necessary to explain that there has been a continual desire for the last five years to discredit the officers of the Mines Department in connection with this work. Four or five years ago Mr. Abbott (who was then Minister for Mines) wrote a strong minute, expressing disapprobation at the terms used by some of the officers of the Works Department in writing to the Mines' officers in connection with these works; so that this friction and irritation has existed for a long time, and I insisted upon having the whole of the work, or I said I would have none of it. You will find that all these statements are couched in the most offensive terms.

500. *Chairman.*] Now, this is the gist of our inquiry. It is as to the nature of the present interference of the officers of one Department with those of another. Here, a caretaker applied to the Inspector of Public Watering Places, who, instead of attending to it, refers it to the Works Department in Sydney, and that Department was obliged to compel its officer to ride 50 miles to do five minutes' work. Now this of itself (as anyone can see) must have led to a good deal of friction. Here is a trifling complaint by a man who should have been sent about his business there and then; who waits for three whole weeks, allowing the public to suffer for want of water, until he has communicated with his superior, and his superior communicated with the Works Department, who have to communicate with their officer up country. Now, it is easy to understand what annoyance this must give to a public officer, who must necessarily feel very angry that, through the stupidity of one man, he should be made to ride 50 miles; and hence the friction between these two Departments? You will understand at the same time that we are not allowed to do anything, no matter how small the cost might be. We are not allowed to do anything by way of alteration or repair, although the Act gives the Mines the power of alteration, and even of construction. We could not do anything before the matter was brought before the Cabinet.

501. Mr. Gilliat stated in evidence that it was not the privilege of the Department to spend more than £10 on any necessary repairs? Yes, that is as a matter of course; but we had not the right to do it. We had not ministerial or executive authority to spend a shilling until I obtained from the Cabinet the minute giving us the power.

502. *Major Penrose.*] I suppose you had no vote to work on? No; the statement which has just been read is a bare statement from the Works' officers, and it will be necessary to have a reply from the Mines' officers on this particular case before you will be able to see the exact facts. One is an *ex parte* statement, and may be very good until you get the other. Mr. Gilliat is more conversant with individual cases than I could possibly be; and he will be able to deal with this at once. I have two cases here of Mr. Stilwell interfering with our officers at Pulletop and Hulong.

503. *Chairman.*] We should like to hear about them? The first is dated from Hay, on the 6th December, 1886, and is in these terms:—

Sir,

On visiting this tank on 3rd instant, the water was 2 feet above level of berm—20 feet depth in the tank. John O'Neil is lessee. He has been in possession six weeks, and was in charge when I visited. The embankment was in very bad repair, and no effort had been made by lessee to remedy it. Water had been allowed to accumulate on top (which is dished), and break over at two corners, carrying down some 30 cubic yards of earth. The batters throughout were also corrugated by neglected rain-scour. The wires of enclosing fence were very slack, and should be attended to.

The service tank was not full, and the lessee appeared to know little about the care or working of the steam-pump. I got it to work, and he said he would employ a man to take charge of it. It worked satisfactorily, but the boiler needed cleaning. The troughing was in good repair; it also needed cleaning.
I have, &c.,

The Commissioner and Engineer for Roads.

A. W. STILWELL.

Make copy to send Mines; re-submit on Mr. Wood's return.—W.C.B., 8/12/86. The Mines should certainly be informed and requested to insist on lessees keeping works in proper order.—A.P.W., 10/12/86. (Mr. Overseer Elworthy for report.) If these statements are correct, Mr. Elworthy will please say why reports of neglect at wateringplaces in his district should be so frequently received through another Department before being reported on by him.—HARRY GILLIAT, B.C., 20/12/86. Mr. Overseer Elworthy.

These statements by Mr. Stilwell are very annoying. I visit these tanks regularly, and report you fully after each inspection. The last time I reported on this tank was when I handed it over to O'Neil in October. At two ends of the embankment the earth was washing away, and I gave O'Neil instructions to mend this up, and have sent him iron to make the V shaped gutter at corners. When passing the tank subsequently I noticed my instructions had not been carried out, mainly owing to Mr. Stilwell, who, the lessee said, had countermanded my orders, and told O'Neil not to touch the embankments without instructions from him. Why does Mr. Stilwell do this? I have personally complained of this interference to Mr.

Boulton,

Boulton, who can tell Mr. Gilliat all about it, and I am sending Mr. Boulton copies of several letters on the subject. I also refer you to my letter of 10th instant, wherein I complained about Mr. Stilwell. I will write O'Neil, and insist on the work being carried out at once; and if not done by the time I pay my next periodical visit of inspection in January, I will report to you. I opposed O'Neil's tender for this tank, but he got it after all.—W. J. ELWORTHY, 22/12/86. F. Abigail.
19 Jan., 1888.

The next is dated from Whitton, 21st December, 1886 :—

Sir,

Referring to my instructions to visit the Hulong tank, I have now the honor to inform you that I did so, and found that Mr. Road Superintendent Stilwell—after Mr. Overseer Elworthy had instructed the caretaker to coal-tar the boiler, &c., in accordance with your circular, 3rd September last—had issued fresh orders to the caretaker to paint it red, and to apply to Mr. Elworthy for paint. Mr. Elworthy instructed to prepare the newly-dished top of the embankment for the reception of a shoot for carrying off the storm water, and material for which Mr. Elworthy was applying. These instructions were also countermanded, and a length of india-rubber hose 2½ inches in diameter was supplied by Mr. Stilwell to carry off all the storm water from the four embankments. I need hardly say how totally inadequate this is, and must at the same time protest against such a useless waste of money, and such a childish innovation, that in the eyes of the travelling public so reflects upon the Public Watering Places officer. I wish to bring this immediately and urgently before you, as I understand Mr. Stilwell is about supplying other tanks in his district with the same. A shoot of less than one foot across is perfectly useless and is required at each angle. Actual experience, both at Hulong and Pulletop, has proved the folly of the 2½ in. hose, and caretakers have now definite instructions to proceed with shoots so soon as material arrives.

The interference on the part of Mr. Stilwell and his assistant, in regard to the control of public watering places transferred to us, is highly objectionable. The overseers do not appear to have the interest in their work they should have while dictated to and snubbed by an officer who has no control over them. The caretakers cannot understand what appears to them a divided and antagonistic authority (antagonistic, however, only on the part of the Works' officer), and between the two the public watering places suffer.

After the transfer of public watering places to us in good order, I would urge that the responsibility of the Works officers should cease. We have capable men as overseers, who, if they understood it to be their duty, could see all repairs executed, and, I think, with less expense; and thus avoid a correspondence and interference that, I venture to think, is hardly creditable to Mr. Stilwell and his endless and groundless complaints.

It is only from Mr. Stilwell's districts that these endless, frivolous charges come.

The accompanying copies of letters are, I think, a substantiation of my remarks.

I have, &c.,

JAMES W. BOULTBEE,
Inspector of Public Watering Places.

The Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places.

Now, you will observe there that Mr. Stilwell complains of the work not having been done; but he does not say anything about the countermanding of the orders given by the Mines officers and the non-fulfilment of repairs, which is the result of his own action and not of our officers.

504. It might be advisable if I read over *seriatim* to you the complaints that were made by Mr. Stilwell? I have another one here.

505. This is the series of reports sent in by Stilwell himself, and some of the officers under him. It goes to show, apparently, that the caretakers over these works are careless, and that several incidents such as that where the key fell out and the plunger-rod became disconnected, have happened. This matter was read over to Mr. Gilliat, but he stopped me in reading in order to make some reply. This would appear to show good reason why the Works Department were continually interfering with the Mines. Take the report with reference to Til Til tank, for instance. It is as follows :—

Til Til Tank.—Report of 21st January, 1885 (85-118): That caretaker was without a horse to work the McComas lift, and without oil for bearings; that the public worked the pumps with own horses when requiring water, and it had thus sustained considerable damage.

Report of 3rd April, 1885 (85-578): Found caretaker absent on leave—only a lad in charge; sheep and cattle had been admitted inside tank enclosure to water at silt tank, and the embankment was thus being damaged; fence rails were missing, apparently used for fuel by travellers.

Report of 1st May, 1886 (86-643) as to pumps, Holman horse-power, being reported by caretaker as out of repair and quite ineffective: That there was no defect, except that bucket-leathers required renewal, and this could have been done by caretaker instead of requiring mechanic to be sent from Hay—100 miles; also, that much negligence was evinced in keeping drains and fence in repair, and that sheep had been allowed inside tank fence, damaging the embankment; Mr. M'Leod, Mines' Overseer, reported, in reply to this, that caretaker had been told by travelling mechanic never to open the pump for repairs, and that the sheep had been removed from tank enclosure soon as observed.

Report of 6th August, 1886 (86-1,165): That statement of caretaker as to repair of pump was incorrect; had not been directed not to touch it by mechanic, but that mechanic had found that caretaker did not know how to overhaul the pump, and that there was no other defect than as to leathers being worn; that Mr. Nicholson reports that sheep had remained inside fence by caretaker's admission for some days until they were too weak to walk out.

—? I have a letter here from the lessee on the subject, and he states that whatever blame there is in the matter lies with Mr. Stilwell himself.

506. There is no reply from Mr. Stilwell to that? It is dated on the 9th, and is headed, "As to alleged interference with Mines' overseer at Pulletop tank." The letter is as follows :—

Sir,

Referring to the attached papers, it is to be observed that Mr. Elworthy does not state that I countermanded his orders to the tenant, but that the tenant, O'Neil, informed him so. An obvious preliminary on Mr. Elworthy's part would have been to ascertain whether such were the facts. For your information I may state that it is about the reverse of the facts; but as this was not elicited by Mr. Elworthy, it may perhaps be neglected as irrelevant, and now apparently the points to be considered are that this man's unsupported statement is taken by his overseer (as he intended it should be) as an excuse for gross neglect, for some two months, of a most obvious and urgent duty; and then his hand is unwittingly played further to by Mr. Elworthy's report, and Mr. Gilliat's consequent minute being based upon it.

It would really appear that up to the present Mr. O'Neil has been master of the situation. I do not see how any responsibility regarding it rests with this Department.

In fact, the matter should be one, as Mr. Gilliat somewhat elaborates in his minute—so obviously and solely between the Mines officers and their tenant—that unless it had been forced upon me I should have had some delicacy or reluctance in dealing with it.

I can, however, heartily concur in what Mr. Gilliat says respecting the interference of officers with the men under another Department—the more especially as this has been at times somewhat realised for me by actions of his overseers at works still under my jurisdiction; but I confess that I have failed to draw from it the somewhat anomalous conclusion that it is impossible an officer can successfully accomplish his work if his orders are countermanded by an officer of another Department, possessed of no authority to interfere.

On the contrary, I have found little difficulty in maintaining my authority, and little harm has resulted, and I have taken it all in good part as evincing only mistaken zeal on the part of his officers.

I have, &c.,

The Commissioner and Engineer for Roads.

A. W. STILWELL.

507. The object of reading this letter of Mr. Stilwell's is to bring out such incidents as show where the Roads officers were justified in making charges against the men who were placed in charge of valuable public works? There can be no doubt that at times improper men are appointed to the position of

F. Abigail. of caretakers. This is proved by the fact that I have dismissed, during the last few months, several of them who were reported to me for neglect of duty. In every case where the neglect was proved I have never hesitated to dismiss the man.

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508. *Major Penrose.*] Of course, caretakers might prove inefficient, no matter what Department appointed them? Yes. Here are the instructions to the caretakers. (*See Appendix.*)

509. That appears to cover the whole thing? No doubt.

510. Perhaps the Works officers have had similar instructions? But there are times when under the most strict regulations men will be guilty of disobedience; and as soon as it is shown that there has been disobedience they are punished. The tone of Mr. Stilwell's communication would lead to the inference that we not only appointed incompetent men, but that we countenanced their incompetency by keeping them in their positions. That is what I regard as a ridiculous conclusion. Now, the greasing of the tanks is a matter to which we objected most strongly; but we have evidence to show that it was done after we objected to it.

511. What about the subletting of contracts? I have heard of contracts that have been sublet so often that the public have had to pay to the tune of £30 to £35 per mile more for fencing than they should; and the same with regard to excavation.

512. *Chairman.*] We should like to get a contractor to give evidence about this matter. It may be that a contractor, having a large sum of money on hand, will go in and take Government contracts where men of small means are shut out. The consequence of that would be that these men would get a very large margin of profit by subletting the contracts to other men possessing less capital? That may be the case; but do not the facts in connection with the caretakers' cottages destroy a conclusion of that kind? While the cottages were under the control of the Works Department, the average cost of their erection was £85.

513. Unless we can get something specific, the matter is hardly worth going into? I know cases where the first contractors for fencing have bagged from £35 to £50 per mile.

514. Now, with regard to the faulty construction of wells and the expense of constructing headworks before the water was tested—that would involve a large expenditure of public money, and apparently in a very improper manner? In reference to the faulty construction of wells, I think I had better begin by referring to the Wooloondool well:—"This well has been bored from bottom of shaft without any pipe or flooring being placed in the well. The bore is liable to, and is constantly choked from, silt—constant baling, even when water is not required, necessitating great wear and tear and useless labour, insisted on by Works Department as necessary to keep bore from silting. Bore choked on many occasions, and has caused much delay and useless correspondence. The Works Department endeavoured to show that it was the fault of the Mines caretaker or lessee." Now, here is a very case in point. Here is a certain work insisted on by the Works Department, showing that they were interfering with the management of the works by the Mines Department. We shall show that they insisted upon much needless work which was entirely unnecessary. Then there is the case of the Dry Lake well, the circumstances of which are similar to those of Wooloondool well, in which all the requests for repairs and alterations were referred to the Commissioner for Roads. We come next to the Willandra well, the construction of which was not asked for by the Mines Department, the site having been selected by the Works officials. When the well was nearly completed and the supply troughs and whim erected, it was found that a portion of the headworks was upon private property. The Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places recommended one watering place between Clare and Ivanhoe; but the Works Department constructed both a tank and a well, although Mr. Gilliat pointed out that, from experience he had gained in the district, wells were not suitable. The construction of the well was so defective that, although it only went 102 feet, the cost exceeded £1,050. Then for the resumed land where the headworks were erected they had to pay £30 compensation, being £7 10s. per acre for 4 acres, to the owner.

515. Was there no reason given for that? The papers show that there was no reason whatever, but that they had ample room for the troughing without encroaching on this land.

516. Why did they go in, then, on what was private property? I cannot say; but I should think it was their duty to acquire information whether the land was private property or not before they trenched upon it. As you all know, you can, under the most difficult circumstances, put down a well from 100 to 175 feet deep at a cost of about £700, and that is a very good figure; but here there was no need for a well at all. There was only need for a tank, but we get both a tank and a well at excessive cost. It is noticeable, also, that this was done in direct opposition to the report of the Mines officers.

517. Here is another matter about which we want your opinion—the erection of headworks before a water supply is found at all? My view of that is this—and I will carry it out while I have the privilege of presiding over the Mines Department—that where a well is necessary to water stock, and as soon as a suitable site is selected, I shall insist on boring being carried on or a trial shaft being sunk, to test whether we can get fairly good water or not before the expenditure of any public money is incurred by the erection of those costly headworks.

518. Has that system of which you speak not been already carried out by the Works Department? Evidently not; otherwise we should not have had a number of wells where the water is of such a character that stock will not use it.

519. *Major Penrose.*] Is boring for artesian water carried out by your Department? Yes; and very successfully carried out by our Department of late.

520. *Chairman.*] In many cases these headworks are let all in the one contract with the excavation? Yes.

521. Consequently, the contractor takes care to put the headworks down, and then gets paid for them whether he gets a supply of water or not? Yes; here is another case I refer to—the Holy Box well—which was sunk, and a small supply of fresh water tapped, followed by a great flow of salt water that, when twice analysed, was declared to be unfit for use. Evidence as to saltiness was submitted, and the well abandoned and the tank commenced. When the work at the tank had proceeded to about 3 feet, the Works officer suspended operations, declaring that the water in the well was good. The well was again handed over to the Mines Department, and constant baling was insisted upon to improve the quality of the water, which was done without result. The Mines has had to bear the cost of maintenance, and employ a caretaker to bale and protect the headworks. There is no prospect of leasing salt wells, and the caretaker has had to cart water 17 miles. The whim, service tank and trough were all erected before the quality of

of

of the water was found to be suitable; and the iron in the troughs was destroyed by the action of the salt. The well is now useless for travelling stock and the public. Then, here is another case—that of the Mount Manara well—which was sunk on the shoulder of a hill. The supply of water was too limited, and the depth too great to be of use. The Works Department erected whims, tanks, and troughs before testing supply. Endeavours were made to increase the supply by driving, but without success, and the well was abandoned, and a tank sunk 4 miles away. Then there is the Old Gunbar well, which, when completed and transferred to this Department, was proved by analysis too salt for any purpose. Although the Works Department admit that this water is too salt, yet they endeavour to show that it is fit for use, and urge that constant baling will improve the quality. This constant baling was carried on for two years without any improvement. The Works Department then consented to bore a well, but this has apparently been abandoned. The Mines Department have had in the meantime to employ a caretaker to bale and protect the headworks. The well was completed, supply tanks, whims, and trough completed, although Works Department were requested to defer the latter work till the water was proved. No stock was ever watered there, and the well is useless as a public watering place. A small tank has been recommended to be constructed in the vicinity. Then there is the case of the Dolmoreve well, which is an instance of what is considered stock water by the Department of Works. At the time of the transfer the local officer called attention to the quality of the water, and advised that a tank be made. Constant baling was again urged by the Works Department to improve the quality, but without success. The possibility of leasing this well is small, and the caretaker has had to take his horse 4 miles to fresh water. A case of breakage of wire-rope is submitted as an instance of the action of saline matter in water. I would like to add that this is a case where we several times sent the water to the Government Analyst; and, in the face of the fact that he reported it was unfit for cattle, or for any stock whatever, the Works Department went on and completed the well in the same way that they would have done had the water been good. Then there is the Baloola and Normanstone well, which have been for a long period in course of construction. The usual head-works in this case were erected before the supply of water was assured. There appears to be a reasonable doubt that the sites recommended by the Chief Inspector were not adhered to by the Department. Normanstone well has since been reported as having been abandoned. The Roto well is another which deserves mention. This well has been sunk almost alongside a permanent waterhole in the Willandra Creek. The lessee of the well was prosecuted by the local overseer for a breach of the regulations under the Public Watering Places Act.

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522. With what result? The case was dismissed.

523. Are you aware that wells are ordinarily sunk as adjuncts to what is called permanent water, because sometimes the so-called permanent water gives out? Yes, I am aware of that; but the quality of what is coming should be tested before you put down expensive wells. Of course I should want evidence to show that it was necessary to have a well close to a tank for the purposes which you have enumerated, before I would feel justified in going into an expenditure which might prove unnecessary.

524. The next question is, excessive cost in the construction of these wells? I think I have very fully elaborated that part of the question.

525. Well, can you give us some information about the huts? I can only give you the fact that we are now having the huts constructed at an average of £42 15s. each. We have now in course of construction thirty-four of these cottages. The average price paid by the Works Department was £85. They paid from £114 to £46; but the average was what I state.

526. Is the same accommodation given in both? I think so; but the work is meted out on the principle that I have before referred to—of not having everything so particular and nice. Ornament is altogether unnecessary under the circumstances.

527. But the accommodation is not more limited? I do not think so. The papers will show it, so that it is not necessary to go into it.

528. *Major Penrose.*] Perhaps the Mines Department will furnish the drawings by which these huts are made? Certainly; the papers are now being prepared for Parliament. The Assembly carried a resolution during last session that all these papers should be placed upon the table of the House, and we will supply you with plans and everything else.

529. *Chairman.*] The next question is the defective construction of troughing? Well, the defectiveness is proved beyond all doubt, because we are altering all the troughs; and the Works Department have agreed in the wisdom of the change.

530. What is the chief difference? They were altogether defective, and the top rail was so fixed that it was impossible for the cattle to get at the water. We are now taking the top rail off.

531. *Major Penrose.*] Is it difficult to arrange to meet the requirements of all classes of stock? I think not. Our plan is working very well. One general rule will apply.

532. *Chairman.*] Now, I want to ask you about the remedy. There are one or two matters noted down here in this discussion that has taken place.* In the Public Watering Places Act, the fifth clause of that measure provides that it shall be lawful for the Minister for Mines to take over the construction of these places. Now, this Act was passed in 1884, authorizing the Mines Department to do all these things;—has that provision in the law ever been carried out? No.

533. Why? Because there was always a very strong opposition offered to it on the part of the Works Department. We have not had a Minister for Works who would consent to hand the matter over to the Mines Department, until I brought it (as I said) before the Cabinet myself; and I told the Cabinet simply this, that they would have to make the change, and if they did not, I would take a step of a most extraordinary character. I felt the matter to be of such urgent public importance, that I would have given up my position in the Government rather than allow things go on as I found them going on.

534. *Mr. Woore.*] Has your Department the whole of the construction under its charge now? Well, very nearly. Occasionally we have some interference; but on this year's Estimates we, and not the Works Department, have placed sums down for the construction of tanks, dams, and wells. I have insisted on that step being taken.

535. *Chairman.*] Now here is an important matter. In handing over this Department from the Works to the Mines, does it not necessitate a new set of officers to carry on the construction of tanks and wells? No; our Inspectors of Public Watering Places, and Mr. Gilliat are, I think, admirably suited to carry out the work in an economical and satisfactory manner.

536.

* Reference is here made to evidence of Harry Gilliat, Esq.

F. Abigail.
19 Jan., 1888

536. I think you have already stated that you do not think it necessary to have specially trained men to carry out these works—that you prefer good, practical, sensible men, possessing a good knowledge of the country? Certainly. Here is a man appointed at £6 per week to tar the tanks, when we could get a man to do it equally well for 45s. ; and he would be very well paid.

537. We find now that the Works Department have to draw out specifications and plans of those works which they construct, necessarily employing their own skilled officers to do it ;—I understand from you that you deem it unnecessary in your Department to take their place? The officers we have there are in every way capable of carrying out these works without any of the skilled officers from the Works Department.

538. Then it would not actually increase the expenditure on the part of the Government to hand over these works from the Works to the Mines? On the contrary, I believe it would be a great public saving ; and I do not make that statement without thought, or from any personal or interested feeling. It is a matter which has given me very grave concern for the last nine months, and what I have done is the result of very careful consideration.

539. In saving money, do you mean that you would save money in the construction of these works or in the salaries of officers? I mean a saving of money in the cost of construction ; a benefit to the public in doing away with unnecessary delay ; and altogether putting an end to that friction—that unseemly friction—which has been going on between the officers of the two Departments.

540. Then, from your experience you think it is impossible to carry on this dual control with any satisfaction? I think it is just absolutely impossible. In fact, I would not be a party to anything whatever of the kind ; and, in connection with this work, I have found, as in some other things, the same division of labour bring about the same result. When I took charge of the Mines Department, I found the same public inconvenience in consequence of the division of labour in connection with the minor roads. I had a conference with the Minister for Lands on the subject, and allowed him to take the whole of these over, with the result that there is much saving of time and public convenience. I look upon the matter as a man having a large business experience, and it seems to me thoroughly ridiculous to divide the work in the way it has been done here. No man who was spending his own money would do it.

541. *Major Penrose.*] I suppose these officers of yours have some engineering qualifications? Yes ; I think sufficient engineering qualifications for the work.

542. *Chairman.*] You are aware that lately, at some considerable expense to the Government, a Commission on Water Conservation was appointed—that it took a very considerable amount of evidence, and brought up a report which, if carried out, would necessitate a large expenditure of public money? Yes ; that is so. The Mines Department is the Department in which the officers of the Commission are now engaged ; and when I was appointed to the position I now occupy, I found that the Commission had spent from £12,000 to £13,000. I found, also, that it had collected very valuable information ; and they applied to me for a renewal or further extension of time. I thought, however, that they had gone far enough, and, with the concurrence of the Cabinet, I refused the extension asked for. The officers of that Commission are now under my control, and we are now carrying out some experimental works at Lake Urana, towards one of the first steps of a large scheme of irrigation.

543. The carrying out of a scheme of irrigation is one of the recommendations of this Commission? Yes ; one of its first features.

544. Would your officers be competent to carry out such a very elaborate and costly scheme of irrigation, presuming that this water conservation business is entirely taken over from the Works Department? Yes ; we have a man there now (Mr. McKinney, the engineer in charge of the Lake Urana works), who is admitted to be one of the most capable men in the Colonies. He has had a large experience in water conservation works in India ; and all authorities agree in stating that he is a man capable of carrying to a satisfactory issue any works of this kind, no matter what their magnitude may be. He is the engineer under Mr. Gilliat.

545. So that in carrying out the recommendations of this Water Conservation Commission, entailing many thousands of pounds expenditure, you think you have officers in your Department competent to deal with these expensive and elaborate works? I am thoroughly satisfied of it ; and I may say that Mr. McKinney's reports to the Water Conservation Commission have been commented on in Victoria in the highest terms.

546. *Mr. Woore.*] Is Mr. Gilliat a professional man? He has had experience of the water question in California, and has had eight or nine years' experience in connection with the same matter in the Colonies.

547. But he is not a trained man? No ; he is not a trained man.

548. *Chairman.*] Would you be at all surprised to find that Mr. Bennett, now at the head of this Water Conservation Branch, would feel very much disappointed and perhaps hurt at finding that the system which he had advocated and encouraged for years was to be taken out of his hands because a little friction had taken place between the subordinate officers of two Departments? That question is put in such a manner that I scarcely know how to reply to it. I do not think, where public convenience is in question and the public interest is at stake, that any individuals should be considered. The works should be carried out in the manner which would best serve the people's interest and obtain for them the best return for the money they have expended. I think it is very likely that Mr. Bennett or any other man would feel very much hurt at the work being taken out of his hands under the circumstances.

549. Especially when he has brought it to fruition? There is a great deal to do yet before it comes to fruition ; and when it comes to that I do not think that Mr. Bennett will be amongst the living.

550. Do the Government not contemplate any immediate large expenditure in accordance with the report of the Water Conservation Commission? The state of the matter is this : The Government have not yet decided which Department is to be charged with the work of water conservation. This is a matter which cannot be taken up till Parliament is invited to deal with this question, and it is impossible for me to say at this stage what will be the decision of the Cabinet. Certainly the question will not be dealt with in any large measure during the present session of Parliament. We have at present sufficient measures to occupy our time.

551. *Major Penrose.*] This question, I presume, is largely mixed up with that of Local Government? Yes ; and the passage of a Local Government Bill will settle the question altogether ; although, of course, the central Government will have to retain the supreme control.

[The Commission adjourned until the afternoon, when the sitting was resumed].

James William Boulton called in and further examined:—

552. *Chairman.*] We are trying, Mr. Boulton, to make our evidence as symmetrical as possible; and to do that we intend to adhere as strictly as we can to the items you have given here, which we will go into *seriatim*. The first question to consider is the faulty judgment alleged to have been shown in the selection of sites for tanks and wells. I notice that your Department has issued the following circular to your officers:—

J. W.
Boulton.
19 Jan., 1888.

(88-408)

Sir,

Department of Mines, Public Watering Places Branch,
Sydney, 1st December, 1887.

In compliance with a direction of the Hon. the Minister for Mines, you will be good enough to furnish me, as soon as possible, with replies to the following questions. It is to be understood that the information afforded shall be based on your own experience or observation:—

1. At the public tanks, whether it is preferable that stock should have admission to the excavation, or be supplied from troughing? State reasons for your preference.
2. What are the general rates paid per cubic yard for excavation by private persons and by the Government.
3. What are the general rates for sinking wells per lineal foot paid by private persons and by the Government.
4. What are the relative cost of headworks paid by private persons and by the Government.
5. Are the costly appliances at the Government tanks more effective than simpler methods of raising water? State which are the most liable to get out of repair and present greater difficulties in restoring them to order.
6. Are there any substantial reasons why the Government works should not be constructed at the same relative prices as those given for works undertaken by private enterprise? If so, state them.
7. State the most serious errors in construction you have noticed of public tanks and wells.

I have, &c.,

HARRY GILLIAT,
Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places.

Of course you are aware that although these documents are very instructive and give us very useful information, still we can only be guided by *viva voce* sworn evidence. We will take the documents for what they are worth, and merely ask questions upon them? I have written a rather lengthy report myself on the subject and I would like to hand it in.

553. I think you had better read it? I will.

Public Watering Places, Mines Department,

1st January, 1888.

Sir,

Referring to your letter of the 1st inst., I now have the honor to reply to it, dealing with each question raised in the order indicated.

From actual experience, I am strongly in favour of water being supplied to stock at tanks from troughing, in preference to allowing them to water from the excavations or open drinking tanks; and the following reasons for it will, I think, uphold my views:—The water in a tank, if supplied to stock by troughs, can be used to the last drop—if from open tanks, it cannot. Stock can water with greater comfort and ease, there is little or no waste, and weak sheep cannot get bogged. No water is carried out in the fleeces. There is no pollution of the water from droppings or drainings from long-woolled sheep, and the water is always good and pure and available for human beings. At the open tank the slopes get trodden in, dung and urine is carried into the water, and the tanks in time get putrid so that nothing, as experience has shown, can drink when the water is stirred up. There is the cost of cleaning out the open drinking tank, a nasty and expensive job; and, in addition, the cost of an open drinking tank is, I think, greater than that of service tank and troughing. The service of water by troughing is far more economical in every way, since water supplied by this means will last fully one-third as long again as compared with open tanks. This is a question that has had some prominence of late years among the large Western squatters, and the more advanced have adopted it with success.

So far as I have been able to ascertain, the rates paid by Government for tank-work have been largely in excess of those paid by private individuals. I lived for twelve years in the dry country beyond the Darling, and I have no remembrance of a case, not even in the early days, where more than 1s. per cubic yard was paid for tank-work. This rate I have myself paid during the dry seasons of 1882, 1883, 1884, and where the contractors had to cart their water 6 and 9 miles respectively. The general rate, however, was 9d. to 10d. per cubic yard; and I have ascertained that this rate is the general one throughout the Colony. In cases where plant and cattle were found, from 4d. to 5d. was deemed a fair rate, and one at which contractors could make money. The price at which Mr. Kennedy offered to construct a dam at the J. K. Waterhole for the Works Department, viz., 6d. per yard, and which appears in the papers, gives independent testimony on what was evidently considered a fair price.* I have no absolutely reliable information as to prices paid for tank-work by the Government; but I think I can safely say it has ranged from 1s. 1d. to 2s. per cubic yard. E. Ford, lately a Government contractor, excavated over 20,000 yards for me at Tarella at 10d. and 1s. for dam-work. Well-sinking in the same district was paid for at the following rates:—Trial shafts, 2s. 6d. per foot to 100 feet, 4s. 6d. to 200 feet. Main shafts in alluvial, 15s. to 20s. per foot of 100 feet, 25s. per foot to 200 feet, 30s. per foot to 300 feet, which price included timbering, centering, and fixing runners, and is exclusive of the cost of sawn timber, which was delivered on the station for 42s. per 100 feet. Where contractors found their own timber, *i.e.*, pine or mulga, the price was 5s. per foot in excess of that quoted; and anywhere where alluvial sinking exists these prices, so far as I have been able to ascertain, are not exceeded by private individuals. £5 10s. per foot has been paid by Government for well-sinking, and this has in cases, I think, been exceeded.

The cost of headworks, as paid by the Government, exceeds fully 50 per cent. the price paid by private persons. For whims I paid—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|------------|----------|----------|
| Getting timber and erection | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| Sawn timber, tar, &c. | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Mountings (best and heaviest) | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Carriage, &c. | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Total cost | £62 | 0 | 0 |

This included poppet legs, &c. The whims erected by the Government are elaborately finished, all materials used in most cases being sawn red gum, even to king posts, and, so far as I can ascertain, at a cost of from £120 to £150. The whims erected for the sum I quote will compare very favourably in point of workmanship, design, and durability with the best of those erected for the Government, the design of which is open to serious objections. £90 was, if I remember rightly, the cost of a 20,000 gallon wood and iron service tank erected by me, including 200 feet of troughing, the timber for which was landed on the station at a cost of 42s. per 100 feet from Echuca. This sum is rarely or ever exceeded, since a cheaper form of tank is in general use. £200 has been in nearly every instance paid for service tanks by the Government, and this does not include troughing, which has cost from 15s. to 18s. per foot, while that erected by private persons costs from 4s. 6d. to 8s. per foot, according to design.

The appliances used for raising water, notably the steam pump, are no doubt effective; but its cost and elaborate adjuncts do not compensate for any advantage gained. They necessitate far greater care and cost in maintenance, and skilled and reliable persons, at high wages, have to be employed as caretakers; and erected as they are without shelter sheds, exposed to all weathers, have been most difficult to keep in order, and have been the subject of considerable correspondence between the Departments. They appear also to have been erected at places where least required, and horse-power supplied where the traffic is apparently greater. Except at tanks which are used for both stock and town supply, I think steam pumps entirely unnecessary. Failing simpler appliances, the horse-power pump, if properly erected, can do all that is required; and at other places, where the traffic is small, the hand M'Comas' or Floods' lift is ample; one man, single-handed, can lift sufficient water daily for 7,000 sheep. This is within my own experience. The steam pumps are far more liable to get out of order—the multiplicity of parts, their exposure to all weathers, wear and tear, all conduce to it—and the ordinary caretaker is not equal

* See papers re J. K. Well

J. W.
Boulton.

19 Jan., 1888.

equal to the repairs, although, by instructions, we are endeavouring to replace them as opportunity offers by men who can undertake repairs of all kinds. It is, however, desirable that simpler appliances of a less elaborate and costly nature should be used, and which an average caretaker can repair without reference being made to the constructing Department, which has so frequently led to frivolous and unpleasant minutes from that Department *re* "neglect of Mines caretakers."

It is a well-known fact, and one much commented upon in the country districts, that rates paid for Government tank-work are largely in excess of those paid by private persons; and this is, I think, mainly due to the delays that ensue in making payments. Small men, or contractors without money, are consequently unable to tender. Could they do so, the works would not be left in the hands of a few men who have followed up work of this kind, and who, by charging a higher rate, can afford to wait for payment. Mr. Quin told me of a case of a man who owed his merchant £60, and although the Government owed him £600 on a contract, he was sold up and ruined. In addition, too much polish is required to the work, the batters pick-dressed, and the floor of excavation as level as a table. The extreme steepness of the batter, viz., 1½ and 1 to 1, precludes the use of the scoop and bullocks (the most economical way devised as yet). The tank has consequently to be finished, and, in fact, mostly excavated by shovels and drays, necessitating extra men and extra cost. Drays and horses cannot climb the batters; roadways are consequently necessary, and the labour and power cannot be used to the best advantage. The embankments are invariably placed all round the tank, and unless used for conserving water over the excavation, are a very considerable item in the increase of cost. In their present state, they are practically useless. The nicety of the work enforced serves no practical end, and largely increases cost.

The fencing at all the Government tanks is far heavier than is required, and the cost of it, so far as I can ascertain, out of all proportion, and the disparity between station and Government rates very marked. The style of fencing latterly adopted by the Works Department is as follows:—Posts, 9 x 3, 9 feet apart, 2 feet 6 inches in ground, every twelfth post a straining post, and wired with Nos. 4, 6, and 8 gauge. This is all unnecessarily heavy. What suits for a station horse paddock or a police paddock should suit for a Government tank. Posts 6 inches or 8 inches x 4 inches, 22 inches in ground, and 12 feet apart, every twentieth post a strainer, and wired solely with No. 8 Rylands, Whitecross brands, are ample for all requirements, and will cost from £35 to £48 per mile, according to carriage and proximity of timber; and the average rate throughout the Colony should come well within £50 per mile. No station pays more than this for the fences I have described, while, so far as I can ascertain, the Government rate varies from £58 to £120 per mile, and then the contracts are sub-let. In addition, a concession has lately been made in the Ivanhoe district, by which the contractors have been allowed to disregard straining posts. The wire is run out and fastened to the post where it ends (this no practical man would ever dream of), and within a few days of the transfer from the contractors to the Works Department the Mines caretaker is reported for having the wires all slack. The charring of pine posts helps to increase the cost, while it draws the resin—the wood's best preservative—from it. The heavy wires, Nos. 4 and 6, are objectionable, since a caretaker singlehanded cannot re-strain them properly, and from the extra weight required and cost per mile.

In regard to the gates provided at the Government tanks, I think they are far too elaborate and expensive for the requirements. The general run of them are single gates, 12 feet swing, some well made, others badly. A pair of 6 feet gates, lighter in construction, would be far more serviceable, and cost one-third the price paid. I understand as much as £20 has been paid for a gate. At some of the paddocks, and to which travelling stock are *not* admitted, a 12 feet gate and two 12 feet slip-panels are provided, and are quite unnecessary; and at other places (in Albury district) a large expensive 12 feet gate is erected to admit to the tank enclosure into which nothing is allowed except the caretaker's horse to work the pump. A wicket gate appears to me to be all that is required in a case of this sort.

In regard to the last paragraph of your letter, there are many instances of injudicious selections of sites, faulty work, a disregard of the requirements of travelling stock, especially in the matter of the railing at the troughing; a disregard of the rainfall in a district in determining the size of the tank required; in sinking wells in districts where the salt water is invariably met with, and where excellent and ample catchment area exists for tanks; in placing drains where they run from the tank and where they can be but of small use; the adoption of a standard form of tank, irrespective of the ground formation, with 1½ and 1 to 1 batters in ground that will not stand; and of the inconvenient way in which the water is admitted to the troughing, and without due reference to the requirements of the road or the probability of tenants being found. In corroboration of which, reference may perhaps be made to the following, and which are within my personal knowledge:—Cobham Lake tank: In the bed of Cobham Lake, now under water for two years; J.K. well: Close proximity to an almost permanent waterhole. Tarella tank: Almost midway between two large dams that are on reserves and open to the public; neither of these dams have to my knowledge been dry since 1875. Meenamurtic well: Close proximity to permanent waterhole in 1875 before the dam was made; this waterhole was not dry. Dry Lake tank: In bed of Dry Lake; now under water two years. Ivanhoe tank is directly in the centre of township, upon measured portion of V.R., and is most inconveniently situated for bringing stock to it. Willandra well: This well is salt, and has cost £1,087, although only 102 feet deep; there is a good catch for a tank close to, but owing to defective work a new well has been commenced, I understand; the experience of the whole district has been that wells are invariably salt. The Dolmoreve and the Holy Box wells are the same, and this Department has to maintain them at great expense, since it was urged by the Works Department that constant baling would improve the quality; at the latter place a tank was commenced and abandoned by the Works, since they insisted the water was suitable for travelling stock. At both the Lignum Hut and Jumping Sand-hill wells the water is not good, while good catchments are close to for tanks. At the Old Gunbar the case is the same, only that the water is perfectly undrinkable by either man or beast; yet it is urged that improvement might ensue with constant baling. The expense of maintenance is the same as at a fresh water public watering place, and there is no possibility of leasing a public watering place of this description. All the wells enumerated are sunk in country that shows, from wells sunk by private enterprise, that brackish water alone is obtainable. The requirements of the travelling public have not met with due consideration in considering the suitability of the water, and from having to maintain caretakers at them. Some odium is attached to this Department. Reference may be made to the construction of the Woolloondool, Dry Lake and Crow's-nest wells. These are sunk and slabbed to a certain depth, and a bore to increase the supply has been sunk from the bottom. No flooring slabs, however, have been put in the well, and no pipes in the bore holes. This is, and has been, a source of trouble. The bore-holes choke and silt in, and the supply gets checked, and it becomes necessary to probe the hole to release the supply. It is urged imperatively by the Works Department that constant baling, whether water is required or not, is necessary to keep the hole clear. This is imposed upon the Mines Department, and I am sure that no practical person would attempt to defend the absence of floor or pipe. There is a consequent waste of water, wear and tear of gear and ropes, with no practical advantage, and the matter has been the source of numerous reports from overseer and lessee, and has been referred to the Works Department for action, with the result that when the bore gets choked it is attributed to the negligence of the Mines caretaker.

In the matter of drains, I have reported that at Tom's Lake, Hulong, and Ivanhoe the levels are in some cases imperfect, and water expected to run up hill. At Mount Elliott a long drain is brought straight down a hill, and is practically useless. In many cases the wheel traffic crosses them. They are consequently very much cut, silted, and damaged. If it was absolutely necessary that the drains should cross the track, provision should I think have been made, either by logging or pitching. Ivanhoe, Pulletop, Hemitage, Muriel, Tom's Lake, are cases in which this defect is very apparent.

The railing at the troughs at Government tanks has also been the subject of several memorandums by me. It is in nearly all cases too high to allow large stock to water with ease, and did not prevent sheep from getting into trough. Alterations were made by this Department, which were commented upon by the Works Department, but that Department has, in the Cobar district, now adopted the form of railing as altered by us. The complaints made to me personally in reference to this defect have been frequent, and I am sure the Department has lost hundreds of pounds from it alone. At the Hovell's dam, in the Albury district, there is an example of great waste of money. The dam (a very fine one) is constructed across the creek, and on the one side abuts on to a rocky spur; on the other is a fine wide open flat—an ample and a fine natural by-wash. This (for a reason I cannot explain) was disregarded, and a cutting taken right through the spur to form a by-wash. This by-wash is cut through the solid rock to a depth of about 15 feet, and is about 70 yards long, &c. The reason for this it is hard to understand, seeing the natural by-wash already made. At the Muriel tank and dam it became necessary, upon the adoption of pumping gear, to erect a horse-walk, and this was done on the upper or inside of the dam, at a time when the water was over the excavation. The distance from edge of excavation to edge of dam necessitated the formation of the horse-walk partly in the tank. Load after load of loamy spoil that melted like sugar, to the extent of I believe something like 3,000 yards, was tipped into the tank. This is now much filled with silt, &c., from this source. The necessity for placing the horse-walk in its present position, and in which it has settled considerably, I never could understand, nor could I understand any practical man allowing the same to be done.

The

The size of the tanks in the Albury district, and in fact through the whole of the southern portion of the Colony, are, I think, larger than required in many cases. The embankments surround the tank, and no provision is made for filling over the excavation. Had this been done, a much smaller excavation would have sufficed. Tanks are, in cases, most admirably suited for this, and steam pumps erected; but no effort has been made to utilise them by pumping within the embankments—The Hulong tank, where the tank is on the edge of a large swamp; the Ledknappa and others. The same form of tank has in most of the later tanks been adopted, with batters $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 to 1, irrespective of the soil. The Gunaramby tank is an instance of this. The soil is what is known as copai ground, very friable and loose, and the batters are caved in excessively. On one side the face is now about 3 feet high, and here one silt tank discharges by means of drains following right round the tank into the lower flume. The ground has been badly cut, and has been protected by the caretaker to a certain extent by a pitching of copai stones.

In some cases the troughing does not run at right angles to the supply tank, the valve from which is in cases 2 feet 6 inches from the troughs; and the consequence is that when the water is turned on it misses the troughs. This has to be remedied by the caretaker. At Goonery the valve is exactly opposite the centre rail of troughs, and when the water was turned on it scattered all over the place. A bent pipe should I think deliver from supply tank to the trough, since the noisy and rapid flow of the water alarms and disturbs wild stock, and a long length of troughing becomes practically useless. Sufficient room has not in some cases been left for stock on one side of the troughing, as at Gunbar, Ivanhoe, Roto, &c., and the access to the Ivanhoe tank is down the main street. The placing of tanks near good waterholes and the salt wells are very much against the chance of obtaining tenants for these works. In some cases two works are placed on a line of road where one would have sufficed—Clare to Ivanhoe. Wells have been sunk, timbered, centred, &c., and whim, service tank, and troughing erected, before the supply or quality of the water was decided sufficient or suitable; notably at Willandra, Old Gunbar, Holy Box, and Dolmoreve. No practical man or squatter would do this before he had tested the ground either by trial shafts or bores.

I have, &c.,

JAMES W. BOULTBEE,

Inspector of Public Watering Places.

554. *Chairman.*] Then these elaborate embankments are of no use? No, there are not many cases of that sort; but there are cases where the embankments are all made after the same form—that is, open inlets are used.

555. *Mr. Woore.*] Are they not made in that way, so that the water supply may be increased, if required? That may be; but it has not been done. My argument is, that if smaller tanks had been constructed, and the embankment utilised for conserving water, smaller excavations, and consequently less expense, would have sufficed.

556. *Chairman.*] But they would hold a lesser quantity of water? They would hold a greater quantity of water than they do now.

557. The first matter is between open watering and troughs. You are, of course, aware that the matter is very much after all a matter of pounds, shillings, and pence. Open watering is infinitely cheaper than pumping and troughing, and the question then arises which is the better plan—the cheap one, or the conserving all this water and keeping it intact from the contamination of animals, which always makes their droppings in the tanks. Then there is the corresponding costs of keeping a caretaker at these tanks, and pumping the water from them for the watering of animals;—I would like to ask you this question from the Government point of view (where money is not so much an object), and from the squatters' point of view (from which money is an object)? Well, speaking from the view of an ex-station manager, I most certainly would never allow stock into the tanks. In the first place, away up in that dry country, a tank will last fully a third as long and more by keeping the stock out. Then, as regards the cost of supplying the tank with a caretaker and troughing, I may point out that boundary-riders on a station do the work. You save the money on the whole, and you do not lose any sheep through bogging, and the wool is not perished; so that altogether, I think, there is no comparison between the two methods. If sheep are allowed into a tank they will carry out a very large amount of water with them. A boundary-rider ought to be able to look after his paddock and attend to the watering of 7,000 sheep in a day. With the McComas' pump, which is an endless chain, a man can lift water 20 feet. He can also water 7,000 sheep in the day. I never myself had to do it at that depth, but I have seen it done at Meenamurtie. It was a perpendicular lift of 20 feet. They had a well sunk on the edge of the berm, and lifted it. The great object in keeping water pure in the Government tanks is that it may be kept available for human beings as well as stock; but that, of course, does not apply so much to squatters. Another plan that was adopted on some stations was to fence in three sides of the tank, and have moveable hurdles on the fourth. The approach to the tank would be along one slope.

558. *Mr. Woore.*] But that does not get over the fouling of the tanks? No; but it prevents the waste of water. I admit that it does not keep the water entirely pure.

559. *Chairman.*] You mentioned about the J. K. well. The cost of that well has been very considerable;—we would like more information on that point? I referred to the J. K. well. It was placed in close proximity to a fine waterhole. Mr. R. H. Kennedy, of Wonominta, offered to construct a dam there, and to do it for 6d. per yard. He offered to construct a dam on the J. K. waterhole.

560. Are you aware that it is scarcely possible to have permanent water by means of tanks and dams; and, that being admitted, do you not think it desirable to have an adjacent well on which you can rely in a case of drought? Then the question comes in, that we have to maintain them. They do not return a penny, although they are a very big expense to us.

561. In what way are they a big expense? We have to employ a caretaker, there being no possibility of leasing them.

562. But the caretaker looks after the tank and dam, and the well does not want him? I understand now what you mean.

563. But you see that complaint has been made that wells have been sunk in close proximity to tanks, and you can see that no water is permanent, strictly speaking. The tanks are always liable to dry up; and is it, therefore, not desirable to have wells, even in close proximity to tanks, which will always give you water? If it can be done under these conditions I should think it would be an advantage; but the expense would be double, and it would be a very long drought that would dry up these tanks. I do not think the J. K. waterhole will ever dry up.

564. But I am speaking generally. In some instances the Works Department have thought it desirable to have tanks and wells in close proximity to one another? [No answer.]

565. *Major Penrose.*] I do not fancy that they were very close together; but where one was asked for in a gap they put down two? That was the case in the Ivanhoe, and also in the Willandra and Gunaramby, where two public watering places were constructed when one was asked for.

566. *Chairman.*] To carry out what I wish to ask you,—are you not aware that squatters, to provide against contingencies, have sometimes thought it desirable to sink wells, perhaps immediately adjoining the tanks,

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tanks, so that in case a tank fails they can pump the water from the well into the tank, and in that way carry themselves over a long drought? I cannot call to mind where that has been done. I have known a tank at one end of a paddock and a well at the other, so that in case of stock travelling to a tank, the grass around the tank would be all eaten when the water was exhausted. Then the sheep and stock go to the other end of the paddock, where the well is, and eat the grass down there.

567. Do you not think it a wise precaution on the part of the Government, knowing the terrible droughts we are subject to, to put down a well in the same neighbourhood as a tank, so that one caretaker can look after both; and then, in the event of a tank going dry, it would be a very desirable thing to have the well? I can hardly say that, because the tanks now constructed are so large that they can well stand any drought, and there is not the double expense. Practically, they are as permanent as a well. I guarantee that some of the Government tanks will last for three or four years without rain.

568. I do not think you quite understood my question about the J.K. waterhole. You said that a Mr. Kennedy proposed to construct it at 6d. per yard? Yes; he was to find all plant and do the whole of the work at 6d. per yard.

569. What did the work actually cost? I really cannot say what the cost was in this case.

570. *Major Penrose.*] Did Kennedy get the work? No; I don't think so. A dam was never made, but a well was put down close to there.

571. *Chairman.*] What are these service tanks made of? The bulk of them are of wood, lined with galvanized iron, and the balance buckle-plate iron.

572. In your experience, which are the most effective and desirable? There can be no question as to which are the best. Buckle-plate iron is the best, but a cheaper form of tank was used by the squatters, and seemed to last very well.

573. You must remember that the position of the squatter and that of the Government is not quite the same. A squatter is a man planted upon the ground for the time being; but the Government have to make their works much more durable, and do make them so. You think it is desirable in this hot climate to have really good service tanks instead of wooden affairs? Certainly I do; but squatters improvements are, as a rule, permanent.

574. So that you do not find fault with the expense that the Government have gone to in having these more expensive service tanks? I never ascertained exactly what their cost was; but there is no doubt that they are very much more durable and better than the wooden ones.

575. *Major Penrose.*] These buckle-plate tanks would last for years? For very many years, if they are taken care of.

576. In fifty years time the cost of the buckle-plate service tanks will be less than the wooden ones? I should think so, if they last so long. I do not say that it would be so at a place where there is salt in the water. I do not think that in such cases they should be used. If so, the iron should be galvanized, as the salt water would eat the plain iron through.

577. *Chairman.*] Now, with regard to Cobham Lake and Dry Lake, you spoke about the injudicious action of the Government in making tanks in these two places. Are you aware that the sites of these tanks were approved of by the officers of your Department? No; I never heard that they were, and I do not think that they were so approved. It was before my time; but I have seen Mr. Gilliat's report on the Mount Brown road.

578. It is asserted that Mr. Gilliat himself approved of these two sites? Mr. Gilliat has submitted his report to show that he did not do so. He left out Dry Lake altogether in his report on the Mount Brown road as a public watering place. He specially mentioned Dry Lake as having been supplied with water by a publican, and he said that so long as the publican supplied the water at reasonable rates to the public he thought further expense by the Government was unnecessary.

579. Of course you are aware that the publican had the privilege of denying the water to anyone who might offend him, and he could charge what he thought proper. Therefore, it was undesirable that a private individual should have the control of a place of this kind and be able to make very heavy charges for the watering of travelling stock? The plan that Mr. Gilliat laid down might have been easily carried out without reference to the publican, Smith, at all, and the public would not be literally forced to go to Smith for water.

580. As a matter of fact, Dry Lake is merely a depression in the ground; and, therefore, was not a tank justified in this place? Yes; it is simply a depression between sand-hills, fed by two considerable creeks.

581. Then the fact of sinking a tank in this depression in Dry Lake was not a faulty one? As an actual site for a tank there is no question about its being a good one; but as a public watering place it would have been better had it been further away from the lake.

582. *Mr. Woore.*] But presuming that the lake had not been filled—I knew it twenty-five years ago, and there was no water in it then, and it had apparently been dry for many years? Still I think if Mr. Gilliat's plan of watering the road had been brought about the necessity of sinking a tank there would have been avoided.

583. Would the same apply to Cobham Lake? Yes, more so; because this lake was only dry once.

584. But there is evidence that it had been dry for twenty-four years? That was before my time.

585. *Chairman.*] Then you think that the Works Department were to blame for selecting these sites? I do think so; because they must have known that at some time there was bound to be plenty of water there for long periods. A tank at a place where there was no water at all would be far more useful. About 8 miles from Cobham's there is a good place for a tank—Slight's Camp. Besides, the probability of leasing a tank ought to be taken into account.

586. At a time like the present I suppose it is absurd to keep a caretaker looking after these places? Yes; when under water.

587. *Mr. Woore.*] There is no doubt about it that Cobham Lake, although one of the finest lakes in the back country, is liable to be dry for many years together? I never knew it dry, although I heard it was dry for a short time in 1875.

588. It was dry in 1863, and is liable to be dry for a number of years at a time. The filling of this lake depends upon two creeks running at one time; if one creek only runs it may merely put a little water into the lake. Now, is it not a reasonable thing to put a tank there to catch and conserve what little water that may run into the lake when it is empty, instead of allowing it to spread over the whole surface of

of the lake bed, where it would soon evaporate and soak away? The porous bed of a lake is never a good catching surface, and there is generally a substratum of drift. Mr. Gilliat's recommendation dealt fully with this lake.

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589. *Chairman.*] For the reasons that you have stated, you think that there is no blame attaching to the Works Department for putting a watering place there? I certainly think they are to blame.

590. You made some remarks about Meenamurtie;—can you give us any further information about that? Meenamurtie well is put down in close proximity to a permanent waterhole. This hole was not dry in 1875 before the dam was made.

591. *Mr. Woore.*] This was not a travelling stock route then? No; although considerable numbers of travelling stock used this road.

592. *Chairman.*] You seem to be under the impression that the Works Department had caused unnecessary expense in putting a well down where there was an abundance of fine water;—did you ever know that this water failed? Never; and I knew it for over twelve years. It had then and still has the reputation of being the most permanent water in the back country. Since the dam was placed there I do not think the hole can ever dry. In 1884, when the drought broke up, there was an abundance of water there.

593. Now, about Hovell's dam—you do not know why the water was sent through the rocky ridge? I heard that an error had been made in taking levels. Overseer Mackay, I think, refers to it.

594. However, it struck you that an unnecessary expense had been gone to in making a by-wash through this rocky ridge? Yes.

595. You do not think that there was any danger of erosion? No, I do not think so; because there was a wide flat on the other side for the water to flow-over.

596. *Major Penrose.*] Has water ever flowed through the by-wash? Yes; in flood seasons I think the water would run through the by-wash before it would run over the flats; but no water has been through it yet.

597. *Chairman.*] Is it not possible that the rock taken from the by-wash might have been utilised in protecting the embankments abutting on the flat? I do not think so, because the amount of stuff taken out of the excavation in front was really much in excess of what was required. The spoil from the by-wash has not been used at all. I would like to refer to Overseer Mackay's report. It says, respecting Hovell's tank and dam:—"This watering-place is on a by-road. It was constructed, in the first instance, on the petition of the local selectors, who used to suffer greatly for want of water every year. A great deal of unnecessary expense was incurred in cutting the by-wash, owing to the levels being incorrectly taken in the first instance."

598. *Mr. Woore.*] Where is this place—Hovell's dam? It is on the road from Wallbundry to Howlong.

599. About Meenamurtie waterhole being permanent, do you mean permanent in its natural state, or that it was permanent after Mr. Middleton built the stone dam? Well, my experience only goes back to the time the dam was built. The dam was washed away; but there was abundance of water there after that.

600. Then, when you speak of the waterhole being permanent, you mean that it was permanent after the dam was put up? Yes, within my experience; and before, by report.

601. *Chairman.*] The next matter is the Muriel tank, in which you say the tank was interfered with by a horse-walk having been made; and to give sufficient space, they encroached upon and filled up a portion of the tank. This would appear to be a most extraordinary proceeding, and I should like to know more about it? [*The witness proceeded to show by diagram the extent of the excavation, the position of the drinking-tank for stock, and of the horse-walk.*]

602. *Mr. Woore.*] Was there any reason why the horse-walk should not have been put on the other side of the bank? I should have put it on the other side myself.

603. Is there any reason why it should not have been put there? None that I know of.

604. *Major Penrose.*] I see in the correspondence here that Muriel tank was nearly filled up? That is possibly an exaggeration. There is a great amount of spoil in the tank, and the overseer of the district puts it down at from 1,000 to 2,000 yards; but mine is merely an approximate statement. The bottom of embankment is, so near as I remember, about 30 feet from edge of tank.

605. *Mr. Woore.*] So that you think it was a waste of public money to throw this stuff into the tank, besides damaging the tank itself? Quite so.

606. But did it damage the tank? At the time it was being done the stock were getting bogged in it, and the lessee wrote to the overseer of the tank (Mr. Cotton), in order to try and get it stopped.

607. *Chairman.*] If this pump was attached for the purpose of raising water there, how comes it that the stock were allowed there at all? The horse-walk was being erected to supply water to the trough. The overseer will be able to give a far better explanation of it than I can, since he saw it at the time it was being made.

608. *Mr. Woore.*] Has the partial filling up of this tank had such a serious effect as to reduce the water-supply to such an extent that it was not sufficient? I hardly think so. There is still plenty of water there for all the stock passing.

609. *Major Penrose.*] You state that the batter of most of these tanks is from $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 to 1? $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 to 1.

610. How do you know that;—by measurement? No; by the eye. I never put the clinometer on them.

611. Are you aware that all the specifications given to us show that the batters have to be excavated at a batter of 2 to 1? I never saw any of these specifications at all. Of course that statement of mine that they were $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 to 1 is only based on the judgment of my eye.

[The Commission adjourned.]

FRIDAY, 20 JANUARY, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R.E., | J. C. WOORE, Esq.

James William Boulton called in and further examined:—

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612. *Witness.*] I was asked yesterday whether the silt put in the Muriel tank by making the horse-walk would impair the efficiency of the tank. I wish now to qualify my statement by stating that I think that when the tank gets low it will impair its efficiency. It will certainly reduce its holding capacity to some extent, although perhaps it does not impair the tank at the present time, while full and overflowing. Another matter that I would like to refer to is the probable ulterior use of the embankments that are put round the tanks. When the Works Department handed these works over to us I do not think that they had any ulterior idea in utilizing these embankments round the tanks for the storage of water, because no provision is made for pumping or anything else. The water is in some cases over the excavation, and when it gets lower you will not have the full benefit of the size of the excavation in consequence of its silting up.

613. *Major Penrose.*] What do you think the embankments are for? I cannot say at all. In their present state there is no attempt made to use them.

614. *Mr. Woore.*] Is it not reasonable to suppose that they were constructed with the idea that they would be used if required? Yes, that is a reasonable supposition; but the engines have not been fixed in any way for that purpose.

615. *Chairman.*] All the engines that are now used are for pumping water away from the tank and not for putting it into the tank? Yes.

616. *Mr. Woore.*] Have any of these tanks gone dry to your knowledge? Not to my knowledge; and I do not think it likely that they ever will.

617. That being the case, does it not clearly prove that the sites have been well selected with regard to catchment area? Some of them have.

618. And that the supply is sufficient without utilizing the embankment? Yes; but then my argument is that the smaller tanks, utilized as pump-up tanks, would have done as well, if not better.

619. *Chairman.*] Is it not a fact that those embankments, as placed round the tanks, have helped to prevent evaporation? There is no doubt about that.

620. You are aware, then, that one of the objects of these embankments is to prevent evaporation by the wind? Yes; it is one of the results.

621. Do you know any instance where tanks have been sunk previous to the last wet season, and did not get water? The Mulya tank, near Louth, was a long time in getting full, and I do not think it is full now.

622. Is that tank on the north side of the river? No; it is on the south side, near the township of Louth.

623. I would like to get a definite answer in regard to this question;—I have heard indirectly that sites of tanks have been badly chosen, and that even during this last wet season some of the tanks have not been full? I have no personal knowledge of that matter.

624. You can understand that if that had been the case it would be positive proof that the site chosen was a bad one? Yes.

625. *Major Penrose.*] How many tanks have you in your district? Somewhere about seventy-five. I think there are about thirty-five in the Narrandera part of the district, and forty-one in the Cobar part of the district. I can furnish the information exactly if it is required.

626. *Chairman.*] Now, I would like to know exactly what your duties are? I am Inspector of Public Watering Places, and as such I have to visit and inspect those tanks, and see that the work is all kept in proper and good order. I have to lay out the work for the caretaker, and in case any improvement is necessary I furnish a plan of it, and an estimate as required. I have also to examine the books and certify that they are correct. I have to inspect the books kept by the caretaker, and see that the amounts received for watering stock are acknowledged. I have to examine everything at the tank as fully as possible. The work then has to be laid out for the caretaker, and when I return I have to see that the work so laid out has been properly done. I have also to make special reports on any requisitions that may be made for new tanks, and furnish whatever evidence I can get as to the probable cost thereof, and whether the work is required in the district.*

627. Have you anything to do with the selection of sites? No; I merely recommend a site which I believe to be a good one. The actual selection of the site rests with the Works Department.

628. What are the plans that you refer to? If any alterations are required at the tank, I have to make a plan of the alterations in order to show what has to be done. I have also to supply, sometimes, explanatory plans.

629. *Mr. Woore.*] Who are these plans sent to—are they sent to the Works Department? No; they are sent to the Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places.

630. Have you had any special training in the matter of drawing up plans and specifications? No; only my own knowledge of the work, which I gained on a station. I am not an engineer.

631. Now, all these particular works having been handed over to the Mines Department, are you aware whether there are sufficient trained men in the Department to carry on the works that are now done by the Roads Branch? With regard to the construction of tanks, I do say that our officers are quite capable. I hardly think that it requires a trained engineer to lay out a tank, or to put it down. A practical knowledge gained on a station comes in there.

632. *Major Penrose.*] Can you make a contour survey? I believe I can. I understand the theory of it.

633. *Chairman.*] Do you understand levelling? Yes; a station manager has to understand that.

634. Now, in the face of such large works as those recommended in the final report of the Water Conservation Commission being taken in hand by the Mines Department, are you aware whether there is a sufficient staff of men in that office competent to undertake these expensive works? I have not the slightest doubt about it. I think our men are quite capable of doing it. We have an engineer there—Mr. M'Kinney—who is second to none in the Colony. I believe that Mr. M'Kinney has made the question of the conservation of water the study of his lifetime.

635.

* For duties, see Regulations attached to the Act

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635. What are his special duties now? His duties are the duties of an engineer in connection with this water conservation scheme.
636. Has he anything to do with watering places? Not so far as I know, except that should Mr. Gilliat require information on any special matter Mr. M'Kinney would possibly be referred to.
637. *Major Penrose.*] What check is kept on the moneys taken by the caretakers? They are obliged to keep a receipt book, a cash book, and a journal. Beyond this there is little or no check on their accounts.
638. I suppose there is a check in this way: A caretaker waters 9,000 sheep, and he might return the number as 7,000 or even 6,000? Of course, there will be discrepancies. If, in a dry time, a mob of sheep travelling a long length of road misses a tank here and there, we ask the caretaker for an explanation.
639. Otherwise there is no check on him? No; and it would be quite impossible.
640. *Mr. Woore.*] I think each drover ought to be called upon to sign a receipt-book? Well, something like that is done. The caretaker signs the receipt and hands it to the drover, so there is always the counterfoil for us to look at.
641. So that the drover's signature does not appear at all? No.
642. Well, I think it ought to appear? The counterfoil or butt of the check is kept, and although it is not signed by the drover the corresponding entry is made in the butt.
643. *Major Penrose.*] Perhaps this is a little outside the scope of our inquiry.
644. *Chairman.*] It might be the legitimate subject of an inquiry if the public were being plundered. If we can suggest a remedy we ought to do it. Do you not think it would be desirable that the drover should sign the book, certifying the number of stock that he had watered;—would that not be a very considerable check on the caretaker? I can hardly see why it would be a greater check than to have the caretaker receipt the book. It would not be a very simple matter to get the drovers to do it, because many of them are intractable fellows, and sometimes they even object to receive receipts. These receipts, of course, show the amount that the caretaker has received.
645. But what does the drover care about that;—have you full control over these caretakers? We have full control. If in any case we have ground for suspicion, a report is at once sent to the Chief Inspector, the caretaker is suspended, and another man is put in his place.
646. *Major Penrose.*] On an average, how many times per year do you visit the tanks in your district? I cannot give an answer to that, as it is only since last July that additional inspectors were appointed, and the districts apportioned. Before that, I was the only inspector—travelled all over the Colony—and I had no chance at all to pay regular visits. The inspectors of stock act as overseers of these caretakers, and are supposed to visit and report on the tanks regularly every two months.
647. *Mr. Woore.*] Then there are three classes of overseers over these tanks—the inspectors of watering places, the inspectors of stock, and the road superintendents? There are only three inspectors of watering places in the whole Colony, and they have to exert a general supervision. Originally there were only three overseers; but they were dispensed with, and the duties thrown on the inspectors for stock.
648. *Chairman.*] You say there are three inspectors of public watering places? Yes;—Mr. Low, Mr. Mackenzie, and myself.
649. And how many stock inspectors act as overseers? About twenty-three or twenty-four. They get no salary for the work. It is a duty which they have to perform.
650. Is there a caretaker at each tank and well? Yes; but there are some open dams in my district where one caretaker is in charge of four places. I refer to Hurley's, Old Junee, Wallacetown, and Illabo.
651. What are the wages received by these caretakers? Where they have a horse to keep they get 8s. per day; and where steam pumps are used they get only 7s. 6d. a day, and in some cases only 6s. 6d. The lessees where the tanks are leased have to keep a caretaker, who resides there.
652. Now, will you state the duties of these caretakers? The duties are very carefully laid down in the regulations with the Act, and also the duties of overseers and inspectors. Our instructions to the caretakers are very full.
653. Has it come to your knowledge that any tank excavated has not been filled during this wet season? I do not know of any, except Mulya tank, by report.
654. Then where is the alleged mistake made with regard to the selection of sites? I think we went into that yesterday. I refer you to Cobham, Meenamurtee, and Tarella.
655. *Mr. Woore.*] But these, you say, are bad sites, in regard to being too near to permanent water. What we want now is about their being in wrong places as regards catchment? [No answer.]
656. *Major Penrose.*] Do you consider that the Ivanhoe tank is on a badly selected site? I think it is most inconveniently situated. It is right in the middle of the township, excavated on what are village reserves and allotments, and stock have to go down the middle of the main street to get to it.
657. *Mr. Woore.*] But there is not much of a main street there? Well, they have to go between the houses to get to the water. Ivanhoe is now a big place.
658. *Major Penrose.*] But, from an engineer's point of view, the site selected for catchment was a fair one? Yes; the catchment was a very fair one.
659. *Mr. Woore.*] Were you there when the tank was first constructed and laid out? No.
660. Then you cannot say what Ivanhoe was then? No; I did not see the tank till it was nearly finished.
661. Even then, how many houses were there? All the houses that are there now, with the exception of the stock office.
662. *Major Penrose.*] You say in your report that the townspeople are dependent on a tank of Mr. Williamson's? Yes.
663. *Mr. Woore.*] You spoke of this tank being in the main street;—do you know whether the township had been surveyed before the houses were built? I fancy the township had been surveyed, but I can ascertain directly.
664. *Major Penrose.*] A tank has around it a square mile of land, I believe? The land is not all around it. The reserve is not square.
665. What constitutes the tenant's lease, then? The tenant's lease is a long narrow strip, following the road, in this case.
666. *Mr. Woore.*] Is it not better to have this portion of land, which is to be leased to the caretaker, situated in that way than to have it all around the tank? Just so. It is always the endeavour to get the tank as near one corner as possible. When the tank is in the middle of the tenant's lease, the stock go in there and destroy all the feed, unless the troughing is fenced off.

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667. *Major Penrose.*] Now, can the whole of this 640 acres be utilized for catchment? Oh no; the catchment is the bad part of it, and the drainage comes through the town in several places in to the tank. One drain runs right past Cobb & Co.'s stables and then past a piggery, thence into the tank. Other drains run through allotments that were sold the other day.
668. *Mr. Woore.*] Is there no other water accessible? None, except from private tanks. Mr. Elliot and Mr. Williamson supplied the people.
669. Then this tank is almost a cesspool for the town? It is not so bad as that; but it is certainly not a nice thing to have these drains coming into it.
670. If this tank is on lower land than the buildings, of course all the village drainage runs into it? Certainly, besides the drain crosses the road in two places, and all the traffic goes over them.
671. *Chairman.*] Do you know of your own knowledge that there was a better site than that recommended? The site recommended by Mr. Gilliat on purchased land of Mr. Williamson's was much better. It could have been exchanged for other land.
672. Would that be on the stock route? Yes; on the Balranald road. It is about half-a-mile from the town.
673. *Mr. Woore.*] On Government land? No, on private land; but Williamson offered to exchange.
674. Was this site chosen by the Works Department while there was an available site on Crown Lands? Yes; that I know to be true. The site was moved and a place chosen where it would be close to the township. They then found that the land was selected.
675. *Chairman.*] Now with regard to defective design and too steep batter. We cannot give an answer at the present time to your question whether the earlier specifications were the same as the present ones. I think, in the paper you read yesterday, you went fully into the matter of defective design, and that paper will of course be printed with your evidence? [No answer.]
676. *Mr. Woore.*] You say "that tanks are of defective design and faulty construction; and but little concern is taken of the formation of the ground or of the selection of catchment area so as to avoid collection of silt." You state also "that too steep batters were adopted in most cases, and that sites were adopted without reference to formation or nature of soil"; also, that "the construction of flumes and inlet pipes has been defective; that carelessness has been manifest in the laying out of drains, the cost of which is excessive"? Tanks have invariably been placed on the lower portion of the catchment instead of on a sidling, so that there would be a good fall to the tanks by gravitation.
677. But the lower the tank is situated the better the chance of carrying overhead fluming over the embankments if required, and the better the chance of filling the tank? In some cases you can do without overhead fluming. You can intercept the water on a higher level, and bring it down to fill the tanks to the top of the embankment. I have seen one good example of this, which is on a station of Mr. Evans' at Babooba.
678. Of course, in a wet season it does not matter where the tank is placed so long as there is a fairly good catchment, but the object is to catch water in dry seasons, and therefore it is only reasonable to suppose that these tanks were placed on the lower ground in order that, however little water fell, some of it would go into the tank? But you might be able to get a place giving ample catchment area at a higher level.
679. *Chairman.*] Then the chief fault you find in laying out these tanks is the fact that you cannot get water to run over the embankment unless it is built on the side of a ridge with fluming running down a gradual slope? Quite so; in some cases the tanks will hold water a little over the excavation, but the embankments will not fill up.
680. The length of fluming would depend upon the levels of the ground? Yes; and the distance from the silt tank to the main tank.
681. But the water from the silt tank could only fill up round the side of the embankment? It would fill a main tank to its own level.

William Sly called in and examined:—

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682. *Mr. Woore.*] Where do you reside? In Toowoomba, Queensland.
683. You are a grazier? Yes?
684. You formerly owned Ardoo Station? I own it now.
685. Where is it situated? On the Booloo River, in Queensland.
686. How long have you owned that station? I have owned it for about ten years.
687. Do you know the road down by the Paroo to the Darling? Yes.
688. How long have you known it? Ever since it has been opened—twenty-seven or twenty-eight years.
689. Is that the main stock route from the south-west part of Queensland to Melbourne? Yes, it is.
690. How many years has it been used as a stock route? Well, I travelled it with stock twenty-two years ago.
691. Stock were travelled also from the neighbouring stations? Yes.
692. What kind of stock—cattle or sheep? Principally cattle.
693. I believe there is a great difference in the number of cattle travelling now and twenty-two years ago? I suppose there is 2,400 per cent. more—no comparison.
694. What is the greatest number of cattle that you have known to travel by that route within a given time? The greatest number that I know of was about 78,000, which travelled there last year, made up from three books where stock was reported.
695. Within how many months? Within nine months.
696. Do any sheep go down? Not from my part. They may go from some places further down near the Border.
697. What quantity of water would each beast drink at each watering place after making a fair stage? Each beast would drink from 8 to 10 gallons.
698. I am speaking now of a dry season? Well, they would drink 10 gallons after doing an ordinary day's journey, if they had to depend on tanks.
699. Are the cattle now confined to this stock route? Yes.
700. Were they not formerly confined to it? No, they could go anywhere formerly; but now the route is fenced in.
- 701.

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701. Do you know Warramurtee waterhole—the last waterhole on the Paroo? Yes.
702. Is that a permanent waterhole? No.
703. Not even with the dam on it? There is a dam on it, but the water is not permanent.
704. Do you think that that waterhole would be sufficient to supply travelling stock without water being conserved there? No; I do not.
705. Then, an additional supply cannot be unnecessary at that place? No; I think not.
706. You know the Warramurtee tank; it is situated near the waterhole? Yes.
707. Is the water in the tank with that in the waterhole sufficient for the stock that travel down there? No; it is not sufficient in a drought.
708. And it is in a time of drought that it is most wanted? Yes.
709. And that being the case, are you prepared to say that the Warramurtee tank is an unnecessary public work, and that public money has been thrown away by making a tank there? No; I do not think it was unnecessary. On the contrary, I think it is very necessary. If three times the amount of money had been spent there in water conservation it would have been very necessary.
710. Another place on that road is the Yentabangee tank? Yes.
711. Do you consider that an unnecessary public work? No; I do not.
712. Does that tank supply the demands of travelling stock in all seasons? No; it does not supply the demands of travelling stock—nothing near it.
713. *Major Penrose.*] Then it sometimes runs dry? Yes.
714. *Mr. Woore.*] Is there no natural water there at the Yentabangee tank? Yes; a spring.
715. Would that spring have been sufficient to supply all demands of travelling stock? No; it was a weak spring.
716. But the springs are the only permanent water there? Yes.
717. There are waterholes as well—are they not permanent? No; and the lake is a mere shallow depression in the ground. It is a mere swamp, not a lake.
718. The next case is the tank at the Peri Sand-hills;—do you know it? Yes.
719. Do you know the Peri Springs? Yes.
720. Are the springs the most permanent supply in that part of the district? Yes; the springs are the most permanent water that I know of away back from the river.
721. Do you think that if the waters of these springs were opened up there would be sufficient water to supply the demand of travelling stock during drought? I do not think so.
722. The springs would not give the quantity of water required? No; they would fail at any time when a sudden demand was made on them.
723. Have these springs, to your knowledge, been opened up in any way? I cannot say.
724. Do you know if the Peri tank is situated near the springs? Yes.
725. Do you consider that tank an unnecessary public work? No; it is very necessary, but not large enough.
726. Well, from this I gather that your opinion is that the water of this tank and these springs combined is not sufficient for travelling stock in dry seasons? No.
727. Have you ever known either of the other tanks that I have mentioned to be dry? Yes.
728. In what year? In 1885.
729. Were they all dry then? Yes.
730. That being the case, was not the traffic in travelling stock suspended? Yes, we had to stop sending stock from the south-west part of Queensland, in consequence of these tanks being dry.
731. What remedy would you suggest for the state of things you describe? I would suggest that the stock routes should be better supplied with water. I would recommend more tanks and deeper tanks. The tanks should be made deeper if the ground would allow of it.
732. Then, are the distances between these tanks too great? Yes; too great by half. There ought to be a tank between Peri Springs and Yentabangee, and between that and Warramurtee.
733. Do you know Copago tank? Yes; I know that one.
734. Do you know anything about the tank that is made there? There was, first of all, a dam at Copago, near where the creek enters into it. This dam was washed away, and was then replaced further up the channel.
735. How far? About a quarter of a mile from where the dam was.
736. In dry seasons was the tank supply sufficient to water all the travelling stock? No.
737. It was not large enough? No.
738. What do you think of the first three sites mentioned? I think they were all placed in an excellent catchment area.
739. Do you think that the Peri tank is well situated with regard to the stock route? I do think so.
740. Is the stock route the best that could be chosen? Yes; it was the road chosen by the stock-owners at a time when they could go where they liked.
741. *Major Penrose.*] Do you think that the Peri Springs could be improved in any way by the addition of large service tanks and troughing? I do not think so.
742. *Mr. Woore.*] The springs are situated in the lake—are they not? Yes; but the springs out there won't stand much meddling.
743. You do not think that they would be benefitted by being opened up? No, I do not. More stock travel in twelve months now than were in the whole district originally.
744. *Chairman.*] Have you any experience in tank excavations? Yes.
745. To what depth have you had these excavations made? Usually from 10 to 15 feet. We would put them down to 25 feet if it could be done.
746. How much more have you to pay for these deep tanks than the shallower ones? About 30 per cent. That is after you go to a certain depth.
747. *Major Penrose.*] Do you mean when you get beyond 15 feet? Yes.
748. *Mr. Woore.*] Can you get as deep as 25 feet with ploughs and scoops? Yes, you can; but you must make the tank in a different shape altogether from the way Government tanks are made. They must be longer than the others.
749. Why a long tank;—how does that lessen the expense? You can make them both ways; but by making them long you can take out the earth lengthways, and not sideways.

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750. That would increase the expense? Yes.
751. Then the earth that you would take out of these deep and oblong tanks—where do you deposit it? There is some ground that will not allow you to use the earth. You have to be guided by the construction of the ground. Coming down from Adelaide I noticed tanks over half-a-mile long excavated by ploughs and scoops.
752. But for the expense attached to it, would it not be much better to have steeper batters, so as to have less exposure of surface to wind and sun, causing less evaporation? Yes; we do not give as much batter as the Government do.
753. You mean that you give a great deal more? No; not as much as the Government.
754. *Major Penrose.*] Do you mean that you have steeper sides still than the Government? [No answer.]
755. *Chairman.*] What batter do you allow? If it is good ground we allow 1 in 3.
756. *Major Penrose.*] You mean 1 down to 3 long? Yes; but this is a new thing altogether. Formerly we used to allow stock to go into the tanks; but now the arrangement is to pump the water out.
757. *Chairman.*] It has been complained that the Government tanks are faulty in construction, because the batters are too steep. You appear to think that they are not steep enough? Yes; I have not seen any of them but what a man could ride in and give his horse a drink, and stock will go in wherever a horse will go. If this were done a less portion of the surface would be exposed to atmospheric influence and to the wind, which causes a great deal more evaporation than the sun.
758. Then would it not be desirable to surround these tanks with earth excavations, so as to protect them from the influence of wind and sun? Yes; but you have to keep it a good distance away. I do not think that the earth does protect the water from the sun.
759. *Mr. Woore.*] It must afford a certain amount of shelter. High embankments round a tank must surely protect the water from the wind? It is barely discernible, I think. There is great danger in floodtime of the floods washing the earth back again.
760. Do you allow stock to water in your tanks? Not generally.
761. You pump the water into troughs? Yes.
762. What lifting apparatus have you? A common Californian pump.
763. Worked by hand? Yes.
764. And what troughing do you use? Iron troughing.
765. You mean troughing made specially of galvanized iron? No; made of sheet iron.
766. *Major Penrose.*] Do you think that steam-pumps on Government tanks involve unnecessary expenditure of public money? Well, in employing steam-pumps you have to depend upon one man. You must have an engineer if you have a steam-pump; whereas if you have a windmill almost anyone can work it or repair it.
767. *Mr. Woore.*] But the demands made upon the water of a Government tank are much greater than those made upon a squatter's tank? Of course there is a great difference between a squatter's tank and a road tank. The stock go to a squatter's tank in small numbers, but to the other tanks the stock come all together, in hundreds or thousands.
768. Then there is no comparison of the works required? None at all.
769. So you think it quite possible that a steam pump may be required on some tanks? Yes; because the quantity of water required in Government tanks is much greater than that which is required in tanks on a run.
770. *Chairman.*] It has also been complained that the Public Works Department have sunk wells in close proximity to tanks and waterholes. Do you think that this was a useless expenditure? No.
771. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you know the J.K. waterhole, and the well that has been sunk there? Yes.
772. Would you say that that was unnecessary? No, I would not say that it was unnecessary. I have often sunk wells close to waterholes.
773. Because in the event of the tank running dry you have a supply in the well as a stand-by? Yes; it is said that wells when sunk drain the water off from the tanks—that is the usual complaint of those who do complain about it.
774. But you do not think where tanks or waterholes are not permanent it is a useless expenditure in sinking wells? No; I do not think it is either useless or unnecessary.
775. And it is no unusual thing for the squatters to do it? Not at all unusual. The water on my run is all conserved water. There is no permanent natural water on it.
776. With regard to the J.K. waterhole, do you think that the expenditure was unnecessary? No.
777. The J.K. waterhole is not a permanent waterhole—is it? No.
778. *Chairman.*] You mentioned just now that you make a very steep batter if the soil is suitable; consequently you think a hard and fast rule for the construction of tanks is not desirable? No; I do not think that it would be desirable.
779. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you make your batter according to the ground? Yes.
780. Have you ever utilised the earth from the tanks to increase their depth by building a bank all round? Yes.
781. Then how did you fill the tank,—by pumping or conveying the water by flumes? By flumes from a higher level.
782. How do you fill them? I fill mine by flood-gates put in the flume through the bank.
783. But that will fill the tank only up to the level of the berm? Yes.
784. You never utilise the earthwork above that? No, we have not arrived at that yet.
785. Then why do you use the flood-gate,—what value is attached to that? It keeps the bank right. It is no good putting earth around a dam unless you can keep the water which is inside it.
786. But that would fill as well without a flood-gate as with it? Yes; but the water would run away again.
787. If the water rises to a higher level than the berm by the use of a flood-gate, you save an extra 2 or 3 feet of water? Yes.
788. *Chairman.*] Then you have never pumped the water into these tanks? No, I have never done that; and I never knew it to be done except on Fisher's station on the Balonne.
789. In your travels, have you ever seen a want of care and attention on the part of the caretakers who have charge of tanks and wells? No, I do not think I ever noticed anything that way.

790. Have you ever known any of these tank caretakers to be in any way neglectful of their duties? No; and as a rule I think the caretakers are good servants. It is an unhappy position, you know, that of a caretaker. W. Sly.
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791. Have you ever had any experience of the difficulty of dealing with the officers of two Departments. You are aware, of course, that the construction of tanks in this Colony is under the charge of the Works Department, and that when the tanks are constructed they are handed over to the Mines? No; I have never had anything to do with the Public Departments of New South Wales. All my difficulties are in Queensland.
792. Have you ever observed any unnecessary expenditure on these works—where the Government have gone to needless expense on tanks and wells—or in the construction of fences? No.
793. Do you know as a fact that the Government pay more per cubic yard for the excavations of tanks than the squatters do? Yes, generally.
794. Why? Because a squatter generally looks after his own work, and he knows the value of it.
795. But then these works are all done by tender, and everyone is open to contract for them under the Government as well as under the squatters. If it pays a man to do work for one it ought to pay him to do work for the other? The general idea is that men are better paid by the Government, and a man will work for me 20 per cent. less than for the Government. The reason is that the Government always accept tenders, and by a combination the tank-sinkers take care that they get a higher rate than they will attempt to ask from a squatter. They never tried that on with me. Months ago I was giving 10d. a yard for tank sinking, but the Government of Queensland, for exactly the same class of country, were giving 1s. 2d. per cubic yard.
796. *Major Penrose.*] Were the conditions just the same? Yes.
797. The same depth of tank? Yes.
798. *Chairman.*] Other reasons still have been advanced. Do you know that while the squatter measures the tank and pays off his men at once, there is considerable delay with the Government before they will pay over the money to the men? Yes, I have known delays.
799. Do you not think that this has a good deal to do with it? I do not think it enters into consideration very much when the work is taken.
800. Has it come to your knowledge that the caretakers' paddocks which are given them to keep their horses—that the cost of fencing in these paddocks is much in excess of what is paid by squatters for the same class of work? I do not know what the Government have paid, but it cannot be much more than £20 per paddock at the most.
801. Would you be surprised to find that these fences cost on an average some £95 per mile? Yes, I should be very much surprised to hear it.
802. *Major Penrose.*] Have you ever watered stock at Mossgiel or Holy Box wells? No, I have never done it, but I have had stock watered there.
803. Lately? No, not for the last five or six years.
804. It is a salt well? Well, I think it is brackish, or has acquired a mineral taste.
805. But it is perfectly good for stock, as far as you know? Perfectly good.
806. *Mr. Woore.*] Have you ever heard any complaints about the water at Holy Box Well? No.
807. *Chairman.*] Have you found a difficulty in watering stock at this place by reason of the faulty construction of the fence guards? Yes, the fences are generally too high, especially up Bourke and Cobar way. Owing to the stock trampling on the ground the ground wears away and the guard rails become too high. The guard rails are first put up to prevent the stock getting through, but the soil gets torn away, and then the fences become too high, and the cattle standing on ground which was six or nine inches higher originally, cannot reach over.
808. *Major Penrose.*] But that is merely a question of making up the ground, is it not? Yes.
809. Have you ever had reason to find fault with anything else in regard to these tanks and wells; or have you heard any complaints with regard to their construction and management? Yes; the drovers have repeatedly complained.
810. What was the nature of their complaints? The caretakers are in the habit of keeping dogs which disturb the stock, and cattle that have never seen dogs before are very much terrified at the sight of them. Travelling cattle, when once they are frightened, cannot be got back to the water again, and in dry hot weather this is a very serious matter.
811. *Chairman.*] Any other complaints? No.
812. Have your drovers never had to tackle to and water their stock in consequence of the absence of the caretaker? I have never heard of it, but as a rule a drover would water his own stock if he was any good.
813. *Major Penrose.*] And in that case he would not pay anything? No.
814. I suppose if there were no caretaker there, there would be nobody to take the money? What I meant was that if the drover was any good he would naturally go and assist in getting the stock watered.
815. Have you ever known tanks going dry on other stock routes? Yes; on the road to Mossgiel, which was closed to travelling stock for several months.
816. Was that in the same year? Yes; in 1885. The road across to Mossgiel has been stopped several times owing to the tanks failing. We take all our stock along the routes I have mentioned. I do not believe that I have taken 500 head out of Queensland in any other way.
817. Do you know any other tanks that have gone dry on other routes? Yes; on the Cobar road.
818. In your large experience do you know of any unnecessary tank or well;—of any well that could have been dispensed with? No; I do not know of one.
819. Has your attention ever been drawn to the fact that tanks have been sunk in improper places, and bad sites chosen? Of course there are people who will fault anything. Of my own knowledge I do not know of any.
820. They are all required? Yes; and as a rule, we reckon that tank-work in New South Wales is very superior to tank work in Queensland.
821. *Mr. Woore.*] You mean the Government tank work? Yes; that is what I mean. All the people who work on New South Wales tanks says that the works are very superior; they are more thought of than those of Queensland, and better sites. The only thing is the fences—£95 per mile for fencing simply astonishes me. My fences cost only £40 per mile.

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822. But then you have only four wires? We have six wires; we have sheep on one side and cattle on the other.

823. *Major Penrose.*] You have not a top rail with these fences? Oh, no. That is a piece of extravagance which we cannot afford in our part of the country.

824. *Chairman.*] Have you ever noticed any expensive fencing around these caretakers' paddocks? No.

825. And in fact you have seen no reason why the fences round these paddocks should cost more than those around ordinary squatters' paddocks? No.

[The Commission adjourned until the afternoon, when the sitting was resumed.]

James William Boulton called in and further examined:—

[*The witness handed in a plan of the township of Ivanhoe, showing the position of the Ivanhoe tank, drains, &c., and also that the survey of village reserve was made before tank was commenced.*]

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826. *Chairman.*] This plan shows that it is exceedingly undesirable to have a watering-place, as is this? Yes.

827. Where cattle would have to pass through the only street with houses on either side to get to the tank? Yes.

828. A suggestion was made to the Department to alter the approach for travelling stock? Yes.

829. But that would necessitate the altering of the caretaker's fences? Yes.

830. And the only question would be the cutting off of the water from the caretaker's paddock? Yes; there is a series of papers here which show that, and the action of the inspector of the district (Mr. Low).

831. *Mr. Woore.*] Was this the only available Crown Land? The only Crown Land available that I know of, though I believe another site could have been obtained.

832. Some ground will slip no matter what the grade is? I think if the batters were less steep they would not slip in that way.

833. *Chairman.*] This is black soil, is it not? Yes, copai ground. The water has washed a ledge higher than that table, straight down.

834. *Major Penrose.*] The action of the water would be merely to reduce the slope in the batter to what the soil would stand at? Yes; but all the stuff going into the tank reduces the capacity of it.

835. It gives way at the top? The top surface gives in. In ground of this nature it is utterly impossible to allow the stock access to the excavation. If anything went wrong, and stock were allowed access to the tank, they would certainly perish, the ground is so excessively boggy.

836. *Chairman.*] We presume the stock are not allowed to go into the tank? Certainly not.

837. What you deprecate is that there should be any hard and fast rule for the construction of tanks—that the slope in friable soil should not be so steep as in solid ground? Yes; that is what I mean—that the specifications should be varied with the kind of soil in which the tanks are put down.

838. Now in regard to this tank (Gunaramby), was there not another locality where it could have been put down? Yes; about 300 yards away, where there was a fine run of water in red soil. The tank is placed on the edge of a black soil swamp. This place is about 20 miles from Ivanhoe—between Clare and Ivanhoe.

839. Do you not think it was because there was a swamp there—was not that the reason why the ground was chosen? The place did not seem to have ever had any water in it. Swamps are not always the best catchments.

840. Do you know at whose suggestion this site was selected? I think it was selected at the suggestion of some officer of the Works Department. I believe that Mr. Gilliat recommended one tank between Clare and Ivanhoe, and two were made—this being one of them. [*Witness then explained by diagram the position of the tank and the manner in which the water was led into tank from upper silt tank.*]

841. What was the object in carrying the water all round the tank? I have not the least idea.

842. What was the meaning of the silt tank being placed in the lower position? I suppose there was a good catchment from the swamp. The catchment that I spoke of was a low ridge on the other or higher side, and beyond which was the formation of a watercourse. It certainly is a very curious form of tank. There is a drawing attached to the papers recommending that an open box flume should be made towards the tank from the upper silt tank, and that the drains round the excavation should be closed.

843. *Mr. Woore.*] Why were these drains cut around the tank? I have no idea.

844. *Major Penrose.*] Did not the Works Department in the papers, give any explanation of their reasons for carrying the drains between the excavation and the embankment? I do not know.

845. *Chairman.*] Is there any other information with regard to the flumes? The flumes that I saw along the Bourke and Cobar road are really very defective; they are all too small. I have referred to them in the papers. I do not think that as a rule there is any facing put to the flume. In making the mouth of a flume on a station, we put a narrow cutting in the ground, and a sheet of galvanized iron is let into it, disturbing the ground as little as possible. Wings are put on either side, and this literally gives the water no chance of getting in behind or underneath. The putting in of a flume to a tank requires very great attention indeed.

846. I know it is a very difficult matter to deal with; the ground washes away so in that country. The chief difficulty is when the tank is first constructed. There is generally some fall, and this carries a large amount of soil into the tank. If the silt tank is full, it catches the silt, and the water flows out and runs into the main tank. Unless this is carefully done it causes a big gutter to form, and this is all washed into the tank. Then to avoid this a flume is put in, so that the water will not gutter the channel? The great danger is that the water gets behind the flume, and if it does it simply bursts it out. At another place that I would like to mention on the Bourke and Cobar road, the construction of the fluming is to a four-sided embankment. The silt tank is some distance away, and the fluming only starts within the embankment, and all the rush of water from between the silt tank into the end of the fluming has to pass through two embankments where there is no protection. The consequence is that the loose soil of the embankments gives way.

847. In fact the sides of the embankments should be secured? Yes; with logs.

848. Is it impossible in most cases to get stone to floor the flume to these tanks. It is exceedingly difficult for the wood and soil to amalgamate together? Stone should be obtained wherever it can be had. If the thing is properly stopped and rammed and the iron is put in as I describe without disturbing the ground, I think it will stand, and would be preferable to stone.

849. The next thing we have to enquire about is the excessive cost of construction. We want you to give us a few instances which have come within your knowledge in regard to what you conceive to be excessive cost of these works? Of my own personal knowledge I can say nothing whatever of the prices paid by the Works Department. All I know is that I have heard of a number of cases where excessive prices have been paid.

850. Unless it can be borne out in the papers I do not see how we can receive that evidence? What I know of my own knowledge is very small indeed.

851. Well, give us what you have heard on the subject and your own information, too? I have heard that the 12-mile tank was let to Burton Brothers at 2s. 6d. per cubic yard, and sublet to Ford Brothers at 1s. 3d. per cubic yard. Then again I have heard that statement qualified, and that only 1s. 9d. was given. The fact that 1s. 9d. only was given came to my knowledge a few days ago.

852. Are there any other tanks that you have heard of where the same prices were given? I cannot say just now. In the report that I handed in I made mention of the fact that I had no absolute personal knowledge on the subject. Mr. Low is the man who will be able to give you valuable information on the question.

853. Can you account for this excessive price—how do you account for it that when prices were let by tender they were so large? I gave the reasons in my report. I submitted very few statements to Mr. Gilliat as regards price. The only one I reported was, I think, the cost of the fence at the Ivanhoe tank.

854. The next matter is about machinery. It is stated here that it is of a very expensive character, entailing unnecessary expense in having skilled caretakers to look after the tanks? I believe that a simpler form of appliance would better meet the purposes required. The ordinary caretaker is not able, if anything goes wrong, to make repairs which require some knowledge of mechanical engineering. We endeavour to get the best men as caretakers to take charge of these works, and we are doing it by degrees. We are replacing some of the caretakers by more competent men. We have definite instructions on that matter from the Chief Inspector, and we are carrying them out as fast as we can.

855. Are you aware that some of these caretakers cannot manipulate the simplest form of pumps? I have had no such complaints made to me, and if I had I should have remembered it.

856. Are a large number of these tanks supplied with steam-power pumps? Yes.

857. Are these often out of repair? No; very seldom.

858. When they are out of repair whose duty is it to repair them? It is the duty of the travelling mechanic of the Works Department. Of course, what I say only refers to my own districts, and my districts are Condobolin and Narrandera.

859. How many square miles are there under your control—how many miles are your districts in length and width? I go from Albury to Cobar, and from Deniliquin to Wagga.

860. Now, with regard to the alleged incapacity of these caretakers. Here we have in the papers submitted by the Works Department, a letter sent to the Chief Inspector of Watering Places by Mr. Keighran, who says, under date June 5, 1887, with reference to the One-tree tank:—"I have the honor to inform you that caretaker Kelly, of the One-tree tank, has reported that the plunging-rod belonging to the pump has become disconnected. I have reported the matter to the Assistant Engineer, Mr. Stilwell." Then Mr. Stilwell was telegraphed to by the officials in Sydney, and he sends an officer some 50 miles to remedy this small defect. This is his report on the subject:—

[*Report of W. B. Nicholson, dated Hay, 2nd July, 1887, as printed at p. 30, read.*]

Now, here is a statement made by an officer of the Works Department of the utter incompetence of the caretaker. It would seem from this that he is not a man of much intelligence, seeing that he does not understand how to look after a common pump. This entails a great amount of correspondence and trouble? I have no knowledge of this case at all. I think Mr. Gilliat has sent a paper to you about this very case.

861. Mr. Gilliat was examined in reference to the same matter, but I wanted to allow you to know of the complaints made of the incompetence of this man. Now, in the event of such a case occurring within your own knowledge, what would you have done? Were I satisfied that the caretaker was unable to repair the pump (or that the key had been lost), I should have suspended him, because this is really a thing which a man ought to be able to do.

862. You would have taken it upon yourself to suspend such an incompetent man? I certainly should, if I were satisfied of his neglect.

863. Now, we have other evidence here with respect to other caretakers who had been found drinking at a public-house some distance from their tanks, and when the drovers came up there was no water for their stock, and the slip-rails were burned to make a fire? I have never had any experience of such a case; but had I had such a case, I should have taken it upon myself to dismiss the caretaker at once. This is one of the things that we are most particular about. Any caretaker getting drunk is dismissed at once. We get the very best class of men we can, and we employ none without the best testimonials.

864. It is also on record here that reports have been sent in by the road superintendents, who found fault with the caretakers for absolute neglect of duty;—do you conceive it to be the duty of road superintendents to make such reports? I do not see that any disadvantage can arise through their doing so to their own Department—no disadvantage or detriment. I can see no objection to a road superintendent sending down a report if he sees any case of glaring neglect. I think it is only right that a man who sees a case of glaring neglect should call the attention of the Department in charge and have the matter attended to. I know that if I saw anything wrong I should call attention to it, or perhaps write to that officer of the branch of the service having charge of the work, so that the matter might be remedied.

865. But the action of this man belonging to the Roads Department led to what has been called friction between the two Departments? Yes; but I do not want to impute anything wrong to the Works' officers, who, in some cases, have not been quite justified in their reports.

866. We have a large number of allegations here regarding the carelessness, negligence, and absence from work of caretakers. This is all done by the roads superintendents. If the road superintendents are to look

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look after these caretakers, then the question arises what is the good of having overseers and inspectors? I think the overseers have done their duty well.

867. If these allegations are correct then they have certainly not done their duty? Well, unless a particular case is mentioned I cannot say.

868. Well, perhaps there is a case here that you might like to say something about. Take the case of the One-tree tank. Is that in your district?—Here is what is said about it:—

One-tree Tank.—Report of 25th November, 1885 (85-1863) : Fence wires around tank slack ; caretaker might easily have remedied this but appeared to think it no part of his duty ; found him at the inn instead of being in charge of the tank. Report of 25th November, 1886 ; Caretaker said he was quite ignorant of, and appeared to be equally indifferent, as to the working or the keeping in repair of the pumps ; the plunger gland had been fractured through carelessness in screwing it down, but he said he knew nothing about it ; the pump, consequently disabled, service tank not half full, and the troughing contained only some liquid mud ; the pump was in addition in a most dirty and neglected state, the bearings being almost dry ; sent out the following day and put pump in repair. Mr. Nicholson's report, of 2nd July, 1887 (87-519) ; in consequence of Mines reporting pump disabled, he was sent out to inspect ; that nothing was amiss, except that the piston-rod had become disconnected, owing to pin falling out ; put it right in five minutes, and pump then worked well ; caretaker's incompetence had occasioned an unnecessary journey of 50 miles in wet weather."

—? I cannot remember anything about this particular case ; it was never referred to me ; but I reported on a former case.

869. We want to know whether the inspectors, who were appointed to look after these places, or the roads superintendents, whose duty it is not to look after them, should find out these mistakes ; we want to know why the roads superintendents do the work for which the others were appointed? I would like to have all the papers before me before replying to that question. The dates are grouped up so that I do not quite understand them. In one of these cases the caretaker made a statutory declaration, which is included in these papers, that a certain report was not correct.

870. *Mr. Woore.*] Is this the tank where the caretaker was found living in the engine-shed ; and, if so, is he still a caretaker? No, he resigned.

871. Immediately after that? Yes ; immediately after.

872. Was no attempt made to dismiss him? No, he had some words with Mr. Nicholson ; and in the declaration referred to he states that Mr. Nicholson threatened to punch his head. The bulk of the complaints that come into our Department come from Mr. Stilwell's district.

873. *Chairman.*] That may be because Mr. Stilwell is a very careful officer, and is trying to preserve the property of the Government, in which he takes an interest? Well, I think the Mines' officers are just as anxious to do that as Mr. Stilwell.

874. Is the Pulletop tank in your district? Yes.

875. This is what is said about it:—

Pulletop tank.—Report of 6th December, 1886 (86-1,601) : Embankment in bad repair generally and damaged by scour at two corners, some 30 cubic yards of earth being displaced, wires in surrounding fence very slack, service tank not full, and the lessee in charge appeared to know little about care or working of the steam pump. Memo. of 9th February, 1887 (87-119) : In reply to statement by Mines' overseer that I had forbidden their lessee to repair embankment in accordance with his instructions, and also to minute of Mr. Gilliat's complaining of interference with officers of his Department—that the lessee's statement was not true, made to screen his gross negligence in performing a most urgent work, and apparently accepted by the Mines' officers as a sufficient excuse for him, and also for throwing the onus on this Department. Report of 7th March, 1887 (87-199) : Embankment still remains unrepaired, fence wires slack, troughing foul, drains neglected.

—? [No answer.]

876. Do you know anything about the caretaker at Pulletop? This man was the lessee and caretaker ; and I must say that he was not a desirable person to have in that position.

877. You had no control over him? Oh, yes, we had ; and he has lost his lease since.

878. Is Hulong in your district? Yes.

879. I find that this is what is said about Hulong:—

Hulong Tank.—Report of 13th September, 1886 (86-1,293) : When there, on 8th instant, found caretaker at his camp reading his newspaper, although his drains were much in need of attention.

Report of 9th November, 1886 (86-1,223 & 1,511). The drains, for want of attention during rainfall, had allowed a considerable quantity of water to escape into the swamp.

Report of 9th December, 1886 (86-1,616). The drains require much more attention during wet weather than the old man stationed here as caretaker gives them ; the wires in fence around tank were slack.

Report of 7th March, 1887 (87-201). The tank batter had been damaged, by caretaker discharging water from the berm down it.

Report of 1st July, 1887 (87-530). Caretaker and family residing in pump weather-shed ; use boiler fire for domestic purposes.

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—? That matter about reading the newspaper was referred to me. I called on the caretaker for an explanation, and he told me he had been reading the *Government Gazette* during the dinner hour, and it was at this time that Mr. Stilwell saw him. He is an old man, who has paid great attention to the tank ; and if we had not had him there, we would not have had the same amount of water in the tank that it contains now.

880. Was your attention drawn to the fact that the steam-boiler was being used for domestic purposes? I do not think that that can be a fact. I never heard of it. I believe that the caretaker had camped over near where the tank was erected. He might have been in the shed in wet weather ; and, if so, he would have been justified in going in there.

881. But the using of the boiler for domestic purposes—what about that? I hardly think that that was done. I never saw it. I notice that the other road superintendents do not seem to be able to find the same number of faults in the management as Mr. Stilwell does.

882. Are you aware of any excessive prices having been given for fencing? Not from personal knowledge. I had it reported to me, by Mr. Yeo, that £112 per mile had been paid for fencing at Ivanhoe tank, and that the contract had been sublet three times.

883. *Major Penrose.*] What was the matter with the fence at Ivanhoe? This is where there are no straining-posts at the end for the straining of the wires. Whichever post the wire ends at, it is strained there.

884. Were there no struts put up? Not that I saw,

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885. Do you know any other instance where straining-posts have been dispensed with? Yes; I think they have been dispensed with at Boonoonoona, and around the One-tree tank. The wire there is strained the full length of the fence round the tank.

886. What is the distance? About 160 yards; I cannot be sure as to the exact length of it.

887. Do you think that that is excessive? Yes; I think from 80 to 90 yards is a very good strain.

888. Has the fence suffered in consequence of the absence of straining-posts? I think it has. However, I have not seen it since.

889. *Chairman.*] Are you aware of any instances where straining-posts were dispensed with by the action of the Mines Department? No.

890. *Major Penrose.*] I should like to know on what facts Mr. Boulton bases his conclusion that steam pumps were unnecessary as a rule? I think that, as a rule, there is not sufficient work for steam pumps, and that horse-power can do everything at a much lesser cost. On some roads I do not think that horse-power is necessary, and that a man can do the work. Along the Cobar road, where there is a considerable amount of traffic, steam pumps are erected, and on the Booligal road, where the traffic is apparently heavier, there are horse-pumps. The railway to Bourke has stopped the traffic immensely. At all events, I cannot help thinking that the simpler you have these appliances the better.

891. *Chairman.*] If you have a steam pump you must have a man of more than ordinary intelligence to work it? Yes.

892. *Major Penrose.*] Have you made any calculations as to the relative cost of pumping water by steam pumps and horse-pumps? I have made no actual estimate; but I think the horse-pump is the cheaper. It would be a very nice calculation.

893. *Mr. Woore.*] Is it not expensive to keep horses? Yes, and when the places were not fenced in it was very hard on the caretakers to feed their horses during the last drought.

894. They would have to buy forage? Yes.

895. *Chairman.*] Then the steam pumps would be preferable under these circumstances? I hardly think so.

896. Then who has to bear the cost of forage in dry times? The caretakers have to do it. They have to take the good times with the bad; and as they are now provided with a paddock in most cases they are independent of forage.

897. They provide horses on their own account? Yes; and they get from 8s. 6d. per day; and formerly, where they had no paddock, it was 10s. per day.

898. And do these men who have to work without horses get the same amount of land? Yes; but they are only allowed to put one horse into it. The paddock is kept with good grass in it in order that someone may be induced to lease it.

899. The average price paid to a caretaker is 8s. 6d. a day—to a man who keeps his own horses? Yes.

900. And how much is paid to the man who works the steam pumps? 7s. 6d.

901. So that the man who works the steam pumps gets less than the man who works with a horse? [No answer.]

902. *Major Penrose.*] And this results in a saving to the Government of £18 a year? [No answer.]

903. Who finds the firewood? The Government supplies it; but where the wood is plentiful the caretaker supplies his own.

904. Then, in that case, the steam pump would be the cheaper? Yes.

905. Do you know what is the cost of these steam pumps? No, I do not. I think the cost would now be about £75; but they were higher some time ago—I think about £125. For myself, I believe that the hand-pump would be cheaper than either, and a man would be well able to keep it going. Of course he would not be able to do this on some of the larger stock routes and town tanks, such as those at Cobar, Nymagee, Nyngan, and other places.

906. *Chairman.*] You think that the Government have been put to useless expense in putting down large tanks where the traffic was small? Yes; the size being in excess of requirements.

907. Now, with regard to the "greasing" of these service tanks, it has been said that the composition with which these service tanks are "smeared" contaminates the purity of the water? Yes; it was a composition of tar and tallow and pitch, the result of which was that a greasy scum formed on the top of the water. A drover named M'Donald, who was fined for removing the rails at Boonoonoona, told me that this scum had as much to do with his cattle not drinking as the height of the rails. We simply use boiled tar and pitch, and let it harden before the water is allowed to go in. The tallow had the effect of keeping the pitch moist.

908. Did you ever try a composition of tar and lime? No; I hardly think a composition is necessary on these troughs. They are galvanized iron, and there is no action of the water on them.

909. You think this coating was quite unnecessary, then, on galvanized iron tanks? Yes; but not in the places where troughs are attached to wells that have salty water, which would even corrode galvanized iron.

910. Then you have never tried a composition of tar and lime? No.

911. It lasts almost for ever? I have heard of tar and cement being put on the inside of stone tanks, and it is a very good dressing for them.

912. I can understand the objection to grease and tallow; they are exceedingly objectionable to animals? [No answer.]

913. *Major Penrose.*] Was this objected to by the Mines Department? Yes.

914. And was it pointed out that the stock would not drink the water? It was.

915. And was that matter attended to? Yes.

916. *Chairman.*] We have heard that considerable complaints have been made with regard to the faulty construction of wells, and also in the construction of troughing and appliances;—can you give us any information in respect to these matters? With regard to troughing, I brought the matter before the Chief Inspector, and he has dealt with it himself. It is in the troughing that there has been so much inconvenience.

917. In what way? There is a dwarf rail on one side, and a high fence on the other, and the troughing comes in between. Sheep drink under the rail, and cattle have to drink over it. In some instances this rail is so far from the ground that the cattle cannot possibly drink over it.

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918. Was this at the same height when originally built, or was it caused by the wearing away of the ground? No; it was originally the same height.

919. Are you sure that the stock did not wear away the ground by trampling on it? No; only in a very few cases. Latterly we put a rail down the centre of the troughs. This high rail acted as a sort of block to the cattle. Bush cattle do not like to approach a fence, and do not understand it.

920. Did you not find wild cattle jump over a fence which sheep can get under? No, it is a good height. Before these alterations of ours had been made there was a great deal of dissatisfaction.

921. Have the Works Department made any objection to this? No; and they are now adopting the system of making rails along the centre of the troughs, instead of the high fences hitherto adopted. Several gentlemen in the country spoke to me about this. Mr. Miller, a very large drover, spoke to me very strongly about it, and told me that he had come down from Bourke and had used only one Government tank. Mr. Allison also mentioned to me, at the Hermitage tank, that if his sheep would not drink he would order the rails to be chopped down.

922. We had it this morning that it was not so much the fault of the Department as that the ground had been washed away? In some cases that would be true, but in many it would not be. The caretakers have in every case had our instructions to make up the ground where required.

923. *Major Penrose.*] Where do the Mines Department get the money to make these alterations? The caretakers make the alterations in their spare time. For the expenditure on bolts, screws, and other things that are necessary, authority has been given by the Minister for Mines. In one case the alterations were effected by some men who were building cottages in the Corowa district, and if I think aright the alterations were made for about £3.

924. *Chairman.*] Have you any knowledge of the construction of wells in your district? Yes; in my district there are only two fair wells—Berrigan and Murray Hut. Oh, yes; there are more.

925. Do these contain good water? Yes; Berrigan and Murray Hut contains very fair water; but the old Gunbar well is very bad, the water being utterly undrinkable either by man or beast.

926. Have you any well in your district where, by constant use, the water has become drinkable? No.

927. Are there any abortive wells sunk in your district and abandoned? None; except the old Gunbar well, which is quite useless.

928. Were all the headworks put up in that well before the water was touched? I cannot say when the water was touched, but the headworks were put up before the quality of the water was tested and deemed suitable.

929. And you think that if the water had been tested it is unlikely that the headworks would have been constructed? Yes; when Mr. Gilliat took them over he did so subject to the approval of the Minister for Mines, and said that he would require an analysis of the water.

930. That well is still useless for stock-drinking purposes? Quite useless. I do not think that a hoof of stock has ever been watered there.

931. Was a caretaker put there? Yes.

932. What for? To protect the headworks and to bale the well, as the Public Works Department urged that constant baling would improve the quality of the water. The baling has been kept up, but it has not improved the quality of the water in the least.

933. Are you aware that constant baling has improved the wells in Riverina? No; I am not aware that the water in any Riverina wells has been improved by baling; but I have heard that it has done so in some slight way in wells along the Darling.

934. *Mr. Woore.*] Baling cannot alter the character of the water when it contains minerals? The idea is that constant baling would wash the salt out. A great deal of the water, besides being salt, is evidently charged with magnesia. Those witnesses who come after me will be able to give more information on the subject. I have knowledge of other works like this, owing to my having travelled at different times through the Colony. I made a special report on the Dolmoreve and Holy Box wells.

935. *Chairman.*] Is there anything wrong with the troughing arrangements or with the construction of troughing? I think the objection made by us only refers to the rails.

936. Can you give us any information about hutting? I know what some of the huts erected in my district by the Mines Department have cost.

937. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you know what has been the cause of the disagreement between the officers of the Departments? Well, I think it is due chiefly to misapprehension. I think the friction exists only in one district—that it is confined to a certain extent to the district of which Mr. Stilwell has charge. It is only from his district that complaints have come largely. Every repair required passes from us to the Works Department; and in a great many cases these repairs that the Mines Department have deemed necessary have been referred by Mr. Gilliat to the Commissioner for Roads, and by him treated as complaints.

938. *Chairman.*] Of course, you can understand that if the officers in the Roads Department are put to considerable trouble and annoyance, and heavy duties imposed upon them through the apparent carelessness of caretakers, they naturally feel angry and are apt to use strong language? Yes; it would be justified if these things can be borne out. Nobody sympathises with these gentlemen more than I do. I know if I saw a man neglect his duty and I reported it, and no notice was taken of it, I would be annoyed very much.

939. Particularly if the work you saw going to destruction was the work of your own hands? Decidedly. Mr. Stilwell I have never met, but by those officers whom I have met I have been treated with the greatest courtesy, and I have always treated them in the same way. There is no personal friction whatever between us.

[The Commission adjourned.]

THURSDAY,

THURSDAY, 2 FEBRUARY, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.
MAJOR PENROSE, R.E., | J. C. WOORE, Esq.

David Brown called in and examined:—

940. *Chairman.*] You are a joint lessee of Kallara station? Yes.

941. Are you aware that a Commission has been appointed for the purpose of inquiring fully into what has been called the strained relations between the Department of Works and the Department of Mines? I² Feb., 1888. D. Brown.

942. You are not aware that we were appointed to inquire into the matters I have mentioned, and also into the allegations that have been made by officers of the Mines Department as to tanks constructed by the Works Department, and entrusted to the Mines? I have heard something about a dispute between the two Departments, but as to the nature of it I have no knowledge.

943. Then I might briefly state to you the heads under which we propose to examine the witnesses. They are—

1. Faults of judgment in the selection of sites for tanks.
2. Of defective design and faulty construction, with but little concern to take advantage of formation of ground or selection of catchment area, so as to avoid collection of silt; of too steep batters in most cases, and apparently the adoption of a certain form of tank, without reference to formation of ground or nature of soil; the defective construction of flumes and erection of inlet pipes, with carelessness in laying out drains, and excessive cost in construction.
3. Expensive forms of machinery for lifting water, necessitating greater cost of maintenance.
4. Faulty construction and excessive cost of fencing.
5. Interference with caretakers and overseers; greasing of service-tanks.
6. Sub-letting of contracts.
7. Faulty construction of wells, sinking, timbering, and centering of shafts; erection of headworks, whim, service tanks, and troughing before testing for supply and quality of water.
8. Excessive cost of construction.
9. Costly hutting for caretakers.
10. Defective construction of troughing.

And finally, the evidence throughout confirming the unfortunate effects of a divided control, under which each Department denies responsibility? [No answer.]

944. The principal matter which we will dwell on to obtain information from Mr. Brown is as to the faulty selection of sites, which means that if the soil is not good for holding water, it was useless to make a tank in that place. We want first to ascertain if the sites are faulty as to the selection, and we will then inquire who was responsible. Now, what are the tanks which you are more immediately connected with, and which have come under your observation? There are two Government tanks on our run; they are both situated on the course of the Paroo River. One of them—Goomboolara tank—is about 7 miles from the northern boundary; the other is 24 miles further down the river. They are both on the flow of the Paroo. The name of the other is the Warramurtee tank. The first was sunk by a man named Doyle.

945. Have the sites of these tanks not been well chosen? I think not. I think the site of the Goomboolara tank is particularly badly chosen. The reason why I make this statement is that within 4 miles of Goomboolara tank there is a lake which contains water nearly always, and is seldom dry. When the lake is dry the tank is also dry, because the lake is filled by the flow of the Paroo River, and it requires the Paroo also to flow to fill the tank.

946. *Major Penrose.*] What lake is this? The lake known as Mungundie.

947. What run is that on? It is the Goorimpa, which is a back station of Kallara.

948. *Mr. Woore.*] How far is it from the Paroo? It is on the Paroo, or, rather, just off of it. There is a cutting running down. It is a natural lake, and it has only been dry on one or two occasions during the last ten years.

949. Is there a cutting made into this? Yes; the cutting was made in 1877, and improved somewhat since then. In 1875 and in 1876 there was no water there at all.

950. *Chairman.*] Would not a fall of rain fill the tank irrespective of the flowing of the river? A very heavy fall of rain might fill the tank. There is a dam above this, and the principal watershed is above the dam. The effect of the dam is to send the water towards the lake rather than towards the tank, so that in most cases the lake should begin to fill before the tank. Of course the filling of the tank by rain would depend upon whether the rain was heavy or not. It is just possible that a moderate rain might fill the tank without sufficient falling to fill the lake.

951. Could a better site have been found in that locality? No; I do not think a better site could have been found; that is to say if a tank were required there at all. I do not think that a better site could have been had within a reasonable distance from the road.

952. Would it have been more satisfactory to have made a well there rather than a tank? I think not.

953. Is well water obtainable there at all times? I have tried to get well water in several places along the run of the Paroo and have invariably found that there was a very considerable quantity of salt water within a few feet of the surface; I mean from 7 to 14 feet of the surface. The expense of sinking wells increases very much, if you have a large quantity of salt water to deal with near the surface. My own opinion is that to get really fresh water it is necessary to sink or bore from 700 to 1,400 feet.

954. I do not know if you have yet gathered the force of the question which I desire to ask. I want to know whether, when the water in a tank is precarious, and it is necessary to have a stock route supplied with water, do you think it is desirable to have anything beyond tanks to depend on in severe droughts? Do you want to go back to the time when these tanks were put down—that is, do you refer to the present or to the past?

955. I mean that where the rainfall is precarious, would it not, in your opinion, be desirable to have permanent water alongside the tanks? Are you referring to the Goomboolara tanks or is your question a general one?

D. Brown. 956. I refer to tanks in general? Clearly, if water is necessary at all no expense should be spared in providing it by sinking wells to any depth. Of course, I mean if the catchment area for tanks is not sufficient to render tank water practically permanent.

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957. Was there any water in the lake when this tank was sunk? Probably there was, but I cannot say from memory. When the contract was let there probably was water there.

958. *Mr. Woore.*] In what year was the tank sunk? In 1880 or 1881.

959. But there have been considerable droughts since then? Yes, the drought came on in 1883. From memory I believe I can say that the lake had water in it at the time, because the tank was sunk in April, 1880; and in March, 1881, there was a very big rain that filled the lake.

960. *Major Penrose.*] Have you ever seen this tank dry? I have seen it useless, but not dry. I have seen it useless for stock.

961. Was this tank much used? I leased it for about two years formerly, and have had the general supervision of it for three or four years after that. During that time I had the right to collect all dues, but I was only able to collect the sum of (I think) £4 10s., because in nearly every case when travelling sheep passed up or down the river there was a sufficient supply of water on some part of the route, which prevented the necessity of drovers using this particular tank.

962. *Chairman.*] Then under these circumstances you think that the expenditure on the tank was a useless one? I am not quite prepared to say that.

963. Were not these leased tanks dry during the drought of 1884? No, not dry. The drought was in 1883 and in 1884.

964. *Mr. Woore.*] When the tank was useless for watering stock was there plenty of water available in the lake? Generally there was; the tank was not required as a watering place when the lake was dry. I remember it having been dry for two or three months, and during that time no travelling stock came down that road. Our stock was dying in thousands, and other stock could not possibly travel.

965. Do you not think it was possible to make this tank—I do not know what the size of it is—but do you not think it possible to have made the tank very much more permanent than the lake? I think not, except on one condition—that these small rains might fall and fill the tank while being insufficient to fill the lake; and I think that in the lake there is very much less absorption than there is in the tank. In other cases that I know of the evaporation is not nearly as great as the absorption. The whole of the ground along the Paroo is of such a nature that tanks should never be put down more than 9 feet. I myself have put down tanks 12 and 13 feet deep in similar ground, and in one case I returned the clay to the bottom of the tank to cover the porous stratum, which contains salt, and which was opened up at that depth.

966. At the time this tank was made by the Government, was it then generally known that it was not advisable to go down more than 9 feet in the Paroo River country? Some people might not agree with me in what I say. It is an exceedingly difficult matter, even with trial shafts, to tell whether the ground will hold water or not. I know of one tank 12 feet in depth with a bank around it, arranged in such a manner that the capacity of the tank is about 60,000 yards. That tank seemed to me to be better capable of holding water than any other I saw on the course of the Paroo.

967. How deep was it? Over 12 feet, and 19 feet when filled to top of embankment. I found, however, that I was wrong, and that this tank, which looked the best of any that I had seen, turned out to be the very worst along the river.

968. Putting out of the question altogether the facilities for getting a supply of water at this particular spot near the lake, do you think the position of the place is a good one as the site of a public watering place for travelling stock? I think not. I do not think it was a good position for a large expenditure of money. If water could be got at a reasonable cost, and maintained and distributed, it might be good enough; but, under the circumstances, and from what I know since the tank was made and the revenue which it has brought in, I think that it was not a good place. My own opinion is that no public watering place was required there at all.

969. Why? Principally on account of the lake being there.

970. But the lake is liable to be dry for years? That is not my experience.

971. *Chairman.*] Are you aware of the enormous evaporation in that climate? What do you call enormous evaporation?

972. Something very abnormal as compared with the evaporation in the coast districts? How has the evaporation been tested?

973. Government have had various registers kept from year to year, and proved the existence of what I call enormous evaporation? Could you give me any idea of how much that is?

974. Well, I understand a certain amount of water is put into a vessel, which is placed under the surface of the ground, to prevent the sun from acting on the sides of the apparatus; and this, measured carefully by scales and measurement, shows that there has taken place what I call enormous evaporation. I have been given to understand that water will evaporate at the rate of 1 inch per day? That is 30 inches per month?

975. Yes, but not all the year round? It is an exceedingly difficult matter to prove. I am aware of what are said to be facts in connection with evaporation, but I am of opinion that they are not all facts. I kept one of Mr. Russell's evaporators myself at his own request, and after using it for a time, I suggested to Mr. Russell that a better evaporator should be obtained before any definite result was made known.

976. Well, you are aware that a great amount of evaporation goes on during the hot summer months in that country? I have heard of it.

977. You state that you have kept a register? Yes, I have. The register was one of Mr. Russell's small evaporators, and by the results obtained from it one might have imagined that the evaporation was considerably over a foot per month; but from practical observation I am satisfied that evaporation (apart from absorption) is not nearly so great as that. If the evaporation pure and simple could be estimated, my own opinion is that it would not be more than 2 feet 6 inches per year in deep water.

978. You stated just now that you did not think any tank along the Paroo could be sunk more than 9 feet? No.

979. Now take a three years' drought—and they are not unusual—this would mean between evaporation and absorption the escape of 12 feet of water, leaving scarcely any water at all for the stock. You do not think that it would all go in evaporation? No; twice as much would disappear by absorption; and in many cases much more.

980. Then, if that is the case, what is the use of sinking a tank at all. There is no good in a tank unless it can be relied on in a drought? If absolutely permanent water was absolutely necessary, I should say certainly not.

981. Of course, you know that a squatter would conserve water on his own run even if it only remained twelve months, because it would give him an opportunity of supplying his stock for that period. But that is not the way the Government should act. The Government have to supply travelling stock routes with water, and none of these smaller tanks put down by squatters would be of any value; so that the cases are not quite the same? Quite true.

982. So that one of these tanks of 9 feet, which you would sink on your own run, would be of no use to the Government? Excuse me, but I think that the Commission ought to go back to the time the tanks were sunk and ask my opinion as to the desirability in having sunk tanks in preference to wells, at the time wells were put down. If you did so, my answer to this would be that at that time so little was known as to the possibility of getting fresh water under salt water, that the majority of people would very much have preferred a tank to a well. All over that Paroo country salt water exists. Its presence was known; but it was not known that possibly at greater depths fresh water might be got by boring. These depths are not yet ascertained. I have put some bores down 800 feet, and the supply of water at such a depth was not sufficient for a Government watering place.

983. *Mr. Woore.*] Well, then, perhaps you may think that the Public Works Department in sinking tanks there did only what was reasonable under the circumstances? So far as the question is between tanks and wells, they acted rightly at that time.

984. *Major Penrose.*] Are you aware under what conditions these tanks were constructed. Were they urgently demanded by the people in that district? I think not. The Goomboolara tank was made about the same time as the Warramurtee.

985. *Mr. Woore.*] But do you not know that considerable pressure was brought to bear on the Government to have these tanks made? I am not quite certain about that.

986. Do you not remember that there was considerable agitation for the construction of tanks on the Paroo river? Yes; but not in respect to these two places, Warramurtee and Goomboolara.

987. Then where are the tanks which the Government were pressed to construct? They were lower down the river. I think Copago was one of them. I was never concerned in any such agitation myself.

988. *Chairman.*] Are there any other tanks that you know of, the sites of which were badly chosen? I only know that the tanks on the Cobar road,—the Kerrigundi and the Matthews's Flat tanks; and, I believe, the first tank out of Louth, were badly placed.

989. Have you anything to say about Warramurtee? Only this, that if a tank were required there at all the site selected was certainly the best one. But here again I think that the Warramurtee waterhole was quite sufficient for all public requirements.

990. How far is that distant from the tank? Quite close to the tank. My reason for making this statement is this, that since the tank has been constructed it has been required only once for the use of travelling stock. And only once has there been any water in the tank when there was none in the waterhole.

991. *Mr. Woore.*] Is it not a fact that this road has been closed for months owing to the want of water? No, not to my knowledge, except in the droughts of 1883 and 1884; and I think it was closed then, not so much because there was an absolute absence of water as that there was no grass for the travelling stock. There was then a greater want of grass than water. There have been, of course, exceptional cases, where stock have got through owing to the presence of this tank when they would not have got through otherwise.

992. Then in that case if the natural supply dried up, is this tank sufficient to take the stock over a severe drought; and is it not possible that if it were sunk deeper there would be a better supply of water? There never have been any travelling stock on that road that were not supplied with water. No stock have ever applied for water there and failed to get it. I do not say that some stock have not been prevented from going, but during my occupation of this lease no travelling stock have applied for water and failed to get it.

993. Have the tanks never been empty? I do not say that. The tanks may not have been empty, but they were so near it as to be useless for travelling stock.

994. What I want to get at is this,—is it not absolutely necessary to have permanent water on a stock route, because it is during great droughts that water is required? Quite so.

995. Permanent water is not supplied on that route in these tanks? No; and cannot be supplied anywhere after a three years' drought that Mr. Cox spoke of.

996. Then the only way to supply permanent water is by these expensive deep borings? That is the only way.

997. And little was known about boring when these tanks were constructed? I believe I was one of the few individuals who tried boring at that time.

998. *Chairman.*] Now, as to the faulty designs. Besides these two tanks, are there any others that came under your observation that you have any cause to find fault with? Well, I will take the question of batters. In most of that country the batter given to Government tanks is too steep, because the soil is not sufficiently retentive for the case of poor holding ground. Very much depends upon whether you allow the stock to go into the tank or not. If you do not allow stock to go into the tank it does not very much matter whether the batter is one in three or one in six. Where the soil is not sufficiently retentive I think it advisable that the stock should be allowed to go into the main tank, and in that case the batter must be an easy one. I can give you an instance of that, if you like.

999. I have come to the conclusion that all stock at Government tanks ought to be watered by troughs? In that case I should not put down tanks at all in bad holding ground. I should take other means of watering stock, because unless stock watered on the slopes the tanks would never get puddled. The ground along the Paroo would scarcely hold. The water there has a tremendous amount of clay in suspension. That clay settles perpendicularly. I think it desirable in most cases that the tank should be open, so that sheep on a shallow batter might be allowed to puddle the soil, which without their puddling, is not sufficiently retentive.

1000. *Major Penrose.*] Do you consider that a batter of one in two is too steep as a general rule where the stock are watered at troughs? That entirely depends upon the soil. If it is good retentive clay, a perpendicular bank would stand, and will hold water, on condition that you log it. I have on the Paroo

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a logged tank with perpendicular sides, and you can pour into that tank a considerable amount of water, and the longer you pour the longer you will have to pour, because the tank will never fill. The sides of the tank are so porous that the water goes away as fast as you can put it in. If you make a shallow slope the clay in suspension in the water falls on the side and tends to fill up the porous sides and bottom.

1001. Now with regard to the cost of construction, have you many tanks on your own run? I began in 1878 to make tanks on the Paroo.

1002. And what was the highest price that you gave per cubic yard? Before I went up there the lowest price at which excavation was done was 1s. 6d. per cubic yard. The highest price that I have ever paid is 1s. 2d.

1003. Is that the highest price that any of your neighbours have paid? As I have said, previous to my going up there, the lowest price was 1s. 6d. per cubic yard, contractors finding everything.

1004. Yes; but I want to know what is the highest price? Well, that depends upon the work.

1005. But what is the highest price that you have known to have been given by private individuals in that locality? Well, I have known as much as 1s. 8d. to be given for excavation; but the tank was a small one, and probably had steeper sides. The highest price, and the usual price given up there before my time, was 1s. 6d. per cubic yard.

1006. Now, why was this high price given;—what caused it? You mean this excessive price of 1s. 6d? 1007. You say it is excessive? The people up there did not consider it excessive at that time.

1008. The size of a tank makes no serious difference in the cost of construction? Oh! but it must.

1009. In what way? Because if you have a moderate-sized tank with a steep slope you must take out much of the stuff by dray work, and dray work is less economical than scoop work. Then all the bank cannot be used as a roadway, necessitating greater haulage of earth. These things make a difference, and the chief difference lies in the application of dray work rather than scoops.

1010. And this is caused by the steep batter? Yes; but cost depends much upon the soil. You may get a soil in which you cannot work scoops at all, or at great disadvantage.

1011. What was the highest price that you have known the Government to give for their tanks? I can answer that only from hearsay—only from report.

1012. Do you know what these tanks—the Warramurtee and the Goomboolara—cost per cubic yard? No, I do not.

1013. *Chairman.*] Are you not aware that when a squatter's tank is finished he measures up the work and pays the money at once? Certainly.

1014. Are you aware that this is not the rule in the Government Departments? I have heard that there has been some delay.

1015. And if there has been a considerable delay, you can understand why the contractor would allow a margin for having his money so long outstanding? Yes; I can well understand that. The squatters make progress payments.

1016. Government do also, according to their contracts. Are there not circumstances where the Government find it necessary to sink a tank and have to give excessive prices, owing to the distance of the contractor's camp from the nearest water? Certainly; there may be.

1017. A squatter will scarcely go to the expense of making a tank 20 miles from water, but Government may be compelled to do so, which would enormously increase the cost of the work? I should say that to put a tank 20 miles from water would be to nearly double the cost of the tank.

1018. *Major Penrose.*] What price per cubic yard were you paying for excavation at the time these tanks were made? From 10d. to 1s. per cubic yard.

1019. And what depth were these tanks of yours? From 9 to 12 feet 6 inches. In the construction of a tank it makes an immense amount of difference where you put the stuff. If you carry the stuff a long distance from the batter, it may make a difference of 2d. or 3d. in the price of the tank. A high embankment, and other things, also make a vast amount of difference.

1020. *Chairman.*] Is there any lifting machinery at these two tanks with which you are acquainted? No.

1021. *Mr. Woore.*] With regard to these two tanks on the Paroo, which you have referred to, would it not cost a great deal more to make them at some considerable distance from water instead of at their present positions? I do not know any better position that they could be in. They are right on the road.

1022. And but for this water beside them they would have cost a great deal more money? Yes; and they were constructed each close to a public-house. Everything else being equal that was the place to put them at the time.

1023. Do you know of your own knowledge that there was a great amount of absorption from these tanks? Yes, I know that from my own knowledge.

1024. *Chairman.*] Are you not aware that in very dry weather sheep will go and drink in these tanks and swim about in them, carrying away an immense amount of water? Yes, they will do that.

1025. *Mr. Woore.*] Therefore, when mobs of sheep enter the water they will carry away large quantities of it in their fleeces? [No answer.]

1026. This system, which you think suitable in your own case and in the case of other squatters, of having open tanks, so that sheep can go into the water, could not be applied to public watering places, for the reason that sheep would carry out a large quantity of water in their wool, besides fouling the tank? I would answer the question in this way: If you must have tanks for public watering places, the proper way is to treat them in very much the same way as people of local experience manage their tanks—make sloping batters, and allow the stock, if necessary, to puddle the ground until it is sufficiently puddled. Then close the tank, and save as much water as possible.

1027. Of course, this has all been learned by experience, and could not have been known at the time the tanks were sunk? In all these tanks there has been a considerable amount of clay sediment; that is owing to the fact already stated,—that the Paroo water contains a large amount of clay in suspension, which, when the batters are steep, is more apt to settle on the small bottom of the tank, at the foot of the batters. I suppose that in each of these tanks there is about 3 or 4 feet of silt. This silting up must continue to occur, although more slowly, as the tank widens upwards; and I think that the loss at the bottom can be more than gained at the top by an arrangement to apply an engine and centrifugal pump to give more water at the top than is lost at the bottom; that is, in heavy rainfalls.

1028. *Major Penrose.*] Is there any machinery at these tanks? No; but no machinery, except such as I have stated, would be of use for this purpose. I do not think there is any machinery at any Government tanks that could fill the tanks above the gravitation level in reasonable time. 1029.

1029. *Chairman.*] You have just mentioned something about the stock not having watered at the main tank but at a smaller one;—how was that filled? From the main tank by a pipe. The two tanks are always kept at the same level.

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1030. *Major Penrose.*] Then you think that the machinery at the Government tanks is not powerful enough? That depends entirely on what the machinery is required for. The ordinary machine is not powerful enough to pump into the tank the large quantity of water which is required to fill the tank above gravitation level, but quite powerful enough to supply water to stock outside.

1031. *Chairman.*] Are you aware that the Government have now given most of the tanks over in charge of caretakers, and that these caretakers have paddocks fenced in for their horses which they employ in lifting the water? There are also very strong fences put around the watering place to prevent stock breaking into the main tanks. None of these fences have come under my notice as having been badly constructed or constructed at an excessive cost. The two tanks on the Paroo are fenced with as good a fence as can be had in that part of the country where the timber is very small. At them there is no paddock fenced in for the caretaker; the only fence is that which is put around the tank itself.

1032. Are you aware that the cost of these fences erected by Government was very much in excess of the cost of similar fences put up by private individuals? I do not know what the cost is, but the length of fencing is so very small that I should say the cost should not amount to very much in any case.

1033. Being a small contract people would ask rather more for it than for a large one? Yes.

1034. Have you ever found that the superintendents of roads who looked after these tanks had made complaints of the caretakers? No; but while I was lessee of these tanks I used to have letters from the overseer or stock inspector, who drew my attention to anything that required to be done. So far as I was concerned there was never any undue interference.

1035. Have any wells been constructed on the Paroo by the Government in later years? No; but I know that wells have been put down at Mossgiel and Holy Box.

1036. What is your impression generally with regard to these wells,—were they properly put down? Some of them were; the Jumping Sand-hill well certainly was; and there is a Government well some seven or eight miles out from Mossgiel. I think they call it the Polygonum well; it was also properly put down. This is a capitally-made well, and was certainly very much required. The water, unfortunately, was very bad. In reference to the Holy Box well, I was there when a trial-shaft was put down in the first instance under the supervision of a man named Higman, or some name like that. This trial-shaft was supposed to have struck really good fresh water. Between the time when the trial-shaft was finished and the time when the main shaft was undertaken, I was at the well, and I saw the water at the bottom of the shaft. There was only a small quantity of water in it, and I was exceedingly anxious to know whether it was good or not, because at that time I was sinking a number of wells myself at the Mossgiel station, of which I was manager. I let down a billy or a tin and brought up some of the water to try it. Although the water was said to be very good in the trial-shaft, this water which was at the bottom of the shaft, seemed to me to be only good stock water. The supply was evidently very small, as there was only 6 inches at the bottom of the trial-shaft.

1037. *Mr. Woore.*] What was the depth then? I should say about 100 feet. It might have been anything to 110 feet. My impression at the time was that the trial-shaft had given a very unreliable result. The quantity appeared to be small, and the quality, so far as I could judge, good enough for sheep to live on; but not good enough to take on a first trial. I should have been inclined to have had another trial. From my knowledge of that country more than one trial-shaft is always necessary if you do not get a good result at the first; because only a few yards away from one shaft you may get a different result in another. My impression at the time was that this water was not good enough. I understood that the well was proceeded with and finished, but I have never had an opportunity of testing the water or the supply afterwards.

1038. Do you know anything about the matter by common report? I have had bad reports of it, and judging by these reports the water seems to be very much what I expected it would be by the tests that I made at the time that I took the sample from the trial-shaft.

1039. *Major Penrose.*] Have you any experience as to baling out wells to improve the quality of the water? Oh, yes. Do you mean continual baling? Under certain circumstances continual baling may improve the quality of the water. I can give you one or two instances in that neighbourhood.

1040. Then it is within your experience in that neighbourhood that continual baling has improved the quality of the water? Yes; water has improved when a well was in use; but I do not know that I am justified in stating it was continued baling that did it. Indeed, I am not sure that the effect was owing to the baling. In two instances water had improved after a good deal of baling; but I have reason for thinking that the effect was due to another cause. The position of the well was covered with a large amount of flood-water, and that flood-water in going down the shaft had some effect in throwing back the salt which causes the well to be salty. That is my opinion. The very effect that I speak of was apparently produced at the Mossgiel (south) well.

1041. *Mr. Woore.*] The water there was improved by baling? Well; that is the question. It was improved.

1042. *Major Penrose.*] Then the improvement that you speak of would not be a permanent one? Possibly it might. In this south well at Mossgiel the improvement was permanent. Previous to 1870, the south well at Mossgiel gave a full supply of water, but it was of very poor quality, and was all but useless to the stock. The well was covered with water by the overflow from the Willandra during the 1870 floods, and for a considerable time after the flood-water had receded the well-water was distinctly improved in quality, and has remained useful for stock ever since. I believe that it is also possible, by constant baling of a well, to exhaust the salt in the salt-bearing stratum which makes the water salt.

1043. *Chairman.*] Are you aware of the cost of this Holy Box well? I am not.

1044. What was the sinking? It was easy, and so far as the shaft was concerned, I could have had a similar well put down for 8s. or 10s. per foot. It depends on the depth.

1045. I am told the depth was 94 feet? I could have got it sunk and timbered for £1 per foot, and perhaps for less than that. The trial shaft should not have cost more than 10s. per foot. In this instance, timber would have cost a large sum in consequence of the great scarcity of wood in that neighbourhood.

1046. Do you think, even taking that into consideration, the well should have cost £12 per foot? No, I think it is an excessive price, unless the specifications were absurdly heavy and strong.

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1047. Do you think it was wise to have erected a whim and trough, and so forth, before it was proved that the water was sufficiently good to be useful for stock? No, I think it was exceedingly unwise.
1048. Are you aware that the iron troughs have been destroyed by the action of the salt? I believe it quite possible, but I am not aware of it. If the iron troughs have been destroyed, from the salt water in that well, it must have been very much worse than the water in the Government Mossgiel well, which is too bad for travelling stock to use, although station sheep do so.
1049. *Major Penrose.*] Do you know whether this well is now in use or not? No, but I have heard drovers complain during the last few years that they could not get water there. I have heard that drovers have had to get water from the private tanks.
1050. *Mr. Woore.*] Have you been there since the well was completed? No, but I will say this, that if the water is more salty than the water in the Mossgiel well, machinery should not have been put down there.
1051. *Major Penrose.*] But here I find that in 1883 good water was obtained there? Well, I will give some information about that matter. With these salty wells, it is quite possible that in the shaft there may be some stratum which bears a small quantity of fresh water. That fresh water will float on the top of the salt water, and if you let down a bottle into the well, the bottle will fill from the thin layer of fresh water on the top, and consequently the water will appear to be very much better than it really is. And it is possible this may account for the fact that the first water struck in the trial-shaft, which, according to my judgment, was a very small quantity, was better than the water ultimately obtained in the main shaft.
1052. *Chairman.*] Have you ever known an instance where wells have been sunk and all the head gear supplied before the water was found? If a trial-shaft is sunk, the plan is to erect a whim to expedite the work of sinking the main shaft, the supposition being that the trial-shaft has proved the water to be sufficiently good in quality and sufficient in quantity for all the purposes desired.
1053. The whim would, of course, be put up by the contractors at the cost of the Government to carry on the contractor's work more expeditiously and cheaply? Exactly; as part of the contract.
1054. But have you ever known an instance where a well has been sunk and all the head gear erected without water having been found at all? He would be a very foolish man who would do such a thing in a country like that. No one who knew what he was about would do such a thing in that country, because of the great doubt as to the finding of water good enough.
1055. Now, it is a somewhat expensive system—that of trial-shafts—as compared with boring? A trial-shaft is better in my opinion where you only require to go down 90 or 100 feet; and for that depth is probably nearly as cheap as boring when no timber is required; because it can be done from 5s. to 7s. 6d. per foot. You see that the expense of bringing boring machines on the ground is very considerable.
1056. This is certainly a very material question, bearing as it does on the relative expense of the two methods. On the other hand, from your knowledge of the country you know you have to go a considerable depth before you can obtain water? Then boring is infinitely the cheapest plan.
1057. Are you aware that the Government have paid very much higher prices for sinking wells than private individuals? Their specifications are different from private specifications; and, therefore, I know that they must have given higher prices.
1058. Just tell us the reason why? Well, I think that their prices ought to be somewhat higher, because in most cases, particularly in the Mossgiel district, the timber they use (if I am not mistaken) is red gum, while private wells are put down with the local pine timber, which is lighter to carry, more easily worked, and sufficiently durable for all practical purposes.
1059. Is there any other reason? Well, the pine timber is brought from 30 to 40 miles distant, while the red gum timber has to be conveyed from Echuca, on the Murray river, a distance of 300 to 500 miles.
1060. But pine timber would not be good enough to use in a public work? I think it would; pine is practically everlasting underground.
1061. Do you know anything about the erection of huts for caretakers? No; nothing at all.
1062. *Major Penrose.*] Do you think there has been a waste of public money to any great extent on these watering places? Do you mean with regard to construction, supervision, or maintenance?
1063. Principally with regard to construction, but I would put it under all three heads? It has always been my impression that, considering the difference in quality, the prices which the Government have paid are excessive; and, if I may say so, not for this work alone, but for other public works—fencing, for instance.
1064. *Chairman.*] You have already given some reasons—do you think these are sufficient to warrant the high prices paid? I think there is one reason which has not been given, but which is still very important. I know that contractors tendering for Government work put their prices on a distinctly higher scale than for private work; and, as in that far-out country, the contractors who are able to undertake such a work are few, they know that they have a good thing in their own hands; and I have very little doubt they have sense enough to arrange that whichever man gets the contract gets a very good thing.
1065. *Mr. Woore.*] Is some sort of a "ring" formed between them? No doubt; there may be. There are only a few men who can take this work, and they may keep matters in their own hands.
1066. *Chairman.*] Now, I am going to ask you a general question. You have already learned from what I have stated that there is a good deal of friction between the two Departments—the Mines and the Works—and that charges and counter-charges have been made against the officers of both Departments. For instance, a superintendent of roads, under whom the tanks are during construction, reports what he believes to be a great want of care on the part of the caretakers. He finds fault, sends down reports to his chief that works constructed by the country at great cost, are being destroyed by want of care. The caretakers, on the other hand (who are appointed by the Mines Department), resent this interference; and hence friction arises. Now, do you not think it is very desirable that the whole maintenance of wells and their construction should remain in the hands of one Department? Will you tell me, does maintenance include repairs?
1067. As far as we know, maintenance should include minor and trifling repairs? There could be no objection to one Department constructing the works if, on their completion, the works were wholly handed over to another Department. But if, while the works were under the control of one Department in the matter of supervision, the matter of maintenance is handed over to another Department, there must be friction. It seems to me clear that all three—construction, supervision, and maintenance—should

should be under one Department; or if that is too much for one Department, then that one should have the construction, while the other should have everything else—supervision and maintenance—handed over to it.

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1068. Now, do you not think that this also would lead to friction. The parties taking over these works might say that they were badly constructed, and insist that they were put to extra expense in keeping them;—would not that occur? Well, I am not sure that that would be altogether a disadvantage, because it might be so, and the parties constructing might not care to acknowledge an error of construction.

1069. Do you not think that it would lead to a further expenditure of public money? I am looking at it from the point of public utility. If it made it too cumbrous for one Department to have the construction with the supervision and maintenance, then the construction could be given to one Department and the supervision and maintenance to another.

1070. At the present time small repairs to the extent of £10 may be entered into by the Mines, but if any more serious repairs are required they have to go back again to the Works Department. The consequence is, that one finds fault with the work of the other and reports unfavourably of the repairs? That is an absurd system, undoubtedly.

1071. *Major Penrose.*] What can you build a small hut for—such as caretakers live in? That varies very much according to the specifications. If you are going to put an iron roof on the hut, it will probably cost you from £35 to £60, and then it depends upon a variety of other circumstances.

1072. *Mr. Woore.*] What would be the cost of such huts as are put up for caretakers? Well, I can get them put up, apart from material, for about £16 to £20.

1073. What is the cost—material and all? From £40 to £65—that is, for a hut such as men generally live in in that part of the country. Now with regard to these two tanks, I do not know of my own knowledge the manner in which they were leased. Before I was asked to take over the leases a man got so much a year for leasing them. There was no revenue from them at all till I took them over. It could not have been more than a few pounds during two or three years; so, to save the Government expense, I offered to lease the tanks for £1 per year. At the end of that time another arrangement was made, and since then I have been generally looking after the tanks.

1074. But do you not think the tanks of sufficient importance to warrant a caretaker being kept there? Well, I am sure that, so far as revenue is concerned, it would not pay.

1075. Do you know anything about the tanks around Cobar? I have been along the Cobar road, and I know the tank near Matherson's place. They seem to be all useful tanks, with the exception of Kerrigundi. There is not a sufficiently good catchment there. That was the impression I carried away after having seen it during very good years. I have not seen it since 1875. It is near Mulya. One of these tanks struck me as being of very doubtful character.

1076. Was there a better catchment somewhere else? No; I do not say that. I do not know the road sufficiently, nor whether a tank is required in that place or not.

1077. Have you any knowledge concerning the soil about there;—is it better than that on the Paroo? I should rather think it was better, and that it would stand a much steeper slope.

1078. Have you seen much of these tanks generally? I have passed there about ten or twelve times.

1079. Did it ever strike you that there was a waste of public money there? No; because I do not know how much money was spent there.

1080. But you would not place all the tanks where they are? Certainly not.

1081. Yet all the tanks that you observed you considered necessary? Yes, I think so; if the positions are good.

1082. *Chairman.*] Do you know anything about the tanks on the road from Bourke to Wanaaring? I know that the Kulmine tank was a good one. That road requires watering very badly, and it has required it for a very long time. An immense amount of money has been spent on boring, with little result. The machines that they are boring with there are absurd. These people will not take the result of private experience; but they go on, and make all the mistakes that I and others did. They bore with tools utterly inefficient for great depths—such as Wright & Edward's auger and the Tiffin. These are the two instruments that they have been boring with. For considerable depth, in my opinion, neither Wright & Edward's auger or the Tiffin auger are sufficiently good instruments. They are both admirable for shallow depths, up to (say) 300 feet; but when you get beyond that, something in the shape of the Pennsylvania oil drill is absolutely necessary. In any case where I had to go down 400 or 500 feet or more, I should use one of these instruments.

1083. Has the diamond drill been tried up there? No; not in our immediate neighbourhood.

1084. But has it been successful where it has been tried? Yes; where it is applied to boring through dense stuff or rock. Boring up in that country seems to be nearly a matter of certainty. Almost invariably, after going through a certain amount of alluvial, you reach a blue-coloured clay, and in or under that clay you are certain to get fresh water, if you only go deep enough. The shallowest water got in this stratum that I know of, was obtained at 500 feet, while the deepest was close on 1,200 feet.

1085. How high does this water flow through the bore? In some cases the water rises near the surface, and in other cases it flows in a fairly strong stream. I know of no case where a sufficient supply of water has not been got where the water is struck in the stratum, if it can be pumped from a depth of 100 to 200 feet. The weakest bore that I know of gives about 10,000 gallons per day in that manner, raised from 100 feet.

1086. Is it always good water? Always good for stock, but not always quite fresh. Most of it that I know would be useless for irrigation. Now, I believe that blue clay to be all over the country, and anyone who sinks in or under that clay will get good water.

1087. *Mr. Woore.*] That would apparently be the best means of providing water for that particular country. Of course you were only speaking of that part of the country of which you have acquaintance—that along the Paroo? Well, this formation appears to extend from Kallara to Thurlgoona, and from Kallara up to Queensland. At Barcaldine it appears to be similar, and with some slight exceptions, you have apparently the same conditions over a very large area.

1088. Have you any experience of these borings south of the Darling? No; although I know the blue clay exists between the Darling and Willandra, and that good water is always obtainable, and sometimes without going into the clay at all. At Mossgiel we used to get a large supply of very good water after about 40 to 80 feet sinking through the blue clay.

D. Brown. 1089. Now, as far as your experience goes with these borings, do you think that the expense of maintenance (provided that you get a supply of good water by boring) would be very much less than the expense of getting it in these tanks? Infinitely less.

2 Feb., 1888. 1090. So that it would be cheaper in the end to supply these stock routes along the Paroo and south of the Darling by bores? It certainly would, on condition that you expect to get the same invariable result down there that has been got further north. I think it would be worth trying.

1091. And also there would be no reason to doubt the permanency of the water? No reason at all. There is not one tank in the north-western country that is permanent—no mere surface water can be considered permanent for a three years' drought. The only objection that I see to boring is the length of time that would elapse before you could get the machinery, which would have to be worked by steam, and which is rather expensive. Of course, as the country becomes stocked the demands on the routes will be increased, and this is a question which might be fairly considered, as to whether some better system of supply to stock routes might not be adopted. If, by means of these bores, a permanent supply can be obtained, and the expense of maintaining the places made very much less, then the system is assuredly worth a trial.

1092. Do you know of any person who has had any experience in putting down bores? Yes; I have always done the work myself, and always tried to get information from those who had similar work in hand.

1093. But do you know anyone who has had a great experience in this particular kind of work? I do not know one who has put down as many bores as I have myself.

1094. Yes; I know you sunk some immediately after you went up there? Yes; but I then bored with Wright & Edward's tools. I have now, for the last two years, used the Pennsylvania rock drill, and have been trying to work it on the rope system. The other arrangement was unsatisfactory, because the drill sometimes lost its perpendicularity; and I am now going to adopt what is known as the Canadian system of (I think) wooden rods in place of rope.

[The Commission adjourned until the afternoon, when the sitting was resumed.]

John Low called in and examined :—

J. Low. 1095. *Chairman.*] What are you, Mr. Low? I am an inspector of public watering places. I have a report here concerning the works which I have personally inspected as an inspector of the Mines Department.

2 Feb., 1888. 1096. Well, we will receive the report and make notes as you go along? This report is written in reply to Mr. Gilliat's memorandum :—

Sir,

Broken Hill, 7 January, 1888.

Referring to B.C. documents, 21/11/87, as to what matters, *re* objections to works by Mines Department herewith returned, I have the honor to report that the following have been personally inspected by me :—

NARRANDERA DISTRICT.

Fencing here was let by Works Department at the time of my inspection, pine 9 inches x 3 inches, 2 feet 6 inches in ground, which gauge appears to me to be absurd. In this opinion I am borne out by Mr. Cowper, station manager, Coonapaira, who also inspected posts which at the time were being split. I read specifications and contract, which was £700 for 1,140 chains. Contractor Hackett also showed me a contract where he sublet splitting, erecting, boring, and wiring, at £16 10s. per mile.

This style of fencing will not bear comparison with the fence on Bingagong reserve in same district, erected by Mr. Angus Robertson, Yarrabu Park, for which he claimed for material and erection at the rate of £34 per mile. See Public Watering Places, 87-1,957, 6/5/87.

Pulletop Tank.

Drains.—These here have a much too sudden fall, causing water to run too rapidly, cut up drain, thereby carrying silt into silt tank. A drain here with a much more gradual fall could easily have been excavated, embracing the present catchment area.

Water-lifting appliances.—These are placed in the most unsuitable site—dangerous position—being in the lowest ground, and liable in heavy rains to be damaged by water running on and around them, and undermining foundations. No by-wash has been excavated here, and no provision made to protect these appliances, &c.

Embankments.—These have been erected with no regard to being level; in fact are at the corner opposite water-lifting appliances, lowest being 2 feet 7 inches lower than middle of embankments, thus further endangering water-lifting appliances.

Mount Elliot Tank.

Drains.—These have been constructed evidently with little or no idea of what is required of a drain. Three drains have been excavated down face of hill, and, although my inspection was immediately after heavy rains, I could discover no trace of water having run in these—nor water-wash. Had one of these drains been extended about half a mile, it would have caught the water in a good natural watercourse, which in any ordinary season would be quite equal to filling this tank, thereby saving the outlay incurred for what is and will remain useless.

Hulong Tank.

Drains.—One is here so constructed as to run water from instead of to main tank. This showed plainly at the time of my inspection, owing to water lying in different parts of drain, which had been banked up to prevent water running from main tank. Were this drain opened up and main tank full, I feel confident it would run quite 1 foot of water out.

ALBURY DISTRICT.

Walla Walla Tank.

Main tank.—This is reported to be over 12,000 cubic yards, which, in my opinion, in a district with a rainfall such as this, is about twice the required size. I made every possible inquiry while in this district, and although I met Mr. Douglas (Walla Walla Station) and Mr. Simpson (Burrumbuttock Station), two large landholders, who have excavations never known to be dry, I could hear of no excavation equal or approaching in size to this. There is here a large natural basin, which at my inspection was full, and will be equal to all the requirements of this road and district for the next two years. In this opinion I am borne out by Mr. Douglas, of Walla Walla Station.

Water-lifting appliances.—These are so situated as to be liable to be washed away. At my inspection I could see traces of heavy streams of water having run round these and underneath troughing.

Embankments.—These are so erected as to allow overflow of water to run upon troughing and water-lifting appliances, hereby endangering foundations. This could have been easily avoided.

Hovell's Dam.

By-wash.—103 yards long, 43 feet wide, 10 feet to 6 deep, cut through solid rock, when a good natural by-wash was available at opposite side of creek, and which natural by-wash is of sufficient width to allow water to spread, thus minimising the possibility of its cutting away; but even assuming it had cut into ground, which I consider most unlikely, this

this could have been logged or pitched if considered requisite, I feel certain, at a quarter the cost of present by-wash. At the time of my inspection of this, stock were allowed access to water; but I have good reason to believe water-lifting appliances were proposed to be erected by Works Department, at a cost of £375 7s. 4d., to which must be added cost of 2 Feb., 1888. J. Low.

HAY DISTRICT.

Tom's Lake Tank.

Main tank is here excavated in a rotten, boggy swamp, a place which was well-known to all travellers on that road as a spot to be avoided after rain, owing to its boggy nature. Had this tank been excavated about three-quarters of a mile northerly of its present site, it would have been on much better holding ground, and on ground naturally less liable to cut up, which, in fact, is an old natural watercourse into swamp, which has cut up little if any. Mr. Overseer Keighran, of Hay, has for many years known this place, and fully bears me out in my remarks.

Drains.—These are badly constructed, especially one alongside of road, which, for some distance from its commencement, runs water from instead of to main tank. This drain crosses main road almost in front of main tank, having a direct and sudden fall into same, without the waters, as is usual, passing through a silt-tank. Owing to no silt-tank being here and the drain being much cut up both by traffic and nature of ground, much silt must have been carried into main tank, which I feel confident is quite half silted up. This drain could easily and practically have been led to opposite end of tank when water could have run through swamp and silt-tank, thus allowing silt to settle and not be carried into main tank.

Jumping Sandhill Well.

Water.—This water is, in my opinion, not even good stock water. I have on several occasions seen horses taken to it, which, although thirsty, would not drink. It is undoubtedly unfit for human consumption. About a mile northerly of this a good site for a tank could easily have been obtained, which, in my opinion, would have been much more suitable for the traffic; and in this opinion I am borne out by old settlers in this district, such as Mr. Laird, Mossgiel.

Polygonum Hut Well.

Water.—This water is quite unfit for human consumption. No better site for a tank could be desired than what is close to this, which, in my opinion, would have been much more suitable for the traffic, and less expensive either in cost of erection or keeping in repair. The fact that during this summer this swamp has held sufficient water to water all stock travelling, is sufficient evidence of its natural qualities and holding capacity of ground.

Water-lifting appliances.—The mode of lifting water here by windmills is expensive in the first instance, and condemns itself so far as use is concerned, as it is continually getting out of repair, and has not, since August—although it is allowed by Mr. Overseer Keighran to have worked more regularly since that date than it had done previously—done more than fill and keep full supply tank. No water during that period has been sold. Sufficient water for requirements could easily be drawn by a single whip, erection of which would not exceed £5.

IVANHOE DISTRICT.

Mossgiel Tank.

Fencing.—I have been unable to discover cost of fencing this tenant's lease. Mr. Laird, who knows fence well, values it at £55 per mile, comparing it with the prices he has been and is now paying for fencing. Lawrence Farrell, late contractor, now caretaker, Mossgiel tank, knows country well, and would be at any time, if contracting, willing to erect fence equal to this at £35 per mile, were wire put on line.

Excavation.—Original contract reported to be 1s. 3d. per cubic yard. Mr. Laird, Mossgiel, is now and has been getting tanks 13 feet deep excavated at 8d. per cubic yard, and strongly advocates 3 or 4 to 1 slopes.

Holy Box Well.

Water.—The water here cannot be reckoned even stock water, and is perfectly useless for human consumption, thus unsuitable for the traffic. The troughing here has been renewed owing to being worn out or corroded by the water. Much salt can at any time be gathered about this troughing. Mr. Webb, Kilfera, knows this public watering place well. He would not water stock at it, owing to quality of water. He considers it quite unsuitable for the requirements of the traffic. He has lost sheep at it, and has repeatedly advised drovers not to water their stock at this well, as they would certainly lose some. Mr. Laird, Mossgiel, knows this public watering place well; would not water stock at it, owing to quality of water; has heard drovers often say they would not water stock at it, owing to quality of water. A good site for a tank could easily have been got within a short distance of this, which, in my opinion, as also in the opinion of Messrs. Webb, Kilfera; Laird, Mossgiel, and any adjacent station-owners I have met, have been equal to all requirements, and much more suitable for traffic.

Runners.—The runners in this well are fixed in a manner new to me, although I have had considerable experience in this style of work, being fastened by screws, and in most cases only a shell of runner left after piece is cut out sufficient to allow head of screw being turned round. This shell has in many cases worn out, leaving a face for the bucket to catch on, which is most dangerous, and liable to cause an accident. Some of the well at bottom has, so far as I could discover, never had runners, thereby allowing buckets to get off and being blocked under water, as has already been done to my knowledge.

Ivanhoe Tank.

Main tank.—The batters here are so steep that ground from underneath shoot to a depth of 2 feet has been washed away, thereby endangering shoot. Excavation here is reported to have cost in first instance 1s. 4d. or 1s. 5d. per cubic yard. Mr. Brougham, Ticehurst, had tank excavated by Lawrence Farrell at same time, 15 feet deep, at 11d. per cubic yard, embankments 36 feet from and on four sides of excavation. Contractor, it is reported, and I have reason to believe, claimed and received a large amount over his contract price.

Batters.—These are much too steep, water-washed, and cut away, causing ground to sink to bottom of tank, thus bringing it quite as shallow as Ticehurst tank.

Drains.—These are badly constructed, evidently with no intention of leading water to main tank, much of them running from instead of to main tank. Two of these drain water from the township, the other runs parallel to main road, overflows silt tank and fills a private tank belonging to Elliott, which water is afterwards sold to the public. This could easily have been avoided by taking drain to opposite end of main tank, as is now being done by caretaker. These were excavated by Lawrence Farrell at 15s. per chain, dimensions being 9 feet x 1 foot. At same time he was excavating drains for Mr. Brougham, Ticehurst, 9 feet x 6 inches, at 3s. 6d. per chain, and which, in my opinion, owing to nature of ground, would serve the purpose equally well. Mr. Road Superintendent Hanna is now getting drains excavated at Broken Hill, where labour is much dearer than at Ivanhoe, quite equal to Ivanhoe drains, at 4s. 5d. per chain. In the Albert district I have had plenty of drains of this size—9 feet x 1 foot—excavated at 4s. and 4s. 6d. per chain.

Fencing.—This was originally let to one Bevan; I am informed by Mr. George Williamson, J.P., Ivanhoe, and Mr. Brougham, Ticehurst, at £116 or £120 per mile, who sublet it to Elliott, who afterwards sublet to Anderson (my informant) at the following:—30s. per 100 posts splitting; 100s. per 100 posts carting; £18 per mile erecting and wiring. The panels are supposed to be 10 feet, which would allow of the following:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|------------------------------------|-----|----|----|
| 530 posts, splitting, at 30s. | 7 | 19 | 0 |
| 530 posts carting, at 100s. | 26 | 10 | 0 |
| Erecting, per mile | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| Wire | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| | £82 | 9 | 0 |

The allowance for wire is ample, thus leaving a profit from first contract price of at least £33 11s. per mile. This has no straining-posts, the wire being strained as it runs out. The posts are of split pine, unequal to the strain; in many cases are splitting and drawn over. This description of fencing is new to me, and I unhesitatingly condemn same. In this opinion I am borne out by Messrs. Webb, Kilfera, Brougham, Ticehurst, and Laird, Mossgiel, all of whom have had much experience in fencing-timber in this particular district, and neither of whom would erect a fence without straining-posts. I have now a tender for erecting at Ivanhoe a fence of same gauge and style of wire with proper straining-posts, at £70 per mile, although it is a small job, in which case a much higher rate is always allowed.

Inlet

J. Low.

2 Feb., 1888.

Inlet or flume.—The covering of inlet or flume consists of leopard wood—a timber notably known to rot quickly, and which no one having the slightest knowledge of would use for such purpose.

Gates.—12-foot swing, have recently been erected by Bevan, who originally contracted for erection of fence, whose men state he is getting £15 per gate.

Engine-shed.—This was erected by C. Anderson, resident in Ivanhoe, in four days, for which he got from Works Department £10 for labour alone, material being prepared and put on ground by Works Department.

Clare Tank.

Main tank.—This is in middle of a swamp, and at my inspection was surrounded by water.

Embankments.—Are here, owing to being surrounded by water, much cut away, and before many years will be level with the ground, judging from how they have washed since erection, and are so erected as to bank water across 5-chains road, which water has supplied the public free of cost until lately.

Water-lifting appliances.—These are so situated that at the time of my inspection the troughing was at least 9 inches under water, and the pillars carrying supply-tank were also under water, thereby endangering foundations of same. This could easily have been avoided by having supply tank about 3 chains north of present site, which is above water-mark.

Fencing.—This, for over a year, has been in course of erection by Mr. F. Casey, under contract with Works Department, and is still unfinished.

Gunaramby Tank.

Main tank.—This has been excavated in rotten copai ground, which, owing to steepness of batters, has fallen in to a very large extent. A good site for a tank could easily have been secured near to this.

Drains.—These are here badly laid out, and the system of leading water round excavation inside of embankments, in ground such as this, must lead to damage and washing in of batters.

Willandra Well.

Shaft.—For some years well-sinkers have been at work trying to sink this well. It has now been abandoned and a new shaft commenced.

Water.—Well-water in this locality is not even good stock water, and certainly none fit for human consumption. Mr. Webb, of Kilfera, upon whose property this proposed well is, informs me he has abandoned most of his wells—in fact all where he could get suitable sites for tanks; and near to this proposed well a splendid site for a tank could be got. A tank of 12,000 yards would be quite equal to the requirements of this road, and would perhaps have cost much less than what has already been expended upon what is looked upon by every practical man in the district, even were a good supply of water got, as being a useless piece of work, and at which stock are very unlikely to drink.

Well-sinking.—Well-sinking in this locality is paid for by station owners at the following—20s. per foot for the first 100 feet, 40s. per foot afterwards, owners finding material. Red gum could be delivered at this well at 40s. per 100 superficial feet.

Head Works.—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|
| Whim, round timber, and labour .. | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| Sawn timber .. | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Mountings .. | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Carriage and tar .. | 10 | 0 | 0 |

£62 0 0

Boonoona Tank.

Fencing.—None of this required to be carted more than 4 miles, as there is plenty ballah within that distance. Was erected by Bevan at £120 per mile. The erection of this fence, in comparison with prices paid by station owners in this district, I consider to be worth not more than £26 per mile exclusive of wire; and in this opinion I am borne out by Mr. Webb, Kilfera, who has had much fencing done in this locality, and who, after inspecting this fence, values it at £26 per mile exclusive of wire. Mr. Webb, Kilfera, in 1882, when feed was scarce and water had to be carted at least 5 miles, had tank-sinking done of the following description and rates:—Excavation 15 feet 6 inches deep, embankments four sides of and 22 yards from excavation, at 11½d. per cubic yard, and these tanks have never during the late dry season been dry, although stock have been regularly watering at them. Mr. Webb has all his tanks excavated with 3 and 4 to 1 slopes, considering them preferable to steeper slopes and less liable to water-wash. He approves of water being pumped out and stock watered at troughing, but considers the present water-lifting appliances extravagant in the extreme, and feels certain that a 2½-inch McComas water-lifter, worked by hand power, would meet all requirements, would cost less for erection, would be less liable to get out of order, consequently would cost less to keep in repair.

Gates.—These are here being erected by Bevan (originally contractor for fence), 12 feet swing, at £15 per gate, as reported by his employes.

Mount Manara Tank.

Main Tank.—This was in the first instance contracted for by Mr. John Hay, station owner, Mount Manara, at 1s. 4½d. per cubic yard, who afterwards sublet to Fred. Hardie, who did work at 1s. per cubic yard. This, Hardie informed me himself.

Engine-shed.—This was erected by C. Anderson, who was working in the neighbourhood, in four days, for which he got from Works Department £10 for labour alone, material being put on ground by Works Department.

Fencing.—This was erected by Bevan at £120 per mile; has no straining posts, which cannot be too strongly condemned; is about half split, the balance being round saplings (pine), the latter being in my opinion most objectionable and not lasting. None of this timber required to be carted more than 4 miles, which must have left a profit of over £40 per mile.

Gates.—These are being erected by Bevan, original contractor for fencing of tenant's lease, being 10 feet and 12 feet swing, at £15 per gate, as reported by Bevan's employes.

BALRANALD DISTRICT.

Dolmoreve Well.

Water.—This is bad stock water, and quite unfit for human consumption, consequently unsuitable for the traffic. A good site for a tank could have been got here, and an excavation of 12,000 yards would have been quite equal to the requirements of this road, which I venture to say would have been much more suitable. The station holders in this district, after years of experience, are abandoning wells and excavating tanks as being more suitable for stock. Messrs. Waugh, of Clare, and Webb, Kilfera, who are large land holders, strongly condemn wells in this district. Few if any stock will ever water at this well, and teamsters complain to me about the quality of the water, and state their stock will not take a good drink of it, even although very thirsty.

Shaft.—This I was unable to examine. A bucket was lost in shaft on 22nd May, and some of the runners broken, although the Works Department mechanic had been there on 20th June to repair same. Up to date of my inspections, 6th September and 3rd October, the bucket had not been repaired nor rope put on whim, and it was only on 30th October caretaker notified me he had received rope a few days before writing, thus taking five months to execute repairs any ordinary man could have done in a fortnight at most.

Box Creek Tank and Dam.

Main Tank.—One embankment here forming a dam would have been quite sufficient for requirements, instead of the large outlay for tank and dam. In this opinion I am borne out by Mr. Lindsay, Manager Til Til Station.

Embankments.—The embankments around excavation are of no practical use, and must have increased cost of tank considerably.

Site.—The site would have been a more favourable one and more water conserved had a simple dam been constructed down the creek about three-quarters of a mile—near to "Thompson's Hotel."

New

New Works 16 miles from Balranald.

Main tank.—This excavation, at my inspection, was almost completed.

Site.—The site is certainly not a good one. A much better one could have been procured within half-a-mile. The present excavation will require a large outlay for drains, if even by these it can be filled with a fair rain.

Drains.—There were 50 chains, 6 feet x 9 inches, excavated here. Although there had been heavy rains shortly before my inspection, these had run no water into silt tank—in fact, they never will, as both drains, in some places, were full of water, but quite dry near the tank, thus showing they would run water from instead of to main tank. Contractor informed me that he was getting 6s. 6d. per chain for these drains, which is quite 2s. per chain more than the work is worth, more especially as the contractor was doing the work when he was, from rain, unable to work in tank, and not as if he was losing time going to and from a small job.

WILCANNIA DISTRICT.

12-Mile Tank.

Main tank.—This excavation, Mr. George Williamson, Ivanhoe, informs me, was in first instance contracted for by Burton Brothers at 2s. 6d. per cubic yard, who afterwards sublet to Ford Brothers at 1s. 3d. per cubic yard, who performed work and made money at it. I have since seen Mr. Burton, who says 1s. 9d. was the original price, but admits 1s. 3d. was the rate they sublet at.

26-Mile Tank.

Fencing.—This is of good ballah posts. Works' caretaker informed me cost £95 per mile. No timber had to be carted 5 miles, and contractor averaged two loads per day. He sublet at the following rates: 20s. per 100 posts, splitting; 20s. per 100 posts, erecting; 20s. per 100 posts, boring—which rates would allow of a large profit. This contractor contracted for 12-Mile, 26-Mile, and 48-Mile tenant's lease fencing.

35-Mile Tank.

Fencing.—This is of mulga. Caretaker informed was contracted for at £95 per mile. No timber had to be carted for more than 4 miles. Contractor averaged three loads in two days.

Engine-shed.—This is of corrugated iron, 12 x 12 x 8. Caretaker informs me Davidson was contractor at £50 for material and labour. This is in low ground, and floor of same has been under water.

48-Mile Tank.

Fencing.—This is of split ballah. Contractor informs me he is getting £95 per mile for this, and had not to cart any posts 5 miles.

SILVERTON DISTRICT.

Rathole Tank.

Main tank.—I have been unable to discover price paid for this excavation; but contractor was fined a heavy penalty for non-completion, it is publicly reported.

Embankments.—These have never been level. One on lowest ground, and which banks backwater, shows signs of water-wash within 3 inches of top, which, in a district liable to sudden heavy rains like this, I consider too low, and ought to have been at least 2 feet 6 inches higher to insure safety.

Thackeringa Tank.

Main tank.—Mr. Davidson, Manager, Thackeringa Station, informed me contractor got 1s. 6d. per cubic yard for excavating this.

Day Dream Tank.

Main tank.—Mr. C. Webster, "Day Dream Hotel," informed me contractor told him excavation averaged 11 feet in depth, was stony in bottom, and that he (contractor) got 1s. 6d. per cubic yard for excavation.

Fencing.—The fence enclosing tank does not extend sufficiently far along creek to protect water from pollution, of which the residents loudly complain.

Purnamoota Tank.

Main tank.—Messrs. Davidson & Gibson, Purnamoota, informed me that they measured this excavation before water got in; that it did not average more than 9 feet 10 inches in depth; that contractor informed them he was paid at the rate of 1s. 1d. per cubic yard.

Broken Hill Tank.

Main tank.—This, at time of my inspection, was unfinished. Contractor informed the area of excavation was to be 76 yards x 70 yards x 6 yards, 2 to 1 slopes, and that his contract price was at the rate of 1s. 1d. per cubic yard.

Silt-tank.—Contractor informed was 30 yards x 30 yards x 3 yards, and that his contract price was at the rate of 1s. 1d. per cubic yard. Mr. Armstrong, of Burta Station, informed me that he has had several tanks excavated to a depth of 12 feet at 8d. per cubic yard. Mr. Binnie, Manager of Mundi Mundi Station, informed me he is now getting tanks excavated to a depth of 16 feet at 8d. per cubic yard. Both these properties are in this district—in fact, the stations nearest to most of the public watering places. I may here add, both these gentlemen are much averse to batters such as 1½ to 1, and prefer 3 or 4 to 1 slopes.

I have had considerable experience in tank-sinking in the Albert district, and had tanks excavated at 10d. per cubic yard for 12 feet in depth; had the embankments finished much better than any Government work I have seen. This was done at a time when labour was much dearer than it is now, or has been lately—when water had to be carted in some instances 8 miles, and where feed was scarce, so much so, that bullocks had to travel 5 miles to feed and water.

Slopes of excavations of Government tanks—1½ to 1—are in all cases much too steep. All batters of excavations that I have seen are much water-washed, which, of course, must sink to bottom, and tend to silt up tank. I am of opinion that anything steeper than 3 to 1 is too steep—in fact, many of the station-holders that I have met and conversed with on this subject prefer to have the slopes 4 to 1.

The uprights of fluming down batters in Ivanhoe tank have had quite 2 feet of ground water-washed from them, owing to batters being so steep.

I have never seen station tanks with a 3 to 1 slope, or more water-wash, nor so cut up in batters as I have seen in tanks at public watering places; so that if any extra price is allowed for excavating owing to steep batters, beyond first appearance it is a great disadvantage, and all practical men I have met with agree with me.

Embankments have in no case I have seen been erected with a view to conserving water inside and by them, as is usually done with amphitheatre tanks, not one of them being finished with the slightest pretension to being level on top—in fact, any that I have levelled are lowest on the low ground, where, were they filled with water, the great weight would be, and consequently most danger of breaking away.

I cannot too strongly express my opinion in favour of watering stock by troughing when the troughing is so placed that all stock can conveniently drink at it. I have had years of experience in a dry climate, and can confidently assert stock do much better when not allowed to get into water; the water lasts much longer—a most desirable object to keep in view; is saved from pollution—a matter to be studied where the water is much required for human consumption, as it is at all public watering places; but I do consider the appliances for raising water from tanks, either by steam or horse power, are much too expensive in first instance, and entail a much too large outlay for working and keeping in repair. One man, with a 2½ inch McComas water-lifter, can easily draw sufficient water for 10,000 sheep daily, which is much in excess of the average quantity consumed at any public watering place. Mr. Waugh, of Clare Station, has several of these water-lifters, worked by one man, watering that number of sheep all summer, drawing water for 15 feet, and without having the large supply tanks that are at all public watering places.

I have also to bring under your notice the fact that caretakers at Mossgiel, Boonoon, and Mount Manara tanks have reported to me, when asked why they had not performed certain duties, that Mr. Road-Superintendent Stilwell had interfered with them in the performance of their duties as caretakers—in the former case, ordering caretaker not to tar or interfere with slip-rails of tenant's lease fence, in the two latter cases ordering caretakers not to clean out silt tanks; and I have further to report that station owners in public watering place district of Ivanhoe complain to me much of the high prices paid for Government work, such as fencing and tank-sinking; that contractors taking work from them quote Government prices in comparison to the prices offered and paid by station-holders for similar work.

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I beg to enclose letter, dated 29/1/88, from Mr. Parsons, Mossgiel Station, *re* public watering places, which, on perusal, will be found to compare favourably with my report, and with which I entirely agree, with the exception that caretaker's time can be fully occupied if works under his charge are kept in proper order; also, that no case of caretaker's selling grog has been heard of by or reported to me in district under my charge.

I have heard of one caretaker having been reported for such, but he was instantly discharged, and matter placed in hands of police.

I would beg to refer to Messrs. Lindsay, Till Till Station and Waugh, Clare, *re* prices for fencing and tank-sinking, Balranald district.

I have, &c.,

JOHN LOW,

Inspector, Public Watering Places.

The Chief Inspector, Public Watering Places, Sydney.

In addition, I would add that in the Albert district I had the following works performed as per rates and dates:—1881—3 October: Tank-sinking, 18 feet deep, at 1s. 1d. per cubic yard. 1882—2 December: Drains, 6 feet on top, 4 feet 6 inches in bottom, 1 foot deep, at 3s. per chain. 1883—10 January: Tank deepened from 7 feet 8 inches to 13 feet, at 1s. 3d. 3 May: Tank-sinking, 12 feet 2 inches deep, at 9d. per cubic yard. 7 August: Tank-sinking, 12 feet deep, at 10d. per cubic yard. 1886—26 August: Tank-sinking, 12 feet 6 inches deep, at 10d. per cubic yard. Drains, 6 x 1 foot, at 3s. per chain. And I have further to state that I have known, in 1875, of wells being sunk, timbered, guides fixed, and whim erected for £100 for labour alone, depth of well being from 90 to 95 feet.—JOHN LOW, Inspector, Public Watering Places, 1/2/88.

1097. *Chairman.*] What is your district? My district extends from Tom's Lake tank around to Ivanhoe; thence to Balranald; thence to Wilcannia; thence to Silverton; and thence to Lower Darling. I also take in Mount Brown and the Paroo.

1098. We will begin with the selection of improper sites for tanks;—you state in your report that the Clare tank was excavated in a swamp? Yes.

1099. Of course it was dry land when it was excavated? I cannot say that.

1100. What objection is there to a tank in a swamp? Because, if the swamp is rotten it will let the water run away before it gets near the tank; and in the second place, it is so boggy that stock cannot get near it.

1101. You also mention that being in a swamp the supply tank is liable to have all the foundations flooded? In this particular instance the supply tank was liable to have all its foundations destroyed.

1102. Would the person who chose such a site do so had he any means of knowing that it was a swamp? Well, common sense should have told him that it was.

1103. *Mr. Woore.*] What sort of a swamp is this;—has it a hard bottom? It was all covered with water, and I cannot say. I tried to get into it on horseback, and then made an attempt to get into it on foot, and could not. It was too boggy.

1104. Was it a black-soil swamp? Yes.

1105. *Chairman.*] You say that there is another site about half a mile away that would have been a better place for the Tom's Lake tank? Yes; and Tom's Lake tank was in a spot that any one could have seen was a bad place.

1106. *Mr. Woore.*] Is there a better place for this tank near the swamp where the tank is situated? Yes; there is a better site within 300 yards of it. It is good, hard, holding ground.

1107. But still it would be in the swamp? On the side of the swamp. Now no one who knows anything about tank-sinking would think of putting a tank in a swamp. The better site for the tank that I refer to is near the swamp—on the side of it.

1108. *Chairman.*] And that would have been firm ground? Good hard ground.

1109. *Mr. Woore.*] What sort of ground is it? Good strong clay, with plenty of clay-pans about.

1110. You said something about the water-lifting appliances at this Clare tank? Yes; they are now under water.

1111. *Chairman.*] You complain of the site of this tank for three reasons. The first is that it is boggy; next, that it is not such good holding ground as this hard clay-pan soil; and thirdly, that when the swamp is full all the works are under water, tending to damage the pumps, service tanks, and troughing? Yes.

1112. Could a tank have been filled on this site that you spoke of;—could the water have been conducted in just as readily as in the present tank? Yes.

1113. One question I would like to ask about the site of this tank;—did you ever hear that any wells had been sunk in that swamp before the tank was made, because you know numbers of these swamps are seldom filled? No; this is a district that I do not know much about. I have a hazy idea that Mr. Waugh, of Clare station, spoke to me about water being in it.

1114. There is no caretaker, of course, attached to this tank? Oh! yes, there is. There is a caretaker put there to protect the embankments and banks from being washed away.

1115. And yet the swamp is all under water? It is.

1116. And the fences all around, which were erected to protect the tank, are also under water? There is no fence around the water at all.

1117. I suppose the water came down and filled the tank before it was thoroughly completed. It is not usual, I suppose, to give up a tank until all the upper works are completed and fenced? I do not know whether it is usual or not. There is no fence around the tank; but then there is no fence even when there is no water; so that it is not the water that prevented the tank from being fenced.

1118. *Major Penrose.*] I suppose there are other tanks unfenced also? In reference to this particular tank, there is dry ground where the fencing should be put, but there is no fence there, although one has been in course of erection for twelve months.

1119. *Chairman.*] The next one is the Ivanhoe tank. You stated that it was not in a very bad position, for the reasons given in your letter? I do not object very much to the site, but I do not approve of it.

1120. What is your objection to Tom's Lake tank? The Tom's Lake tank is supposed to be very faulty, on account of the boggy nature of the soil. Everyone knew it, yet the tank was placed right on the swamp.

1121. *Major Penrose.*] When was it constructed? I have no idea; but it was some years ago.

1122. *Chairman.*] How long have you been in the Public Service? I entered the service on the 27th June, 1887.

1123. The last two or three years have been good seasons, have they not? Yes.

1124. What previous engineering training had you? I was a station manager for some time in the Albert district.

1125. What part of it? I was managing Gnalta and other stations. I went to Gnalta in 1879. In reference to Gunaramby tank, I objected also to it. It is on the Balranald to Ivanhoe road, and was sunk in a rotten copai swamp.

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1126. What is the meaning of copai? It is a term applied to bad-holding ground. It purifies the water, but makes it very unpleasant to drink.
1127. Then it is not only the nature of the swamp, but the nature of the soil, also, that makes the water bad? Well, it does not improve it.
1128. *Mr. Woore.*] And do you say that at Tom's Lake and at Gunnaramby better sites could have been selected? Most undoubtedly—especially in regard to Tom's Lake. There is a better situation three-quarters of a mile northerly from Mossgiel, alongside the road.
1129. Do you know any reason why these tanks were so placed? No; I cannot account for it.
1130. *Chairman.*] You have stated as your opinion that the designs in many of these cases were faulty, and the slopes too steep; are you aware why the slopes are made rather steep by the Department of Public Works? No; I am not.
1131. Do you not think it is desirable (where it can be done) to confine the water in the smallest possible space, and have the water deep rather than have it flowing over a considerable distance of shallow ground, exposing so much of the water to evaporation, which is very great in that dry climate? I do not think the Government tanks confine the water any better than private tanks after they have been once or twice filled.
1132. You mean by that that the steep banks give way and form their own natural level? Yes; they form their own natural level and silt up the tank. This applies to all tanks I have seen.
1133. Is there any soil in that country able to stand a steep slope? Not in my district—not to stand the $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 slope.
1134. *Major Penrose.*] How do you know it is a $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 slope? Any practical man can see that with his eye.
1135. But all the contracts are made out 1 in 2? I would be very much astonished if they were. I would not be positive that they are $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1; but any man can tell if they are 1 in 2 or 1 in 3. 1 in 2 means a 2-foot slope to 1 foot in depth.
1136. *Chairman.*] You have already stated why you thought the slope was too steep. The other points are that the embankments have not been carried out in a proper manner, and have not been finished off and made level? None of them are level.
1137. And in one instance—the Rat-hole tank, near Silverton—you stated that water had come up within a short distance of the top of the embankment? Within 3 inches of the top of the embankment; but this happened in a tank and not in a dam. The lower embankment acts as a dam, and was so low that all the water came within 3 inches of the top during the last season, and the caretaker had to get drains cut to save the embankments.
1138. Now, here we come to another case of what you call faulty construction—the Walla Walla tank. You say it is altogether too large? Yes; it is situated in the Albury district. I consider it to be too large.
1139. Why do you say that? Because I inquired from everybody about, and found that was the general opinion in the district where it was placed. There is a heavy rainfall in that district, and a tank of that size is not required.
1140. *Mr. Woore.*] But is the rainfall a regular one? I cannot say whether it is regular or not, but it is heavy.
1141. *Chairman.*] Do you not think it is necessary for the Government, when making these large permanent tanks for the benefit and advantage of a future time, to go to considerably more expense than private individuals. A squatter has only a limited quantity of stock; but if there is a large stock traffic on the road, larger tanks than the squatters use are necessarily required? I do not think that the Government are justified in spending a large sum of money in such a place as that in which this Walla Walla tank is constructed, where, at the time of my inspection, there was natural water enough to last for two years.
1142. Where is this natural water? It is in a large basin or swamp, and there is enough there to last for at least two years—enough to water all the stock that may come for that period. It is not a big travelling-stock route, and only a few sheep come up and down there. I do not think that the Government have sold one shilling's worth of water from that tank except to the farmers about. No tank was required there for travelling stock, and it should not have been put down.
1143. What is the capacity of this tank? Its capacity was reported to me as being 12,000 yards.
1144. You mentioned here that, from your observation and from what you gathered, tanks are preferred to wells? Yes; in this particular district, and places such as on the Mossgiel and Balranald roads.
1145. Do you think that tanks are better than wells; and, if so, why? I say that they are better than wells in such a district as that between Booligal and Ivanhoe and Balranald and Ivanhoe.
1146. I am only speaking now of the two methods of supplying water? But you cannot compare them till you know the characters of the different waters. You cannot compare them unless you take into consideration the qualities of the water.
1147. Is it really the case that in that country there are no wells which are capable of giving good water? No; so true is it that the best men in the district, and those best acquainted with it, are abandoning wells and constructing tanks.
1148. But this knowledge had to be gained by experience? Yes; but the Government do not appear to be gaining in that way. The Dolmoreve well has only just been put down, and the new Willandra well was only undertaken within the last two months, in spite of the failure of the existing one.
1149. Then you think it is undesirable to expend further money on wells where wells have been found to be of no use? Certainly.
1150. Now, you mentioned in your notes something about the relative merits of tanks and dams? In one particular case—that of the Box Creek, on the Balranald Road.
1151. But do you really think that dams are better than tanks? That all depends upon the country where they are situated. If you can get a dam on a creek where there has been no ground cut up by a heavy rush of water, then the dams are just as good as tanks. In this particular case, a dam would have suited the requirements of the route without the excavation of a tank.
1152. Dams, of course, retain very much larger quantities of water than tanks, and at very much less expense, if suitable sites can be obtained, and if they were not liable to be silted up? Well, there is a way of

J. Low. of preventing the silt from getting into the dams as well as into the tanks. It is a very inexpensive way, too, and can be done by throwing logs across. If it is a flat creek, and not a fast running one, you can do that.

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1153. Now, with regard to the cost in the case of the Ivanhoe tank, a statement has been made of an excessive demand having been put forward, which you believe was obtained;—what was the nature of this claim? It was said to me by the man who made the claim, that Mr. Stilwell remarked to him, "You know too much, Casey, and we will have to pay your claim."

1154. But what was the nature of the claim? He did not say that, and I cannot tell you. I asked him whether he had got more than his contract price, and he said that he had.

1155. What was the contract price? It is reported to be from 1s 4d. to 1s. 5d. per cubic yard; but I cannot find that out.

1156. Are you aware that the price was 1s. 7d.? No; I am not.

1157. You have mentioned in the paper which you have handed in that many of these drains, instead of running the water towards the tank, tend to run the water from the tank? I do say that unhesitatingly.

1158. You think the levels were badly constructed? Some of them were not constructed at all.

1159. *Mr. Woore.*] You say that some of the drains at the Ivanhoe tank did not run into it? Yes; they ran in a direction from the tank.

1160. *Chairman.*] Then I think you said that in one instance as high as 15s. had been paid for these drains, when they were let to others as low as 4s. 6d.? Yes; a man named L. Farrel (who is now one of my caretakers) contracted for this work. At the same time he was excavating drains on Ticehurst station, which is within 10 miles of the tank. These drains were 9 feet 6 inches deep, and he was excavating them at 3s. 6d. per chain. One drain was as good as the other, because they are both the same after the first rain.

1161. *Mr. Woore.*] You say that at Tom's Lake tank some of the drains were running from the tank? Yes; the fall is away from the tank.

1162. *Chairman.*] How can that be when the whole work is in the swamp? The whole work is at the side of the swamp, and it ought never to have been put there at all.

1163. *Major Penrose.*] I think you said you thought that these drains had never been laid out on this route? The Ivanhoe drains, I should say, were never properly levelled. If so, the man who levelled them was a very poor hand at it.

1164. *Chairman.*] Then you say that the drains are too deep? No, they are not too deep; but a 6-inch drain would be just as good as a 12-inch drain after the first wet weather in that soil.

1165. *Major Penrose.*] What do you consider the maximum slope should be? My idea is to get drains nearly as level as you can. If you can get them on to a dead level it will be all the better.

1166. *Mr. Woore.*] The object being to avoid carrying in silt, I suppose? Yes; you cannot get them too level; that is my opinion about drains. About the prices, I would like to explain that Mr. Road Superintendent Hanna has got drains done at Broken Hill—equal in every respect to the drains at Ivanhoe tank—for 4s. 5d. per chain. They were done just as well as Mr. Stilwell's drains, which cost 15s.

[The Commission adjourned.]

FRIDAY, 3 FEBRUARY, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R.E.,

J. C. WOORE, Esq.

John Low called in and further examined:—

J. Low. 1167. *Chairman.*] In continuation of your evidence given yesterday we proceeded as far as the Purnamoota tank;—I think you said that was only 9 feet deep? I think it is 9 feet 10 inches deep. It may be more in places, but that is the average.

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1168. Was any reason given why the tank was sunk so shallow? None whatever.

1169. I presume it was full of water when you saw it first? Yes; full of water.

1170. And you had no idea whether it was full of water or not till the contractor had finished it? I have no information whatever on the subject.

1171. *Major Penrose.*] Do you know anything about Hovell's dam? I inspected it some time ago.

1172. Have you any fault to find with the construction of that dam? Yes; I have fault to find with the extravagant expenditure in the construction of the by-wash.

1173. This was cut through solid rock? Yes; through solid rock.

1174. You think that the natural by-wash on the other side of the dam would have sufficed? would have been quite sufficient. The course of the creek was very flat at that particular spot.

1175. You are not aware of the levels of what you propose as the natural by-wash (above the by-wash on the other side) which has been cut through the rock? I am not aware of the difference of the two—between the natural by-wash and the deeper one which has been cut; but I know that the natural by-wash is sufficiently low for the present embankment.

1176. You do not think that it would have been necessary to make the embankment much higher if the natural by-wash had been used? I do not think that it would have been necessary to raise the embankment to utilize the natural by-wash.

1177. You do not think that there would have been any danger to the embankment by using the natural by-wash? I do not.

1178. *Chairman.*] The object of the last question is this: that if the water is allowed to run around the end of the dam, must not the end of that dam be protected? It could be protected by putting timber all round, and this at very small expense. A couple of men would do all the logging that was wanted in three days.

1179. Have you not known instances where the water running over the by-wash gullies out into a creek;—must not the water flowing around the dam eventually find its way in again in some place, where it will form a new creek? I have known instances of that; but in this case it could have been avoided at very little expense.

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1180. In what way? By logging it, as we do all station by-washes, where the ground is cutting up.
1181. Would logging such as you mention be sufficient to carry off the water in a large creek and prevent this? I consider that logging in this particular instance, owing to the flatness of the ground, would be equal to all requirements.
1182. Then you are of opinion that although the safe plan was to go through this rocky hill, the cost was not justified in this case? I cannot answer that question.
1183. Well, you know this is what the parties who are complaining about it say was the case? I may not have understood your question.
1184. What I mean is this—with the perfect safety of carrying the by-wash through the rock, would that perfect safety warrant the Department in making this by-wash when there was a chance of forming a new creek by using the natural outlet over the flat? Certainly not. The idea is a perfectly new one to me, although I have a great deal of experience in tank-sinking.
1185. But this is not tank-sinking; it is dam-making? [No answer.]
1186. *Major Penrose.*] You are not aware, perhaps, that engineers, as a rule, take the by-wash through the solid rock if they can? I have never seen a case like that in Australia.
1187. *Mr. Woore.*] What is the character of the ground on the course of the natural by-wash? It is all clay ground and unlikely to water-wash.
1188. What is the fall? It is very flat at this particular spot; it is a very slow running creek.
1189. Has no water flowed that way? No; I do not think the water has ever gone that way so far as I could see at the time. I do not think the water has ever gone through that by-wash.
1190. Has the rock that was cut out been used in making the dam? No; not to protect the sides.
1191. What was done with the rock that was taken out? It is lying about and has not been used. Of course there may be some of it on the inside of the embankment, and I should be very sorry if there was.
1192. Have you ever known a natural by-wash in good clay such as you describe to scour away? Yes; I have known such a case of its scouring away.
1193. And such by-washes have always a tendency to wash away. Is there not some danger attached to that? There is danger in many cases of the natural by-wash scouring away, but in this case there was plenty of timber about close to the dam, and there would have been no expense in protecting it.
1194. I do not think you understand me. No amount of timber placed around the dam would prevent the by-wash from scouring away? Why not log or corderoy the by-wash, as we have done on stations?
1195. But is there a very large volume of water flowing into Hovell's dam? No; I do not think there is ever any water that goes through that by-wash. I made inquiry, and no one could tell me that the water ever went through there.
1196. *Major Penrose.*] How far is the water backed up? A very short distance, indeed. I did not measure it, but I do not think it is more than 150 or 200 yards. I refer, of course, to the time I inspected it.
1197. But if it rose to the level of the by-wash how far do you think it would back up? A long way further than it was.
1198. Practically, this dam has never been filled? So far as I could discover—no.
1199. *Mr. Woore.*] You think this dam has never been filled, do you? I do not think any water has ever run through the by-wash.
1200. But you have had good seasons? Yes; but there has been no great rain to fill the dams, and not much has been caught in this one. I would like to say that I was informed when down there that the water had never run through that by-wash.
1201. *Chairman.*] Now we come to the next question, with regard to the machinery used by the Department in lifting water into the service tanks and then into the troughs. What is the usual form of machinery on all the larger tanks? Well, there are special steam Tangye pumps, with horse-works, and Amos & Smith's pump and horse-works.
1202. You also have M'Comas's? No; none that I have inspected.
1203. In your experience what kind of power have you found the best—steam or horse-power? Well, I should say horse-power.
1204. Now, I want to ask you this question, supposing in a long drought that feed fails, then would not the better mode of raising water be by steam pumps rather than by horse-power? No; horse-power would still be the best.
1205. But then if you use horse-power you will have to carry forage? I do not think it would be necessary to carry forage seeing that the paddocks of the caretakers are fenced; but even if steam pumps were used forage would still be required for the horse that was employed carting firewood.
1206. Does what you say apply to every district? It applies to every district where forage has to be carted a long distance.
1207. Are Tangye pumps put where there is no firewood? They are put in such places that we have to supply caretakers with firewood.
1208. What is the greatest distance that you have to carry timber? I think at Rathole Tank; the timber there has been destroyed for mining purposes.
1209. That is not a case in point. Are there any pumps put in places where there is no timber? No; there are no engines placed where timber cannot be got within a mile, except as before mentioned. As the results of my inspection, I do not think that there any engines put up where firewood cannot be got within a mile.
1210. Then have you any special reasons for objecting to these machines? Is it one of your reasons that they require more expensive caretakers, because the caretaker must be skilled in his work? Yes; my reasons are that these machines are too expensive. From the first erection they are too expensive in keeping in repair, and they require a more skilled attendant. These are my reasons for preferring horse-power, and my experience is that water can be lifted in a much less expensive manner.
1211. Now, one more question. Do you think that hand-power would be sufficient in most of these cases where ordinary whims and Tangye pumps are used? Not as regards whims at wells.
1212. Do you not think that in some districts where the traffic is not large that the work could be done by hand-power? On tanks, yes, I do, most undoubtedly; because I have done it myself with my own hands.
1213. This would not necessitate the erection of these expensive works, and would not require skilled men to keep them in repair? No.

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1214. *Major Penrose.*] What is the usual lifting distance from the tanks into the service-tanks? Well, it would be from 12 to 18, or say an average of about 15 feet.
1215. How many gallons could a man raise in a fair day's work with hand-power? He could water 10,000 sheep by raising water by hand 15 feet—that is, sheep fed on saltbush plains.
1216. That would be something like 10,000 gallons per day? It would be more. A gallon of water is not sufficient for a sheep. I should say it would be from 12,000 to 14,000 gallons per day.
1217. *Mr. Woore.*] You are in favour generally of horse-power for lifting water at public watering places? I am in favour of horse-power where it is necessary, but on such public watering places where the water could be lifted by hand-power I am in favour of it, seeing that it is very much cheaper.
1218. Are you aware that there have been droughts in the Albert District, where 640 acres would not keep a horse in condition to do any work at all? I am not aware that 640 acres, if fenced and preserved in ordinarily good seasons, would not support a horse in any season. Certainly, I have seen 640 acres in the Albert District that would not keep a horse.
1219. I mean average country? No; I have never known such a thing in the Albert District. If the country has been used and not abused I should say that 640 acres would keep a horse in any season.
1220. *Chairman.*] Now in regard to fences, you have laid considerable stress in the report which you have handed over to the Commission on the quality of the fencing used. We would like to get some definite statement with regard to this. We want to know first whether the costly fencing provided by the specifications could have been done without, and then something regarding the very expensive manner in which it is alleged these fences and gates have been put up. Are you aware of any instance where expensive post and rail fences have been put round tanks? No, sir; I do not know of any instance where expensive post and rail fences have been put up. I know of no fences except the wire ones.
1221. You have not found any fencing round the tanks too elaborate or strong? No; not round the excavations.
1222. And you do not complain that the fences round these caretakers' paddocks are too costly in most instances? Yes, I do complain about them; and the style of gates that are put up.
1223. Just give us a specimen of the cost—the exclusive cost—according to the specifications? Well, I will take the Ivanhoe tank as a specimen one, with your permission; and I will also deal with the specification of Mount Manara.
1224. *Major Penrose.*] I would like before you go any further to read you the specification *re* special lease fencing—"The fencing to be erected on lines laid out by the road superintendent or other authorized officer; the posts to be 7 feet long x 9 inches x 3 inches, sunk 10 feet apart from centre to centre, and to a depth of 2 feet 6 inches; corner posts to be 12 inches in diameter securely strutted with 8-inch diameter struts notched into posts sunk 2 feet in the ground, and footed against a dwarf post 8 inches in diameter—sunk 2 feet 6 inches. Six wires to be run through each post and the top one No. 4 gauge, and the rest No. 6 gauge. To be spaced as shown in drawings, and each wire to be strained to the nearest post to the end of coil. No wires to be spliced."
1225. *Chairman.*] Do you think that that wire was unnecessarily strong? Yes, I do; I think it was unnecessarily strong and involved unnecessary delay in re-straining, because one man could not strain a No. 4 wire single handed.
1226. On a sheep run this heavy wire fence is unnecessary? I think this wire fence is necessary to keep stock out of the paddock.
1227. And these posts 9 x 3? Pine posts 9 x 3 I consider simply useless, and unheard of in station fences. You cannot split them.
1228. *Mr. Woore.*] Pine is not the proper timber for that, I suppose? It is the pine posts of that size that I take special objection to.
1229. *Chairman.*] I suppose it is difficult to get the proper timber? 9 x 3 post are simply slabs.
1230. And in some cases you have to go long distances to get the pine timber? Where I saw that 9 x 3 pine being split was on a proposed line of fence or within half-a-mile of it.
1231. *Major Penrose.*] Is it generally used? Yes, in this district.
1232. *Chairman.*] Are these specifications carried out in all instances 9 x 3? They are allowed to have round posts.
1233. So that these specifications must have been modified in some instances? I should be very sorry to have anything to do with them.
1234. This is the only fence you knew of that came up to the specification? Yes; this is the only one. When I inquired about the straining-posts I was astonished at the size, and asked the man for his specifications, and he showed them to me as 9 x 3. There is one objection that I have to 9 x 3 straining-posts, and I think I will be able to explain it to you. The timber being only 3 inches thick will not stand the wiring or plug being put in, as it opens the posts up. One wire is turned half-way round the post one way, and the other half the other way, the result being that the post is sometimes split.
1235. In how many instances were these pine posts used? There are pine posts in the Whitton district and at Mount Manara—tank pine posts and pine saplings; and at Mount Elliott, Hulong, and Pulletop there are all pine fences.
1236. Do you think it quite unnecessary to have these posts only 10 feet apart. Squatters, as a rule, do not put their posts 10 feet apart? Well, there is a great deal of difference in the style of squatters' fences. Alongside a main road a squatter likes a good fence if he can get the timber. Ten-foot panels are often used on a main road.
1237. But, except on main roads, people will not go to the expense of putting posts at every 10 feet? No; I think 12 feet is about the average.
1238. *Mr. Woore.*] I suppose travelling stock sometimes crowd around the fences attached to the caretaker's paddocks? Yes; and I think it necessary that there should be a good fence alongside a main road.
1239. *Chairman.*] Seeing the very expensive construction of these fences, would you be surprised to learn that the cost of erecting them has been from £116 to £120 per mile? I certainly would be surprised.
1240. Even with that very expensive style of fencing? Yes.
1241. What would you consider a fair value for such a fence—9 x 3 posts 10 feet apart? I consider that the Ivanhoe fence could have been very well erected at £82 9s. per mile, according to the specifications.

1242. *Mr. Woore.*] This has No. 4 and No. 6 wire? Yes.
1243. *Chairman.*] Was £82 9s. per mile the total cost of erection? Yes; the total cost of erection.
1244. Have you ever found fault with anything else, except these pine posts, as being excessive in cost? 3 Feb., 1888.
Yes; at Mount Manara tank.
1245. What timber could have been used at that tank in place of this? There is any amount of pine sapling there; but split pine posts could have been got there.
1246. As to other fences that you have seen, in what way do you consider them too expensive? I consider the Boonoono tank fence (which is constructed of pine and belar) a very expensive one.
1247. What size were these posts? I think they ran to an average of 9 x 3.
1248. And were they of belar? Yes, and pine. They might have been 8 by 4, which are as good as 9 x 3 posts; and, in fact, I consider 8 x 4 very much better posts.
1249. Are there any other fences made of other wood, such as mulga? Yes; but not in Mr. Stilwell's district.
1250. *Major Penrose.*] Have you any complaint to make against these fences as regards the straining of the wires? Yes; I complain strongly of the absence of straining-posts in the Ivanhoe tank (tenant's lease) fence. And, in support of my complaint, I may mention that the posts are already splitting, although the fence has not been long erected.
1251. You do not consider the provision of straining-posts at corners as enough? I do not—not for a mile.
1252. In these old specifications, straining-posts were to be at every twelfth panel? It is just as great a mistake to have a too short strain as a too long one. I do not think that the Boonoono fence should have cost more than £60 per mile.
1253. *Chairman.*] Now about these gates. We have had some complaints sent into us about these gates, and in your evidence yesterday you made the statement, that very expensive gates were put up in the caretaker's paddock, of which no possible use could be made, except to allow the caretaker's horse to go in and out; and yet they have cost a large sum of money? The contractors say that these gates have cost £15 each.
1254. What are they made of? Sawn timber.
1255. Morticed uprights? Yes, and iron hinges.
1256. And you have been told by the contractors that the gates have cost £15 each? Yes, sir.
1257. What ought gates that would do for the purpose cost,—what would you put up in a paddock for a boundary rider? In this particular case something more than a wicket gate is required. I believe gates should be 12 feet, as they are at present. Men may have to go in and take their drays into the tanks, and it would be a great pity to make the gates too small. I think that 6 feet double gates, costing about £3, would be quite equal to all the requirements.
1258. I presume the caretakers live in their paddocks? Yes; and all the cottages are erected there.
1259. Therefore, there is very little traffic? Yes, except occasionally; when men have to go in to make repairs. Of course, at Holy Box and other places they can go in and cart drinking water from the swamp.
1260. And a gate would necessarily be required at one of the Tangye steam pumps to allow firewood to be carted in? Yes, I think a gate is necessary for that and other purposes.
1261. Then that gate would require to be stronger, because it might have to bear the strain of these travelling stock? That would be a gateway from the paddock not liable to be interfered with by travelling stock.
1262. We now come to the question of interference by the officers of the Roads Department with the officers of the Mines Department. This very question that you mentioned yesterday about the bucket being lost will bring it up. You said the bucket was lost in the Dolmoreve well, and that it was there from the 20th June to 30th October? From the 22nd May. On the 20th June the roads mechanic went to repair it. The well was out of repair all that time, although the bucket had been taken out.
1263. Now, I want to know what charge these caretakers have over the wells, and whether they are responsible from beginning to end. A caretaker has charge we will say of a well and of the buckets and ropes;—now, if the rope breaks, whose duty is it to repair it? I consider that the caretaker's duties are to protect the works, and to do all the work in connection with them that one man can do unless skilled labour is required.
1264. You do not call that skilled labour—to attach a bucket to a rope? There is no one man who can go down a well and fetch a bucket up by himself.
1265. Would the traffic on these roads be so small that the caretaker could not get the assistance of a traveller to do this, necessitating sending for a man many miles to get the work done? I would not go down a well with any ordinary man that could be picked up, on top.
1266. So that you do not think that it was the duty of the caretaker to make this repair by himself without calling in the assistance of an officer of the Roads Department? I do not know whether he called him in or not; he certainly could not have done it himself.
1267. So that the public might have been inconvenienced all these months because a bucket had fallen down a well and there was no one to attach it to the rope? The bucket could not have been got up even if it had been attached to the rope. The bucket was smashed before it was brought up.
1268. This is a new phase of the matter? The bucket had to be repaired after it came up.
1269. *Mr. Woore.*] Was the bucket stuck in the well? Yes; and it could not be got up. You cannot pull up these buckets when they get stuck; you must drive them down with a weight.
1270. Now, would all that delay have occurred had one Department only control of the maintenance and necessary repairs of these works? It would appear that this long delay was incurred by the transferring of this particular repair from one Department to another. Had these repairs not been under the charge of the Works Department at the time I inspected I should have had the well in working order within a fortnight.
1271. Now give us the reasons for that long delay, so far as you know? The bucket was sent to Hay and there was no rope sent. It was taken away by the Works Department.
1272. What distance is Hay from this Dolmoreve well? I should say it was about a three days' drive in a trap.
1273. What then took place? The bucket was sent to Hay and there was no rope sent back with it. There was no bucket at the time of my inspection. It was sent back about the middle of September.

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1274. And when the bucket came back a new rope was required? There was no suitable rope there; the rope had become rusted, and was unsafe for me to inspect the well with.
1275. This was a wire rope? Yes.
1276. Then to whom should a requisition be sent for a new rope—to the Works or the Mines Department? At the time of my inspection I heard that a new wire rope was on the way up. I telegraphed to Mr. Gilliat, protesting against the wire rope being sent because I would not go down a well to inspect it with that kind of rope.
1277. *Major Penrose.*] Was the water salty? Yes; salty and brackish.
1278. *Chairman.*] After your expostulation was a wire rope sent up? I believe so; but I have not been there since. In fact, an officer in the Works Department told me that it was a wire rope; but I have not since inspected the place, and cannot say of my own knowledge.
1279. To whom was the requisition sent for a new rope—who wrote for it? I do not know.
1280. But you had heard that a new rope was wired for, and you said it was unsuitable on account of the brackish water? Yes; and that I would not go down a well of that description to inspect it with a wire rope.
1281. The Mines Department, having taken charge of these works after being handed over, is it not within your authority to order such things as new ropes and buckets? That I do not know; because one department is continually running against the other. We cannot put a man on to repair a well without another man coming and running against him.
1282. You do not know who orders new material in the event of old material wearing out and breaking? I do not. I really wish that I did know, as it would simplify my duties very much.
1283. *Mr. Woore.*] What caused the bucket to stick in the well? It stuck in the well through the rope breaking.
1284. Was the bucket full when the rope broke? All I know is that the caretaker was drawing water at the time that it broke.
1285. Do you know how long that rope was in use? I believe it had been in use about twelve or eighteen months.
1286. How long does a rope of that kind last in good water? I have known one of them to last eight years in good water, on such a station as Burrabogie, on the Murrumbidgee River.
1287. These ropes are made of iron? Yes; they are galvanized iron or steel, I am not sure which. I do not know much about them, and I do not want to.
1288. *Chairman.*] They are the grandest ropes ever made? Not in that kind of water, with all respect to you, Mr. Cox.
1289. Now we have had it in evidence that sometimes these caretakers are very neglectful of their duty; that they allow the works under their charge to get out of repair and the embankments to be broken down, and that they are guilty of other pieces of neglect;—do you pay periodical visits to your various tanks and wells? My district is so large that there are some tanks in it that I have seen only once; some of them I have seen two or three times.
1290. Have you had occasion to find fault with any of your caretakers with regard to their apparent neglect of duty? Yes, I have; and I have tried to keep them up to the mark as well as I can.
1291. Have you ever known an instance of a caretaker living in an engine-shed and using the boiler to cook his meals? I have never heard of such a thing, and I have no hesitation in saying that no such thing has occurred in my district.
1292. Do you know any instance where caretakers have left their tanks and gone to a public-house and remained there for days drinking and leaving the tanks to the mercy of travellers? No, sir.
1293. What would you consider your duty in regard to a matter of that kind? I would suspend the caretaker and report the matter immediately to the chief inspector of public watering places.
1294. Now supposing a road superintendent, having visited one of these tanks, found anything going wrong, would it not be his duty to report it? To whom?
1295. Well, I presume he would find fault with the caretaker, and would you take it as his duty to report it to you or to his own Department? I would have no objection to any road superintendent inspecting the works under my charge. I would have no objection to his reporting any complaint to his own Department so long as I was made aware of it; that is to say, so long as the same report that was sent to his Department was also sent to me.
1296. In fact you would deem it to be his duty as a good public officer to make a report on any work that he saw was going to the bad? I think so; I would have no objection to it.
1297. In fact anyone else ought to have done the same? Yes, any Government official.
1298. Are you aware that any friction has been caused by these road superintendents making complaints after the works have been handed over to the Mines Department? I know this, that at the Boonoonoon and Mount Manara tanks, before they were filled, I asked the caretaker why he did not clean them out, as I considered that it was a part of his duties. The caretaker then informed me that Mr. Road Superintendent Stilwell told him to leave the work alone, and that he would see about having the tanks cleaned out. I also know that I ordered the caretaker at Mossgiel to tar some rails and slip-panels which were very veiny and were cracking. The caretaker complained to me that Mr. Stilwell told him not to interfere with them.
1299. *Major Penrose.*] Were all these works handed over? I do not know. If I saw the timber going to ruin with cracking and veins running through it, I would have it tarred, no matter in whose Department the work was.
1300. Are these tanks not in your district? They are.
1301. Then these very tanks that you speak of were handed over to you? Oh! yes; they were handed over.
1302. *Mr. Woore.*] And they were under your control at the time? Yes; and in the charge of a Mines caretaker.
1303. *Chairman.*] It was not a part of Mr. Stilwell's duty, then, as a road superintendent, to interfere with you and the caretaker? I consider it was no part of his duty to interfere with servants under me and officials of the Mines Department.
1304. Was any reason given why the caretaker should not clean out these tanks? The caretaker reported to me that Mr. Stilwell said it was too much for one man to do. Mr. Stilwell said to him to leave the work alone and he would get it done for him.

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1305. *Mr. Woore.*] Was that work too much for one man to do, in your opinion? No, not if the works had been kept in proper order. But if you allow silt to accumulate, certainly there would be too much for one man to do—to clean out a silt tank with a barrow and attend to other duties.
1306. Is that particular caretaker a good man? Not a better man in the Department.
1307. *Chairman.*] Then you feel sure that he did not tell this story to cover his own lapses? I am quite sure that he would not be guilty of such a thing. I have known this man for many years, and I do not think there is a better man in the Department; but if I thought he would be guilty of such a thing I would have recommended his suspension in a minute.
1308. *Major Penrose.*] You have a very large district? Yes.
1309. So that you would not be able to visit one tank at a less interval than one year? Oh! yes; I can inspect some works every four months.
1310. But suppose anything happened just after your inspection, who would attend to that? The Local inspector of stock is overseer of public watering places.
1311. So that the tanks are constantly being inspected by officers of the Mines Department? Yes; there is one thing I should like to add here. I should like to say that on all occasions where employees of the Works Department have been employed at these works I have given instructions to the Mines caretakers to render them every assistance, and I have entered that fact in the journals.
1312. *Chairman.*] Have you had occasion to suspend any caretakers in your district for gross neglect of duty? Yes; I have had occasion to suspend caretakers.
1313. Will you tell us what has been the ultimate result. Have the men been dismissed or were they reinstated? Every one of them was dismissed.
1314. *Major Penrose.*] Do you think that, as a rule, the caretakers are good men, who are anxious to forward the public interest? I think so, taking them generally. Certainly every man at present under me is a good man.
1315. Do you think that they are all capable of attending to their duties? I think that in all cases they are quite capable of attending to their duties as caretakers.
1316. Except in regard to making repairs in the machinery and other apparatus? Except where skilled labour is required. I do not mean to say that these men can go and repair a shaft, but they are good men to the extent of their duties.
1317. Skilled labour is required in most cases to erect pumps and engines? Yes.
1318. *Chairman.*] I suppose it is very difficult to draw the line if the caretaker is compelled to look after the machinery under his charge, or whether he shall apply to a skilled mechanic to help him? Well, I do not think so.
1319. Well, I will put a case in point. It is in evidence that a caretaker had a plunger disconnected from the rod of the pump by the pin falling out. That man applied to the Works Department for a skilled mechanic to mend this thing, causing a journey of some 50 miles to put a thing together which was done in five minutes. Do you not think that it was part of the caretaker's duty to attend to this? If such a thing occurred under my supervision, I should have suspended the caretaker straight away.
1320. Well, that brings in the point that it is difficult to say where a caretaker's duties begin and end? Well, I consider that a caretaker ought to be able to put in a valve, to look after the engine, and in fact, to do everything else about it, except to repair a breakage. At the same time I consider that a skilled mechanic ought occasionally to visit these places, to see that the appliances are in proper working order. Although you may get men to look after things, and keep them right, the visit of a practical mechanic is also required, because there are many things which a practical man would see that would pass the eye of an ordinary man.
1321. Then should not the skilled mechanic belong to the same Department as the caretaker? Certainly he ought to belong to the same Department, or how could we put things right? If not we would have to apply to another Department.
1322. This causes not only considerable delay and inconvenience to the public, but loss of money and loss of time to the Government? Yes; loss of time and money, and inconvenience to the public.
1323. Now do you know of any contracts let at exorbitant prices by the Government, and afterwards sublet at lesser rates? I think I had better confine myself to information from the contractors. The Ivanhoe tank fencing, which I have already referred to as having been let at £116 per mile, was first sublet at £82 9s. per mile, and afterwards at £52 9s. per mile, exclusive of wire.
1324. Which wire you would put down as costing £30 per mile? Yes; and the great objection to this wire is that one man cannot strain a four-gauge wire fence, and in case of a break he cannot repair it.
1325. You have also mentioned the subletting of contracts taken for excavation? Yes; and I referred to the Twelve-mile tank, which Burton informed me he got at 1s. 9d., and sublet afterwards at 1s. 2d. to Ford, who told me the same.
1326. It is sufficient evidence for us to go on. Of course we cannot prove the fact unless we have the contractor here. Now, we will go into the matter of wells. You made various allusions with regard to the faulty construction of wells, and the excessive cost of machinery—an engine in one instance costing £750? Not in wells. This was in connection with the proposed works at Hovell's dam, and the cost was to be £705. The only well that I have any objection to the outlay for water-lifting appliances, is the Polygonum Hut well.
1327. Have you any fault to find with the construction of wells in your own district? None, except those which I have stated.
1328. What do you deem to be faulty in the construction of the Polygonum Hut well? No; I think I will withdraw that, and say that I have no fault to find with the construction of wells. The Polygonum well is only a small shaft, and is useless as a well.
1329. Are you aware that expensive head-works have been put up in some cases before water was ever found; or, when discovered, was found to be useless? Yes; I have.
1330. Will you state the cases that have come within your own knowledge? I know of the Willandra well. There all the watering appliances—troughs, service tank, whim, &c., were put up before the water was found. No supply of good water has been got there, and the well has since been abandoned and a new shaft commenced. That must be pretty fair evidence that there is no water there.
1331. And all these head-works were put up before it was known whether the well was any good or not? Yes; and it has since been proved to be useless.
1332. The trial-shaft did not get any water, then? It was a main shaft they put down.

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1333. Is there any other instance but this Willandra well where the head-works were erected before water was obtained? [No answer.]
1334. *Major Penrose.*] Would not these works come in for a new well? Yes, if water is found; but every time you take a whim down and remove it, it takes three years off of it. I have had a few whims erected.
1335. *Chairman.*] And the erection of these head-works before the water was found, was a very unnecessary outlay? Yes; unnecessary and unusual. It is a thing that a squatter would never have done in the back country.
1336. No squatter would be guilty of such extravagance? No.
1337. Are you aware of the excessive cost in the construction of wells? No; I have no knowledge of what is paid for sinking. I go by what I had the work done for myself, but I have no knowledge of the price the Government have paid.
1338. *Major Penrose.*] Have you any wells in your district that require constant baling, in order to improve the quality of the water? No; constant baling in my experience does not improve the quality of the water.
1339. *Chairman.*] Is it a regular thing to keep the pumps going at these wells, whether the water is required or not? It is not in the regulations, but I always insisted upon its being done, at least once a fortnight.
1340. And very properly so, I should think. Regarding the Polygonum Hut well, there is a windmill used for raising the water, and this is said to be so ineffective that it cannot do more than keep the service tank full. In fact, in that country windmills appear to be very uncertain? I would not like to object to windmills as a method of lifting water, but I should object to them where there is only one man stationed, because if anything goes wrong, a man cannot put it right without assistance.
1341. That remark would apply to the horse gear and steam pumps? Yes.
1342. *Mr. Woore.*] What height does this windmill lift? About 100 feet, I think. I could have erected a simple whip for £5 which would have drawn more water than this windmill.
1343. *Major Penrose.*] I believe this is the only windmill attached to public watering places? Yes; and it is to be hoped it will be the last one.
1344. *Chairman.*] Do you know anything about the hutting of caretakers? Yes; five huts were erected at Silverton since I was appointed.
1345. Just state what you know about these? They were 25 x 12 x 10. I am speaking now from memory; they are two-roomed huts.
1346. Are they all constructed of the same material? Yes; corrugated iron sides and roof; that is the usual way in my district.
1347. No covering on the outside to keep out the heat of the sun? No.
1348. *Mr. Woore.*] No refrigerating composition on them? No.
1349. *Chairman.*] What has been the cost of these? £50 per hut.
1350. Were they put up by the Works Department, or by the Mines? They were put up by the Mines Department.
1351. Were they floored? Yes, with T. & G. sawn timber.
1352. Are there chimneys? Yes, iron chimneys lined with brick, and ledge doors. They contain two glass windows and three doors, which is the usual style in that locality.
1353. Have you heard of huts being built at a cost very much exceeding that? In the Public Service?
1354. Yes? No; I cannot give any information about that.
1355. Have you ever had any reason to find fault with the troughing at the tanks and wells, or with the way in which it was put up and protected from the inroads of stock? Yes; I have a good deal of fault to find.
1356. Just state what your complaints are with regard to that? Well, in the first place I object to the fencing and troughing, with two rails on one side and one on the other. One side is for cattle, and both sides for sheep. Had a single rail been bolted on the inside upright instead of being laid on to the top, it would be much better for both stock.
1357. Why? Because by moving the rail from the top to the inside, it would give the stock better access to the water. I believe that a single rail is infinitely preferable; but I consider that if a rail is necessary at all to protect the troughing there should be only one rail up the centre. I think steel troughing is the best.
1358. How does this steel troughing work? Well; I saw the salt on it at the Holy Box well, and it has only been down for a couple of months.
1359. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you think that where the troughing is sufficiently substantial a rail might be dispensed with altogether? Yes; providing the troughing is sufficiently substantial.
1360. *Major Penrose.*] Is not your troughing set in concrete? Yes; in certain cases they are set on blocks about 14 inches square.
1361. *Mr. Woore.*] Is it your opinion that these rails frighten the cattle away from water? Yes.
1362. *Major Penrose.*] You do not approve of a rail down the centre? I have no serious objection to it, but if I were a drover I would sooner have it away altogether. I think that old cows are more easily frightened than any other stock.
1363. These troughs being only in 9-foot lengths would it not be dangerous to allow a mob of thirsty cattle to get at them without the protection of a fence? When the troughs are full I think they will be found too heavy for the cattle to displace them.
1364. *Chairman.*] I suppose you think the steel troughs are better? Yes, I think they will be a great improvement.
1365. But there has not been time to say how the brackish water would affect the steel troughing? No.
1366. *Major Penrose.*] How is this troughing preserved? I am tarring it.
1367. *Chairman.*] Are you aware whether there is much friction between the two Departments? I have no departmental knowledge whatever. I have never heard anything more about it than what I heard before I was a Government official. I then heard more about the matter than I have since.
1368. Now is there anything that you would like to add that we have not questioned you on? There is one matter—the prices given for tank sinking. I quoted one price as 1s. 3d., paid in January, 1883, in the Albert district by me. I would like to add that the rate of 1s. 3d. paid by me for tank sinking was paid for deepening a tank that had been sunk to a depth of 7 or 8 feet. 1369.

1369. *Major Penrose.*] What is your opinion as to the relative merits of watering stock from troughs and allowing them to go into the tanks? There can be no two opinions about that.
1370. You are in favour of watering the stock from the troughs? Yes.
1371. Do you think it likely that any large quantity of stock would die through their being frightened away from the troughs? I have had a large experience in taking stock to troughs. I have taken stock to troughs that could never possibly have seen troughs before, and I have never lost a sheep by their not drinking at the troughs, if the troughs were kept full and the appliances right.
1372. *Mr. Woore.*] It has been said that these rails placed along the troughing to protect it are too high for cattle to drink over? Yes; for the reasons I have explained.
1373. Are these rails placed too high in the first instance? Yes.
1374. Was it not due to the ground being worn away by the cattle watering? No; the rails were too high in the first instance. In some places the ground has had the effect of enlarging the difficulty; but in the first instance the rails were placed too high and not in the proper style.
1375. And where the ground is worked away by cattle, is it not the caretaker's duty to make it up? Yes; and it has been done by them, and made up to the original level.
1376. So that you think this is faulty construction? Yes.
1377. Have you ever known cattle to be unable to water in consequence of this faulty construction? Yes; I have had drovers complain to me about it; that cattle would not water owing to the rails being too high; and I have always instructed the caretakers to knock off the rail rather than allow the stock to perish for want of water.
1378. Then these rails are not always kept in their original position? I only had them taken down to allow the stock to water. They had to be shifted only in a few instances.
- [The Commission adjourned until the afternoon, when the sitting was resumed.]

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Percy Rollo Brett called in an examined:—

1379. *Chairman.*] What position do you hold under the Department? I am an inspector of stock and overseer of public watering places for the district of Urana.
1380. How long have you been a public officer? Since 1882.
1381. In the same district? Yes; in the same district.
1382. You consequently have observed a good deal that has been going on with regard to tanks and wells during that time? Yes; I have had a very large experience in the construction of tanks and wells as a contractor previous to my joining the Department.
1383. Now, this is a matter about which we are particularly anxious to examine you—whether you, as a contractor, know anything about the way these tenders have been called for and contracts have been carried out between individuals and the Government? I have not been a contractor for the Government and I do not know how they manage their business. I have been a contractor for work belonging to private individuals and on stations, but I have never in any way been concerned in Government contracts.
1384. I presume you know something about the specifications for Government work? Yes; I believe they are something similar to the specifications governing station work.
1385. Now, is there any distinct difference between the specification of contracts called for by squatters and the specifications of contracts called for by the Government? I do not think there is much difference. A squatter requires his work to be done equally as well as the Government. The only thing is that contractors ask more money from Government on account of the system of deferred payments.
1386. Then are you aware that the Government, as a rule, have to pay higher prices for the construction of tanks and wells than private individuals? I am really not aware of it, but I have frequently heard contractors say that they have done remarkably well out of Government contracts.
1387. Is it a matter of general notoriety? Yes; that the Government have to pay a great deal more than private individuals.
1388. Now we shall be glad to hear of any reasons why this should be the case. Of course every one is aware that Government money is good money, and there is no danger of a man not being paid if he does his work? The reason I have heard is this—the contractors say that the Government is fair game to work on. In working for a squatter if you want a cheque for £30 or £40 you can get it, so long as a certain amount of the work has been done.
1389. Are you aware that in the specifications for these Government contracts, it is provided that contractors may receive 50 per cent. of their money as the work goes on? I am not positively aware of it; I believe it is the case; but even then there is a great deal of delay.
1390. Are you aware of any combinations among contractors to obtain high prices from the Government—is there not an arrangement amongst them to send in tenders considerably in excess of what other people would give for the work? No; I have never heard of that.
1391. You have no knowledge of any conspiracy of that kind? I have no knowledge of any conspiracy at all.
1392. You have said just now that you believed the specifications for work to be performed for the squatter and on behalf of the Government are pretty much the same? Yes; I think they are very much the same.
1393. Are the specifications with regard to the batter different in the Government tanks to the specifications with regard to batter used by private individuals? That would depend greatly as regards the district.
1394. Are you aware that the Government, as a rule, make very steep batters? Yes; rather too steep.
1395. Would that tend to increase the cost? Not at all. It would not matter in regard to the cost, and should not increase it in the least. If I were a contractor, it would not cause me to ask a higher rate. If a tank is sunk and the whole four batters are steep, say, $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 1, then it would be a different affair.
1396. The reason being that on a very steep batter it would not be possible to get up the incline with ploughs and scoops? Some of our tanks were made steep on both sides, but that would not increase the cost.
1397. If you have to deposit the soil equally round the tank, would not that make a difference? Very little difference—no more than a mere fraction. Some of the tanks that I have sunk for Mr. Samuel M'Caughey, of Coonong, had the soil which was excavated placed all round the embankments, so as to increase the depth of water that might be filled in by baling machines or by pumping.

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1398. Do you say that if two sides had a considerable batter it would not matter very much about the other two sides; but if you had to place the soil equally all round the tank, would not that make a difference? Yes; because you could not get out anywhere round the tank. But it could make no difference so long as we were allowed to place the stuff wherever we liked. Of course, if we had placed the soil equally all round these embankments, it would increase the cost because we would have only two ways of coming out.

1399. Are you aware that in some instances Government tanks are somewhat deeper than private tanks? I believe they are.

1400. How deep are private tanks? From 10 to 16 feet.

1401. And Government tanks go down to 18 feet? I believe they do.

1402. And do you not think that this would increase the cost of Government tanks as compared with private tanks? Yes; I suppose it would very slightly; but I do not think it would make very much difference under the old system of carting. A large tank would cost less in proportion than a small one; because in a large tank you would have a large face to work upon. But working by the scoop under the present system would make a difference; for the deeper you go the more pulling you have.

1403. Are you aware that the Government are in the habit of insisting on the soil being taken a further distance away from the excavation than the squatters are in the habit of asking shall be done? I am aware of that.

1404. What distance have you taken the soil out? About 25 feet from the toe of the batter. This was in a tank where we intended the water should be pumped in afterwards, raising it above the surface. These tanks were on the edge of swamps, but not in the swamps. We never made a tank in a swamp.

1405. Do you think it would tend to increase the cost of these tanks if the soil had to be taken, say 30 feet from the excavation, instead of having it only 10 feet away? Would it not increase the cost of the work if the toe of the embankment were 30 instead of 10 feet from the edge of the excavation? It would make a difference; but we never thought of leaving the stuff 10 feet away, because the sheep would bring it in. It would make a certain difference, but I think a very limited one. In contracting for a tank I would not think it anything important if the stuff had to be shifted, say 30 feet; and if the squatter or Government insisted on having it taken 5 feet further, it would not make any difference to me. But, of course, I would try and get a little more for it.

1406. Is it a fact that the squatters insist on having the stuff taken 25 feet away? No; it is not usual. Mr. M'Caughey is the only man who has made tanks in that way. A few others may have done the same thing, but not many.

1407. Is it usual for the squatters to insist on the embankments being made all round the tank at an equal level? No, but they like them fairly even. The embankments are levelled with the pick and shovel afterwards. They would not be dressed down only so far as they could be dressed with scoops.

1408. If they were dressed down afterwards it would cost more money? Yes, a little more.

1409. Are you aware that the batter, too, in Government contracts is required to be dressed down to a nicety? Yes.

1410. More so than the batters of the squatters' tanks? I don't know but that some of the squatters want it done, too, because if you only leave a little mound here and there they will think you are getting at them.

1411. Are you aware that the Government insist upon the bottom of their tanks being perfectly level? Yes, and in private we would have to do that, too.

1412. Do the squatters insist on that being done? Yes; they want their tanks as level as you can make them.

1413. But do the squatters insist upon the same absolute evenness of the bottom of the tanks as the Government insist upon? Some squatters would insist upon it; they want their work done just as well as the Government get their's done.

1414. Well, now having gone so far, have you any other valid reason why the Government should pay so much more than the squatters? I cannot account for it.

1415. But you know it is the case? Yes; men have told me that they got good jobs from the Government. In fact, I know one man who took the excavation of 20,000 yards for 7d. per yard, and under a man who knew what the work was, and would insist upon its being done properly. Had the Government wanted the same work done the probability is that they would have had to pay 1s. per cubic yard.

1416. *Major Penrose.*] Is it usual for squatters to have the tops of their embankments dished? No; they would rather have the tops convex. You will never see the embankments on squatters' tanks widen out as the Government tanks do.

1417. Would dishing the embankments increase the cost of formation? I do not think so. Of course, the formation of drains would increase the cost, but I think it would be a great mistake to have water lying on the top. The water would soon percolate through.

1418. Not if properly drained? Oh! no; but I have never seen anything like that.

1419. *Chairman.*] The contractor, when he wants money to pay his men, can go to the squatter and obtain it—can he not? Yes; he gets the money so long as he has a certain portion of the work completed. The squatter is not bound to pay any percentage, although I have, in fact, seen some of the contractors overdrawn. In some cases these men have a right to buy rations at the station, but there is generally a township close by where they can be supplied.

1420. Then men who contract for Government work must be men of means? Yes; or they would not be able to go fairly into it. Large contracts like these necessitate a large plant. I am not in a position to say what percentage the contractor gets from the Government.

1421. The contractor receives 50 per cent. from the Government. When the work is finally completed the squatter goes to the contractor, measures the work, and pays him off,—does he not? Yes; the squatter either goes himself or gets somebody to measure the tank for him. The contractor is paid off, and leaves for another part of the country.

1422. Do the Government do the same thing? I do not think so.

1423. Are you aware that the Government send out inspectors? I know that I have had to take over some of the works.

1424. And that the inspector has to report to the head office before the money is paid. Are you aware that sometimes months elapse before the contractor is paid off? I am not actually aware of it, but I believe that it is quite possible.

1425. That would tend to induce men to demand larger prices from the Government? Yes; and that is why the larger prices are asked—because there is so much red-tapeism.
1426. So that, knowing all these facts, you are quite prepared to believe that the Government has to pay for the same work much larger prices than the squatters? I do not know that they pay much larger prices, but I know that men being out of their money so long would expect a little more. It should not be very much, however.
1427. You stated that you knew of one instance where a man took a contract from a private individual at 7d. per yard, and that if he were doing the same work for the Government he would have asked 1s. ? Yes; but he might not have got it. I have taken out large quantities of earth in 1880 and 1881 at much less than 7d. per yard—at 6d.—and I must say that it paid remarkably well. I was working with patent scoops. I got 4d. per cubic yard from Mr. M'Caughey. He provided the scoops, and I supplied everything else, and was very well satisfied with the work. The only thing I had to buy from him was horse-feed—chaff, bran, and oats.
1428. Now, knowing this to have been done, you think it very extravagant for the Government to have paid 1s., 1s. 2d., and 1s. 9d. per yard, where they might have saved a considerable amount by using these patent scoops? I should say that it is very extravagant to pay these high rates when the work might have been done for so much less; in fact, I had no idea that they paid so much. Twenty-five years ago, when the work used to be done with wheelbarrows, it used to be performed for 2s. per cubic yard. This is the highest price I have ever known; and in this case the work was not tanks, but dams across a creek.
1429. Is there anything else that strikes you as being different in Government contracts and in the contracts of private individuals? I have seen great mistakes made in the ground selected for the sinking of tanks and wells. I have seen a tank sunk in sand, which no one but a lunatic would have gone on with. Before we sunk a tank at a place we always put down trial shafts—one at each corner. If, for instance, any one of these shafts struck a little sand, we would send another down to see whether the bed of sand was a large or a small one. I have seen other tank-sinkers do the same thing, and if the trial shafts put down were not satisfactory, we generally shifted somewhere else. In most cases, if sand was struck the place was abandoned at once.
1430. Are you aware what policy the Government pursued in carrying out these works, in the event of trial shafts not having proved satisfactory? I know of one case—that of the Lowesdale tank; but I do not know that a trial shaft was sunk there. I know this tank was sunk several feet into the sand. I saw it fill once, and in three days afterwards it was nearly empty. It now retains water, because it has had clay carted into it. A great deal of silt became deposited over it, and the traffic of stock has now made it hold.
1431. Have you ever had any contracts for fencing? Yes, for wire fencing; but never where I had to supply the wire. I only supplied the posts, and erected the fences. The station supplied the wire.
1432. What was the highest price you received from the Government? I never had a contract from the Government.
1433. What was the highest price, then, you got for the fences that you put up for private individuals? About twenty years ago I fenced a run of 80 miles, and I got £26 per mile for it.
1434. Did the proprietor of the run find the wire? Yes; I sublet almost the whole of the work—the putting in of the posts and the wiring—and made a very fair profit out of it.
1435. Making allowance for the cost of the wire and the carriage up to the station, what would this fence have cost the squatter? I suppose that in those days the wire must have cost him from £22 to £23 per ton. I really would not like to answer that question. I am speaking now of twenty years ago, when wire cost much more than it does to-day. I suppose that the fence which I erected then might be valued at £60 per mile. It was a wire fence of 10 feet panels; the posts were 10 × 5; they were split posts, and were placed 20 inches in the ground. There was a straining post every twenty-fifth post—say, from 10 to 12 inches through, about 3 feet in the ground. These were stayed with two stays; but these were only left there while the fence was being put up.
1436. What kind of timber was in the fence? Murray pine.
1437. Have you heard of a similar fence to that which you put up having been erected by the Government at £120 per mile? I would say that it was ridiculous and absurd. It was madness to pay such a price, unless the timber had to be carted a great distance. In regard to the fence that I spoke of, a couple of miles would be the furthest that we would have to cart timber. We might occasionally have to go further for straining posts, but we went through the country, and got the timber as near as possible to the line of fence. As a practical tank-sinker, I would never think of sinking a tank in a swamp, because before the tank can be filled the swamp would have to be flooded, which would take a long time and a great rainfall. I would prefer to sink a tank on the edge of swamps, where the ground is hard. In all our Riverina country there is good hard land on the edge of the swamps. Put a tank on the edge, and run back a high-level drain to intercept the water as it comes into the swamp, and then the tank would fill before the water went into the swamp. If the water fell into the swamp first it would be swallowed up by the cracks that occur in the soil. Mr. M'Caughey never put a tank in a swamp.
1438. So that you think that a tank put in a swamp would be a very great mistake indeed? Yes; and we found that out very quickly in Riverina, where it is very hard to fill the tanks except in wet winters.
1439. *Major Penrose.*] Do you know of any Government tanks that have been made in swamps? I know two cases of that kind. I know them simply by seeing them as I drive by. Some of our swamps extend for miles, and contain from 100 to 3,000 or 4,000 acres of land.
1440. *Chairman.*] Have you had any experience in dam-making besides this one many years ago? I have dammed creeks since.
1441. Have you ever sunk any wells? Yes, I have; but never by contract. I have sunk wells for myself, and I have let the sinking of others.
1442. What was the usual price for sinking wells, say 100 feet? What we had to do there was this—we let the work at so much for the first 100 feet, or until water was struck. If we did not get water until 120 or 125 feet was reached, it meant an extra charge. Most of the wells that I had to do with were single shafts; this would be 3 × 3 or 4 × 4. The cost of this, again, would depend upon the carriage of timber. We very seldom used sawn timber, and I do not believe in it; because I have seen several accidents with it in the old days in Victoria. We got it dressed and split into about 10-inch slabs.

- P. R. Brett. 1443. What was the usual cost of sinking and timbering? A 4 x 4 shaft would be about 12s. per foot. For the sinking of a double shaft the cost would be 20s. to 25s.; but it would depend entirely upon the distance the timber was away.
- 3 Feb., 1888. 1444. *Mr. Woore.*] And the nature of the ground? No; that would not make much difference, unless we got into rock; but we never got any rock there.
1445. *Chairman.*] Then, in putting up what they call head works—whim, and so forth—how much would they cost? You ought to get a very good whim for £50.
1446. That would be about 10s. per foot? Yes; you ought to get a remarkably good one for that.
1447. Then the total cost would be 30s. per foot? Yes; and perhaps more if the timber were far away.
1448. Have you ever heard of a Government well, say 100 feet deep, costing £10 per foot;—if you did hear of it, I suppose you would wish to know where the money went to? I would be only sorry that I did not have the contract.
1449. *Mr. Woore.*] You know nothing about the subletting? No, nothing at all; except that I frequently sublet work myself.
1450. But you do not know anything about the subletting of Government contracts? No; nothing. There is one good well in my district, but I do not know what the cost of it has been.
1451. *Chairman.*] These matters are beyond you? Yes; I think that the troughing put up at the tanks should be an inexpensive work. The Government work with which I have to do is remarkably substantial; in fact, too much so.
1452. As a matter of fact, squatters make their tanks so that stock will water themselves? Yes.
1453. And in Government tanks the water must be supplied by pumps? Yes; even where the squatter has 5 or 6 feet above the surface, the sheep will go over the embankment, and are not fenced out anywhere. If the tanks were used for cattle they would not allow it.
1454. Then, again, you must be aware that there is another difference between the Government and private tanks;—private tanks are used merely for stock, and Government tanks are for human beings well as stock? And the private tanks are used by human beings, too.
1455. Have you had any experience in boring for water? No, except to the depth of 15 to 20 feet.
1456. You know nothing about going down hundreds of feet? No; I have seen many good springs struck by going down a few feet in the bottom of a well.
1457. How long have you been a Government officer? Since 1882.
1458. Are you aware that there is some little friction between the two Departments—the Mines and the Works? I have heard so.
1459. Have you ever found that there has been any ill-feeling between the two Departments? Not that I am aware of. In fact, I did not know that I was to be called until to-day. I happened to be in town, and Mr. Gilliat asked me to come up here.
1460. *Major Penrose.*] Do you know Hovell's dam? No. What district is it in?
1461. Albury? I know that there is a large tank at Jindera.
1462. Is it not a matter of importance in dam-making to get a thoroughly safe by-wash? It is. I knew a dam 32 feet to be carried away because there was not a proper by-wash. At one tank 28 miles from my place—Coreen or Daysdale—I was rather amused to see a by-wash cut out of the creek. If at any time there came a heavy winter, the whole of the embankment must have gone. I thought it a very ridiculous thing when I saw it.
1463. *Mr. Woore.*] Was that a Government tank? Yes; I was present when the tank was taken over by Mr. Gilliat.
1464. *Major Penrose.*] A by-wash cut through the solid rock would be the best? Yes, if you can get it; but as we cannot get solid rock we try to get it as far away from the head of the dam as possible.

[The Commission adjourned.]

THURSDAY, 9 FEBRUARY, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R.E., | J. C. WOORE, Esq.

Charles Alfred Chesney called in and examined:—

- C. A. Chesney. 1465. *Chairman.*] What is your occupation? I am a pastoralist.
- 9 Feb., 1888. 1466. Where do you reside? At Tindarey station, near Cobar.
1467. Are you at all aware of the objects of this inquiry? Yes; I have some idea of it. It is with reference to a so-called friction between two public Departments—the Works Department and the Department of Mines.
1468. Are you aware that certain allegations have been made by officers of the Mines Department in connection with works handed over to them by the Roads Branch of the Public Works Department? I know it merely by newspaper reports. I know nothing of my own knowledge.
1469. You have made some communication with reference to this subject to the Mines Department? No; not directly to the Mines Department. My communication came directly through the public press. I published some letters in the *Daily Telegraph* some short time ago.
1470. How far back does your experience with pastoral affairs in the interior of this Colony go? My experience goes back over eleven years.
1471. And what extent of country have you known personally during that time? I know all the country from the Yanko and Colombo Creeks up to the Darling.
1472. *Major Penrose.*] You are a civil engineer? Yes; I am a graduate of the Queen's University in Ireland, and also of the Melbourne University, in engineering.
1473. *Chairman.*] I will briefly read for you the points upon which we desire you to give evidence. We will first go into the matter of selection of sites for tanks. Have any of these tanks, constructed
by

by the Works Department, been, in your opinion, sunk or excavated upon bad sites; and, if so, where? I do not think there are any in the Cobar district. I think around the immediate district the sites have been fairly well chosen. No doubt in many cases better sites could have been obtained; but I do not think that it would have been desirable to put down tanks on these better sites, because they would not have watered the road so well.

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1474. Of course, the great object in view is to give every facility for the passage of travelling stock and for public convenience along these proclaimed stock routes? That is my idea; and if you put the tanks at the best places you would have to put them too close together, and that would not be desirable.

1475. In any other parts of the country have you had reason to find fault with the sites chosen? No; I have not given much attention to tanks elsewhere.

1476. *Major Penrose.*] Do you know the Peri Springs tank? No; I do not.

1477. *Chairman.*] Now we will go on to defective design and faulty construction of tanks: Are you aware of the form of specification for the construction of these tanks? Yes; I have seen some of them with contractors.

1478. Have you any reason to find fault with the manner of construction? Yes; I think the sides of the excavation are made too steep.

1479. Why do you think so? I think that a slope of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 or above 2 to 1 is too steep, if you allow stock to drink out of the excavation; that is to say, if the sheep are at all weak.

1480. Would your objection to the slopes being too steep apply if the water was pumped into troughs? No, certainly not. The embankments as well (which in many cases are completely around the tanks) are made with very steep slopes to them, so that it would be a matter of impossibility for weak stock to get over them if the pumping gear were broken down. These embankments being four-sided ones, the stock could not get to the tank if the pumping machinery broke down.

1481. Now, do you think it at all desirable that stock should be allowed into the tanks to water? I certainly think so, especially in the back country; because, as a matter of fact, stock not accustomed to water at troughs will not water at them until they are thoroughly broken into it; and, of course, the mere fact of having to pump the water implies that you must have troughs for the water to be used in.

1482. Have you never found that a large quantity of water is wasted by the stock being allowed to go into the tanks, and that the quality of the water deteriorates thereby? I think that if the tanks were properly fixed there would not be the least waste. But to get out of the difficulty of this waste I should propose to put a set of iron hurdles across one side of the tank, to prevent the sheep from going into the water. I would allow them to water at one side of the excavation.

1483. You are aware that in very hot weather sheep will plunge into the tank, and swim about in it like dogs? Yes; and I have seen them do the very same thing in troughs, too, in hot weather.

1484. In coming out they would carry away with them a large quantity of water? Yes; but by putting the hurdles as I propose they would not be able to get into the water.

1485. Then, irrespective of that, are you not aware that stock, continually watering at public watering places in this way, keep slipping in and breaking in the ground? Yes; but I think that improves the ground, and makes it hold the water better. I think it is a great thing at these places that sheep should puddle a tank.

1486. But that would apply only to particular soils? Yes; I was going to make that remark. What I say now has particular reference to the Cobar district; but all through that back country tanks do not get silted up as they might in the Wilcannia district.

1487. Then you are aware also that the water in these tanks is required for human use as well as for the use of stock? Oh! yes.

1488. Then would it not be very objectionable to allow large mobs of cattle to water there, especially as you know that cattle drop their excrement wherever they may happen to water? I do not think so. I think that tanks, such as are constructed along these roads by Government, are not liable to pollution in the least. They are in no worse position than station tanks, the water of which is used for human consumption. I admit that cattle drop their excrement where they water; but, in these large tanks, I do not think it does the water any practical harm. A large mob of cattle would not, perhaps, water at one of these tanks at intervals of less than one or two months.

1489. Then you do not wish your remark to apply generally. You say that in some parts of the country it is desirable to have stock water in the tanks; but you do not wish that remark to apply to every part of the country? I say that in any part of the country, where the silting up of tanks is possible, it might be desirable that the stock there should be watered at troughs; because, out of two evils I would choose the lesser.

1490. The matter of pumping would not be an extra expense, because a caretaker would have to be stationed at these tanks? I do not think there is any necessity for caretakers.

1491. So that it would be a saving of expenditure to have tanks without caretakers to pump the water out? It would be a great saving.

1492. *Major Penrose.*] Would it not be necessary to have a caretaker to alter the position of this iron hurdling which you propose, as the water rose and fell? I do not think so. I should have travelling inspectors with a couple of assistants always on the road, who would have charge of and inspect the various tanks. I would make these men working overseers, with an assistant to help, and they would be kept travelling from one tank to another.

1493. But would it not be necessary to alter the position of these hurdles, and put them straight? Yes; but only necessary once in three months. It all depends upon the season.

1494. And you think that these hurdles would keep a mob of thirsty cattle from breaking through into the main tank? I am certain of that.

1495. *Mr. Woore.*] But in the event of hurdles being fixed at the lowest point where the water is low, would not a sudden rush of water coming into the tank cover them up? Yes; but it would be very easy to shift them.

1496. Yes; but there would be no one there, and the stock might get in over the hurdles? It would be very easy to have a series of floating logs that would rise and fall with the water, the same as they have with fences across creeks. A small boom could be made that would rise and fall as the water went up or down.

1497. You think that cattle would not get over that? No; not if a fence were put on top of it. This is merely the idea that I want to get at without going into details.

1498.

- C.A. Chesney. 1498. This would require that the fence should move laterally? Yes.
1499. *Chairman.*] Then you do not think that a batter of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 is too much where the water is pumped? It is not so objectionable, except that it costs more in the making of the tank.
1500. Because ploughs and scoops cannot be used? You can use them, but you cannot get the stuff out. I never gave more in the back country than 1s. per cubic yard, although the Government have given a very much larger price.
1501. Is the cost of making the steep batter the only reason for the excessive prices paid by the Government? That is one great reason, but other reasons are given in my letter to the *Daily Telegraph*, which I will read to you.
1502. We must have everything verified on oath, but you are quite at liberty to read the article? This is what I said:—

Government Tanks—Their Management.

To the Editor of the *Daily Telegraph*,—
Sir,

“The Problem of the West” articles have had in me an earnest and appreciative reader; but I am sorry that the writer of these did not, during his trip, journey as far as Cobar, as, having only mentioned his mission, he would have been supplied with such facts as on publication would have opened the eyes of your readers to the grievous waste of public moneys, exclusive of the rabbit business, which is now, and has been for years, taking place throughout the length and breadth of this arid district. Recent events, more especially the action of Mr. John E. Kelly, M.P. for the Bogan Electorate, in making inquiries of the Government in the House, on 27th September last, about the public watering places of the Colony, have induced me to institute inquiries locally concerning these, so that I might be in a position to put facts—not theories—before your readers to enable them to judge whether my conclusions are correct or not. I propose also to show how the Watering Places Branch of the Department of Mines may be made, instead of being a serious financial drag on the country, to add considerably to the State coffers. According to an answer given in our Legislative Assembly to Mr. Kelly, M.P., by the Minister for Mines, it appears that the total expenditure during the past two years upon the public watering places for travelling stock was £70,259 5s. 9d. sterling. Well, to my mind, this way of stating the expenditure is very misleading, as I will show later on. It does not let the public understand whether this amount is for new works constructed during these two years or whether it is the total loss the Consolidated Revenue suffers from the way these public works are at present managed. If it represents the former, why not give the latter also, so that the public may have an insight into the amount spent on new works, and the loss on the working per year of existing works? If the £70,000 odd represents new works, then the total expenditure during the past two years has been understated by £70,000 or £80,000. This, of course, is taking into consideration a low rate of interest on the money invested, the caretakers’ wages, less their takings from stock watered, to say nothing of the cost of supervision, engineers, and travelling expenses of the various heads of Departments.

To many people who have not thoroughly considered the matter in its different bearings it might appear that these watering places are self-supporting; but when it is found that, during the year preceding the issuing of the Report of the Royal Commission on Water Conservation, only £400 was raised as revenue from the various watering places of the Colony—seven wells, four dams, ten springs, and thirty-five tanks—it is self-evident that both cost of construction and maintenance are wholly defrayed from the public revenue. But to details: In the first place, the Government tanks pass through the hands of two Departments. The Works Branch construct them, and when finished, they are taken charge of by the Mines Department; and while in both hands they are equally mismanaged. In the first place I shall deal with them while in charge of the Works. Presuming that the best and most convenient sites have been chosen for the tanks; that the plans have been properly prepared; that the trial shafts have been sunk to ascertain the nature of the strata; and that, in fact, everything has been made ready for commencing the work, and that tenders have been called for and accepted, the first thing that strikes me on reading the amount of the accepted tender, is the high, in fact exorbitant prices, ruling for this class of work, compared with what work of a similar nature can be done for by private individuals. My business since the discussion has taken place is to find out the reasons for the difference shown, and which I conclude are as follows:—

1. The Government contractor requires to employ so much hand labour after the main work has been finished—in pick-dressing the sides of the excavations and making the bottom level enough for a bowling-green or tennis-court, while the embankments require such unnecessary levelling, filling up, and grading—that the contractor calculates a large loss in this item, and consequently adds a considerable margin to his tender to cover it, although this extra labour is mostly done for show.
2. There are too many Superintendents of various grades to supervise the work. If a superior inspector desires to make himself officious or disagreeable to another who may be under him, he may not pass the work when completed through some trivial reason, though the superintending overseer may have been perfectly satisfied with the way the contract has been carried out. The result is that the contractor suffers. His camp in the meanwhile may have been broken up, his men and plant may have gone away, as these contractors, as a general rule, cannot allow their plant to remain idle for even a short time. The contractor has then, in a case of this sort, to complete the contract to the satisfaction of this superior officer, and consequently, in justice to himself, to allow a considerable factor of safety in the computation of his tender price to cover this risk.
3. After the work has been completed and passed as satisfactory by all concerned, through some red-tape arrangement, the contractor cannot get paid his due for six or perhaps twelve months. What is the result, unless he be a man of means? He cannot pay his labourers, his storekeeper, or his produce dealer. Thus the contractor (firstly) has to pay a higher rate for labour on the Government contracts than on private ones, as the workmen know they have to run the risk of not getting their money for a considerable time after having been earned; and (secondly) the contractor has to pay exorbitant prices for his stores and produce, because storekeepers as a general rule do not care about waiting too long for the payment of their accounts of this class without a corresponding advantage to themselves; and further, he has also to pay a high rate of interest on the renewed bills to these storekeepers, as it was expected that when the bills matured his contract money would have been in hand to meet them; and (thirdly) the contractor may be forced into the most undesirable position of having to shelter himself in the Insolvent Court, and having at the same time the satisfaction of knowing that, could he only get his due, he is a solvent member of the community; so we see that a further factor of safety is required to cover this risk.
4. The change of plan that so very frequently takes place during the progress of the work requires also consideration for the trouble and anxiety that the contractor has to endure.
5. The division of what ought to be naturally one contract into a number of smaller ones leads to higher rates. For example, the Department, instead of calling for tenders for everything required about any particular tank, divide the whole up into a number of smaller contracts, somewhat as follows:—
 1. Excavating main tank.
 2. Enclosing embankment with fence.
 3. Fencing in 200 acres round excavation.
 4. Erecting troughing and service tank.
 5. Erecting pump and engine or horse-works.
 6. Erecting caretakers’ cottages.
6. What one Inspector orders to-day another countermands to-morrow, and refuses to pass often after the work has been completed, alleging as a reason that the one who ordered such work exceeded his authority. A friend of mine, a Sydney gentleman, was in this predicament, and only obtained his contract money after a long delay and much trouble. What is a contractor to do under the circumstances? He has to do his work by order, and, after completion, is refused payment. He can’t fight the Government, or if he does he is sure to come off second best, although he may get a verdict—for instance, the late arbitration case of Messrs. O’Rourke & M’Sharry; but one thing certain is, that when he next tenders he allows a further margin for this risk.
7. The extraordinarily steep slopes that the Government insist on having on every side of their tank excavations, viz., $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1, raises the price of work to a great degree. No horse could haul a load of earth up such a slope, and,

and, as the Government will not allow roadways, it stands to reason it must be a troublesome and expensive job to get the bottom clay out of a cutting 18 feet deep with such slopes. However, the Government contractor sees an easy way out of the difficulty, and his method is worth public notice. In sinking the tank he leaves a roadway with a slope of 5 or 6 to 1 on one side of the excavation, as he proceeds with his work. Up this slope a horse can haul the excavated earth. When he arrives at the contract depth he does not then knock off sinking, but continues several feet deeper, according to circumstances. Into this extra depth he puts all his road material, and levels the bottom up to contract depth, so that, as a matter of fact, in a number of Government tanks with these steep slopes there are several feet of loose earth left, which, as soon as the tank gets filled with water for the first time, turns into sludge.

C. A. Chesney.
9 Feb., 1888.

These are some of the reasons for the high prices ruling for Government work of all descriptions in the back country, as compared with that of a similar nature required in the same locality by private individuals. The latter want their tanks for use, not show, and so long as they know that a certain work being done for them is carried out in the true spirit of the contract they are satisfied, and the money is waiting the completion of the job. I have been told by several of the most successful Government contractors in the Bourke and Cobar districts, that they would much rather excavate earth-work for a squatter at 9d. per cubic yard than for the Government at 1s. 6d. Their principal reasons for this preference I have pointed out above, and the fact remains that earthwork can be done for pastoralists from 9d. to 1s. 2d. per cubic yard whilst the Government have to pay 1s. 6d. to 2s., the contractors making more money at the former price than at the latter. The works are equally good, and the embankments are as level after the first rains, for, although the Government dams and cuttings look better just at first, still this niceness at the outset is a snare and a delusion, as holes are filled up temporarily to pass the inspector, and after the first heavy rains this filling up either washes away or sinks, leaving the last state of the dam as bad as the first. I have actually seen a contractor carting earth that had been already taken out into the excavation again to fill up and level the bottom so that it might pass the inspection; and furthermore, it is reported, with good foundation too, I believe, that in one of the Government tanks on the Nyngan and Cobar road 1,000 or 2,000 cubic yards of earth were filled into the centre of the excavation when full of water to make a horse-walk so that the pump might be worked. To my mind all this shows the absurdity of the pick dressing and levelling. I do not see the reason of this absolute precision, as I fancy the great object in constructing a tank is that it may hold so many gallons of water, and be of a certain average depth, with provision being made to hold as much water as possible over the surface.

The first remedy I would suggest to obviate the difficulties enumerated would be to design the tanks so that they could be constructed by scoops or other machinery, and do away with the great amount of hard labour required to dress them up unnecessarily. So long as a proper hole is made, with slopes fairly near that mentioned in specification, the bottom of cutting fairly level, and the embankments of the proper height fairly and honestly made, I would be quite satisfied. This item would reduce the prime cost considerably.

The second remedy would be to place one competent man in charge of the various works of a district, and let him reside in the district. He, and he only, would be responsible to the local board or trust, either nominative or elective, or a combination of both systems, for the proper construction and maintenance of the work. If found to be untrustworthy or incompetent, let him be replaced by a more reliable man. It is all very well in theory to have flying visits to the various works of the Colony from Sydney inspectors every year or two; but I hold that a man to be properly in charge of works ought to have the right of determining whether a contract is being properly carried out or not. He must also have the authority to pass the work for payment when finished, and he must not be placed in the disagreeable and unsatisfactory position of having some superior official who may happen to be in the district on one of his flying visits condemn the works when everthing has been completed.

The third and most important remedy is, when the work has been passed let it be paid for at once.

1503. *Chairman.*] Then the practice of the Government necessitates the employment of large capital; so that whereas half a dozen men of small means might be prepared to go into these contracts, it is only men with large means that can go into them under the present system? Yes; the number of men who can contract is limited. They have the matter all in their own hands.

1504. So that if there are only two men tendering for the contract they can arrange between themselves to put up the price to a certain amount? Yes; and as a matter of fact they do do so. It has been done repeatedly, and I have frequently had letters from contractors, asking me to draw the attention of the Government to it; but these being vague reports I refused to act upon them. There is another matter, too, which I would like to mention—the practice of carrying out Government works without calling for tenders.

1505. Is that really done? It is; but, of course, I do not want to say anything about individuals. I go on the general principle that whoever does it, it is a wrong thing to do.

1506. What works can you specify as having been carried out without calling for tenders? Such things as sinking trial shafts over a certain area to discover the best place for tanks. There are many other works—repairs, &c., that have been carried out, and for which I hold that the Government should have called for tenders.

1507. *Major Penrose.*] Would it not lead to a great waste of time to call for tenders in small matters? I do not think so.

1508. Might not contracts for repairs of that nature be allowed under some system other than calling for tenders? In what way?

1509. By entering into a small contract for small repairs for two or three years? These works extend over hundreds of miles of country.

1510. But the calling for tenders for small repairs is absurd? [No answer.]

1511. *Chairman.*] In referring to the steep batter, you spoke of the increased cost of construction;—now, do you think that this extra cost of construction is made up for by the very much less exposed surface of water to the sun? I do not think so.

1512. You know that in this very hot and dry country a very large amount of evaporation takes place;—is it not, then, desirable to confine the water as far as possible to the smallest possible surface, to guard against evaporation? It would be desirable.

1513. And do you not think that the extra cost of making these steep batters is compensated for by the lessened amount of evaporation that takes place? No, I do not think so. In my own tanks, I make three sides 2 to 1 and the fourth side 5 to 1. This allows the contractor to get the stuff out, which cannot be done by other means. Another cause of expense is the extraordinarily nice work which the Government require in finishing.

1514. Now, what I want to ask you is—Do not these steep batters—by the fact that they offer less surface of water to evaporation—in this way compensate for the extra expense in making them? No; I do not think so.

1515. *Major Penrose.*] You do not consider a batter of 2 to 1 too steep to provide against the washing down of the banks by wind action? Oh! no.

1516. Because it has been said that the banks are too steep and get washed away by caving in? That has not happened in my experience. I could understand an embankment washing down, but not an excavation.

1517. *Chairman.*] You think there is no good reason for the Government having embankments all round their tanks? I do not think so at all.

- C. A. Chesney. 1518. Does it not tend to lessen the action of the wind on the surface of the water by having embankments all round the tanks? It no doubt does—a little.
- 9 Feb., 1888. 1519. And of course you are aware that wind is a much greater evaporator than the sun? Yes.
1520. *Major Penrose.*] Do you not think it a wise provision for the Government, in case they wish to store more water, to have these embankments all round? Yes; but in this place they could not possibly store more water by having a fourth side. A three-sided tank will hold as much water as a four-sided one; and in the Cobar district four embankments are quite unnecessary, because there is no water available to fill them if it is thought desirable to retain the water above the natural surface. We generally put our tanks on the edge of a siding, leaving the fourth side open towards the slope of the country.
1521. *Chairman.*] I gather from what you say, that you think one specification for tanks for all parts of the country is clearly wrong? Yes.
1522. Each part of the country should have its own specification, and a tank made accordingly? Yes; that is my idea. One specification will not answer all parts of the country.
1523. Now, in the laying out of drains to take the water to these tanks, have you had any reason to find fault? No; I have never found the levels to be defective. I never checked the levels at all.
1524. We have had it stated here that, with some of these drains, the water, instead of running into the tank, runs away from it? I do not know that. Was any particular tank mentioned?
1525. Yes, the Ivanhoe tank? I am not aware of it; but there is one thing that has come under my observation in connection with a tank between Nyngan and Cobar—I am not sure if it is 20 or 21 on the map shown; I fancy it is Muriel tank, because it is worked by horse-power. In this tank, after it was excavated, about 2,000 yards of stuff were returned into the water to form a horse-walk—that is to say, out of a 10,000-yard tank 2,000 yards were put in again; while, at the same time, this horse-walk might have been put at the side, and the pump out on clear ground.
1526. Is there anything further about drains? No; I have no complaint to make about the drains.
1527. With regard to expensive forms of machinery, I think you said that you did not want machinery at all? I say that, if it is necessary to have machinery, it should be of the simplest possible kind that can be obtained. A common chain lift—one of the M'Comas pattern—ought to be sufficient.
1528. What about steam machinery? I think it is a great mistake.
1529. I presume it is liable to get out of order? Yes; and besides, it requires a skilled man to work it.
1530. Now with regard to the horse machinery, what is your chief objection to it? I think that horse machinery works very well, but I object to any machinery. If you must have machinery, horse machinery is better than steam; still they are all too expensive, and liable to get out of order.
1531. Of course you are aware that we are subject to very long droughts in this country? Yes.
1532. Then, in that case the question would come up, which is the most economical—horse or steam machinery? I do not think, as a matter of fact, that a drought will ever effect these Government tanks in the back country. Many of them are practically unused, and there is nothing, except evaporation, to take away the water.
1533. *Major Penrose.*] You think that a hand-pump would in most cases be equal to the work demanded of it? I think so.
1534. How many gallons a day could a man lift with a M'Comas pump say 20 feet? I made a calculation some time ago, but I forget now. My idea is that every drover should be made to pump his own water. This is a part of my scheme.
1535. *Mr. Woore.*] He might not have hands enough? Every drover going with stock along the stock routes has sufficient hands.
1536. But the caretaker is always at the tank, and a man might come along with 20,000 sheep? A man with 20,000 sheep will always have plenty of hands.
1537. If drovers were obliged to lift their own water, a service tank would not be necessary? A service tank might not be necessary.
1538. And if every drover had to lift his own water there would be no use in having service tanks, because he would have to lift the water for the next one that came along? I object to these service tanks altogether. My idea is to do away with them, and also with the caretakers.
1539. *Chairman.*] Now, supposing that there are tanks—and you have admitted that there are such—in which it would be very undesirable for stock to water, in the event of there being no caretaker stationed there, would there not be a risk of the banks being injured? Yes, there would be a risk; but every station manager is open to the risk of having his sheep stolen. Any one breaking the regulations by breaking down fences could be followed up by the inspectors and duly punished. Of course, I am a thorough believer in local self-government in that respect; and my idea would be to have a Board of five or six members, residing along the different routes, who would keep their eyes on these works—the same as our Sheep Boards are managed now.
1540. And this would do away with a large staff of Government officials? Yes; both in Sydney and in the country.
1541. Our attention has been called to faulty construction and cost of fencing. This means the fencing off of the paddocks of caretakers from travelling stock; have you any reason to censure the Government for this? I certainly do. So far as I can make out, from what the contractors told me, the Government have given ridiculous prices for fencing, ranging from £140 to £240 per mile; while, at the same time, a fence which could be put up for £35 per mile was good enough for all purposes.
1542. Are you aware of this extreme price having been given? No, not of my own knowledge; but it is very easy to get accurate information. The contractors told me about it.
1543. What tanks do you refer to? All those on the road that I have mentioned. There is the Booroondarra tank, and the Nullamut tank, and several others. In fact, nearly all the tanks out there have been expensively fenced.
1544. Just describe the kind of fencing? It is a top-rail fence, with 5 wires—I think the wire is No. 4 gauge—the posts are 3 feet in the ground; whereas a fence made with No. 8 or 10 wires, without a top-rail, and the posts 22 inches in the ground, with strainers about 3 chains apart, would be quite sufficient, and would not cost more than £35 per mile.
1545. *Major Penrose.*] You are speaking now of the fence immediately round the tank? Yes; and round the caretaker's paddock.
1546. *Chairman.*] As well as the tanks? Yes; there are some tanks that might be less expensively fenced; but I am speaking particularly in regard to the fences round the caretaker's paddocks.

1547. Would not an extra strong fence be required around the tanks, to prevent cattle from bursting in that were very thirsty? I do not think so. Cattle that have been on the road for some time are not very wild. They are timid, but not wild. C. A. Chesney,
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1548. Are you quite sure that this top-rail fence is put round the caretaker's paddock as well as round the tank? Yes; and there is a large amount of money squandered on them. In several cases, also, the entrance to what I may call the watering lane is very badly designed.

1549. *Major Penrose.*] In what way? It is inconvenient. In one case that I know of, stock had to pass the tank about half or three quarters of a mile before they could get into the gate, and then had to come right back to the tank. It was badly designed and laid out in every way.

1550. *Chairman.*] Which particular tank do you refer to? I refer to the Matthews' Flat tank on the Louth road. It is called Cuttygullyaroo. There is another tank called Helman's tank on the Bourke road. The troughing of this tank is open to the public, and has not been closed at all. At the same time, the caretaker's paddock is closed with a costly style of fence.

1551. Have you observed that any needless expenditure has been incurred on the gates to these paddocks? Yes; there are many too expensive altogether. I do not know the price of them, but they are very good gates, and I think were brought from Sydney.

1552. You think that they are unnecessarily expensive? I do.

1553. Would it surprise you to learn that they cost £15 each? If they got them for that I should say they were very cheap. There is a lot of ironwork about them, and they must be very expensive gates.

1554. What do you think an ordinary gate could be put up for? For about 20s. or 30s.; and it would answer the purpose quite as well. The fence I must say is a good fence, but it is altogether too costly.

1555. And quite unnecessary round the caretakers' paddocks? Yes. Referring to this matter of fencing, the Government have surveyed round the tanks, and have given the caretakers 640 acres, and fenced it in for them. In fact, by making these places for them, they have turned the caretakers and lessees into small squatters.

1556. *Mr. Woore.*] When you say that these fences are too costly, do you mean that a larger amount has been paid for them than they are worth, or do you mean that the class of fencing is too good? Yes; for the class of work that is required of them, and too good for the purpose for which they are intended; and they cost more than they are worth as well.

1557. *Major Penrose.*] Of course, you have no actual knowledge of what they cost? No; I cannot say what they have cost, but I have no doubt in my mind at all.

1558. *Chairman.*] The next question is interference with caretakers and overseers;—have you found any interference between the two Departments? Not between the two Departments.

1559. Well, between the caretakers and the roads superintendents? Well, I will tell you the case that I refer to. Some time ago, after the Public Watering Places Act was passed, it was provided that any persons trespassing on stock tank reserves should be prosecuted. With a lot of other holders of property in the Cobar district, I got a notice from the local stock inspector, cautioning me, as a pastoralist, not to allow my stock to go on these reserves, although at the same time these very reserves were under lease to us. I wrote down to my agents in Sydney, and others did the same thing. The agent interviewed Mr. Gilliat, and that gentleman wrote up, snubbing the inspector for doing that which he had actually done under instructions from his own Department. I think there is something wrong about that.

1560. Now, have you found any friction or interference between the road superintendents and the caretakers? No, not of my knowledge; but it is well known throughout that part of the country that there is a large amount of friction. I will not specify an instance.

1561. *Major Penrose.*] Have you known any case where this friction has prejudiced the public interest? No; I cannot say of my own knowledge. Of course there are many reports going about, but I take no notice of them.

1562. *Chairman.*] Now, in the matter of subletting contracts, you said just now that had heard from contractors that they had obtained contracts at one price and then sublet them to others at a lower rate? I know that contracts have been sublet, but I would rather not mention names. It might look as if I were picking out some one specially; but I know as a matter of fact that what I state has taken place.

1563. Well, just state the facts without mentioning names? One of the tanks on the Wilcannia to Cobar road—I cannot remember the name of it just now—was sublet, and the original contractor did not carry out the work. I do not mention the name of the contractor, because it is a very difficult thing to prove that subletting has taken place, although in one's own mind he may be certain of it.

1564. Then, something like collusion goes on, does it? Yes; I know as a matter of fact that this was a sub-contract.

1565. And do you know the difference between the two prices? No. I cannot state the exact prices; but I know that the sub-contractor made a considerable amount of money out of the work.

1566. We have had extreme difficulty in getting information on this matter; hearsay evidence is not sufficient? To get out of the difficulty, I would suggest to the Commission to take a trip to Cobar, and you will get dozens of persons to give information. One of the men to whom I refer was down in Sydney last week, and I telegraphed to him; but he had left town before the message reached him.

1567. Can you name any person who is likely to be able to give us reliable information on the subletting of these contracts? I think that Mr. James Budd, contractor, of Cobar, can do so. I may mention that in some cases these contracts are taken by storekeepers and publicans, and are sublet to their men, in order to get the contract money into their own hands.

1568. You have stated that there is considerable difficulty in watering sheep at Government troughs? I can give my reasons for making this statement, because, as chairman of the local board for some years, drovers used to come to me regularly (I have three Government tanks on my run), offering me double the Government rates if I allowed the stock to water at my tanks, although there was a Government tank only 3 miles away from one of my tanks.

1569. *Major Penrose.*] Can you give us the reason for this? In every instance the reason was that the sheep would not water at the troughs. They would not face the tanks to water at the troughing.

1570. Do you think that this was due to the faulty construction of the troughing as at present laid down, or to the fact that the sheep, not being accustomed to the troughing, would not water there? I attribute it to both causes.

1571. *Mr. Woore.*] Can you suggest any way of constructing these troughs so that any sheep will water from

- C. A. Chesney. from them? Not that any sheep will water from them. What I meant was, that sheep not accustomed to water from troughs require a considerable time to be broken into the habit of watering at them.
- 9 Feb., 1888. 1572. One reason given to us is that the sheep will not water at the troughs because of the way in which they are constructed;—can you suggest any other way? Yes, another way can be suggested. In the first place, the rails are not properly put up. At one side, where the sheep have to drink, the rails are so low that large sheep cannot get to water. Thus, these sheep have to lean over the fences before drinking, but the trough is then too far away. What I propose to do is just what we do with the wells in Riverina, and is about the simplest arrangement that I know of. This is simply to have a rail up the centre of the troughs and a fence on top of it. You cannot have a simpler arrangement than this. The rail is sufficiently elevated to allow the sheep to get their heads in, and the fence to prevent them from going across. At present small cattle cannot reach over in one place, and cannot get in in another. I have seen places where the troughs were actually covered with sheep. This would have been obviated by having a single rail, as I stated in these papers. Those who constructed the troughing knew nothing of the requirements of stock.
1573. Now, we will go into the matter of wells? I do not know anything about them. There are no Government wells in our neighbourhood at all.
1574. Do you know anything about the hutting of caretakers? The Department are erecting huts at all the Government tanks in my district at the present time.
1575. Are these huts suitable residences? Yes; I do not object now to the huts so much. My objection was to the original plans, as first called for.
1576. You objected to them as being unnecessarily costly? Yes; but now, as the plan only provides for two-roomed houses, I do not think the cost is out of the way.
1577. The original plan was too costly? Yes; but at the same time I hold that as there is no necessity for caretakers at these tanks, so there can be no necessity to put up huts for them.
1578. *Major Penrose.*] Do you think that with improved troughs your objection to the troughing would be done away with? Not quite. There is always the same objection, as sheep not accustomed to water will not do so at these troughs.
1579. I presume you will allow this—that where there are wells it is necessary to have troughs? Yes.
1580. Then if there are a great number of wells in the country the travelling stock will have to become accustomed to drink at the troughs sooner or later? Yes; but they run the risk of dying before they will drink. Of course we cannot help it in that case, as there are no tanks. I believe tanks to be the proper means of watering the back country instead of watering it by wells—that is to say, where you can get a proper catchment area.
1581. *Chairman.*] You have heard occasionally that some artesian wells have been made and good water obtained? Yes.
1582. Do you not think that they would be preferable to tanks in certain parts of the country? Certainly; if you can get artesian water. This comes out especially in the country north of the Darling, and always comes over the surface. At Dunlop station it does not come over the surface, but within 10 feet of it. This was, I think, the first well put down in the Colony by boring.
1583. Then you have come to the conclusion that, apart from artesian wells, the system of watering by tanks is better than the system of watering by wells? Yes, if you can get a fair catchment area.
1584. Now, would that apply in all parts of the country, where the rainfall is very slight,—on the Barrier Ranges, for instance? I think that on the Barrier Ranges, if the tanks were properly made and a good catchment area secured, tanks will answer all purposes. The Barrier Ranges is a much drier country than that around Cobar.
1585. What is the average rainfall there? About 13 inches; but we sometimes have heavy thunderstorms, which will bring up the average. Last year we had 19 inches of rain, and there is plenty of water in the tanks, which always appear to go to the same level. It was a wonderfully steady rain. Of course the filling of the tank all depends upon how the rain falls.
1586. Now, where there is a clear catchment area, do you think that these tanks which you speak of would be fairly reliable in a long continued drought? Well, I was never short of water, although in one year I had only $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and in another $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Whenever I lost any stock it was for want of grass and not for want of water. Another thing about these tanks is this—they are made far too large in this country. I think a 10,000-yard tank, if properly made and a good catchment area selected, is sufficient for all purposes.
1587. To what depth do you usually sink your own tanks? About 15 feet. This is the average depth; but there are some over and some under.
1588. Are you aware that the Government sink their tanks 18 feet deep? I am.
1589. Do you not think that the sinking of the extra 3 feet makes a great difference in the cost? No; because if you calculate the extra amount of excavation required to take out these 3 feet it will be found to be very small in proportion to the size of the tank. When you are down about 6 feet in a tank you have taken out about half the stuff of an 18-foot cutting.
1590. *Mr. Woore.*] Of course that all depends upon the slope? I am speaking roughly. There is really not much material taken out when you get towards the bottom. A good deal depends upon the slope, and if it were a complete pyramid, about half the tank would be excavated at a depth of 6 feet.
1591. Then you think a 10,000-yard tank, 15 feet deep, is quite sufficient for a Government tank on any stock route during droughty seasons? Yes, I think so; during any drought.
1592. *Chairman.*] Have you ever lived to the north-west of the Darling? No, never.
1593. *Major Penrose.*] Properly speaking, the size of a tank would be regulated by the rainfall, the catchment area, &c.? Yes, the size would depend upon the drains, the catchment area, and the character of the rainfall.
1594. *Chairman.*] Then, I gather from what you say, that where there is only a very slight rainfall you would have only a small tank? It is more the character of the rainfall than the amount of it. Half an inch of rain might fill your tank, whilst perhaps on a neighbouring run there is a drizzle which does no good. If the country is subject to thunderstorms a smaller tank will do. During my eight years' experience in the back country I have put down twenty-five 10,000 yards tanks, and I was never short of water.
1595. *Mr. Woore.*] What is the longest drought you have known? We had only 7 inches of rain in one year.
1596. But the number of months without any rain? I cannot tell exactly now, but the whole year we had practically no rain. A few points came now and again, but that rain did no good. 1597.

1597. *Chairman.*] Are there any other points that you have not touched upon? Not in connection with tanks, but if you have no objection I will read a few items here which I have proposed to remedy this unsatisfactory state of affairs, more particularly the annual loss the Mines Department incurs through the Watering Places Branch:—

C.A. Chesney.
9 Feb., 1888.

1. That they discharge all caretakers of Government tanks, as they are expensive and unnecessary luxuries.
2. That all the tanks be left free to water at, after fencing in the embankment alone and enclosing with a good six-wire fence about 50 acres around each tank. I propose to erect this merely for the purpose of protecting the water from the pastoral lessees' stock which might water at the Government tank if not fenced off. Erect two pairs of gates, one set for ingress of travelling stock to water, the other set for their egress.
3. That a travelling working tank superintendent with two assistants be employed for each district. His duty would be to travel round the various tanks in his charge with his assistants—working men—in a suitable conveyance, and make any repairs to dams, drains, or fences requisite. A strong box could be put at each tank, under lock and key, to hold tools, such as picks, shovels, axes, straining tools, &c.
4. That all pastoral, conditional, and homestead lessees and others be liable to a heavy penalty for wilfully watering their stock at these tanks unless under permit, as hereinafter described, and appoint some person, such as the inspector of stock or the Chairman of the Sheep Board, or of a Water Trust, if formed, in whose name, and by whose authority persons infringing regulations may be sued.
5. That a watering charge be put on all travelling stock in the Colony, including sheep, cattle, and horses, with certain provisos in favour of teamsters, &c., and those who, under the present Diseases in Sheep Act and its amendments, are not required to take out permits. This charge would be *pro rata*, according to the distance to their destination by the specified route for which a permit had been granted.
6. That all travelling stock, horses and cattle, as well as sheep be made to obtain, before starting on their journey, a permit from the nearest inspector, and be made to pay him the authorized charges, said charges to be handed into a separate account at the Treasury.
7. That all stock travelling without a permit be liable to a heavy penalty.
8. That every person damaging the tanks or their works, or wilfully or negligently leaving the gates open, be also liable to a heavy penalty.
9. That where troughing has been erected, let the present expensive pumps be changed for hand-pumps, of the M'Comas or other pattern, and let those who use the water raise it into troughs. I am sure no drover would object to pump the water if he would only get it free.
10. Where no troughing has been placed let the stock water direct at the excavation.
11. Put the management and control of the tanks in the hands of a local Board or Trust.

The above suggestions, if carried out properly, would do away with a lot of grumbling among drovers. By the present regulations a man has to pay for water according to the number of stock entered on his permit, or travelling statement, as the case may be, even if he only waters a small portion of his flock. So that under the present system it is impossible for a drover to water only a portion of the mob, unless he is prepared to pay for watering the whole lot. On the other hand, rain may come when a drover with stock is near a tank, so that there is no necessity for him to use the Government water. Still, as the country has made the tanks for his benefit, I think as a matter of fairness he ought to contribute something towards their revenue and maintenance. No doubt the Department will take exception to my saying that the tanks were made for the benefit of the man who travels stock. I have at present in my hands a minute paper signed by the Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places, in which he says, in reply to some strictures of mine *re* the tank question, that "the public watering places are not for the convenience of squatters or pastoral tenants alone, and while the action of the Government in watering the main stock roads of the Colony enables them to move their sheep and cattle with a minimum of loss in most seasons, they are also for the use and convenience of the travelling public." I quite agree with him that tanks and troughs are not for the convenience of squatters or those who have to travel sheep. I am endeavouring to prove that the Department through the incompetency and bungling of its officials, has made the tanks as inconvenient to the travelling public as it is possible for the official mind to devise. They have succeeded admirably. The suggestions thrown out by me as above are only equitable and show one method whereby these expensive works may be made to pay. Drovers would then have the same inducement to steal in the dead of night down to a private tank and surreptitiously water the stock in their charge. This is often done to save the cost of watering at the public watering places by those drovers who, driving their stock under a specific contract, endeavour to reduce their expenses to the lowest limit. Who can blame them?

In conclusion, I must reiterate that the Government have no right to supplement this cost of the tanks as originally constructed by the addition of steam or horse-pumps, expensive receiving-tanks or troughs, all of which require a certain amount of skilled labour to repair and work, when, as originally constructed, they answered their purpose admirably. I must now close, as I fear I have trespassed too far already on your valuable space; but the importance of the subject demands proper ventilation, and as I know your sympathies are with those who have sunk their fortunes in the west, I ask you, on behalf of the stockowners and drovers in this arid district, to publish the result of my inquiries. I feel certain that when once the matter is ventilated good will come out of it. The public do not at present know the amount of loss the revenue suffers from the departmental bungling and incompetency that exists in this particular branch, not only when the works are in progress, but while in operation. The subject is far from being exhausted, and I have no doubt now that the ball has been set rolling, but that the travelling public will keep agitating till a superior system of management supersedes the present one. The more constant the agitation the sooner the remedy will appear.

1598. Now I do not quite see what check you would have over people using the water if the caretakers were taken away? My plan would be this: As drovers have to pay now for a permit to go 100 miles, I would make them pay for the water over that route whether they went to the Government tanks or not. The Government have made the tanks for the public accommodation, and whether the drovers required the water or not, I do not see why they should be allowed to go along without paying their share of the cost. I speak as a person who has travelled a good deal of stock through the Colony.

1599. *Major Penrose.*] I understand that you would collect the money for the water when the permit was being issued? Yes.

1600. *Mr. Woore.*] Who is to look after the entrance to the enclosure? I would put a heavy penalty on any lessee who wilfully watered his stock there.

1601. *Major Penrose.*] You consider that the present system is very expensive? Yes; expensive and unsatisfactory.

1602. And that great economy would result from the adoption of this plan? I am certain of it, if the work was administered under the Local Board. I believe it would save the country a large amount of money yearly.

1603. Have you made any calculation to show what saving would be effected? I have done so, but I am not prepared to produce it just now. Another great objection to the present system is that when a drover with a permit goes to one of these tanks, he has to pay for the number of stock mentioned in his permit, whether they water or whether they do not. A drover goes with, say 10,000 sheep, and although perhaps only 100 may drink, he has to pay for the whole 10,000. He may have lost or sold some on the way, but he will have to pay the full amount just the same.

1604. That would apply to every case of permits? Yes; but a drover would have to get a change of permit in any case.

1605. *Chairman.*] I presume you would insist, then, that these local boards should be appointed in all the districts? Yes, all over the country.

- C. A. Chesney. 1606. Do you think there would be any difficulty in working that arrangement? None whatever; no more than there is in working the Noxious Animals Act. Under that Act we have to tax ourselves, and in the Cobar district we have taxed ourselves to the full amount required, with the result that we have destroyed nearly all the noxious animals up there.
- 9 Feb., 1888. 1607. *Major Penrose.*] Do you think that these local trusts would be fully able to undertake the work of erecting tanks where necessary? Oh! yes; they are all practical men. Not only would we see to that, but we would see that the work was properly carried out.
1608. Do you think they would get the work done at a cheaper rate? Yes; much cheaper.
1609. *Mr. Woore.*] What you propose is that the matter should be taken out of the hands of both Departments and put into the hands of Local Boards? Yes.
1610. You would give the construction, maintenance, and supervision to these Boards? Yes.
1611. *Major Penrose.*] But suppose that that were impossible for the present, would you recommend that the present state of things should continue? No; the present state of things cannot continue; it is too unsatisfactory.
1612. Then which Department should take charge of construction and maintenance—that is, if one must do so? It is very hard to say. In my opinion, one Department is quite as bad as the other. I do not see any difference between them. We could do the work very well locally.
1613. *Chairman.*] I notice here in your letter, with regard to the difficulty of getting sheep to water at troughs, you say that if the drover actually tries to break them in, he is then liable for not travelling the usual distance in twenty-four hours? Yes; because he must travel the 6 miles in twenty-four hours. It takes a full day to water 10,000 sheep separately at troughing, and yet the drover is supposed to travel 6 miles in twenty-four hours; and if he does not do so he is liable to be fined.
1614. He is really then, between two fires—the sheep must go away without drinking or he will be fined? Yes; that is rather awkward. If he goes away his sheep die; if he stays he is fined.
1615. *Mr. Woore.*] In the third paragraph of your letter to the *Daily Telegraph* of the 11th November, 1887, there is a statement which you would perhaps like to explain. It refers to caretakers. You state concerning them “that when the works are completed by the Department of Works, they are taken over by the Department of Mines and worked by it. Caretakers are appointed at wages ranging from 6s. per day upwards, and if they are required to supply a horse to work the horse-pump, they get an extra allowance from 10s. to 15s. per week; and for all this wage they have absolutely nothing to do”? Neither have they, practically, anything to do.
1616. But they are supposed to keep the embankments and drains in repair, and you say that this is a nominal matter? So it is.
1617. Have they not to raise water for the stock? For all the stock that water at these places in twelve months, they could raise sufficient water certainly within a week. This is what I consider having practically nothing to do.
1618. *Major Penrose.*] That is, in a good season? In any season. Look at the returns from all Government tanks with caretakers, and it is very small. The report of the Water Conservation Commission states that in the preceding year to the issue of this report, there were only £400 taken at the various watering places of the Colony in fees; so that practically the whole cost of construction and supervision was defrayed from the public revenue. In the returns presented to the House in September last, it was stated that out of forty tanks constructed during the previous two years, the cost of maintenance was £6,500, and the revenue only £1,300, showing a practical dead loss to the country, independent of the interest on the money, which the tanks cost originally. At the same time one-half the money raised as revenue was received from lessees of eight of these tanks.
1619. So that out of the total of £1,300, £650 was paid as rent? Yes; this was from eight tanks, which no doubt were in favourable positions, where it suited the men who leased them, to give the Department the minimum price.
1620. I gather from this, that you think the charges for water are too low? I think the charges are quite high enough; it is the expensive way in which the tanks are constructed and managed.
1621. Is there sufficient check over the money taken by these caretakers? I cannot say. I know that there is no check whatever as far as I can see, except the declaration which the caretakers are obliged to make every three months. These declarations are often made before me.
1622. So that if a man chooses to make a false declaration there is nothing to prevent him from doing so, and from keeping some of the fees which he receives from the drovers? Nothing whatever. Of course he runs the risk of being bowled out occasionally, but the arrangement is not at all a satisfactory one.
1623. *Mr. Woore.*] Have you considered that during good seasons there can be no return at all from any of these tanks? Good or bad there should be a return, because out in that country there is no natural water at all; so far as I can see there are no clay pans there. There is no natural water, as I have said; but, in a good season, water might be lying on the road. I have 350,000 acres on my run, and there is not a drop of natural water on it. It may rain very heavily now, but go out in twenty-four hours after the rain has ceased and you will not see a drop of surface water about.
1624. *Major Penrose.*] Therefore, the return ought to be the same in both seasons? Yes; so far as Cobar is concerned.
1625. Do you think that the returns under your system would be much greater? Certainly; because I would make Riverina, and Victoria, and Queensland stock that come along these roads contribute to the revenue. Perhaps the rain may come as one of these mobs come along from Riverina; they may then get to the Bogan, and run it up to Bourke without paying anything at all for water.
1626. *Mr. Woore.*] Then you propose to make the drovers come to these tanks whether they like it or not? I propose to make them pay for the water whether they use it or not, because these tanks were made by the public principally for the use of pastoralists.
1627. *Major Penrose.*] Do you think that public tanks are necessary at all? On that dry road I think they are; but if they are necessary, it seems to me that it is very desirable they should be made to pay expenses.
1628. And that the payments should be made by those most concerned? Yes; and not by the country at large. In fact, in this way it would be the men who travel stock who would bear the expenses.
1629. *Chairman.*] You say that you would give the local boards full control over these works. Where is the money to come from? I propose that the Government spend the same amount of money in the district as now; with this difference, that the money is controlled by local men. 1630.

1630. Do you think that you can get competent men in all these districts who will see that the work is carried out in a proper manner? I think so. Of course they would have to have a professional man employed who would measure the tanks, and see that they were carried out in accordance with specifications. C. A. Chesney.
9 Feb., 1888.

1631. *Major Penrose.*] In the same way that public works are carried out in Ireland? Yes; the grand jury system in Ireland is decidedly the best way. They do not let much go to waste there, because they tax themselves.

1632. *Chairman.*] Do you not think that this system would be liable to abuse if the Government had to find the money for the work? That might be a matter of policy for the Government to consider.

1633. What control would you have over the expenditure? I should certainly give the Government control. The plans ought to be submitted to Government for approval. Not as to whether the works were being properly constructed, but as to whether the works should be done at all or not.

1634. Of course no Government would give unlimited control to local boards? I do not propose that.

1635. Parliament would never put up with that, you know? If it did the Treasury would soon be empty, I am afraid.

1636. But you think that this might be all provided for by regulation? Yes; this is the general idea which I have given you without going into details. There is another matter which I would like to mention. It is a very unsatisfactory arrangement that although the squatters have to pay rent for these travelling stock reserves around public watering places and along travelling stock routes, they are not allowed to use them. I think all the travelling stock reserves ought to be resumed by Government and fenced off from the run, and the squatters called on to pay half the cost of fencing. I would urge this especially on the main line of road from Murrumbidgee up to Bourke; by this means those who travel stock would have plenty of grass always, and it would save the lessees, through whose run the routes go, a good deal of trouble and annoyance. As far as I am personally concerned, I should be very happy to pay half the cost of fencing and give the Government the land.

1637. And this would prevent the necessity of sending notices forward to the squatters? Yes; because there would always be plenty of grass on the roads. I think this matter might be taken up in connection with public watering places.

1638. *Major Penrose.*] Does the squatter pay rent for these reserves? Yes; he does. They are a mile wide, and round the Government tanks there is a reserve of 3,000 acres. The public have the right to use this, and the squatter who has to pay for it has not the right to use it. There are a lot of people who never had a run at all; they are simply stock holders, who buy sheep and "loaf" all around the country with them. They steal the squatter's water and eat his grass, and pay nothing to the revenue. A water charge would get at these men.

[The Commission adjourned until the afternoon, when the sitting was resumed.]

Farquahar M'Kenzie called in and examined:—

1639. *Mr. Woore.*] What position do you hold in the public service? I am an inspector of public watering places for the Bourke and Narrabri districts. F. M'Kenzie.
9 Feb., 1888.

1640. How long have you been acting in that capacity? I was appointed on the 27th June, 1887.

1641. *Major Penrose.*] Have you been in the public service before? No.

1642. What was your experience before? I was a station manager for many years.

1643. *Mr. Woore.*] In what part of the country? In the Albert district.

1644. I understand you have a paper which you wish to read to the Commission? Yes; it is as follows:—

Sir,

Public Watering Places, Mines Department, 6th February, 1888.

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of 1st January, and to reply to it dealing with each question in the order indicated.

From my personal experience I am strongly in favour of supplying water to stock from tanks by means of troughing in preference to allowing them to water from the excavation. Stock, if allowed into an excavation, carry out large quantities of water, and in the case of full-fleeced sheep they waste considerably more than they drink, and the water becomes so much polluted through the droppings and washing out of the yolk being carried in that it becomes unfit for any stock to drink, and poisonous for domestic purposes.

I have no hesitation in stating that I consider the troughing much preferable to allowing stock into the excavation, and at many of the Government tanks it would be impossible for them to drink owing to the steepness of the batters, viz., 1½ to 1.

In the case of open drinking-tanks the objections are much the same, only that being smaller they become polluted much sooner.

These tanks are in use at Bughill and Boro, in the Walgett District, and after one lot of stock have watered, the water, from being stirred up, becomes quite thick and green, and nothing will drink it until it again becomes settled.

I have had many years experience in the West Darling country among stock and tanks, and I found that no tank would last through a severe drought when stock were admitted. I then adopted the plan of fencing them in and supplying water by means of M'Comas pumps, and troughing, and the saving of water quite justified the extra expense. One man could water 3,000 sheep in a day.

The cost of excavation by private enterprise varies at from 9d. to 1s., and I have had many thousand yards excavated at the former price, where contractor had to drive his cattle some miles to water and cart the same for domestic use. Where plant is found the work can be done at from 5d. to 6d. per cubic yard.

On Corella Station, Mr. Featherstonhaugh has had tanks excavated to a depth of 16 and 18 feet, at 11d. and 1s. per cubic yard.

I am informed that 2s. 6d. was paid for excavation of Government tank Kerrigundi, Helman's tank 1s. 8d., Bendemere 1s. 9d. Well-sinking within my knowledge has been done in alluvial at 25s. per foot for first 100 feet, including timbering and centering, 30s. per foot for second 100 feet, and 35s. per foot for third 100 feet.

I believe that much higher rates than the above have been paid at Balooloo, Normanstone and Mannum wells, in the Gunnedah District.

The Balooloo well has been sunk in basaltic country to a depth of 145 feet, and is now abandoned. A whim has been erected, and the wooden frame-work of supply tank, both of which are rotting from neglect. Normanstone well, also in basaltic country, has been sunk to a depth of 180 feet, at which depth a small quantity of brackish water was struck, and a fresh contract has now been let to bore 50 feet. I can state positively that the sinking cost £5 10s. per foot.

Trial-shafts I have had sunk at 2s. 6d and 3s. per foot for first 100 feet and 5s. for second.

The cost of whim complete should not exceed £75, and I know an instance where a substantial whim with best mountings was completed for the sum of £62.

Wood and iron supply-tanks, 22,000 gallons, can be erected, inclusive of material, at from £60 to £70, and troughing about 4s. 6d. per foot.

The

F. M'Kenzie.

9 Feb., 1888.

The appliances used for raising water, notably steam pumps, are probably more effective than simpler methods, but far more difficult and costly to keep in repair, besides the extra cost of fuel, which in some cases has to be carted long distances.

The expense of steam pump and shed, as erected, is enormous. Horse works and pumps are quite sufficient to answer all requirements, and where the traffic is small a M'Comas pump is all that is required. One man can with ease lift water from 18 to 20 feet.

At Girilambone and Bullagreen tanks, where there is little or no traffic, costly steam pumps and engine-sheds have been erected, and although the former tank has been completed over two years there has never yet been a flock of sheep or a mob of cattle watered.

There should be no cause why Government works should be paid for at higher rates than private. The reasons that can be brought forward are that there is inefficient supervision, too much fancy work, and too great delay in payments. These avoided, the work should be done at current station rates or under in works of magnitude.

It is only contractors who have money at their disposal who can afford to take a Government contract. A poor man, who might be equally efficient and as well provided with plant, could not carry out the work through being unprovided for until his contract is completed.

Consequently, the few men who work for Government can make their own prices, where, under different circumstances, the work could be done at station rates.

The extreme steepness of the batters, viz., $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1, precludes the use of bullocks, and the more expensive plan of tip-drays and shovels is resorted to, when it becomes necessary to make roadways to enable the horses to climb the batters; and, although embankments are placed on four sides of the tank, they serve no purpose, as the water is admitted by means of open fluming, whereas, if pipe and valve were used, the water could be pumped in and many feet of water saved which now goes to waste. The engines are now so fixed that the pumping of surplus water cannot be resorted to.

The fencing at all Government tanks is heavier and more costly than necessary, and the rates paid are much in excess of private work. At Goonery Bore, the fence enclosing T.L. cost £86 per mile, and at Mulga No. 5, £75. The same description of fence has been erected in the district, with no better facilities for obtaining timber or carriage, at from £35 to £39 per mile.

The fencing at Baradine well, I am informed, cost £100 per mile. It is 5 feet high, split iron-bark posts, and top rail and five wires. I think No. 4 wire is ridiculously strong and out of all proportion to requirements. I have written several letters on the subject of railing at the troughing, which is in nearly every case much too high, and at some places as much as 2 feet 10 inches from ground-level, viz., Booroondarra tank, Baradine well, and other places. Consequently, sheep crawl in underneath and fall into the troughing, stirring up and fouling the water; on the other hand, cattle cannot reach over the top, and, unless some of the railing is removed, it is impossible for them to drink. An alteration was suggested by this Department which has been adopted by the Works Department in the Cobar district, and at a nominal cost, has proved a great success.

In conclusion, I wish to bring under your notice the state of inlet from silt to main at some of the tanks in my district, which in many cases is a narrow cutting through the earthwork of embankments, which, in time of flood, keeps cutting away and filling in, and consequently all loose earth is carried into main tank. This could be remedied by having the sides of embankments logged or stoned to prevent cutting the tanks. Where this is most required are Helman's tank, Booroondarra, and Mulga No. 5.

I have, &c.,

F. MACKENZIE,

Inspector, Public Watering Places.

The Chief Inspector, Public Watering Places.

1645. Do you know of any faults in the selection of sites? Yes; there is the Mulga tank on the road from Louth to Cobar.

1646. *Major Penrose.*] Is it quoted in these papers? [referring to Blue Book.] I do not think so; at least it is not quoted by me. I only just inspected it before I came down here. That tank has been put down over twelve months, and has never had more than 5 feet 2 inches or 5 feet 3 inches of water in it.

1647. Has there been sufficient rain to fill it? Yes.

1648. What is the reason, then? It has been put on rising ground. The drains have been so formed that the water will not run in. It is on considerably higher ground than that surrounding, and the drains are so constructed that the water runs back.

1649. How does the water get in, then? There has been an alteration made lately in the drains for that purpose, and the water will, I believe, run into the tank; but we have had no rain since.

1650. Was there any necessity for a tank at this particular spot? Not actually at this spot, but a tank is required in the vicinity somewhere.

1651. *Mr. Woore.*] Is there any other place that would have been a better site? Yes; within a quarter or half-a-mile of this place there is good, hard, red ground.

1652. Who proposed the site for this tank? I really do not know; it was constructed before my time.

1653. Then you think a tank is required somewhere in the vicinity? Yes.

1654. *Major Penrose.*] Do you know who it was that recommended the alteration in the drainage? I believe it was the overseer of public watering places for the district of Cobar. He is also stock inspector for the same district, and his name is Mr. Cotton.

1655. This tank was constructed some time before you became a public officer? Yes.

1656. Was there any water in it when you first saw the tank? The first time that I saw it was about ten days ago, and there was then about 5 feet 10 inches of water in it.

1657. *Mr. Woore.*] How do you know that the original drains would not run into the tank? I heard that from the caretaker, who had the thing recorded in his book.

1658. Then you do not say this of your own personal knowledge? No; but from information received, and I am confident from the rainfall that the tank would fill if the drains were properly made.

1659. Is there any other tank in your district the site of which you have reason to find fault with? There is the Ledknappa tank, on the road from Brewarrina to Enngonia.

1660. What fault have you to find with the site of this tank? Not so much with the site of the tank as the site of the troughing. The tank is right enough, but the troughing has been submerged. The site of the tank is a suitable one enough, if the troughing with it had been properly constructed on the opposite side on high ground.

1661. The troughing ought to have been made on the opposite side to where it is at present? Yes; there is a sand hill there, and there could not have been a better place for it. The consequence of putting it where it is, is that it has been submerged, so that the stock cannot get into it.

1662. But then the tank has not been required lately? No, because there is plenty of other water about; but in the time of a drought it would be required. In the meantime these works have been very much injured by the water being on them. All the works in fact are being damaged by the water.

1663. *Major Penrose.*] How many tanks, more or less, have you in your district? I think I have about sixty-five altogether—that is including tanks and wells.

1664. You have no fault to find with the sites chosen for the remainder of these tanks? No; I wish it to be understood that I do not find fault with the site of this Ledknappa tank, but only with respect to the troughing and so-forth.

1665.

1665. *Mr. Woore.*] Have you anything to say with regard to defective design and faulty construction of tanks in your district? No; with the exception of these two. I think in some cases the design is bad in having the embankments all round the tank so that they cannot be utilized for the storage of more water. This is owing to the tank not being closed up, so that the water rises only to the level of the excavation, and in some cases a few inches over it. F. M'Kenzie.
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1666. If they were constructed so that the embankments could be utilized, about double the amount of water would be conserved? Yes, if they were properly embanked all round perhaps 6 or 8 feet more water could be put into them.
1667. *Major Penrose.*] That would entail special arrangements in regard to pumping? We have at present no engines for pumping water over the bank that can be utilized; they are so constructed that they cannot be utilized for anything except to pump water into the supply tank.
1668. Very little change would be necessary in them? A very little alteration would make them suitable for both purposes.
1669. In that case, pumping water would be done from the silt-tank? Yes, and from the water lying outside. Of course, in many cases—in the Ledknappa case, for instance—there is over a mile of water outside, and if the water was pumped from the silt-tank, as proposed, we could conserve 8 or 9 feet of it inside the embankment.
1670. *Mr. Woore.*] Is there any other fault you have to find with the construction and design of tanks and generally with regard to batters? I think the batters, being $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1, are too steep. In these big tanks the wind blowing against the sides often causes the bank to break down, and in many cases the batter is increased to 4 to 1. This is caused by the bank being washed in. This takes so much more off and decreases the holding capacity of the tank. I should say, perhaps, that the batter is 3 to 1 instead of 4 to 1, if I may be allowed to amend it.
1671. Has there been any carelessness shown in not taking advantage of the formation of the ground and utilizing catchment area so as to avoid collection of silt? This is what I have mentioned before. There is the Kerrigundi tank which is placed in a depression in undulating country, and the drains go into it from a very steep slope. Consequently, everything is washed down into it from the hills. It is most difficult to keep the silt tank clean, and at the present time I believe the water is only 3 feet deep.
1672. Is there a better site there where this collection of silt could have been avoided? Yes; about a mile nearer to Louth there is a much more suitable site; the ground is more level and there is plenty of catchment.
1673. Had a tank been placed there this collection of silt would have been avoided? Yes, considerably avoided. I consider it a great mistake in every case to have falling ground into a tank.
1674. *Major Penrose.*] I suppose you mean steeply falling ground? Yes; my experience is that if you can get your drains nearly level you will get less silt into your tank.
1675. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you object to the particular form of tank for that place? No.
1676. Are these tanks made by the Government all made to the same plan and design? Yes, all but the older ones. The old ones are made on a different plan; all the new ones are made in one way. The character of the country up there is so similar in all respects that I consider one form and design of tank is suitable for all places, where they have been already constructed in my district.
1677. You also consider the square tanks very suitable for that country? Yes.
1678. That is if the embankments are made use of? Yes, but they are useless in every case now. As to the fluming at Helman's, on the road from Cobar to Bourke, it is only carried from the inside of the embankment to the bottom of the tank. I consider that some provision should be made to prevent the banks from washing in. I regard fluming 2 feet high as being of very little use, because in high floods the water gets behind the fluming, which, with the great rush of water at particular places, will not be sufficient to protect the embankment.
1679. You have said something about the careless laying out of drains in one instance; do you know of any other? No; that is the only case I am acquainted with.
1680. Do you know anything about the excessive cost of constructing these tanks? Yes; there are cases I mentioned in the matter of fencing.
1681. Has the cost of construction increased in consequence of these steep batters? Yes, undoubtedly; because men cannot work in a tank like that without a long roadway; it has to be taken out afterwards; he cannot work up the slopes at $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 with any stuff.
1682. How do they get the earth out, then? They form a roadway all the way down, which is taken out after the excavation is completed.
1683. That increases the cost of construction? Yes, it is all extra cost.
1684. The object of making these steep batters is to expose as little surface of water as possible to evaporation, and, according to your account, this is to a great extent counteracted by the banks being broken down by the water washing against them? Yes; I consider that it is more than counteracted. The batter is the same or greater afterwards through the washing-in of the banks. They do not remain at $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1.
1685. But where the ground is suitable and the banks would stand that batter, would it not be an advantage in the way of protection from evaporation to have a less surface exposed? It might be a very small advantage, but if stock were allowed into the excavation I should say it would be a very great disadvantage.
1686. *Major Penrose.*] You are in favour of stock watering from the troughs? Yes.
1687. Do you think it would be possible or even advisable to water the stock from the main tank itself if a small portion of it were railed off with iron hurdles? No, I do not think it would be any advantage. The stock certainly could not get into the tank and swim in it, but the water would still be polluted by their going in a short distance. I have seen that tried, but not successfully.
1688. It would do away with the expense of pumping gear and caretakers? It certainly would do away with them, but I do not consider that any ordinary tank would last through the drought if treated in that way, because if the water went down to 3 or 4 feet the stock would not drink it. I have seen stock turn away from green water.
1689. You do not think that plan would answer at all? No, not for public watering places. I think the best way of dealing with water is by using troughs, especially when full-fleeced sheep are watering. If a sheep drinks 1 gallon of water he carries out 3 with him if he is allowed to go and swim in the tank; and of course, with these Government tanks, it would be quite impossible for sheep to water without their going in and swimming in hundreds.
- 1690.

- F. M'Kenzie. 1690. *Mr. Woore.*] The next subject is expensive forms of machinery for lifting water, necessitating greater cost of maintenance;—do you consider the forms of machinery for lifting water at these tanks are of a too expensive nature? I think a steam pump is both expensive and unnecessary.
- 9 Feb., 1888. 1691. What would you suggest to raise water as quite as effective and not so expensive? I think that a horse-pump on roads where there is a lot of traffic is a suitable machine. On roads where there is not much traffic a M'Comas pump would, I think, do; that would cost very little in alteration, and I have had a lot of experience in watering sheep with a M'Comas pump.
1692. What number of sheep would a man water in a day with a hand-pump? I consider that one man would water 8,000 sheep in a day. I have had it done myself.
1693. *Major Penrose.*] This would be a good day's work for a man? Yes, a fair day's work.
1694. Then if drovers had to water their own sheep, and had four or five horses with them, they could water the sheep a great deal quicker by horse-power than by hand? Undoubtedly.
1695. All I want to know is, is there any limit to the number of sheep that a man can water? Of course a dozen men taking shifts might water 13,000 or 14,000 in a day, and I have watered 18,000 with four shifts, one man to each shift, in twenty-four hours. I have done this every day for a month till the rain came. This was done with a 3-inch M'Comas pump.
1696. What lift had you? About 16 feet, I think.
1697. Can you make any estimate as to the number of gallons raised per sheep at that time? I consider that each sheep drank a gallon and a-half within the twenty-four hours. I have known sheep to drink 3 gallons each during the drought, and perhaps in saltbush country they would drink more.
1698. *Mr. Woore.*] Is it not hard work to raise water 16 feet with a 3-inch M'Comas pump? Yes; but we used to rig a buggy or dray wheel, and by means of this fly-wheel the work would be very much lighter. It answered the purpose of two men working.
1699. Are steam-engines for raising water at Government tanks unnecessary in all cases? Except they are utilized as pumping-up engines as well, they are. In that case they would be a great advantage.
1700. But you think that they would be necessary for pumping over an embankment? Not altogether necessary, because a portable engine might be able to do it—similar to what is used on many stations.
1701. But cannot a M'Comas pump be used for pumping over the bank? Not without removing it. If you had two M'Comas pumps you might use them in that way.
1702. What is the cost of a 3-inch M'Comas pump? I do not know positively, but I think about £15.
1703. Then you think that a M'Comas pump would be quite sufficient to raise water for the supply of stock? Yes.
1704. And that a portable engine might be used to pump the water over embankments? If the tanks were made suitable a portable engine might answer. One for each district might be used to pump the water over the embankments.
1705. *Major Penrose.*] Do the pumps in your district necessitate great cost in maintenance? Yes; I think they are more costly than horse-pumps, and in many cases we have to cart firewood for them; a caretaker has to leave his work and go and cart firewood, perhaps for several miles.
1706. Are the caretakers as a rule capable of maintaining these engines in proper order? No, not ordinary caretakers.
1707. *Mr. Woore.*] The next matter is the faulty construction of fences;—do you know anything about the fencing of caretakers' paddocks? I could mention cases of excessive cost, but I cannot find fault with the fences in my district, except with the fence at Baradine well.
1708. What have you to say with regard to the fence there? That it is unnecessarily strong.
1709. You are speaking now of the fence around the tanks? No; of the fence around the tenant's lease, or what is known as the caretaker's paddock. The fence is 5 feet high; the posts average about 10 x 6 or 8. They are split ironbark posts, and the rails average about 8 inches.
1710. How many wires? I believe there are five wires and a top rail.
1711. What is the number of the wire? I think it is No. 4, but it is a strong heavy wire.
1712. Have you any idea what this fence cost? I am informed that it cost £100 per mile.
1713. You think that it is too expensive, and altogether too strong? Yes, far too strong.
1714. How many miles of this fence are there? I cannot say; I think about 2 miles. It enclosed some 204 acres of land.
1715. Do you know any reason why this fence should be stronger than any other fence? I have no idea. I think that it must have cost well within £80 per mile, if it did not cost considerably more.
1716. What would such a fence as you propose cost? I could have got a six-wire fence erected suitable for all purposes, for £35 to £36 per mile. These heavy wires are a great mistake, as it is impossible for one man to strain them.
1717. Are these gates to the caretaker's paddocks? Yes, 12-foot gates.
1718. Are they expensive gates? Yes, very expensive. They are constructed of sawn timber, and very heavily mounted with iron. I do not know the cost, but some of them on these Government tanks must have cost as much as £15.
1719. This is the only instance that you know of excessive cost of fencing? Yes, I know of two other places; one of them was at Goonery bore, on the road from Bourke to Wanaaring. This fence cost £86 per mile, although it was only an ordinary six-wire fence.
1720. What number wire is used in this fence? There are five wires No. 8, and the top wire is No. 6. It is a suitable fence for the place.
1721. What kind of posts were used? Split pine posts.
1722. What do you consider the value of such a fence? I could have a fence of similar character put up in the same district for from £34 to £39 per mile.
1723. *Major Penrose.*] Have you seen the Government specifications for fencing at tanks? No, I have not seen the specifications, but I know the measurements. The posts are 9 x 4; I believe they are 10 feet apart, and 2 feet 6 inches in the ground. It is very unnecessary to have them 2 feet 6 inches in the ground. I believe that in many cases they have made no difference with the strainers, and have no stays at all.
1724. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you know why this particular fence at Goonery bore cost so much? Well, I do not think that it has cost more than Government fences generally, but this is not the only case that I know of. There is the Mulga tank, on the road from Brewarrina to Gongolgan and Byrock. Although there is plenty of timber in the vicinity, this fence, which has lately been erected, has cost £75 per mile.

1725. *Major Penrose.*] Describe that fence? It is a six-wire fence, five of the wires being No. 8 gauge and the top No. 6. The posts are 10 feet apart, but I cannot say what depth they are in the ground. There was no caretaker there when I visited the place. F. M'Kenzie.
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1726. Are the posts of split pine? Principally of split pine, but there are a few of mulga and belar.
1727. Have you noticed any bad effects due to straining wire to any posts? You mean without making provision for regular straining-posts?
1728. Yes? Yes, undoubtedly. In many cases the straining of the wire will drag the posts out of the ground.
1729. You have actually noticed this in connection with Government fences? Yes.
1730. *Mr. Woore.*] Have you known that the contracts for these fences have been sublet? I have heard of a great many cases, but know of none of my own knowledge.
1731. Do you know of any reason why the fences generally should cost so much? No; I know of no reason why they should cost more than station or private work.
1732. Has anything come under your notice with regard to interference with caretakers and overseers at these watering places by officers of the Works Department? No.
1733. Do you know anything of the construction of wells in your district? Yes, there is the Baloola well. In this well they have not obtained any water at all. It is on the road between Gunnedah and Coonabarabran. It has been sunk 145 feet, and has cost £5 10s. per foot.
1734. *Major Penrose.*] Then there is the Normanstone well? They are both almost the same.
1735. *Mr. Woore.*] Does the sum you mention include the whole cost of timbering, and so forth? Yes, it includes the timbering. A whim has been erected there which is not included in cost of well.
1736. *Major Penrose.*] I see that it has since been abandoned? Yes; a whim had been erected, and the woodwork of a supply tank, but it has never had the iron put in. This tank has been partially erected.
1737. And this was done before ascertaining whether the well would yield water or not? Yes; before they proved that there was any water there.
1738. Is there no water there? Well, there is rain water, but they never succeed in getting any other.
1739. And the Normanstone well—is it as bad as the other? Yes; I considered it a mistake from the first to sink for water in the basaltic country, because water is never obtained there, so far as my experience goes. All the headworks have been erected for a considerable time, and they are now rotting.
1740. *Mr. Woore.*] And do these remarks apply to the Normanstone well? No; not in the same way. Normanstone well is 180 feet deep, and a small quantity of brackish water was got at that depth; a contract has been let to go 50 feet further. No headworks have been erected at that well.
1741. *Major Penrose.*] Is water much required at that place? Yes; especially in dry seasons. A great deal of stock travel backwards and forwards.
1742. *Mr. Woore.*] How are the stock supplied now? Water is now obtained by travelling stock from private tanks and wells.
1743. *Major Penrose.*] Then there are wells in the vicinity which hold water? Not in close proximity, but in the neighbourhood there are some.
1744. *Mr. Woore.*] How near to the Baloola well is there any private tank or well? There is a natural spring at Garrawilla station, about 8 miles from Baloola well.
1745. Has any well been sunk in the neighbourhood of Garrawilla? I think the Baradine well is nearest. We spoke of that well just now.
1746. Was a well sunk near Normanstone well before Normanstone was put down? I do not know of any; still there might have been one on the neighbouring station.
1747. *Major Penrose.*] Have you any idea why wells were put there instead of tanks? As I understand it, watering places were required in this neighbourhood, and they were put down where they were required without considering the probability of obtaining water.
1748. But surely something must have determined them to sink a well instead of a tank? Well, I believe it is a difficult matter to excavate in that part of the country, but there is a very good catchment close to Normanstone well; the ground is suitable, and Cobb and Co. have a tank close by. At Baloola there is no suitable place for a tank in the vicinity.
1749. *Mr. Woore.*] Is the water obtained from Normanstone well unfit for stock? No; it is good stock water.
1750. What did this Normanstone well cost? I believe it cost £5 10s. per foot.
1751. Do you know this of your own knowledge? No.
1752. Do you believe it? No; I do not say that I do. I know that it has cost that, but only from hearsay.
1753. Do you consider that too great a price? I consider it very excessive indeed.
1754. What do you think a well ought to be sunk for in that neighbourhood, up to that depth? I think it could be done down to 180 feet for £2 per foot. Of course that is not in rock.
1755. Is powder required in getting through this rock? I believe that lately powder was used. The rock got harder and harder as they went down.
1756. Was it generally known in the neighbourhood that the formation of the ground was very unfavourable for procuring water? Yes; all the squatters were very much opposed to the sinking of a well anywhere about there. In fact, no one would sink a well.
1757. But before this well was commenced? Yes, undoubtedly; it was well-known that it was basaltic country, and unfavourable to wells.
1758. Was this basaltic rock struck down far under the surface? It is visible in places on the surface, and it would not have been easy to mistake it for slate; it crops up in different places.
1759. *Major Penrose.*] Do you think that the head works to wells in your district are, as a rule, constructed in too expensive a manner? There are very few in my district—only about five altogether. I cannot say what they cost, although they are, I think, unnecessarily costly. There is sawn timber put where round timber would have done as well; but I really cannot say what is the cost of any of these head works to wells in my district. They have all been erected for many years.
1760. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you know anything about the caretakers' huts? Yes, the huts erected by the Works Department were built upon a very expensive plan altogether.
1761. What did they cost each? From £100 to £120 and £130. We have had similar huts built, not exactly the same, for from £40 to £50; there is an additional room in the huts erected by the Works Department.

- F. M'Kenzie. Department. I think the average cost of our huts has been considerably less than £50 each.
- 9 Feb., 1888. 1762. Have these huts erected by you had less accommodation than the huts erected by the Works Department? There is a room less, but the accommodation is quite sufficient. The Works Department had an additional small room at the back.
1763. Were the huts constructed by the Works Department better huts than those put up by the Mines? Yes, so far as material was concerned.
1764. And they were unnecessarily good? Yes; but I should say that our huts were quite sufficient as caretakers' cottages.
1765. *Major Penrose.*] Do you know anything about faults in construction of troughing? Yes, I know a good many cases.
1766. In what way is the troughing defective? Well, it is really so high that in nine cases out of ten the cattle cannot reach the water unless the rails are removed.
1767. But this has been altered? No; only in the Cobar district, and there only within the last few days.
1768. You only find fault with the protection rails, and not with the troughing itself? Yes; these rails are in many cases 3 feet 10 inches above the ground level.
1769. Were they placed that way originally, or is the ground worn away by the continual traffic of stock? Some of the cases that I speak of are new works, and the ground is as it was at first; but in others the ground has worn away, although originally constructed in this way.
1770. This troughing must be protected in some way. What way do you suggest? The troughing that I find best is steel troughing, with centre rail. This rail is secured to struts bolted to the sleepers, which prevent the sheep or cattle from getting into the troughing. I consider that this form of troughing is the best that I have seen used.
1771. Have you ever experienced any difficulty, or have you any knowledge of any difficulty having been felt, in watering sheep or cattle at troughs? I have heard of such with the old form of railing.
1772. But with the form of railing proposed? No, it seems to answer admirably. One disadvantage with the old railing was that sheep would get into the trough, blocking it up and polluting the water.
1773. But there is no difficulty to get stock to water at any troughing that has a rail down the centre? None whatever.
1774. Do you consider the present system of public watering places to be effective and economical? No; I do not consider the present system to be an economical one.
1775. I mean apart from the question of construction? No, I think the machinery is too expensive, and that the watering places could be worked much more cheaply if the machinery employed was of a less costly character.
1776. But apart from all that, is the system of maintenance an economical one? I do not see that tanks can be maintained any cheaper; at least not with the existing form of construction and machinery.
1777. You think, then, that to maintain them more cheaply, it would be necessary to do away with the present machinery? Yes, with the costly machinery.
1778. Do you think, from your experience, that it would be possible to do without caretakers at all, supposing the machinery was absent? No; I certainly think it would be a great mistake to do away with the caretakers.
1779. Do you not think that the drovers would help themselves to water? Yes, but they would not pay for it.
1780. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you know that there has been considerable misunderstanding or friction between the officers of the Department of Mines and Works with regard to the maintenance of these public watering places? Yes, I have heard at different times of little troubles.
1781. Can you mention any instance where this has come under your notice? Well, of course where two Departments are working together there is always some trouble. I am sure that if we had the works independent of the Works Department, we would get on more satisfactorily.
1782. You think, then, that this friction is only the natural result of a divided control? Yes, and I think it must always be the case where two Departments are working in this way.
1783. *Major Penrose.*] How do you get your repairs done now? There is always a travelling mechanic obtainable from the Works Department to effect those repairs which the caretakers themselves cannot do.
1784. And do you ever find any difficulty in your district in having the repairs attended to at once? Yes, I have found considerable difficulty, because there is only one man for that large district, and he may be at one end of it when you want him to carry out some repairs at the other. In this way the works may have to wait for weeks.
1785. But would that not occur in any case, even if the whole of the works were transferred to the Mines Department? It might happen certainly, if we did not have men who could do these repairs themselves; but at present there is only one man on each road, and one man is not competent to travel around and keep the machinery in repair. The work requires more than one man to do it.
1786. You mean that if the work were under the Mines Department, you would make better arrangements? Yes.
1787. And you think that this divided control is very objectionable? Undoubtedly yes; and a great deal of expense would be saved if the whole arrangement were under our Department.
1788. You think that the maintenance of these watering places could be more economically managed by one Department than by two? I think so undoubtedly. If all were under one Department it would mean a great saving of public money.

FRIDAY, 10 FEBRUARY, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R.E., | J. C. WOORE, Esq.

George William Townsend called in and examined :—

1789. *Chairman.*] Where do you reside? At Burwood. I belong to the Railway Department.

1790. You are, I presume, aware of the object of this inquiry? I have some knowledge of it.

1791. You are aware that what has been called friction has arisen between the Mines and the Works Departments with regard to the management of tanks and wells? Yes; having been on the Water Conservation Commission I necessarily acquired some knowledge regarding what had arisen between the two Departments.

1792. You were engineer to the Water Commission? No; I was merely one of the Commission. I was a member of the body itself.

1793. And in your various tours through the country you became aware of this thing? No; it was previous to that, and before I became a member of the Commission at all that I became aware of the facts which I am likely to be questioned about.

1794. There are many points that we have been going through with regard to fences, selection of sites of tanks and wells, excessive cost, and various other items, and we wish to obtain such information from you on those points as come within your own knowledge? Well, I am not personally aware of any of the facts which you speak of. I have heard of them, and I have noticed in my travels that some of the tanks were badly situated.

1795. Our object in asking you to give evidence is that as your name has been used in communications from the officers of the Mines Department to headquarters we wished to test the truth of the matters stated to us;—we thought you would have been able to give us information on certain matters? I remember a certain conversation perfectly. It was a conversation between Mr. Gilliat and myself, and I think Mr. M'Kinney was present.

1796. Will you kindly state the substance of this conversation, and where it took place? It was some months ago. I cannot give you the exact date, but it was about the time that the Minister for Mines was going to give Mr. Gilliat the entire charge of the tanks and wells. I then said to Mr. Gilliat and Mr. M'Kinney that I knew of one instance (not from official knowledge, but from hearing the matter talked about between contractors while I was engaged on the Forbes-Wilcannia survey) where Burton Brothers, who had a large contract under the Roads Department, were paid, I believe, 2s. 6d. per yard for earthworks. They sublet a very large portion of this contract to a party named Ford Brothers for from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d. per cubic yard. This was for the excavation of several large tanks and a considerable amount of earthworks.

1797. Will you name these tanks? I think the 37-Mile tank is one of them, and the 48-Mile tank is certainly one. I was camped at the 48-Mile tank at the time.

1798. Was the 12-Mile tank one of them? I do not think it was in that contract, though I believe Burton Bros. had it. There was a 7-Mile road between Stony Rises and Wilcannia, and I don't think any of that was sublet. The work was done with ploughs and scoops, and I should say that it was performed for about 1s. per cubic yard—most probably less than that. This is what I said to Mr. Gilliat—and what I heard so frequently from these men (Burton Bros. and Ford), and also in Wilcannia. There was another tank being made for a station close by. I knew the man intimately, and was frequently at his camp, and had dealings with him. I know that he had a large tank for about 1s. 2d. which he was excavating within a mile of the 48-Mile tank, and for about half the cost that was being charged for the 48-Mile tank. I think the amount he was getting for that work was 1s. 2d. It was the common talk of the district at the time—the prices paid by the Roads Department for the earthwork of these tanks and roads. I did not volunteer this information, but having said it to Mr. Gilliat and Mr. M'Kinney I will not go back on it now.

1799. You do not know of your own knowledge that this money was paid? No; I was merely told by Burton Bros. and others.

1800. Could they have any object in misleading you? I have no idea what their object could be in misleading me.

1801. And would you be surprised to learn that this tank only cost the Government 1s. 9d. per cubic yard, instead of 2s. 6d.? Yes, I would.

1802. Can you give us any idea, from your residence in the interior, why the Government have to pay this excessive price, as compared with the prices given by private individuals—squatters and others—for similar work? Yes; I believe I can.

1803. Well, we would like to hear you on that matter? One reason is that the Government are too particular in dressing the slopes of the tanks.

1804. Would that apply to embankments as well as to the cuttings? Yes; there is no object to be gained by it, because it is all washed down by the rain shortly after being made. Another reason is, that the very steep slopes adopted in Government tanks necessitates the giving of an extra price for the work, because of the amount of difficulty in getting the stuff up the sides.

1805. Precluding, I presume, the use of ploughs and scoops? To a certain extent. I do not know that I can state this from my own knowledge, but I believe the contractors suffer great delay from the orders and counter-orders they receive. This necessitates charging an extra price, so as to allow for the vexatious style carried on by certain of the overseers.

1806. Are these alterations from the specifications? I can't say.

1807. No other reason? No, I do not know of anything else; but I think those facts form the cause why the Government work costs a great deal more than other work. I know that Mr. Wilson, of Trida Station, told me he gets his work done for about 6d. per cubic yard—at least so he informed me. He finds the plant and bullocks to work the thing, and he reckons to pay 4½d. per cubic yard, the interest on the cost of plant, &c., bringing it up to 6d.

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1808.

G. W.
Townsend.
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1808. Are his tanks the same depth as the Government tanks? No; but within a few feet of the same depth. All the tanks that I know of are about the same depth. The depth of the squatters' tanks is usually governed by the layers of gravel. If a tank-sinker finds gravel in putting down a tank for a squatter he does not go on; but I am told the Government specifications call upon the contractors to go through the gravel, and in more than one instance they have gone down through it.

1809. Is it usual to sink trial shafts for excavating large works? I do not know; but it certainly ought to be.

1810. I presume you are aware that the extra 2 to 3 feet which the Government tanks are sunk lower than private tanks, very materially increases the cost of the excavation to the Government? Well, I have had a great deal to do with earthworks, and all I can say is that it ought not to materially increase the cost. There is no doubt that the last few feet of excavation will cost more than the first few feet; but this will not largely increase the average cost of the work, because where the last 2 or 3 feet are taken out the tank is narrowed down very much, so that the extra depth increases the local cost per yard, but not the average cost. Between 17 and 20 feet the increased cost will be about 1½d. per yard.

1811. Now, being an expert, do you think it very desirable in that hot country to confine the surface of the water as much as possible? I am of that opinion.

1812. Do you think that the extra cost of these steep slopes would be made up by the lessening surface of water exposed to evaporation? I am rather doubtful about that. It is a matter that I have studied carefully, and there can be no doubt that flattened slopes do increase evaporation; but whether the difference in the cost between 1 to 1 and 1½ to 1 would be made up for by the lessening evaporation is a matter upon which I cannot definitely give an opinion. I have observed the matter very carefully; but I am hardly prepared to say whether the difference between 1 to 1 and 1½ to 1 would cause such an increased evaporation as would warrant a difference of expenditure for making a very steep-sided tank. But if you get slopes of 3 or 4 to 1, then I am certainly of opinion that the evaporation would be very largely increased, and that it would pay to make steeper sides.

1813. *Major Penrose.*] Of course, the ratio of increase depends upon the size of the tank? Yes; of course it does.

1814. Now, if your tank was a mile wide? Oh, we deal with tanks of a certain size. We are not supposing lakes, but tanks such as we are accustomed to see constructed. I am speaking now of ordinary squatters' tanks, and they run from 15,000 to 25,000 yards. The water, shallowing much by the flattening of the sides, causes a thin film of water round the edges of the tank, from which there is a much greater amount of evaporation than there is from the surface of the water in the bed of the tank itself, where the water is deeper. Besides this, in the shallow flat-sided tanks with easy slopes there seems to be a greater amount of capillary attraction by which action the water creeps up from the edges into the dry earth round the sides of the tank causing a greater amount of evaporation than in the steep-sided tanks. Why there should be less effect from capillary attraction in the steep-sided tanks than in flat-sided tanks I am not prepared to say, except that in the flat-sided tanks there is a greater surface exposed in proportion to cubic contents than there is in steep-sided tanks.

1815. *Chairman.*] Are you aware that as a rule squatters make long slopes for the purpose of allowing stock to water in the tanks? In some instances I know they allow the stock into the tanks to water; but in others I know that the stock get the water from the troughs. I do not think that on stations you will find so steep a slope as 1 to 1 or 1½ to 1, which would be a steeper slope than would be allowed where stock could go in. In tanks into which stock are allowed, you will find that the slope is about 4 to 1.

1816. *Major Penrose.*] Do you consider that a slope of 2 to 1 would be a fair average slope for a Government tank? Yes, I should say so, if it were found that the work would be much cheaper by having it done that way. I think if tenders were let, leaving it to the contractor to arrange the slopes, you would find a material difference in the prices tendered for.

1817. Are you aware that the Government tanks are made with slopes of 2 to 1? No, I believe they are made with a slope of 1 to 1. I have never measured any of the slopes; but looking at them with my eye, I should say that they are 1 to 1. However, looking at the plans that you have shown me, I see that the tanks are made with a slope of 2 to 1. This makes me more surprised at the extraordinary price given by the Government, as compared with the price given by the squatters.

1818. *Mr. Woore.*] Have you ever heard any contractor say his contract price was 2s. 6d. per cubic yard for sinking a Government tank? Well, I cannot swear to that; but I was under the impression that one of Burton Brothers told me he was getting 2s. 6d. per cubic yard. It is now more than nine years ago since this occurred; and after that length of time I am not prepared to say whether I heard it from Burton Brothers or one of the Fords; but I was certainly told that this was the price that Burton Brothers got for doing the work.

1819. And was that generally believed in the district at that time? Yes; that was the general belief in the district.

1820. You said, at the commencement of your evidence, that you learned this from conversation which you had heard between contractors? No; I said I learned it while associating with the people who did the work.

1821. You heard them talking about it between themselves? No; I was not in the position of overhearing anything that was said. I was present at the conversation. I am quite positive of that.

1822. And those persons whom you referred to are Messrs. Ford Brothers and Messrs. Burton Brothers? Yes; and other people in Wilcannia.

1823. *Chairman.*] Where do these people—Burton Brothers—live? I fancy they came from Hay, or some place on the Murrumbidgee. I know that they had mail contracts between Menindie and Bourke.

1824. Are you aware that the Government, as a rule, insist upon the earth being taken a greater distance from the excavation than the squatters? Yes; they insist on leaving a greater berm. I have often noticed that.

1825. Would not that tend to increase the cost of construction? Yes; I think it would.

1826. Have you heard that there is sometimes considerable delay in obtaining payment from the Government after the tanks are completed? Yes, I have heard that; but I do not know it of my own knowledge.

1827. Do you think that there is another reason why an excessive charge is made? No.

1828. There is another reason that has been given us. Have you ever heard of such a thing as an arrangement or a conspiracy between the contractors to send in tenders very much in excess of what they would expect

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expect to get from private individuals, and taking care between themselves that they will not go below a certain price? No; I have never heard of that.

1829. Then, the effect of this long delay in paying the contractors would probably lessen the number of tenderers, because only men of means would go into such contracts? Yes.

1830. If many months elapsed, a contractor (who would have to pay his men somehow or other) would be put to serious inconvenience, and, unless he were a man of means, he might be ruined? Yes; the small men are invariably shut out of these contracts. There is no doubt whatever about that.

1831. You are aware, also, that the Government insist on the earth being spread out evenly all around the tank? Yes; and the slopes just the same as the tank.

1832. Would the effect of having the earth so distributed be to increase the cost of the whole work? Yes; I should say that it would materially add to the cost.

1833. Do you know why this is done? No; except it is done to secure uniformity of appearance.

1834. Well, in your opinion, is it desirable to have the embankments around the tank for the purpose of lessening the action of the wind upon the water—the wind causing more evaporation than the sun? The embankments would always be put around the tank for the sake of decreasing the lead; but there is no necessity for the earth being so regularly distributed around the tank. I admit, of course, that it looks better. I know that this is another thing which increases the cost of these works, because I have heard it from men who “chucked up” such works on this account. I have heard this matter discussed on many stations, because tank-sinking is one of the principal topics discussed in the back country, where it is talked about at almost every table you go to.

1835. Now, is there anything else that strikes you? No; I cannot say there is anything else.

1836. *Major Penrose.*] Do you consider the construction of any of the tanks faulty from an engineering point of view? No, I think not; excepting that, in my opinion, they ought to have been done at a less price; and flatter-sloped tanks could be constructed at a less price; but if, as I see by the plans, the tanks are made with a slope of 2 to 1, I would not be in favour of making them much flatter.

1837. *Chairman.*] But in case the stock were admitted to the water? I would not consider that because I would not allow it. I believe that sheep if allowed into the water will carry away more in their fleeces than they will drink.

1838. You have made some statement about contractors being obliged to go through gravel? Yes; but on reading the specifications I see that it is provided that the depth shall be varied in accordance with the quality of the earth met with; but I do know one tank where the contractor had to go through a stratum of gravel. This tank is close to the 35-Mile tank on the 70-Mile track; it is near the 37-Mile. This is the tank that I alluded to as having been sunk through gravel.

1839. *Major Penrose.*] The terms of this specification, as regards earthworks, appear to you to be good? Yes, except this one matter, which is evidently a clerical error.

1840. *Chairman.*] Have you seen anything in connection with wells in the back country which calls for comment? Not in Government wells.

1841. Do you think that instead of making tanks and dams and wells, it is desirable that attention should be given to artesian boring? No, I do not; because, although when only a few wells are put down the supply appears inexhaustible, when a number of wells are sunk in the same locality it will be found here, as it has been found elsewhere, that the supply will materially decrease, and that instead of the water coming over the surface as at present, it will have to be pumped up.

1842. You are aware of a wonderful artesian bore which has recently been put down at Barcaldine? Yes; I read of it.

1843. You saw that it gives many hundred thousands of gallons per day? Yes.

1844. Do you think that boring alone will decrease the supply? I think so; I noticed that the supply from a large 22-inch well near Paris decreased, although it had a larger flow than Barcaldine well.

1845. Have you ever had reason to find fault with the selection of the sites of those tanks that you happened to come across? Yes; I think the 35-Mile tank is badly selected as to site.

1846. For what reason? Had it been situated on a slope, instead of on rising ground, it would have caught more water.

1847. Was there equally good soil there where it could have been sunk? That I cannot say. Of course I never looked attentively to see whether there was anything wrong with these things. I merely say that it would have been better situated for catching water lower down; but there may be good reasons for putting it where it was.

1848. Have you seen any wells sunk in improper places? No.

1849. You think the specifications which have been shown you are fairly good ones? Yes.

1850. Have you observed the machinery which is attached to these tanks and used for raising water to supply it to the troughs? No; because I think that most of the machinery at present in use was put down subsequent to my having been down in that part of the country. All the machinery that I can recollect was the M'Comas pump.

1851. There are now Tangye steam pumps? Yes; but I have not seen any of them.

1852. With your knowledge of the country, do you think that the use of one of these pumps entails unnecessary expenditure of money? I think I should be inclined to be guided by what the squatters in the district do. It is really hard to say, where there is a big mob of sheep or cattle that have to be watered in a hurry.

1853. You are aware that at all these works there are service tanks that can be kept full? Yes; I know that. The service tank and the troughs are supposed to be kept full. I really do not see that a steam pump is needed.

1854. Besides, it requires a better educated man as caretaker? No doubt about that; and there must be so much idle time that it would do a man good to work the ordinary pump. It often struck me as wonderful that they did not put windmills on the tanks.

1855. They would be the cheapest? Yes; and in case the water was not wanted, it might be allowed to run back into the tank again.

1856. Have you observed the fences around the caretaker's paddocks and around these tanks? No; I have not.

1857. *Major Penrose.*] Have you had much experience in wells? No, very little. I have seen a great many wells, but had nothing to do with the sinking of any. I have a good knowledge of putting down mining-shafts, but not of wells, in this country.

1858.

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1858. A good many of these are supposed to be salty? I know some of them are.

1859. There are the Mossiel, Holy Box, and Dolmoreve wells? Yes; that is common to private wells also.

No one can tell whether the water will be salty or fresh until he gets down.

1860. Do you think that the constant baling of water will freshen it? I believe not. I know men who started at it and gave it up.

1861. Did it improve the quality of the water? Unless I had some evidence to prove that it did improve the quality of the water, I should not care to incur the expense. Both the Government and private individuals throw away money in sinking wells instead of boring. They go and sink wells before they know whether they are going to get fresh or salty water; whereas, were they to get a boring-rod or water-auger, and bore preliminary to making wells, they could have satisfied themselves as to the existence or non-existence of water, and could know whether the quality of the water was good or bad for as many shillings as it now costs them pounds.

[The Commission adjourned.]

THURSDAY, 16 FEBRUARY, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R.E., | J. C. WOORE, Esq.

Edward Quin called in and examined:—

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1862. *Chairman.*] Where do you reside? At Tarella, near Wilcannia, on the Darling River.

1863. You were formerly a Member of the Legislative Assembly for the district of Wentworth? Yes, I was member for the district embraced in that country.

1864. From your long residence in that neighbourhood, have you any personal knowledge of the wells and tanks put down by the Government? Yes; I have a knowledge of a number of them.

1865. Can you give us any evidence showing glaring faults in the selection of sites for tanks and dams? Yes; I know of three very glaring cases: the Peri tank, the Tarella tank, and the Victoria or Meenamurtie tank.

1866. *Major Penrose.*] Was the public watering place at Tarella a tank or a dam? It was a tank. These are the most glaring cases that I know of.

1867. *Chairman.*] Well, we will take the first one—the Peri tank;—what fault have you to find with that? Well, I have frequently seen a large body of water there. The station sheep watered there for years. It is very near, or right on, to the stock route, and the tank is close by to the springs, which are really on a Government reserve. The consequence of being so close to the springs is that the tank is never used. The springs are flowing over the surface, and a large body of water flows away. I consider the putting of a tank there a serious mistake.

1868. Was the spring on the travelling-stock route at the time that the tank was constructed? It was on, or very near, the route, and was used then. It was only recently that many of these stock routes were proclaimed; and proclaimed, I may say, through my exertions in Parliament. I thought it desirable that it should be done to prohibit selection and the alienation of water frontages.

1869. If the Peri Springs were not open to the public, was it not desirable that a tank should be sunk at that place for the supply of travelling stock? But it was on a reserve years ago—before the tank was ever sunk at all.

1870. *Mr. Woore.*] Was this a reserve from sale or lease? It was a reserve for public purposes. You know the people in the country districts merely know that a place is a reserve for one purpose or another; but what the purpose is, they sometimes are hardly aware. The stationholders never refuse admission to the tanks, and the manager of the station mentioned how absurd it was to construct a tank so close to the springs. I had a conversation with Mr. Fred. Bonney and others on the subject, and this was the effect of it.

1871. Had the springs been open before the tank was put down? Yes; the springs had been open years before. I saw large bodies of sheep watered there fifteen or sixteen years ago. I was driving round the country then with Mr. Bonney.

1872. Are you not aware that Mr. Bonney himself was very much against interfering with the springs, and very much in favour of a tank? I am not aware of that, because Mr. Bonney pointed out the absurdity of the thing to me later on.

1873. Oh! he did that later on; but not at that time? I am speaking now of Mr. Fred. Bonney.

1874. And I was referring to Mr. Edward Bonney? [No answer].

1875. *Chairman.*] Then, considering the abundance of water at the Peri Springs, and believing that they were on a travelling-stock reserve, you think it was a great waste of public money to excavate this tank? I do certainly think so.

1876. But would your objection apply in the event of springs being on the leasehold area of the run? No; not if the lessee had power over the springs, and refused to allow travelling stock to water there. It might not apply under these circumstances; but the present manager of the station, Mr. Hogarth, who would have no objection to stock watering there, often drew my attention to the absurdity of putting down a tank there.

1877. *Mr. Woore.*] But do you not know that the springs were within the squatter's lease? I was not aware of that. Mr. Hogarth told me that the object of closing the springs was to prohibit stock from watering there, and to compel them to go to the tank. I cannot, of course, say this authoritatively; but I believe it was done so that the stock might be made to pay for watering at the tank. In pointing out to me the absurdity of the thing, Mr. Hogarth stated that there is so much water in the springs there that it was simply ridiculous to sink a tank; and, as a matter of fact, the tank has never been used, and the springs are watering the stock still.

1878. Is it not within your knowledge that the springs and the tank together were insufficient to supply travelling stock with water during the last drought? No; such a thing as that is not within my knowledge.

1879.

1879. *Major Penrose.*] Apparently this tank was constructed on the recommendation of Road Superintendent Cambridge, who stated that the site had been approved of by some of the oldest residents in the district, to whom he was indebted for much assistance and information. He referred to this and to the Peri Sand-hills tank;—do you think that this is a fair statement? I can only say that Mr. Fred. Bonney complained very much to me of Mr. Cambridge fixing this place as the site of a tank, and also again complained of the tank being placed there. He also complained of a tank being placed at Copago, where he was sure it would quickly fill up with silt. E. Quin.
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1880. Then, in the minute by Mr. A. P. Wood, of the Roads Branch, Public Works Department, it is stated:—"The Peri Springs tank: This work was constructed before I had any connection with this Branch, and I have never seen the site; but I know that it was approved by the Crown Lands Commissioner, and by those who petitioned for the works on the Paroo Road"? I merely tell you what Mr. Fred. Bonney said to me in reference to these tanks.
1881. You do not know whether the sites of these tanks were generally approved of by the other residents of the district? No; I do not know that. I am aware that the general policy of placing tanks on the road was approved of; but as to whether the particular sites selected met with approval I cannot say.
1882. Do you think that this particular spring is capable of watering all the stock that may go down that road? I would not like to say definitely that it was capable of doing this, but whenever I saw the springs there was a large body of water flowing out; and both managers—Mr. Hogarth and Mr. Bonney—told me that they did not see any necessity for a tank. Indeed, Mr. Hogarth came to me when I was a public man and complained of it as a waste of public money.
1883. Supposing that the yield from this place was only 7,000 gallons per day, would it not be necessary to construct other works, in conjunction with these springs, in case mobs of 10,000 sheep, which might drink 20,000 gallons of water, came along. The public might have had access to this particular water; but if the land were under lease they would have no control over it, and though a lessee might have no objection to stock watering at these springs, still he might object to the springs being meddled with? As to that I cannot speak; all I can say is that the managers of the station who controlled the springs said that it was absurd putting a tank there.
1884. But meddling with a spring often stops the supply—does it not? In some cases it does; not often, but in some cases.
1885. *Mr. Woore.*] These springs being situated in the lake, do you not think that the cost of opening the springs and erecting works for supplying water to the large numbers of stock that pass that way would have been equal to the cost of making a tank? Well, I have not taken the levels, but I should hardly think so.
1886. You are aware that the springs are in the lake? Yes; but whenever the springs are not accessible the lake is full of water. The works would always be submerged when the lake was full.
1887. Have you any idea of the number of travelling stock that have gone down the Paroo along the stock route within a given time? I cannot say, but certainly very large numbers have gone down there.
1888. And do you think from what you know of the springs that they would yield sufficient water to supply a very large number of stock travelling that way through a severe drought? I would not like to say that the springs would yield an unlimited supply of water per day, but I have no doubt that they would give sufficient water to water a very large number of stock if the stock were distributed over several days. Of course, if 50,000 or 60,000 head of sheep came in one day, I do not think the springs would be sufficient to meet their requirements; but if the stock were distributed over several days, I think the supply of water there would be ample, if proper appliances were put down for conserving water. I mean by proper appliances, buckle-plated iron tanks, such as are now being constructed; and if these were put down I think it would enable the number of stock I have mentioned to be watered.
1889. *Major Penrose.*] That would necessitate pumping water from the springs, would it not? Yes.
1890. *Mr. Woore.*] You say that this spring was opened—in what way do you mean? I mean that it was opened for watering purposes, and that the water was flowing out of it.
1891. But had anything been done to the spring? Only that a fence was put round it to protect it from the stock.
1892. Except for that the spring was in its natural state when the tank was made? Yes; with this additional exception—that there was a drain and a small dam made there to catch the overflow.
1893. And since the tank was made has not something further been done to the spring? Yes, I believe so.
1894. Do you know of your own knowledge? No; I cannot say that. I do not know what has actually been done, because I have not seen the spring for some time.
1895. But something has been done in the way of opening up the spring with a view of increasing the supply of water? Yes; I believe that Mr. Hogarth has done it.
1896. Are you not aware that the lessee's stock, grazing over a very large area of country adjacent to this spring, were entirely dependent on this spring for water? Yes, I am aware of that. I am aware that they were dependent for water on the spring in time of drought.
1897. And do you know that the spring was in fact a sort of refuge for the stock of the Momba station in time of drought? Yes; that is so.
1898. *Chairman.*] That being the case, Mr. Quin, do you not wish to qualify to some extent your previous statement, that it was undesirable to sink this tank in close proximity to the spring; because, in the event of the squatter requiring a very large quantity of water from this spring for the use of his own stock, is it not probable that none would be left to supply the requirements of travelling stock? Well, I think that if the spring were reduced to such a state as that, there would be no large body of stock travelling. When this place becomes a refuge for the station stock, very few travelling stock will pass, because it is only when the country is passable that a large amount of stock will travel.
1899. *Major Penrose.*] But the object of putting down public watering places is to make these routes passable? Yes, but a route may become impassable as much from want of grass as from want of water.
1900. *Mr. Woore.*] Is it not a fact that the lessees of Momba station during droughts watered as many sheep at the Peri Springs as they consider the springs capable of watering? Yes; I believe they did.
1901. The springs being the only permanent water on that large station? Yes; the only permanent water during drought time—it and the other spring that has since been opened.
1902. It is the only permanent water, then, for a large number of stock? The only permanent water for the country in its natural state was the Peri Springs; but if they depended entirely on permanent natural water,

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- water, and no works had been constructed, no stock could travel at all, because the gaps between one watering place and another were so tremendous.
1903. Are you not aware that the lessees of the Momba station were strongly averse to the springs being interfered with? No; I never heard them say anything with regard to that. I know that Mr. Fred. Bonney was one of the first to complain to me of a tank having been put there.
1904. *Major Penrose.*] Did they collect rates for the water from the travelling stock? No.
1905. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you think that the site chosen for the tank is a good one for catchment? Yes, it is a good catching place; but I do not think that it was a judicious selection, seeing that a large number of station sheep were watered at the springs within half or three-quarters of a mile of the tank, where there was every likelihood of the sheep boxing. Putting the tank there was very likely to lead to a great confusion; and if the springs got so dry that the station sheep only could be watered, there would be no use in sending stock to travel, because there would be no grass anywhere.
1906. Did the manager of the station himself suggest the site of the tank to Mr. Cambridge, the Road Superintendent? No; I am not aware of that.
1907. Is not the road by Peri Springs the road chosen by the public to travel their stock at the time when the country was opened to them to go anywhere they liked? Yes; that is so.
1908. It was in these days the most convenient road? Yes.
1909. *Chairman.*] Now, you mention two other sites for tanks that you took great objection to? Yes; the Tarella tank is one of them. My reason for objecting to the Tarella tank is that it is not required. When the excavation had proceeded some 7 or 8 feet, I communicated to Mr. Bennett personally my opinion that the tank was being placed in an unsuitable position. I objected to it, not because the catchment was not good, but because it was not necessary there at all. It was placed at a spot about 4 miles above Tarella station, and I had large dams near it, one of them being 3 miles beyond it. Both these dams were on the roadside, and available to the public for ten years before. The name of one of these dams was the Koonawatta, which was on land made a reserve by the Crown Lands Commissioner; and the other place was called White Cliffs, which was about 3 miles above the tank. The two dams were only 8 miles apart, and the public had access to them at all times. I certainly did not deem it necessary for a tank to be put down there, on account of these dams being within the boundaries of a stock route.
1910. *Mr. Woore.*] Were the stock routes proclaimed then? No; the stock routes were not proclaimed until quite recently, but the public road was there.
1911. *Chairman.*] Then the proximity of these dams to the public road made you think it was a waste of public money to proceed with the Tarella tank? It did. When I went to see Mr. Bennett, he told me in reply that the contract had proceeded so far that the compensation which would have to be paid to the contractor would equal the cost of making the tank to the original depth. The reason why I did not communicate with Mr. Bennett sooner was that I was then partially a resident of Sydney, and did not know the exact site of the tank. Mr. Bennett was always very anxious to get correct information, and to do what he considered best in the public interest, and paid every attention to the communications which I, as a public man, addressed to him. It was on that account that I at once communicated with him as to the site of the tank.
1912. Are you aware who it was that chose the site of this tank? I am under the impression that it was Mr. A. P. Wood, of the Roads Branch; but I cannot say positively.
1913. Do you believe that Mr. Wood is personally responsible for choosing the site of this tank? Yes, I think so. While there remains a drop of water in my dams I do not think the Government will be able to sell any water from this tank, because my dams are on the road side.
1914. *Mr. Woore.*] But before the stock route was proclaimed, did the public possess any right to water at these dams, or did they water their stock there merely on sufferance;—I think Koonawatta was reserved by you? Yes; to prevent it from being selected.
1915. *Major Penrose.*] Did you think that travelling stock had a right to water there? I never thought that I had any power to stop them. The stock always had power to go half a mile each side of the road.
1916. *Mr. Woore.*] At the time you speak of, very little stock travelled that road? Yes; a considerable quantity of cattle from Queensland.
1917. Very seldom, I think? Large numbers came even then. Mobs of 300 and 400 cattle used to come from the Bulla Downs, from Thargomindah, and Cooper's Creek.
1918. You consider, then, that, notwithstanding the lessee had conserved this water by dams, the public had a right to water their travelling stock there? Well, I never thought that I had any power to stop them, the dams being within half a mile of the travelling stock road and within the stock reserve.
1919. *Major Penrose.*] Which means that the travelling stock had a right to water there? Yes; I always assumed that they had such a right, and unless travelling stock were interfered with by the lessee I think that tanks should not have been put down. It is only when found absolutely necessary that they should be constructed.
1920. *Chairman.*] Was this Tarella tank excavated on a travelling stock route? Yes; right along the side of a road.
1921. In the case of the Meenamurtee well, do you also think there is reason to find fault with the site? Yes; it is certainly within a mile or a mile and a-half of a waterhole that I have seen dry only once during the past 20 years.
1922. Was this waterhole accessible to travelling stock? Yes; and there is a 3 or 5 chain road right down to the water.
1923. But when this well was made there was no travelling stock road? No; but we always used a road. The Land Act defended travelling stock going by the road. I never looked at the proclamation of these routes as altering the conditions at all.
1924. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you think that if the lessee chose to fence in water, conserved at his expense, people travelling with stock would have any right to pull down his fences and take the water? No, I do not; because if they did the owners of stock would not have enough water.
1925. Then the water was used merely on sufferance? There was access to a large body of water, apart from the purchased land.
1926. But, under the circumstances I have stated, would not the water be used merely on sufferance? Yes; on the purchased land; but there was a great deal of water which was off purchased land.

1927. If the lessee chose to fence in the water conserved by him in dams made at his own expense, would the public have any right to pull his fence down and water their stock there? The lessee could only fence in a certain portion of the frontage, and there would be a large portion of the balance accessible to the public.

1928. *Chairman.*] In carrying out these works, I presume that Mr. Bennett, the Commissioner for Roads, can act only on the advice of his subordinates? Yes; certainly.

1929. In this instance you said that it was Mr. Wood who had selected the site? Yes.

1930. And if any mistake is made, it is Mr. Wood who is to blame? Yes; whoever selected the site.

1931. *Major Penrose.*] Mr. Wood says, at the conclusion of his letter of 3rd June, 1884, that "I may add that I gave Mr. Quin, M.L.A., a list of the works let during that visit, and that the people in that district, through that gentleman, expressed their satisfaction at the course adopted by me at the time?" Yes; that is quite right; but in giving the list, I may explain that I was then the representative of the district, and Mr. Wood dropped me a note, I suppose in consequence of my representative capacity. On the back of this note he had a list of names of various works, including an item—tank at Tarella. Well, as Tarella is 40 miles through, I had no idea of the particular spot to be selected. Meenamurtie is 35 miles through, and the site there also was not specified. As the people of the district had been very eager for the construction of these works, and as Mr. Wood said that that would be a convenient opportunity to get them done, I wrote to Mr. Bennett, saying that Mr. Wood's action was very generally approved of; but I must say that I did not know where all the sites of the tanks were, nor did I think it my province to interfere. When an officer wrote to me about a matter of that kind, I did not consider it my duty to bother my head about the exact sites to be selected.

1932. This letter was prior to the time you found that the tank at Tarella had been sunk 9 feet deep? Yes; I did not know where the tank was to be put until it was down 9 or 10 feet.

1933. *Mr. Woore.*] Where else would you have put a tank at Tarella? I do not know that I would have put a tank there at all.

1934. Is it not a fact that the position chosen for this tank was the best position, as a catching place, on the road? I would not say that, because the road is full of good positions. The tank was certainly put at a place where it would fill very readily.

1935. *Chairman.*] Then, you qualify your previous statement that you were at first quite content that the tank should be put there, and that afterwards you found reason to find fault with it? I do not think that any necessity had arisen for a tank there. Tanks were wanted in other places much more.

1936. On the same run? Yes; a tank could have been put 5 or 6 miles above the tin hut to greater advantage. When the upper portion of the creek was dry the lower portion had large dams which held out. I never interfered with travelling stock for ten years previously.

1937. Therefore, although you gave your approval to the construction of works on this particular run, you were not aware that this unfortunate site would have been selected, and that a place would have also been selected in such close proximity to permanent water? No; certainly not. I do not know what revenue has been received from these tanks for the last three years; but I should imagine that it would be very small.

1938. In good seasons like the present, many of these tanks are not required at all, and, therefore, no possible return could come in from their use? Yes.

1939. *Mr. Woore.*] If station improvements were sufficient for the use of travelling stock, what necessity was there for making any public watering places at all where there were such improvements? I only mentioned one or two cases as being unnecessary. The bulk of the other watering places are, I think, of great use, and are properly situated. I am merely finding fault with the expenditure on these sites, which I think might have been better chosen. To show that I was not selfish in the matter, I urged that stock routes should be put through my run, and I had a very great fight with the Department to get them proclaimed. Mr. Lewis and others had a notion that reserves every 7 or 8 miles, and several miles square, would suit better than stock routes.

1940. *Chairman.*] Do you think that it would be desirable that travelling stock routes should be wholly cut off from the leasehold area? No; I think it would be decidedly in the interests of most of the properties to allow things to remain as they are. In many cases stock routes follow creeks or rivers, and if they were taken from the runs the lessee would not have access to the water. It is a far better plan to have a give-and-take policy, by which the lessee may use the land and allow the public to use it when they require it.

1941. But where there are no permanent rivers and creeks, then do you not think it would be desirable that the stock routes should be fenced off from the leaseholds? I do not think so, because it is only very rarely that stock are annoyed or bothered on these routes. The cost of fencing would be very great, and no one would have control over these large areas of country. Now the stock have a large area to travel over, and are not confined; so that, in the interests of travelling stock, I do not think that this should be done.

1942. Of course you are aware that the lessees have to pay rent for these routes, although the land is used by travelling stock;—do you think that is fair? No; I think some allowance should be made in the rent for the fact that a stock route passes through a run.

1943. But you do not think that it would be desirable to fence off travelling stock reserves, because then the lessees would have no necessity to urge on the travelling stock the regular number of miles per day? I think all round that it is better the stock routes should be within the runs. Some few squatters may abuse their rights in connection with the stock route, by overstocking it, but generally this is not the case.

1944. Do you not think that these reserves, if taken off and fenced in, would retain very much more grass than at present for the use of travelling stock? No; I do not think so. In some places in South Australia, where the stock routes are fenced off, they are as bare as the floor of this room. I think the present arrangement works very well, if only some consideration is given to the holder; in fact, I think it would be disastrous to some runs if the stock routes were to be fenced off. Some of the stock would hang fire on the road, instead of travelling the requisite number of miles in a day. I think it would be better if some sort of partnership between lessees and the travelling public were established; let the lessees pay reduced rents. The conditions in Lower Riverina are different from those further back. I think the lessees in the back country deserve different treatment and consideration, more particularly where there are no large areas of purchased lands.

1945. *Mr. Woore.*] As a rule, does not the squatter get the lion's share of the grass on the stock route? Well, I would not say that; but they certainly get a large share. I have a stock route on my own run, and I get a good deal out of it.

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- E. Quin. 1946. In some cases, do not the owners take care that no grass is left on these reserves? Yes, in some cases,—sufficiently so for me to say so; but generally it is not the case. There may be an odd squatter who keeps a lot of dogs to drive travellers away, but very few of them do it. It would be difficult in a 7 or 8 mile paddock to keep stock on the line of route. I have one paddock 10 miles square, and I should like to know how I could keep stock on that stock route and eat the grass off of it to a greater extent than off the adjoining land. The country is too poor to be subdivided in this way into small paddocks.
- 16 Feb., 1888. 1947. *Chairman.*] Do you think it desirable, in the event of the Government excavating a tank on a public road, that the lessee should have the power to water his stock there? Yes; in the event of the place being one where a caretaker is not required. The lessee should be the caretaker, with the privilege of watering his own stock and looking after the watering of the travelling stock; but where the receipts from the tank will pay a caretaker's salary, I should certainly advise that the tank be kept in the hands of the Government. If only to avoid loss on the part of the Government, I would recommend such a course.
1948. In that case, the lessee would have no right to water his travelling stock? Certainly not. If a tank will pay a man ought to be kept there, and the work kept under the permanent charge of the Department. That is my opinion. No doubt I personally would like to avail myself of the Government tanks, and would use them if allowed to do so; but if the general public used it sufficiently to pay a caretaker's salary, I think the Department would be wrong to allow me to use it at all—that is, if the tank has been put down on a stock route for a specific purpose.
1949. Would not this system be possibly open to abuse—would not squatters have tanks put down for their own use rather than for the use of the public in the event of their becoming the caretakers themselves;—do you not think that it would lead to abuse of this kind, and that tanks would be made presumably for the use of the travelling public, but really for the squatters' own benefit? I do not think so; because I do not imagine for one moment that the Government would construct a tank merely on the recommendation of a squatter, and without the work having been examined and reported on by some responsible officer of their own, who certainly would not be fit to hold his position if he could not be trusted to report fairly on the necessity of a tank or not. I think that it is an absurdity to imagine that the Government would carry out works on a squatter's run on the squatter's recommendation. I know that there is a first-class officer in my district now who would not recommend a tank where it was not wanted. I would like to mention the name of Mr. Hanna, who is a first-class man. I can hardly think that the Government would construct a tank on my recommendation unless it were confirmed by some responsible officer.
1950. *Major Penrose.*] You speak of Mr. Hanna, an officer of the Roads Department;—would not the question of selection of sites of tanks be one for the Mines Department? I am speaking now of the competency of Mr. Hanna. Some of the officers of the Mines Department have not been so good.
1951. You quote Mr. Hanna as being a man who would report the advisability, or otherwise, of a tank being placed in a particular position? If works were reported on by such a man as Mr. Hanna, who, I am quite certain, is fully competent to make such reports when called upon, there would be no danger of the squatter's recommendation being carried out unless it were a good one. To illustrate my meaning, the tank at Tarella is now finished excepting the supply tank, which is under the charge of the Works Department. A well 10 miles away is in charge of the Mines Department; but if any report is called for in regard to either it is possible that the two officers will make separate journeys to both works. For instance, Mr. Tully, the stock inspector for Wilcannia, may find it necessary to inspect the Meenamurtie well; but no matter what little alteration the Tarella tank requires he has no control over it, although he is only 10 miles away.
1952. The Tarella tank, not being finished, has not been handed over to the Mines Department? Yes; and although there is a caretaker under the Works Department who has been in charge of it for two years.
1953. *Chairman.*] For what reason has this tank not been transferred to the Mines Department? Because the troughing is not completed. The tank is there, and the water also; but until the whole thing is finished the Mines Department will not take charge of it.
1954. Do you seem to think that there is a superabundance of officers in the Mines Department. Mr. Tully, being overseer, is quite competent to undertake all the duties of inspector of public watering places, as well as inspector of stock;—and if that be the case, why pay two highly salaried officers to do the work of one? I cannot understand it. I cannot understand why an inspector of public watering places should be appointed when there is another officer in the Mines Department—it may be said he is a stock inspector—whose business it is to travel from station to station and inspect these works. I think that with a small additional sum as salary he might undertake the duty of inspector of tanks and wells.
1955. Then you think the office of inspector of public watering places is a sinecure? I think it is unnecessary, and I believe that Mr. Tully could do the work without any serious difficulty. I think that Mr. Tully is quite as competent to go and report upon these works as any of the men they have.
1956. *Major Penrose.*] To report upon everything from start to finish—construction, maintenance, and supervision? I would not say that. He has put down tanks for me of 20,000 yards, and did the work well. He did it to my satisfaction, and to the satisfaction of many others at Momba. He is quite as competent a man as Low, or any other man that you could choose.
1957. *Chairman.*] Do you know anything about the Copago tank? A tank and dam was constructed at what is called Copago Lake, and it was generally thought that it would fill up with silt, and it has filled up.
1958. The works there are now utterly useless? Yes; the dam has been washed away, and the excavation is silted up.
1959. *Major Penrose.*] Do you know who selected that site? I think it was Mr. Cambridge; but I would not like to say for certain.
1960. *Chairman.*] Do you not think that it is exceedingly undesirable to put dams in this loose soil? Yes; from my experience I would say that it was. I should be very sorry now to put dams on Tarella Creek, now that I know the silting up is inevitable. We would have been very much better without dams. I found the waterholes in which no dams have been made have silted up too. The waterholes on my run have filled up as well as the dams.
1961. And during strong floods these dams were washed away? Yes; the creeks are too rapid and too savage. They come down with too great a rush. They rush up to their highest point and go down again within half an hour.

1962. The officer who selected this site might have only have done what the squatters themselves have done—put down dams which have proved a mistake? Yes; and they might not have calculated on a large body of water coming down there; but I think the officer might have known that the place would fill up, and should have observed that a great body of water would come down there. It is a badly chosen site, and unsuited to this particular class of country. I do not think that a squatter would have chosen such a site.

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1963. *Major Penrose.*] Do you think that, as a rule, the tanks constructed by the Works Department are as well chosen and as well constructed as those made by the squatters? I would like to say a word or two on that. In many cases they are well selected, but not so well constructed. They are as carefully built tanks; but in some cases I consider that the slope of the tank is too steep. I may add that I think generally the sites are well chosen.

1964. *Chairman.*] The next question we have to consider is the faulty construction of these tanks. You have already stated your complaint that the batter is too steep? Yes; decidedly too steep.

1965. Do you mean that they are too steep to stand the action of the water, without reference to the watering of stock? Yes; there are some of them too steep for stock, and the wash of the water is so great that the banks wash away, although stock are not allowed into the tank at all. The wash of the water, when it is down 2 or 3 feet from the top, causes the sides to tumble in. The soil crumbles, and the water percolates through the friable ground, causing it to tumble in.

1966. Do you know what the usual batter is to Government tanks? No; I do not. I have never read the specifications for tanks; but I know that from having seen them, they are too steep.

1967. But, as a matter of fact, the batter of Government tanks is 2 to 1? Well, that is too steep.

1968. So that, if the specifications provide for a batter of 2 to 1, it is a mistake? Quite a mistake, I think. I do not know whether it would be in this particular country, or in particularly hard soil; although I am inclined to think that in all cases 2 to 1 is too steep a batter. Of course, we always make ours 3 to 1 and sometimes 4 to 1; and, even if the water was pumped out, we would do the same.

1969. *Chairman.*] Of course, in that dry country the amount of evaporation is very great, and the more you confine the water the less evaporation takes place? Yes; I am aware of that.

1970. Consequently, a long batter will lead to much more evaporation than a steep one? Yes, I know that is the case; but I think the disadvantages are greater than the advantages. Besides which, the Government are put to greater expense by having steep sides to their tanks. In the other tanks the stuff can be taken out anywhere with ploughs and scoops; but in a 2 to 1 tank this cannot be done, and consequently the cost of excavation would be increased. In some instances, where the soil is very hard, I think the batter could be made steeper—say 2 to 1—that is, if it were intended to pump out the water into troughs.

1971. Do you think it more desirable to pump the water out or to allow the stock to drink from the tank itself? I should say to pump the water out.

1972. In all cases? Yes; in all cases.

1973. Are you aware of more than one instance where the soil is very porous, and the effect of treading in the tanks makes it more firm, and improves it? I think all tanks would be improved if the stock were allowed to go in. I should let sheep in for two or three fillings, and then pump the water out afterwards, when the sides are solid. When the bank becomes retentive and will not allow the water to percolate, it is then preferable to pump the water out.

1974. *Major Penrose.*] Do you think that it would be detrimental to health to allow stock into a tank the water of which is used for human consumption? No; I have lived out there in that country for twenty years, and used the water all that time, more or less. In fact, we had no other water to use, and we felt no ill effects from it; but in some cases perhaps ill effects might arise. But I think if it had any such effects we would have heard of them.

1975. *Chairman.*] In certain localities, where the rainfall is fairly ample, you do not think there is the same necessity to conserve water or to use pumping machinery? Yes; and in illustration of what I say I may mention a tank in Lower Riverina which is not 10 feet deep, and this tank has never been dry for many years, although the stock have always been allowed into it.

1976. Now, are you aware that the Government pay very much more for the excavation of tanks than squatters? Yes; I am aware of that. In most cases the Government tanks are deeper than the squatter's tanks, and in other cases the specifications are much more severe than those under which squatters carry out their contracts. In some cases, indeed, the Government specifications are unnecessarily severe; they are too precise as to the batter and the distance as to which the earth has to be carted from the excavation. Then, I think, the system of progress payments is at fault; and it is very hard to get money from the Government, which deters a great many men from undertaking Government contracts. Contractors find very great difficulty sometimes in obtaining the concluding payment, having to wait for two or three months sometimes before they can get away. I know one working-man, having a large plant on his hands, who was anxious to go away and obtain another contract, and yet was unable to do so on account of the danger of disputes arising. I wrote about this to Mr. Bennett, and he at once made provision that Mr. Hanna, or some of his officers should make arrangements for examining the work, and after it was examined he telegraphed the money up to the contractor, which saved a great deal of delay; but even then the contractors had a long time to wait before the officers who examine the work can come round—perhaps once in three months. A man cannot run and get £10 or £20, as he could when doing station work. It would not pay him to go to Wilcannia or Hay to obtain such small sums.

1977. Consequently, it is only men with some means who can afford to tender for these works? Yes.

1978. And that necessarily lessens competition, then? Yes; I know some contractors who would not dream of tendering for Government work at all. I know some men who have done work for me at 1s. per cubic yard, and who, if they were tendering for the Government work, would charge 1s. 4d., for the reasons that I have stated; and even higher rates have been paid in some cases to my own knowledge.

1979. We have had it here in evidence that as much as 1s. 9d. per cubic yard has been paid? Yes; I have known 1s. 9d. to have been paid; and, owing to the severe conditions imposed upon him, I think the man was really entitled to demand a larger sum.

1980. Would not the distance from water increase the cost of the work? Yes; and in very many cases the contractors are bound to time, which, I think, also increases the cost. Very often, however, when the matter is fairly represented to the Commissioner for Roads, the contractor gets an extension of time.

- E. Quin. But in taking a contract a man always has this point in view—that he may be compelled to complete the work within a certain time.
- 16 Feb., 1888. 1981. One other matter. Sometimes, as you are aware, very hard strata is met with in sinking a tank that could not have been discovered by a trial shaft? Yes; I have known several shafts having been put down and still rock and cement were met with afterwards. I knew one case where an excavation was being carried out, and a rock like a pinnacle, or a column, was met with.
1982. The contractor, under the specifications adopted by the Government, would be compelled to excavate this at the same cost per yard as he would excavate earth? Yes.
1983. Had such a thing taken place on a squatter's station the squatter would make allowances—would he not? Yes; at Muntherungie—the station next to mine—Mr. Kennedy has paid 2s. 6d. for excavation of rock. This is a very stony part of the country, and rock is to be met with near the surface, so that unless he paid this high price he could not have got the work done at all. The squatter or his representative is always on the station, watching the work as it progresses, while the Government only send an officer at long intervals, so that some slight delay must of necessity take place; and then the severe conditions of the specifications rather frighten the men who are up there. In most cases, as I have said already, the Government tanks are much deeper than private tanks, and the finishing work required by them is very much nicer than the squatter exacts.
1984. Are there any other reasons for this increased cost? No; I think I might say that squatters, as a rule, allow their men to put the dirt around the slope, allowing it to form itself by the fall from the scoop; but the Government cause it to be battered and sloped, and the earth taken further away from the excavation; the top levelled, both inside and outside. The dirt must be perfectly sloped—which all means money, as in many cases it has to be finished with a tip dray. The squatter never exacts this. I must say that many of the Government works out there are splendidly done, though probably at a very much increased cost. Of course there are faults here and there in some of them; but many of them, as I have said, are splendidly executed.
1985. Now, as regards the expensive forms of machinery;—have you observed the kind of pumps used in lifting the water from these tanks? Yes; I have seen some of the pumps, both steam and horse power, used on several of these tanks. I think that unless they are used in raising the water over the embankments to pump water in, the steam pumps are unnecessary; but if the tank is in a good catching place, and the water has to be pumped out for the use of travelling stock only, I think hand pumps would meet all the requirements—say, with one or two men, when they were very busy, to help the caretaker. More particularly is this the case if there was a small reserve tank on top, of 10,000 or 20,000 gallons, to which the water could be pumped up in the caretaker's spare time.
1986. *Major Penrose.*] Is there not a service tank to be kept full? Sometimes the caretaker is there for weeks doing nothing.
1987. Then you think that steam pumps are not necessary? Yes; except where they can be used as a double pump, and in that case they are very necessary.
1988. *Chairman.*] Would the same objection apply to horse-power as to steam-power? The objection to horse-power is that in very bad times there is very little grass, and the feed has to be purchased, which in that dry country is very costly.
1989. But do not steam pumps involve the employment of a more intelligent and costly caretaker? Well, not always so. I know some very ordinary men who can work these pumps. The pumps are now so simple that with a few lessons any ordinary man can manage them.
1990. Then you would recommend that in all cases, except this you have mentioned, hand lifts should be used? Yes; I found the M'Comas pump a most useful machine, and I think it would be most useful for the purpose. Sometimes, if you had a sudden call upon it, it might be that it would take three or four men to get up a supply; but in such a case as that there would be a large number of men with the stock, and they could be made to help. Besides, the caretaker has sufficient time to keep his tanks full. I think, if necessary, it would be cheaper to have two men there if one man was not enough and sufficient men did not come with the cattle, than to have a steam pump.
1991. *Major Penrose.*] Did you ever make any representation to Mr. Bennett to that effect? No; but I told him that the machinery, unless there was a proper demand for it, would prove too costly. He said not; that he had some very simple pumps, which would be quite cheap. I remarked that what might suit the Government might not suit the squatters. Of course, in a very dry country, where a large number of stock had to be watered, an engine might be better than any other form of machinery; but where the thing is used only occasionally, and where a man is stationed as caretaker, I think that the hand pump would be ample, as in South Australia, where they use the tanks and wells ten months in the year. In that case steam pumps would be the cheapest, because of the large amount of work that had to be done.
1992. In using steam pumps you must have wood? Yes.
1993. Then the cost of supplying wood would be very considerable? We would try and collect a large amount of wood in good seasons; but, as a whole, I think that at the bulk of the watering places hand-power would be ample.
1994. For all requirements that are likely to arise for several years? I will not say that.
1995. These works are intended to be permanent, are they not? Yes; but hand pumps are very cheap, and might be replaced by-and-by, if another kind of machinery were required. What I mean to say is that it is not necessary in many cases to employ steam pumps.
1996. *Mr. Woore.*] But having steam pumps on these watering places now, you can see no object in removing them? No; except where fresh tanks have been sunk I should not employ them. In all cases, in wells steam machinery would be the best.
1997. *Chairman.*] We will now go on to the matter of fencing;—do you know of any fences that have been erected at too great a cost? No; I have never seen the specifications of the fences, but I have seen the fences themselves, and noticed them particularly.
1998. Do you think the fences round these tanks are unnecessarily expensive? Well, seeing that they are Government works, and that they have to last for a great number of years, I do not think so. They are very much dearer than the squatters' fences; but then they have a greater number of years to live. The posts are closer together than ours on runs, and in some cases they use more wires than we do; but then the pressure of travelling stock necessitates the erection of a strong fence.

1999. Would that apply to the fences round the caretaker's paddock, as well as to the fence which is put up as a protection round the tank? I think the fences round the caretaker's paddocks would do very well if they were lighter; but, as the tanks are there for all time, I think it is well that they should be protected by a good and substantial fence. A squatter has only a fifteen years' lease of his run; but the Government are there for all time. E. Quin.
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2000. Do you not think that the gauge of the wire is unnecessarily large? Well, we have found that No. 8 is ample, and that it lasts a great number of years.

2001. You think then that the larger gauge is unnecessary? Yes; except for the top wire. I think that No. 6 is not too large for a top wire. There is a difference between the squatters' fence and the fence round the tank. Large mobs of cattle come down from Queensland to these tanks, and they would probably rush about a good deal and knock the fence about, whereas a stronger wire would offer them more resistance. It could not be knocked about so much, and it would resist the pressure better under such circumstances.

2002. You are also aware that if No. 4 wire happens to be broken, it is impossible for one man to mend it? Yes; No 4 wire is like bar iron, but I think No. 6 might be mended by one man.

2003. So that in every case you think that No. 4 wire was unnecessary? Yes.

2004. Are you aware that some of these fences have cost at the rate of £120 per mile? No; I was not aware of that.

2005. So that under no circumstances should the fencing round the caretakers' paddocks have cost so much per mile? I certainly think it was unnecessarily costly. I think that fencing up to £70 or £80 per mile may be made quite ample for all purposes. The majority of fences that I have seen round public watering places are very good ones.

2006. Now, have you observed the gates that have been put up by the Government on entering these caretakers' paddocks? I do not think I noticed them particularly.

2007. *Major Penrose.*] Have you ever noticed any defect in the construction of this fencing, with regard to having no straining posts? No; I cannot say that I noticed any fences without straining posts. On the 70-mile track there is some fencing which has fewer straining posts than I would have put down.

2008. We have had it in evidence here that sometimes there is considerable interference with caretakers and others. For instance, a road superintendent may see some work which he thinks should be done by the caretaker. He can, of course, only report to his own superior officer, and then the matter has to be referred to the Mines Department and so on? Yes; I know a tank on the Paroo where Mr. Tully, the stock inspector, recommended that the place should be moved. He wrote down to his Department, and his recommendation had to be forwarded to the Works before the officer of the Works Department could report on the matter; and he had to proceed to this tank some considerable distance out of Wilcannia—some 170 or 180 miles—in order to report upon the alteration. He reported on it, and the alteration was carried out and cost £3. I am speaking now from hearsay. I am of opinion that the expense and salary of an inspector could have been saved if Mr. Tully, who is quite competent, had been allowed to alter the fence. I think the expenses of the man who went to report on the fence must have been very considerable, because he had to pay two visits, which must have been rather expensive, apart from the time lost. When I heard this I went and told the Minister for Mines, and said to him that I wished he would inquire into the matter in the public interest. Afterwards he told me he had done so. I had no interest in the matter beyond seeing that this wasteful expenditure was stopped. I think that these stock inspectors should be allowed to see to any little repairs that might be required after the tanks are handed over.

2009. *Chairman.*] Then, not only does this cause a large and useless expenditure of public money, but it produced friction between the two Departments? Yes; I should imagine that it would produce great friction.

2010. Are you aware of any excessive prices having been given by the Government for work, and that afterwards it was being sublet to other contractors? I have no positive knowledge on the subject; I only heard it.

2011. Are you aware of any faulty construction of wells, and particularly do you know of wells where all the head gear—the whim, and so forth—had been erected before any proof was obtained that water was there, or that it was of any value? No; I cannot say that, except under certain conditions, when the head gear would be required to haul up stuff, and when it could not be got up in any other way. There are no cheap ways of getting up the stuff without erecting a whim, and if you do not erect a whim, it will cost a great deal of money.

2012. Then you think that in all cases a water auger should be used to test whether there is any water there or not? Yes; if you can get the augers that are reliable. My experience in many cases is that where water augers have been used you cannot proceed any further if a choke occurs in the bore and a fault occurs with the tools. I certainly think that if you can get a shaft down it is better than boring.

2013. That can be done at a very small cost; but we have heard here that it costs £1,000 to sink a well? I think that is altogether too expensive.

2014. Are you aware, again, why the Government pay extra rates for sinking wells, as compared with the rates paid by private individuals? No; except that they exact very careful work, and are very particular about the kind of timber used. They excise any timber showing gum veins, although a squatter would accept it, and the conditions generally are very much more stringent than the squatters'. I have seen very good timber rejected, which might have been used with advantage.

2015. Have the huts for caretakers ever come under your observation? Yes; I have seen them in many instances. I think the wood is unnecessarily heavy, and in many cases the increased cost must be very considerable, because they are some distance from water. The erection of these cottages must have been a considerable item. I have seen some of the huts, which were 10 feet square, made of enormous blocks of wood which had to be carted 80 or 90 miles.

2016. *Major Penrose.*] I will read for you the specifications for huts. [*Specifications read.—See Appendix.*]? In the huts I put up I never used any timber stronger than 4 x 2, excepting in the ground-plates, which we would make 4 x 3. The uprights were mortised into these plates.

2017. *Chairman.*] Have tanks with troughing come under your notice? No; all the troughing that I saw I thought was very good generally. The early troughing was faulty, but the later troughing was very good; but I do not think that there was any fault to be attached to the officers for the early troughing, because

E. Quin. because it was the usual troughing adopted by squatters at that time. Latterly, the troughing has been very good, as I have said. It is of plated iron, which I consider very good indeed; so much so, that if I were putting it down again, I would try and get the same thing.

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2018. Is not composition sometimes put on this troughing? I think they paint it; but if it were galvanized I should think it would be better.

2019. Can you give us any reasons, except those already mentioned, why the apparent cost has been so great, and where the work has given so much dissatisfaction, although nothing is attributable to the officers of the Department who selected these sites. You know some of the gentlemen on the Works Department who have had the control of works in the interior? Yes.

2020. Was Mr. Wood one of them? No, he never had control; he was simply sent to select the site, and did it.

2021. Do you think that Mr. Wood is a competent person to undertake this duty? I would not like to say that. As to his competency, I think he is a professional man; but still I believe he has made mistakes.

2022. You think that a practical man would be very much preferable to select sites to a professional man? I should hardly like to say that, because a professional man should be very competent to select sites, take levels, and so forth; but I think that sufficient consideration has not been given to the opinions of local men. I think it would have been very much better had the officers asked the opinion of local men, and obtained a consensus of local information on the subject of sites for tanks. I really think it would have been better if the work were done, aided by two local men—no man to be consulted about work on his own run. With regard to progress payments, I think the managers of the runs adjacent to the work might be asked to measure it up, and I think that the Government might be fairly asked to pay it on their certificate. A great saving would thus be effected in the coach fares and salaries of inspectors, and so forth. Had I been asked to report whether a tank was 8 or 10 feet deep anywhere near my run, I could have sent down the information for a two-penny stamp. Outsiders there can help the Government considerably in the matter.

2023. *Major Penrose.*] Then, you think the fault is more in the system than in the individuals administering it? I certainly think so. An officer sent out there into that country by the head of his Department must do as he is instructed to do.

2024. *Chairman.*] Are there any other suggestions that you would wish to make, and which, in your opinion, might, if adopted, lessen the cost of these works to the country, and lessen the friction that has arisen between these two Departments? Well, I think one Department, if it could be done, ought to have control over these works. I do not mean to say that one should have the construction and maintenance; but in that case a good deal of expense might be saved, as in the instance I mentioned before, where the tanks and wells were in the same locality, and where two different officers were required to inspect and report on them before they were handed over to the Mines Department. Here was an instance of two officers having to go out and spend their time in examining watering places which were within 10 miles of each other.

2025. Consequently, in the event of one Department having the whole management of these works in its hands, no friction could arise in future? No; no friction at all. It could not happen. I know a case where a site selected by the officer of one Department was condemned by the officer of the other Department; and yet the tank was constructed. One said that the tank was not in a suitable site—that the water would not flow into it—and hence this great delay has occurred.

2026. Then I presume this had to be referred to some one else? Yes; to another Department. One Department recommends and constructs, and the other takes it over and maintains the works.

2027. Then, in the event of a disagreement, to whom is the matter referred? It is settled in Sydney in some way—how, I cannot say; but such a thing necessarily produces a great deal of friction, because each Department naturally defends its own officer.

2028. Have you any other suggestions to make? Only this: that a large number of cattle come down from Queensland, and these cattle, in conjunction with our own, use tanks which have been made at great cost. I think they might very fairly be called on to pay something for the advantages thus afforded to them when they get their permit to travel, whether they use the water or not. Stock-owners in this Colony have no such advantages in the other Colonies; they have to pay a stock tax. We have made this water for the stock, and even if the seasons are good we should not be asked to lose the interest on the money that has been expended on making these works. Cattle from the other Colonies use our grass for two or three months during the year, and drink our water, for which they do not pay a farthing. In fact, they get their grass and water for nothing, while residents of the Colony have to pay rent for the stock routes which these cattle graze over for nothing.

2029. *Major Penrose.*] Besides being taxed indirectly for the works themselves? Yes; I think it would be a very fair charge to make for stock coming in. In addition to that a small charge might be necessary on the runs of the Colony.

2030. *Chairman.*] Have you any other suggestions to make, or any information to give, especially in regard to excessive cost and what has been called red-tapeism? Well, I don't think that I have anything to add. I fancy that more use might be made of local help in the selection of sites. In Queensland, where I have a station, my manager is a member of the Divisional Board, and all such works are done by that body. There is no costly engineering skill needed at all. Four or five of these men construct all the tanks, the cost of which comes partly out of the Consolidated Revenue and partly out of taxation imposed on the station-owners themselves by the Divisional Board Act; so that care is taken that there is no wasteful expenditure of public money, and that tanks are only constructed where they are immediately required. As soon as new tanks are required they are constructed.

2031. So that you would hand the whole thing, the control, supervision, and construction, over to the local boards? Certainly, if we had a Local Government Bill. That is our experience in Queensland, and it has been found to work very well. Victoria can hardly be compared to this Colony, because it is much smaller in area; but New South Wales is capable of a very fair comparison with Queensland. All local works, such as tanks and wells for the passage of stock, a local body has to construct. In doing this work they are subsidised by the Government, and the arrangement has been found to work splendidly. I have to find my share in the taxation, under the Divisional Board system; but then I get a *quid pro quo* in the benefits received.

2032. *Major Penrose.*] Supposing the construction and maintenance of these public watering places were all vested in one Department, the change would not necessarily have any effect in decreasing the excessive cost of construction in the first instance? I think it would. You must, I think, take into consideration in each case what it costs the various officers to travel about to these tanks. I think a very considerable saving might be effected if you had one officer doing this work instead of two or three.

2033. Yes; but the road superintendents would be wanted there whether tanks were made or not, and a stock inspector would be required just the same? Yes; but my arrangement would reduce the travelling expenses. All payments to contractors might be very much expedited and progress payments made on the certificate of certain persons named for that purpose, instead of waiting for months for some person to come and inspect the works. This would reduce the cost very much. The contractors are sometimes reduced to destitution in waiting for their money, and the practice begets a feeling among the men that they will not be readily settled up with.

[The Commission adjourned until the afternoon, when the sitting was resumed.]

Hugh Giffen M'Kinney called in and examined:—

2034. *Mr. Woore.*] What are you? I am a civil engineer.

2035. Are you at present employed by the Mines Department? Yes.

2036. In connection with tanks and wells? No; I have nothing to do with tanks and wells. I am engaged in work connected with water conservation.

2037. Can you give us any information as to the faulty judgment in the selection of sites for tanks and wells: Are you aware of any tanks which are not properly situated? No; I am not. I have never seen one of the Government tanks at all, but I have seen plenty of those belonging to the squatters.

2038. Then the only thing you can give us evidence about is the question of divided control? Yes; that is about the only thing I can give evidence on.

2039. *Major Penrose.*] I would like to ask you some general questions in connection with the engineering part of tanks and wells, the specifications, and plans, before we proceed any further? I wish you would allow me to state at the outset that I have not given any special attention to the construction of tanks and wells. I have been employed all my lifetime in connection with works for water conservation and supply, but they have been all of a different kind.

2040. Complaint has been made with regard to the design of the Government tanks. In regard to the steepness of the batters and sizes of the tanks, it has been stated that the batters are a great deal too steep, and that they wash away through the action of the waves. The batter I am telling you of seems to be 2 to 1? With regard to that matter, the best way I should think would be to decide each case on its individual merits. I should not be disposed to lay down any general rule in dealing with such a matter.

2041. *Mr. Woore.*] You think that a hard and fast rule would not be advisable? No; I do not think so.

2042. And that each tank ought to be constructed in accordance with the nature of the ground in which it is to be put down? Yes; I think that in many cases a batter of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 would be amply sufficient. However, that is a matter which varies in every part of the country.

2043. *Major Penrose.*] Do you think that generally a slope of 2 to 1 would be sufficient for a batter to a tank where it is intended to pump the water out into troughs for the stock? Yes; in all parts of the country where I have been I think a 2 to 1 batter would stand very well—that is where stock are not allowed in the water; but I understand that the practice has been nearly, if not quite, given up—I mean the practice of watering the stock direct from the tank.

2044. Now, it has been said that the waves will wash away the banks;—would that not be likely to occur, even if the batter were 3 to 1? It would occur undoubtedly, though not to the same extent with a flat slope as with a steep one.

2045. Another point has struck me that, in any case, even supposing the batter is too steep, and that the height of water is at the average level, this washing away can make no practical difference, because the amount that falls into the bottom is gained at the top? That is quite correct to a certain extent; but a shallow tank loses more by evaporation than a deep one.

2046. But would the amount of stuff that would fall in from this cause materially reduce the depth of water in a tank in which there was a large excavation of, say, 20,000 yards? There are some cases in which it would. It is astonishing how quickly a tank silts up. I have heard of a tank filling up partly from silt and partly from the falling in of the banks so rapidly that when an experienced pastoralist expected to find 11 or 12 feet of water, he found only six.

2047. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you approve of the principle of making the batters of tanks as steep as the ground will allow, with the object of exposing as little of the surface of the water as possible to evaporation? In the main, that is a sound principle to go upon.

2048. And you think that generally a batter of 2 to 1 is not too much for most soils? Well, it would stand in most places that I have seen; but of course that is a thing which varies very greatly. I know that there is ground near Urana that would stand a batter of 1 in 1 very well; but this is stuff which the people in that locality call cement.

2049. Would making embankments round a tank so shelter it as to reduce the amount of evaporation to an appreciable extent;—would it not shelter the water from wind? I think on the whole that it would, if the banks were any considerable height, and the water was three or four feet beneath the surface of the ground. The banks being 10 feet high, that certainly would have some effect in diminishing the amount of evaporation.

2050. What have you to say with regard to the evil effects of this dual control and the friction which goes on, and how it may be obviated? I think it is a very objectionable thing on all grounds to have the matter of water conservation divided as it is at present. At present this question is more or less in charge of three Departments—the Harbours and Rivers Department, the Roads and Bridges Department, and the Mines Department. You will find in Mr. Bennett's evidence before the late Commission for the Conservation of Water that he said he had no control over water conservation except in regard to tanks and wells, while another Department had charge of the rivers and creeks, and a third Department—the Mines—had the management of the tanks and wells after they were constructed.

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2051. In what way has this misunderstanding or friction occurred;—from your observation, can you mention any instance of it? No; personally I have not been brought into contact with any friction at all, but I think it very objectionable to have this work divided.

2052. Can you suggest a remedy? Yes; I think such an arrangement as that in vogue in Victoria would be a better one than that which exists here. In the Government of this Colony we have no Department of Water Supply at all. As I have already pointed out, the matter is divided between three Departments in this Colony; and the subject is not considered as anything but a minor one in any of them. In Victoria they have not only got a separate Department of Water Supply, but they also have a Minister for Water Supply; and in addition to that they have elaborately divided the country into Water Trusts.

2053. *Major Penrose.*] Under a system of local government? Yes; they have local government there.

2054. Have you had any experience of that? Yes; I visited these Water Trusts in Victoria, and know the Engineer for Water Supply personally.

2055. How does the system work? It works very well indeed. The question of water supply and of water conservation is looked upon in Victoria as one of the greatest questions before the Colony, although Victoria requires the conservation of water less than we do here. Besides that, they have a very much smaller territory, having only 86,000 square miles, as compared with our 311,000 square miles.

2056. *Mr. Woore.*] And their rainfall is greater than ours? Taken on the whole, it is.

2057. Therefore, do you think that such a system of water conservation is even more necessary in New South Wales than in Victoria? Yes, it is.

2058. Can you explain the working of this system? In Victoria they have a small central staff which makes up what is called the Water Supply Department. That staff has chiefly to do with examining projects proposed by the different Water Trusts. When these projects are prepared, the Government Engineer for Water Supply decides upon whether they can be recommended to the Government or not. There is only one engineer, and if he decides in favour of the works proposed by the Water Trusts, the Government either lend the money or guarantees a loan to the Trusts for the construction of the works. In the case of large works, such as the weir on the Goulburn River, the Government take it up and deal with it, as what is considered a national work—a work which is beyond the scope of the Trusts. There is another project now being started, and that is the irrigation and water supply to the Western Wimmera district. The Engineer-in-charge sent me over a copy of his report recently, and from that I perceive that one portion of the work is to be dealt with as a national work, and the remainder is to be done by the Trust.

2059. *Major Penrose.*] Then, does each Trust employ civil engineers of its own? Yes; but the Government Engineer has supervision over them.

2060. And are these works in any way similar to the works carried out in this Colony? They go very much beyond our works. I think it is no exaggeration to say that Victoria is at least ten years ahead of us in the matter of water conservation and water supply. They have a very elaborate piece of legislation, which was passed in 1886, and which they admitted was to some extent founded on our Bill which appeared in the first report of the Water Conservation Commission, which was drafted by myself.

2061. *Mr. Woore.*] What is the title of that Act? So far as I can recollect, it is called the Water Supply and Irrigation Act of 1886. I am not sure that this is the exact title; but I believe it is.

2062. And from your experience you can say that this system works well in Victoria? Yes; it has worked very well, and has proved to be very satisfactory.

2063. And is economical—no waste of money? Economical, yes; and no chance of waste of public money; because the people for whose benefit the work is constructed have to pay rates on the money advanced to them.

2064. I presume these works bring in a revenue which covers the cost of construction and maintenance? Precisely.

2065. *Major Penrose.*] These Local Trusts see that the works pay? Yes, they do. In the case of that new work started in the Wimmera, I think the result shows very well how successful the previous works have been. Before the matter was brought forward, works had been carried out to the north of the Wimmera to the extent of £160,000 or £170,000, and the people to the south of the river have been so satisfied with what they saw done there that they guaranteed interest on about £340,000 to carry out works in their district.

2066. Are any non-professional men employed in the construction or supervision of these works, or are they entirely constructed by skilled engineers? They are planned and constructed by qualified engineers. In fact, they are not only designed by qualified engineers to the Trusts, but they have to be passed by the Government Engineer, who has the power to recommend any amendment, and the power to refuse to pass them at all if he considers that they are not suitable.

2067. *Mr. Woore.*] What sort of works have they constructed in Victoria for the supply of water to travelling stock;—are there any wells or tanks there? I know they have a number of tanks.

2068. Have you seen any of these tanks? No; but I have seen the designs. I went to inspect a number of their weirs on the Wimmera and other rivers, and also the channels for the distribution of the water. I was looking at the matter from a wider point of view, and did not go to see the tanks. Besides, some of them were in out-of-the-way places.

2069. Do you think the system adopted in Victoria would be a very proper one to adopt in this Colony generally? Generally speaking, it would be. I am not referring now to the supply of water to the travelling stock routes of this Colony. I doubt whether it would do to place our tanks and wells in charge of local bodies, because it is often to the interest of local authorities not to have water in their district for travelling stock. There may be a few men who do not wish to see travelling stock pass through their district.

2070. Can you suggest any system that you think would work better than the present one for watering our stock routes, and for the construction and control of these works;—do you think the Victorian system the best? The system would not work in that respect so well. The system they have in Victoria is to a large extent different, so that it is difficult to compare the two in detail. In the case of these works in the Wimmera district, they expect to be able to irrigate many thousands of acres of land. With them the watering of stock is merely a secondary matter; but with regard to the construction of tanks on our travelling stock routes, I really do not think that any professional skill is required in constructing them sufficiently well for all purposes. For instance, the manager of a pastoral station is always supposed to be quite

quite skilled in the construction of tanks, and must be able to arrange for the construction of such improvements for the station. I fancy, therefore, that similar men should be well able to do the work here, and in a satisfactory manner. I know that in the Mines Department they have at least two such men who have had large station experience.

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2071. Do you think that station watering places can be compared with Government work required for the watering of stock along these stock routes? Yes; I think so. The requirements in both cases are nearly the same; but, of course, in the matter of tanks and wells, I must speak with a certain amount of reservation, because I have no actual experience of them, and I have had nothing to do with their construction and maintenance.

2072. *Major Penrose.*] Are you aware that those who construct private tanks and wells very often make great mistakes as regards the sinking of wells unnecessarily? I believe they sometimes do.

2073. Do not their dams sometimes wash away? Yes; but on the other hand I know that I have frequently found the squatters could beat the Government in the matter of economical construction.

2074. It has been said to us here that correct knowledge in well-sinking has only been gained by bitter experience in some cases, and at the cost of large sums of money? No doubt mistakes have been made by private individuals as well as by the Government officers.

2075. And do you not think that non-professional men would be likely to make greater mistakes than professional men with local experience? Well, yes, that is true; but very often work in out-of-the-way districts has had to be entrusted to men who have had little experience in such matters, and who know very little about the requirements of the pastoralists and of people who have travelling stock passing. The men who are most likely to understand such matters best are the men who have been on stations themselves. With regard to that matter, I should say that non-professional men are more likely to make mistakes than professional men with experience; but in reality, I think, in reference to the construction of such tanks and wells as are required, there is very little professional knowledge wanted beyond what good station managers would necessarily possess.

2076. *Mr. Woore.*] Are there any other points on which you can give us information? I am really not aware that there are any others.

2077. *Major Penrose.*] Do you know anything about the Queensland Water Trusts? I have had no experience of those bodies; but I have seen the different Acts that have been passed relating to water supply there. Victoria is the only Colony besides this that I have inquired into fully, and the working of whose Department of Water Supply I have seen.

2078. We have been told that a great waste of money has taken place in connection with the construction of Hovell's dam by some officers of the Works Department. The dam was placed across a creek, and a by-wash cut through the solid rock. It has been said that this was quite unnecessary, as there was a natural by-wash that would have been sufficient? Well, if the statement given is correct that there is a good natural by-wash, I cannot understand why one should have been cut through the rock.

2079. Is not that a matter that could be determined only by carefully taking the levels on the spot? It could be determined only by careful levelling, and by an examination of the nature of the ground. It might be possible for somebody (if he had seen the site in high flood time) to have got a very good idea of the levels by the extent of water and the rate of flow. It certainly would endanger the dam unless the ground was very hard if there be a rapid fall in the natural by-wash of a large flow of water.

2080. Then you think that there might have been very good reasons for cutting that by-wash through the natural rock? If there was a fall of 6 feet in 20 chains, and the nature of the ground was not satisfactory, I can quite understand that there was reason for it.

2081. *Mr. Woore.*] Allowing the ground to be good, would not a large body of water coming down there be liable to scour away the end of this dam? A good deal depends upon whether the end of the dam is upon low or high ground. If the surface of the water just touched the end of the dam it might be quite safe. Unless the ground were rocky or something approaching to it, the water would scour it away if any large quantity of water passed out,—that is, assuming a fall of 6 feet in 20 chains. If only a small quantity passed it would not effect it in the same way.

2082. *Major Penrose.*] We have had it in evidence that the ground on one side is very flat, and if that be so, would not a great body of water be likely to get away? Yes; if that were the case; but these plans appear to be rather incomplete, as they do not give a cross-section of the natural by-wash, nor afford any information as to the nature of the ground or the discharge of the creek.

FRIDAY, 17 FEBRUARY, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R.E.,

J. C. WOORE, Esq.

John Edward Kelly called in and examined:—

2083. *Chairman.*] Where do you reside? I live at Trangie, on the western line of railway.

2084. What are you? I am a grazier, miner, and employed at other things.

J. E. Kelly,

2085. You are a Member of Parliament? Yes; I represent the Electorate of the Bogan in the Legislative Assembly.

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2086. You are aware of the objects of this Commission? I am aware that you are inquiring into the management and working of the public watering places of the Colony.

2087. You know that the construction and management of public watering places are not under the control of the same Department of Government? I have heard recently that they are not; but of my own knowledge I do not know it. I have simply heard of it.

2088. Has it ever come under your notice that tanks have been sunk in improper positions as regards catchment, and so forth? Yes; I should certainly say so

2089.

J. E. Kelly. 2089. Can you name one or two of these tanks? Yes; the Nevertire tank, which was recently constructed, and which could, I think, have been put in a much better position. There are also one or two tanks between Nyngan and Cobar which are not properly situated, but I cannot remember their names at the present moment.

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2090. *Major Penrose.*] Was one of them called Muriel? I would not know it by that name. I merely know by travelling along the road between Cobar and Nyngan that there are tanks not in their proper places.

2091. *Chairman.*] Just state your reasons for thinking so? Well, they are not put upon clay-pans, which are the best catchment grounds existing in that neighbourhood, and some of the tanks are sunk in alluvial formation. There are large clay-pans, as Mr. Woore knows, in that locality, which would form an excellent catching ground, whereas I have seen these tanks put down in alluvial flats, where it requires very heavy rain to fill them. Besides, the soil does not hold so well, and they are more apt to silt up, and generally to be more perishable than tanks put in other places. Catchment on the clay-pans is infinitely better than on these sloping alluvial places. I cannot remember any exact place at the present moment.

2092. *Mr. Woore.*] But you particularised one tank? Yes; the Nevertire tank; and every one who sees that will admit that it could be infinitely better placed nearer the clay-pan than it is?

2093. *Chairman.*] If it were so placed, would it have been on the stock route? Yes, it would, and near the railway. I am going greatly by the opinions of others who have seen the place when it was under water.

2094. Have you any wells in that neighbourhood? Yes, I have one.

2095. Does the same remark apply to wells? Yes; there was a well at Nevertire, sunk by the Railway Department.

2096. But no wells for stock? There are no wells in the neighbourhood of Nevertire or Trangie that come under this heading.

2097. Have you any fault to find with the construction of tanks and with the specifications? Yes; so far as I have seen in my whole life, the works constructed by the Government for the watering of stock are, in my opinion, all mistakes—in many instances I believe them to be a waste of public money.

2098. In what way? Speaking of the most recent job—I must term it that—which has come under my notice—the Nevertire tank—has cost an enormous sum of money.

2099. We will go into the matter of cost presently; we are now speaking of the formation? The batters are too steep, and will not hold water as well as a tank with a proper slope. I will explain my experience in these things. The batters of tanks which have been made by the Government are all too steep, and hence the water will escape from them. It will percolate through the soil; whereas, if the batter had a slope of 1 in 4, or 1 in $3\frac{1}{2}$, the sediment from the water would choke the porous ground, and make these tanks hold like tanks with cemented bottoms. This is my experience and the experience of everybody who has done much tank sinking.

2100. Do you know what the specifications require with regard to the batter? I really do not; but I have seen all the tanks, and I can say that their batters are too steep.

2101. Would 2 to 1 be too steep? Most undoubtedly it would, for the simple reason that water that settled in a tank of 2 to 1 would allow its sediment to fall to the bottom instead of allowing it to go on to the sides, and fill up the porous soil in that part of the tank. It is a well known fact that the sediment in the muddy water will choke the porous ground. I am certain of this, because I tried the experiment last week in soil almost purely sand.

2102. That would apply in particular cases. Of course tanks are sometimes sunk in good retentive soil, and in that case would a sloping batter be required? Yes; even in good retentive soil. There is gypsum even in clay-pans, which runs in veins or seams through the soil below, and allows the water to pass through the sides. The sediment does not fall direct on these passages in steep slopes and choke it up, and any soil requires the sediment in the water to choke up the porous portions of it. Even clay will take in a certain amount of water if it is left in its natural state. It is very fine sediment (which falls from the water when the water is in a muddy condition) which makes them hold. This chokes almost any kind of ground if there is enough muddy water flowing into the tank—that is, if the batters are sufficiently sloping to catch the sediment. The very best tank and the soundest ground I ever saw leaked because there were a few roots of trees in the wall; but since they have been cut out and the ground puddled, the tank has been all right.

2103. This Nevertire tank—is it a tank from which the water is pumped into troughs, or is it one of these tanks into which the stock is allowed to go in and drink? I just now heard a gentleman who took some stock there that badly required watering, and which were going to be trucked to market, say that the stock went to the troughs and would not drink from them; so that, from the information I have gathered, I should say that the tank is one where there are troughs.

2104. You are not aware of your own knowledge whether stock go into this tank to drink or not? No; but I believe the water is pumped into troughs.

2105. From what you have just stated, do you think that where tanks are constructed for watering stock directly, or for pumping, that they require a sloping batter? Yes; a tank with a sloping batter will hold much better—of that I am positive—and admit also of stock watering in the natural way.

2106. *Major Penrose.*] Do you know of your own knowledge that any of these Government tanks do not hold water from the cause you have just specified? Of course I do. I know that they lose their water more quickly than another tank, and I attribute that loss to the cause I have stated. The tank which lasts longest, in my opinion, is a tank with a sloping batter, and not a steep one.

2107. But would not puddling by the stock have something to do with the holding power of the tank? Puddling may be a very good thing; but sediment is the secret of it. I have some small tanks myself in porous soil which have been rendered retentive by tailings from a battery, which choked the drift.

2108. Are you quite certain that sediment will not lie on a batter of 2 to 1? I am quite certain of it. I tried it only last week in a small way.

2109. *Chairman.*] Now, it is stated here in evidence that the cost of the construction of these tanks has been excessive. Are you aware that the cost of these Government tanks has been more than the cost of tanks put down by private individuals? For me to say that of my own knowledge is impossible; but I have seen figures proving that the cost is greater. I cannot; but if the prices which are notorious, and which the contractors say they have received for putting down these tanks, are the true prices, then I say that at least

least twice the value of these tanks is paid away for their construction. I will undertake myself to put down a similar tank to this one at Nevertire for one-half the money, and to make a better tank for all practical purposes.

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2110. What rate could you get the Nevertire tank done for? Sixpence per yard. I am getting tanks sunk within 10 or 12 miles of this place for 6d. per yard.

2111. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you know what the cost of the Nevertire tank was? No, I do not; only from hearsay; all I know is that I am getting tanks put down for much less money.

2112. *Chairman.*] In stating that Government tanks are too steep in their slope of 2 to 1, do you not think the slope would be ample in the case of troughing being employed? I think the fall is too much. I have known of one case where, in consequence of the sides being too steep, they fell in.

2113. Do you think the slope here in these plans is sufficient to allow the working of ploughs and scoops? Yes, I think so.

2114. *Major Penrose.*] And you think the slope here shown is sufficiently flat? Yes; even to allow ploughs and scoops to take the soil out; the plans, too, show too gentle a slope, in my opinion. I am positive that the tanks which I have seen have much steeper sides than are shown on the plan.

2115. *Chairman.*] I understand you to say that in your own tanks you always insisted on a slope of 1 to 3½? Yes; but the people who sink the Government tanks either do it wrongly or the plans before us are wrong.

2116. What do you mean by a slope of 1 in 3? I mean a 3 feet slope to 1 in depth; you descend 3 feet by slope to 1 foot perpendicularly. That plan shows too much slope for me, or else I do not understand it. I know what is termed 1 in 4 by practical men is a lesser slope than what is shown on that plan.

2117. Do you think that a slope of 2 to 1 or 1 in 2 mean the same thing? No, I do not think so; 2 to 1 does not mean the same thing as 1 in 2.

2118. Here is the specification of the Nevertire tank of which we are speaking, from which it appears that the slope is 2 to 1? I do know that if these works were carried out according to the sketch before us, which is said to be a slope of 2 to 1, it would be possible for sheep to water on a fall like that. But sheep cannot stand, nor can anything else, on the slope of the tanks made by the Government.

2119. You were speaking of the excessive cost of construction, and you stated that you could get work similar to that which was done at the Nevertire and other tanks performed for 6d. per yard. I see here that the excavation of this Nevertire tank cost 1s. 1½d. per cubic yard? Well, I am getting tanks sunk within 15 miles of Nevertire for 6d. per cubic yard. I am finding the men scoops and ploughs, and lend them a team of working bullocks, and this tank will answer all the purposes better than the Government tank at Nevertire.

2120. *Mr. Woore.*] But in this case you are supplying ploughs, and scoops, and cattle? Yes; but that is nothing at all to me.

2121. Nothing to you; but a good deal to the contractor? No; not much to him. It might be about 2d. per cubic yard more. Having the things, it is no loss to me to allow the contractor to use them; but they would bring the cost up to about 8d. per yard if they had to be found.

2122. *Chairman.*] Can you in any way account for the fact why the Government have to pay so much more than you? The thing is to be accounted for by the way in which the earth is removed, and from the fact that the stuff has to be taken out by one roadway and brought all round the tank. This, in my opinion, costs 2d. or 3d. per yard more than if the earth were removed from all sides of the tank, and were the whole batter a roadway. Any one can see that a horse can go up a batter such as is described, if driven sideways along the batter. I think a batter should be as steep as possible, so long as it allowed sheep to water on it.

2123. Are you aware whether Government tanks are, as a rule, deeper than private tanks? I believe they are.

2124. Would that add to the cost? It would.

2125. Then from the nice manner in which the trimming is required to be done in Government tanks do you not think the cost is increased? Yes; but to a very small extent. Of course all these little things make up.

2126. Would carrying earth 30 feet away from the top of the excavation increase the cost of the work? Well, very few people have their muck thrown less than 30 feet away. It would be taken down again by the sheep in going to water. I always make my people put the stuff from 30 to 40 feet away from the tank.

2127. Are there any other reasons why the Government should pay more money for their work than private individuals? Well, in most cases the contractors have, I believe, to supply themselves with water. They are asked to put down tanks in dry and isolated country, where, perhaps, there is no water with which they can make a start, and they have to go to considerable expense in putting down supply tanks for their own use before they can commence to work. Then they must wait until these supply tanks are full; when we know that the practice of the lessee, or squatter, or private individual is not to go to this cost, but have some preparation made for those who go to put down the tank. But the Government would have nothing to do with these preliminaries, which I think might reasonably be put down as being worth 1d. or 2d. per yard to be added to the cost. This would not occur at a place like Nevertire, where there is water in the immediate neighbourhood.

2128. When a squatter has a tank finished;—I presume when he measures it he pays his men right away? Yes.

2129. Was that done in the case of the Government tanks? No; I have often heard of men having to wait a considerable time for their money.

2130. Weeks or months? I have heard that they had to wait a long time, on account of the Department not having an officer to send to measure up the tank. I do not like to exaggerate anything, but I have heard that men have had to wait several months for their money. Then there is the possibility of disagreements taking place about the carrying out of the work, and in taking work from the Government men have to calculate this as a big item, and it is regarded as such by the contractors. The interference of inspectors, and the delays occasioned by the Government in making payments, is also regarded as another big item in taking Government contracts. Then, again, alterations have frequently to be made, so that contractors necessarily allow a margin for all these reasons. This is what I have heard from all sides; and this is what I complain mostly of, and not that the contractor is paid too much.

J. E. Kelly. 2131. Consequently, it necessitates that men who undertake Government contracts shall be men of some capital? Yes, it takes men with some means, and also men who can find security for the proper performance of the work. Whereas with private individuals, who require excavations made, the doing of the work is regarded as being a sufficient security. They pay about 75 per cent. of their money before the work has been completed.

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2132. Are you aware what the Government pay as progress payments? I am not aware of it.

2133. As a matter of fact it is 50 per cent. Then, as a necessary consequence, contractors for Government work being necessarily men of means, the number of tenders becomes reduced? Yes; the number of men who are able to do the work. It is only special men who have friends who can undertake Government contracts. Men who have friends who will guarantee the work shall be properly performed are the only men who can get contracts, and I have known instances where these contracts have been sublet—I am going outside the question of tanks now—for one-half the money which the original contractors have received from the Government. The men who actually do the work are the men who receive the reduced rates of pay.

2134. Have you ever noticed the kind of machinery used at these tanks for pumping water into the troughs? Yes.

2135. What kind of machinery have you seen there—horse-power or steam? I have not particularly examined the machinery, but I think they are the Tangye and Blake pumps. These are the two that I saw.

2136. Do you think they are desirable machines for their purpose? Certainly not. I have no fault to find with the pumps, but I find fault with the principle. In my opinion they are not necessary; but, on the contrary, a waste of public money.

2137. Would the same remark apply to horse whims? To everything.

2138. How, then, would you have the water raised? I would not have it raised at all.

2139. You are aware that these tanks are used, not only for the purpose of watering stock, but that they are also intended for the use of human beings who may be travelling along these stock routes? Yes.

2140. Would not allowing stock to water at these tanks pollute the water very much in periods of drought, and so make it unfit for human use? Well, it was never considered so in my time. We always got our water out of the tank that the stock watered at. It might be injurious to health, though.

2141. It never hurt you? Oh, no; it never hurt me; I have been drinking water of that sort nearly all my life. But it is possible to filter enough water for human use, or have it in a little drainage tank, and allow it to percolate through charcoal, to filter it or in some other way fit it for human use, if that point arises.

2142. Would not the continual treading of stock round these tanks tend to fill them up? No, not at all; especially not with the Government tanks.

2143. Are you aware that sometimes in hot weather sheep will plunge into the tank and swim about, carrying a great deal of the water away? I am aware that sheep are accused of doing that, but it is not true. I know that where a big flock of sheep are allowed to go of a rush to water at one time, one will shove the other into the water, and thus cause it to carry away a large quantity of water in its fleece, thus spoiling the wool and wasting the water. But if a proper number of sheep were allowed to water at one time, no sheep would do more than wet its ankles in taking a drink. That is to say—on only a surface of 400 feet no more than 500 sheep should be allowed to go to water at one time. No sheep will go into the water of its own accord; but when a thirsty flock is allowed to go to water at one time, the pressure of those behind will shove the leaders forward, and they will then be forced into the water; but sheep are very timid, and will not go into the water if they can help it. They will wet no more than their toes, keeping clear of the water if they can.

2144. Then, you think the tanks should all be open to the public, and that consequently they would not require caretakers? No; I do not say that; I think it would be well to have caretakers on these tanks who might be paid a small amount for looking after them, and be allowed to supplement their incomes by keeping a small store or a refreshment-room or something of that sort. But I certainly would not like to see these tanks placed at the mercy of a run-holder in a dry country. I would have a caretaker employed wherever there was sufficient income from a tank to pay the cost, whose income, as I have said, might be supplemented by a little store or refreshment room.

2145. Do you think the people specially appointed for that purpose—say, road-inspectors, travelling continuously—would be sufficient to prevent any damage to these particular works, and so save the expense of keeping a caretaker at every tank? I think the cure would be as bad as the disease. I think these ride-about gentlemen would cost as much as a caretaker, and we might want two after all. A good deal would depend upon the circumstances and the sort of men we would have. The safest thing to do would be to leave the caretakers where they are, make the water available, and charge a reasonable sum for it.

2146. What is the probable cost to the Government of keeping caretakers at each tank? Circumstances, I believe, alter cases; there are tanks which employ caretakers at salaries ranging from £60 a year, and I think that is all that is required myself. I know one man who pays £60 per year for the privilege of keeping a store at one of these Government tanks, so that it costs the Government sometimes £60 per year to get done what a private person pays £60 a year to be allowed to do. So that under such circumstances it is impossible to draw the line.

2147. *Major Penrose.*] When these tanks were originally made, was the system the same as at present;—were there not two separate tanks, one for drinking out of, the other being the main reservoir? Oh, I see now what you mean. If the level was the same in both tanks, which were connected by a pipe, the water in the tank in which the stock drank might be replenished from time to time from the other tank. That, no doubt, is the proper way; but you cannot water stock in the first instance out of troughs. Stock which never saw troughs before will not drink out of them. They must be taught to do it. It would be possible I think, to make very much better provision to water stock in the manner suggested by a second tank than out of troughs. I see now what you mean; of course it would be infinitely better than to have troughs.

2148. Well, it was deliberately given up, after experience, in favour of troughs? Well, but we do not know who gave it up; I have been through the country for the last 30 years, and have had tanks and wells myself, and I say that second tanks must be an improvement upon troughs; but even this is not needed.

2149. *Chairman.*] Do you know anything about the fences round the tanks and round the caretakers paddocks? Yes; there are fences round the paddocks.

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2150. And do you think that these fences round the tanks to protect them from the travelling stock, and the fences round the caretakers' paddocks, are too costly or otherwise? Yes; like all other Government work they cost twice the money which should have been paid for them.

2151. Why do they cost too much? The work is too good, for one thing.

2152. Do you mean that the posts are too close together? Well, it is no more a lasting fence than a lighter fence. A lighter wire fence would do just as well, and would cost no more than a third of the money. The posts are too heavy and too close together, and the wire is too heavy. The whole thing seems to me to have cost double what fencing that would answer all purposes should have cost.

2153. Would that apply to fences round the caretakers' paddocks as well? Of course you would recommend a substantial fence round the tanks to protect them from stock? No; the fences are too costly. In every instance the fences are far too costly in their character, and are no more permanent than a lighter fence. Speaking of these fences round paddocks and tanks, I really think they answer one good purpose; that is, they help materially to keep the tank from silting up. Around station tanks the ground is cut up in the immediate neighbourhood into fine dust, and the first fall of rain carries the dust in the shape of mud into the tank. This leaves a great deal of sediment at the bottom of the tank. Of course I am now speaking of squatters' tanks.

2154. Is that not remedied by having a silt-tank? I do not think so, because the water comes in in a muddy condition, and brings in the sediment with it; besides some people have no silt-tank at all. I was pointing to the good done by the fencing round the caretakers' paddocks, because it does not allow the catchment to be cut up. This is a very great advantage, and saves the tank from silting up. So far as the injury done by stock walking on the batter, if they make a hill they make a hole which fills up again; thus they do not fill up any of the water space.

2155. Have you ever heard of any interference with caretakers and of overseers by officers of another Department? Have you ever had any interference reported to you of roads superintendents with caretakers? No; I did not know of it till recently. I did not know until then that the whole thing was not under one Department. I never heard of any squabbles between the officers of the two Departments until recently.

2156. Are there any Government wells in the neighbourhood that you have seen? I do not know one Government well that is used for the purpose of watering stock. I know of them, but not from personal knowledge.

2157. Has the hutting put up for caretakers ever come within your observation? No, I have seen nothing too costly in that. All the huts that I have seen left me under the impression that they were built by the caretakers themselves. They seem to me to be bark "humpys." I have not been in the back country for five or six years, but between Coonamble and Warren I noticed one man when I was there who appeared to be living in a bark "humpy."

2158. I heard you state just now that you did not approve of troughing. Will you give us some further reasons why you do not approve of troughing. Is there anything defective in the way the troughing was put down, or is the system, in your opinion, inherently wrong? My objection to the thing is that no troughing can be suitable for the watering of travelling stock, for the reason that travelling stock, in seventy-five cases out of one hundred, have been accustomed to water only at creeks and waterholes, and open tanks, in the natural way, and have never been accustomed to water at anything that is calculated to frighten them, or at anything that is unusual. In many cases the stock come up to these troughs in a maddened condition from want of water. They smell the thing they actually want, but are afraid to touch it. It is more difficult to get stock to go near troughs when they are in that half-maddened condition, than it would when they are not so thirsty. Hence sheep have often perished from want of water while water was in the troughs. Of course, where troughs exist on a station, the matter is different altogether. There sheep have become accustomed to drink out of the troughs, and they will of course go up and drink from these Government troughs when they are thirsty. But no sheep or cattle that have not been accustomed to drink at these troughs will go up at once and drink at them when they come to them. I have never yet heard of an instance where cattle from Queensland, for example, or stock that were not taught to water at troughs, went up and drunk from them the first time. And I have known many sheep of my own knowledge to perish from want of water before they would drink it out of these troughs. I have known sheep smothered by being rounded-up before they would drink at troughs, and the water had to be poured out on the ground.

2159. These cattle from Queensland, having travelled for weeks and weeks, would surely learn to drink from the troughs in a few days? Yes, but while they were learning they would be dying. Going across, say the Cobar road, there are troughs, also on the other side of the Warrego; and there are troughs, I believe, between Warrego and Bourke; certainly no stock will water out of these troughs if they can get natural water on the road. If you wish to get stock to drink out of troughs, you will have to put them in stock yards, with stock to teach them which have been accustomed to drink in this way.

2160. *Major Penrose.*] Are not many of the squatters adopting this system of troughing? Yes, and that is what they ought to do to economise their water; but it is an expensive method.

2161. Then, if that is the case, will there not be a great many sheep educated into drinking out of these troughs? Yes, and in time all sheep will do it, if stockowners adopt troughing. But at the instance of some gentlemen who live in the Cobar and Bourke districts, I not long ago offered to the Department of Mines £1,000 if they would make a flock of sheep, that had been four days without water, drink out of troughs for the first time. Several gentlemen subscribed the money, and told me I was quite safe in offering the money to the officer who designed these troughs, and I offered the challenge in a letter to the Mines Department. When the sheep go at these troughs in a large body, they force some of their number that are in front into the troughs, spoiling the water by the yolk of the wool. They jump on one another, and in some cases sheep are smothered. I have heard of accidents of this kind from good authority.

2162. Would not the same remark apply to sheep going to a tank? No; and for this reason;—if tanks are properly managed, a mob of 20,000 sheep, which is more than is likely to be put into a yard, may be watered in batches of 400 to 500. This number might be allowed to run through into a watering place, and as soon as they were watered, another batch could be brought out of the yard, and the same thing repeated till all have watered. In this way the sheep can be satisfactorily watered, and will do no damage to themselves or to the tanks.

2163. *Mr. Woore.*] Cannot the same thing be done at the troughs? No, for the reason that sheep which have never drunk at troughs will never do it—that is, unless they previously had an idea of drinking out of the troughs. If they were allowed to go into too large a body they would smother. 2164.

J. E. Kelly. 2164. Have you ever known sheep to die for want of water alongside of these troughs? Yes; some of Mr. Allison's sheep died near Cobar. He lost 6,000 sheep between a well of mine and the Darling. Complaints have frequently reached me as a member of Parliament, particularly from people who know that I have some knowledge of the back country, to the effect that the caretakers have in some cases allowed greasy or hot water to remain in their troughs—water which sheep had been into and discoloured, and poisoned with yolk. They have allowed this water to become hot in the sun, and the sheep would not drink it. Numbers of sheep went to these troughs, but the water was actually stinking, and the sheep would not drink it. The caretakers refused money, as I am informed, to throw the hot and polluted water away, in order that the perishing sheep that had arrived might have an opportunity of drinking freshly-pumped water. And the sheep suffered because they had not had fair opportunity even of drinking, and the troughs in such cases have not had fair play. In some cases the sheep went to the troughs, but as they were filled with hot, polluted, and stinking water, they went past it. In other cases people have told me that their stock would have drank from the troughs even the first time had the water in the troughs been good—not as the troughs are now, but as they were built some time ago. These are written complaints which I have received, and told the names of the persons from whom I received them. I state them now in evidence, believing them to be true myself.

2165. *Chairman.*] Have you yourself made complaints at headquarters? Yes.

2166. What was the result? None at all, except that this Commission is the outcome of them. I have been complaining for some time, and I inquired and obtained papers in respect to these troughs, and told both the Minister for Mines and the Minister for Lands. I called for a committee, when the latter said he would do something better.

2167. Are you aware that there is an officer known as the Inspector of Public Watering Places, whose duty it is to go about and see that the caretakers attend to their work? Yes; I believe there is an officer of that kind.

2168. Did you ever complain to him? No; not to my knowledge. I may have done so, but it was at the instance of other people. But I cannot remember now. I don't know any such officer personally.

2169. Who is the Inspector of Public Watering Places in your district? I really do not know. I know none of the inspectors in the colony.

2170. Do you not ever see any of them going around your district? No; Mr. Wood, I think, is the only inspector, judging by the letters that I have received. I think he had something to do with the matter. I really do not know, but I thought this work fell upon the inspectors of stock. The only person I ever complained of was the overseer at Cobar, because a drain at that place was left unclosed. I made no complaint of my own to anybody, but only for others on information received. I have written a good deal to the Department.

2171. Have you any views to offer in regard to the future management of tanks and wells? Nothing further than what I have said. I never see any of these fences, tanks, engines, &c., without my blood boiling to see the waste of public money that has taken place on them, so that I prefer to keep out of sight of them.

2172. *Major Penrose.*] Do you speak now of the construction or of the maintenance of these works? I speak in regard to both. I have sworn evidence to bear out what I have said. People require water, and although there is water at these places they cannot get it, but have to go and pay the squatter for it. I refer you to Mr. Smith, who has a station somewhere near Carcoar, who can give valuable information.

2173. Was this due to the troughing, or to what? Due to the troughing, which was badly constructed, and to the machinery, which was calculated to scare away the stock, and to the fact that the stock could not get down the batters to the water, even if they were allowed inside the fences.

[The Commission adjourned until the afternoon, when the sitting was resumed.]

George William Townsend called in and further examined:—

G. W. Townsend. 2174. *Chairman.*] I received a note from you, in which you express a desire to give some further evidence? Yes; there were several things I recollected since I was here the last time. I was in doubt when I gave my evidence about the 12-Mile tank as to whether it was in Burton Brothers' contract or not. Since then I have remembered that it was. I am not sure whether in my evidence I stated anything about the 26-Mile tank. Since I was here before I have remembered that the 26-Mile tank was not commenced when I was there, but the 26-Mile had long been known as a stock camp on account of water having generally been found there. The 35-Mile tank never to my knowledge had any water in it, although there was a tank within a mile of it, called 37-Mile, which was always to be depended on for a supply of water.

2175. What reason was there, do you think, for there being no water in the 35-Mile tank? I could not give any reason. I never examined the place sufficiently to be able to give a reason.

2176. *Major Penrose.*] What year was that in? I think it was in 1878 or 1879. I wish to ask when the blue print diagrams shown to me, were prepared, as the slopes shown do not correspond with the slopes of the tank that I remember, which I am confident were much steeper than 2 to 1, for you can stand easily on a 2 to 1 slope; and I am confident (for I have tried) that I could not stand on one of these slopes. I still believe that the slopes of all tanks on the 70-Mile track were 1 to 1, or nearly so. That is my belief.

2177. *Chairman.*] Is there any other evidence that you think it desirable to lay before the Commission? I cannot think of anything else. There was something passed in conversation about wells.

2178. *Major Penrose.*] I asked you what effect the baling of wells had on the water? I remember having written something about this some years ago. I brought a pamphlet with me, and have addressed it to the Commission, and will read an extract bearing on this point:—

It is frequently asserted in letters in the papers that we may reasonably hope for an unlimited supply of water in artesian wells through the Riverina country because of the great soakage from some of the rivers, and from swamps that are fed by the rivers. I greatly fear that we can in no way count on recovering any of this water in a state fit for use, even by stock, for the country that receives this soakage is full of water-bearing strata, the water in which is as salt as brine, and I think this occurrence is to be accounted for in this way: There can be no reasonable doubt that the whole of the lower portion of the watershed of the great Murray tributaries has been at one time an estuary or landlocked arm of the sea which has gradually become filled up and raised above present sea level in the manner already described. While through long ages this silting up process has been going on, many extensive, shallow, salt water lagoons would be formed; as these gradually silted up the water in them by evaporation, becoming intensely salt, would completely saturate the soil with brine. As the raising and silting up process continued the coast line would be forced further back, and these once open

open, stagnant salt lakes would become covered with a greater or less depth of soil, and would give rise to the apparently strange phenomenon of runs of salt water high above sea level, while, wherever in sinking or boring we tap an old river bed that has retained unobstructed its drainage to the sea, we obtain fresh water by reason of all the saline matter being washed out by the constant run of fresh water draining along the sand or gravel forming the bed of such ancient water course.

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The original bed of the estuary, on the other hand, will probably be found to contain fresh water throughout its whole area, for it would in every part retain along the sand and gravel forming the ancient bottom, uninterrupted drainage to the sea, by means of which the constant run of fresh water soaking in along the outcrop and draining through the porous layer to the sea, would dissolve out and carry with it all saline matter. This opinion of the origin of the many salt water accumulations that are found by wells being sunk, to exist throughout so large a portion of the Murray basin is in a measure borne out by the fact that by long continued baling or pumping (provided that the water raised is carried clear off, and not allowed to drain back into the well) the water generally becomes less salt, showing, I think, that the original accumulation, becoming exhausted, is replenished by drainage of fresh water from the surface, which doubtless in time, would dissolve out from the water-bearing layer or stratum, all saline matter; but this would be a very costly experiment, in that the immense volume of water that would need to be disposed of before the desired result could be attained on a scale sufficiently large to be of any practical value, would swamp miles upon miles of flat country, and destroy much valuable pasturage. I fear that once the water is allowed to run from the high ground, we must regard it as lost. So that, although we are perfectly justified in trying to get all the water we can from this source of supply, it will not, even when proved available over a large area (which it by no means is so far), in any way relieve the country of the responsibility of providing a water supply by the only reliable means, viz., that now advocated by means of open reservoirs formed by dams or weirs.

I have seen many acres flooded by attempts to bale water, without any practical result. Of course I believe that fresh water can be obtained, but then no use can be made of it. The expense involved in baling would be far greater than the expense attending an effort to get water in other ways. I know that boring has in many cases saved thousands of pounds.

2179. *Major Penrose.*] Is boring cheaper than sinking trial-shafts? Yes, very much cheaper.

2180. Have you any idea why there is so little boring done up to the present? It was not generally done, but there is no reason why it should not have been.

George Earngey called in and examined:—

2181. *Chairman.*] What is your present occupation? I am, at present, a contractor.

G. Earngey.

2182. You have had some experience in the construction of tanks and wells? I was road superintendent in the Roads and Bridges Department for six months in charge of tanks and wells in the Wilcannia district. 17 Feb., 1888.

2183. Are you aware of the objects of this inquiry? Yes; so that the control of public watering places should be under one Department.

2184. Not altogether that; we have a number of allegations to inquire into to the effect that tanks have been sunk in a useless manner and in bad situations. Do you know anything about wrong sites having been chosen for tanks? Yes; when I took charge it was to replace a road superintendent named Henry Cambridge.

2185. And when you took his place, did you find that he had made mistakes in selecting sites for tanks? Yes; and I found that he had been guilty of large embezzlements.

2186. Did you find that he had been faulty in his judgment? Yes; he merely travelled by the coach and never left the road in looking for sites.

2187. What guided him in selecting these sites? The advice of publicans and drivers of coaches.

2188. This, of course, took place before you arrived there, and is only hearsay? Yes; but the sites of the tanks proved that hearsay was correct.

2189. Then I gather from you that the sites having been improperly placed would only have occurred to a man who was not conversant with the country? Yes.

2190. And probably took information from interested parties? Exactly so.

2191. Now, will you take one or two of these tanks that fairly represent what you state—take the most glaring cases that have come under your observation? Yes; I will take Seaville's tank, which is 9 miles north of Wilcannia, and the Cobham Lake tank, which is some 200 miles north-west of Wilcannia.

2192. Any other particularly glaring case, according to your opinion? These were the only two.

2193. Why do you find fault with Seaville's tank? It is within 7 miles of the river Darling, opposite a public-house kept by a man named Seaville.

2194. Was the ground at this point unsuitable, or was it merely that the distance from the Darling to the tank was too short? Yes; too short to warrant the expenditure of the money on a tank.

2195. What distance apart are watering places usually situated? They are constructed from 12 to 15 miles apart.

2196. Was that done only in the first instance to be afterwards subdivided, or was that considered a fair distance for travelling stock? Yes; these distances were regarded as rests.

2197. But sheep could never travel such a long distance as that in a day? No, I do not think so; but they do not construct tanks every 7 miles, which would be a fair distance for sheep. Sheep can travel through a dry country.

2198. Is there any other reason why you complain of the site of this tank at Seaville's, except that it is too near the river Darling? Yes; that is just the reason. The Darling affords permanent water, and this tank yields only a precarious supply.

2199. Why speak of it as a precarious supply—is it not a well constructed tank? The ground is so very flat and sandy there that it takes a very much larger rainfall than is usual about Wilcannia to keep up the supply.

2200. Is there a better site as regards catchment area further on? There is a better catchment area, but the ground would not be so retentive. This tank at Seaville's is placed where there is a cane grass swamp.

2201. You refer to clay pans? No; I refer to a cane-grass swamp. The grass that grows there is like large weeds.

2202. *Mr. Woore.*] Does not that cane-grass usually grow on clay pan ground? I do not think so. In dried up lakes and lagoons I have seen similar cane growing.

2203. Then, if this tank had not been sunk at Seaville's, where else could it have been placed? Further along the Paroo road, about 15 miles from Wilcannia. There is a good site there.

2204. Although you say that this tank is within 7 miles of the river, is it not fully 9 miles from Wilcannia by the travelling stock route? Yes; 9 miles from the town, but only 7 miles from the river.

2205.

- G. Earngey. 2205. Is not the river off the travelling stock route from Wilcannia to the Paroo? Yes; but cattle would take the nearest water.
- 17 Feb., 1888. 2206. Then the stock watering at Wilcannia would have to travel 3 miles before reaching Seaville's tank? Yes; but they could make the distance shorter.
2207. Is there a road to the river from Seaville's tank? Yes, there is a road.
2208. I mean from Seaville's tank to the nearest point to the river? I think the country is open, although there are runs along there.
2209. Is the country not fenced in? There is some of it fenced in up the river; but between the two places that I speak of, it is not fenced in.
2210. Must not travelling stock going up the Paroo go past Seaville's tank? Yes.
2211. If Seaville's tank were not constructed and stock had to travel up the river from Wilcannia on their way to the Paroo, and then to tanks constructed further on, would not that be a longer route from Wilcannia than that via Seaville's tank? Yes, it would.
2212. Now, about Cobham Lake tank, what do you know about that? This has a frontage to Cobham Lake. The fault here is in the watershed. Of course, in constructing a tank on the lake, the best watershed must be the deepest part of the lake. This is the place that will give the largest watershed.
2213. Is the tank then sunk on the edge of the lake, where there is a sandy belt, and is it deficient in catchment area? Yes; I do not think a reasonable rain could ever fill it.
2214. Is there a light coating of sand? No; there is a thick belt of sand there.
2215. I am speaking of the spot where the tank is sunk. Is there not a thin layer of sand on the top of the clay? I should think there are 2 or 3 feet of sand there.
2216. And below that, is it fair holding ground? Yes, it is fair holding ground—not pure clay, but loam.
2217. *Major Penrose.*] Was that tank finished when you got there? No; it was under construction then. The contractor could not get the men to work at that time.
2218. Are you aware that if this tank were placed in the bed of the lake, in what you call the deepest part when the lake is full, it would probably have some 40 feet of water over it? Yes; the water in the tank would then be the last to leave the lake.
2219. *Chairman.*] Are there any other cases of faulty judgment in the selection of sites that you met with in that part of the country? Yes; there was another tank at Tarella put down quite close to Mr. Quin's large dam, while I believe he told the officer of the Roads Department that he would allow the travelling stock to water at his tanks.
2220. And that was the reason why you think the expenditure was an unjustifiable one? Yes.
2221. But the public were only watering at these dams and tanks on sufferance? Yes.
2222. Consequently if Mr. Quin sold his station, and somebody else, who might not be so obliging, came there, he might prevent persons from watering their travelling stock? Yes.
2223. Would a tank then be necessary? Yes, and it could be constructed.
2224. You were in the Roads Department, and consequently had charge of the construction of tanks? Yes.
2225. Have you found by experience that when these tanks were constructed there was something faulty in the design? I was only there six months, and none of the tanks were completed while I was there.
2226. Would anything that you saw lead you to believe that the design was faulty? My own opinion was that wells would be preferable to tanks on account of the small rainfall in that district.
2227. Are you not aware that many wells are sunk, and that the result is salty water? Yes; but then the Mines Department test the wells practically, which the Roads Department does not. The Mines Department put down bores with the diamond drill, while the Roads Department put down shafts, and they cannot staunch back the salt water when sinking these shafts.
2228. So that in no instance should a well be sunk until it has been tested by an auger or a bore? Yes.
2229. To prove whether the water is there, and whether it is fit for use? Yes.
2230. Have you had reason to find fault with any of the plans or specifications of the Roads Department as being faulty, and not answering the purposes of construction? No.
2231. Have you ever found that the batter was too steep? None of the tanks were completed while I was there. The contractors used to complain of the batter embankments as being too steep.
2232. You knew what the batter was? Yes, 1 to 3. 1 to 3 on the outside, and 1 to 2 on the inside. Generally they were supposed to make their bullocks draw up their stuff along this 1 to 3.
2233. Are you aware of the Roads Department ever having made their batters steeper than they do now? No.
2234. How long were you in the Roads Department? Seventeen years; but only six months in charge of tanks and wells.
2235. And you do not remember any alteration in the specifications? I never had anything to do with these tanks and wells except for six months, and on account of an officer having committed an embezzlement I had to remain the greater part of that time at Wilcannia collecting evidence.
2236. You said that the contractors complained of the batters being too steep because they could not use their ploughs and scoops? Yes; on the back of the embankments.
2237. Did you write a letter to Mr. Gilliat, Inspector of Public Watering Places during the latter part of last year? I did.
2238. And in that letter you make some very hard statements. You state here in one place that the most criminal management existed? Yes, the Road Superintendent, Mr. Cambridge, used to be in partnership with some of the contractors.
2239. Are you aware of this of your own knowledge? I reported it to the Commissioner.
2240. Was it proved? They did not attempt to collect evidence in the matter; they only took evidence in three cases. The charge was so large that the Roads Department did not attempt to deal with it.
2241. Do you think you are justified in making such statements as these unless you can prove them? I can prove them.
2242. But this only applies to one individual officer? That is all.
2243. It only applies to one individual officer; but in this letter you use the word in the plural sense—you say officers? It only alludes to Mr. Cambridge.

G. Earney,

17 Feb., 1888.

2244. Then this word "officers" was a mistake? It only applies to one.

2245. Now, another very serious charge which you make is this;—you say that the head of the Department (Mr. Bennett) tries to hush up these things when they are brought under his notice. Why do you make this statement? Because he always found fault with me for complaining.

2246. But did he find fault with you for complaining about the mismanagement of this man Cambridge? I believe he did. I do not know personally; but Mr. Stevenson, the member for the Wollombi, who is my father-in-law, whom I met when I arrived in Sydney to come here, said that Mr. Bennett was very wroth with me.

2247. I will draw your attention to another matter. You state that there have been dozens of officers guilty of fraud, and not one (with the exception of one only) has been prosecuted? Yes; that is true.

2248. Have you any grounds for making such a statement as this;—do you know of your own knowledge that such a thing has occurred, as it is a very serious statement to make? I know that dozens of officers have been guilty of fraud, and no action has been taken against any of them except against Cambridge.

2249. Has it come within your own knowledge that they have been guilty of fraud; and, if not, how do you know it? By dismissals from the service, and by the reasons why they were dismissed.

2250. But are not officers sometimes dismissed from the Department without being guilty of fraud? Yes.

2251. Then this is another very broad statement—made, perhaps, without due consideration. The fact of an officer being dismissed does not show that he has been guilty of fraud? Some are dismissed for fraud, some for insubordination, some for negligence, and some for incompetence.

2252. Yes; but you say that many dismissals take place because of fraud. An officer may be dismissed, as you say, because he is incompetent or insubordinate; but it is a serious thing to say that numbers of men have been dismissed for fraud. You make the first part of your letter apply only to Cambridge? Yes.

2253. Have you ever had any reason for feeling angry with Mr. Bennett when you were leaving his office? I never did agree with him during the whole 17 years that I was in the service.

2254. And do you entertain rather antagonistic feelings towards him on account of your dismissal? Yes.

2255. I presume you were not dismissed for fraud? No.

2256. You know that what you have said would lead us to think that there was something of that kind. You say that you can give any amount of such mismanagement, and we want to know what this is, because it is our duty to see that it is put a stop to in future;—can you mention any particular case? The greatest mismanagement takes place in exploring for sites.

2257. You say that you can give any amount of such mismanagement if it is desired? Yes; but that would be in connection with roads and bridges.

2258. Are you aware why it is that in many instances the Government have to pay very much larger sums for the work than private individuals? During the time I was up there they were paying 1s. 6d. per cubic yard; that was then considered a reasonable price.

2259. Were the squatters in the neighbourhood giving that price? No; they were giving something less, about 1s. 3d.; but still I think that at that time 1s. 6d. did not pay very well. There was very little grass and no water at that time. Another instance of mismanagement which I may mention is this, that the levels were not taken at the tank side, and the contractors, notwithstanding their arrangement to sink 18 feet, would fill up the surface of the ground; that would of course give depth. The sites were chosen without any survey or levels having been taken, and the filling up of the ground would naturally give depth. The tanks were not 18 feet deep from the natural surface of the ground.

2260. But surely such an attempt at fraud as this could not possibly pass the inspection of officers sent to examine the work? But it did; the ground and the surroundings being somewhat similar, it would be very difficult to discover the fraud, and seeing that levels were not taken, it would not be easy to prove that such a thing took place.

2261. *Major Penrose.*] You mean that it was difficult to discern between the made ground and the other portion? Yes; when the bullocks worked over the place for some time you could hardly tell the difference between the virgin soil and the other portion.

2262. *Chairman.*] But any competent officer who was sent up there to measure the tanks could surely find out and detect such an attempt as this at fraud? Any officer that could level would find it out on inspection; but the made portion of the ground was so far apart from the other that no fraud could be detected unless previous levels had been taken. In my experience in that country I learned that Mr. Cambridge never used his own vehicle to travel in; he used to travel on the coach, which could only stop for a moment or two to allow him to choose the sites. In some instances I heard from the contractors that they could have defrauded the Government by raising the natural surface of the ground so as to make the excavation deeper than it really was. This has been done to the extent of 2 or 3 feet, and can be done everywhere, provided the sections are not taken. It is exceedingly difficult of detection unless a previous survey and sections have been taken.

2263. You think the apparent excessive price the Government gave was necessary for the carrying out of these works in that exceedingly dry country? Yes; I think the price was reasonable at the time.

2264. I presume a squatter would never have attempted to sink a tank under such circumstances as the Government put down some of their's? I should think not.

2265. The Government were compelled to do it under pressure brought to bear on them—as, for instance, the construction of works out on the Barrier Ranges? Yes; and at Mount Browne. There was a very small population on the Barrier Ranges at that time.

2266. Are there any other reasons by which you can account for this apparent excessive price given by the Government? No; not concerning tanks and wells.

2267. These tanks were not finished when you left, and therefore you were not aware what kind of machinery was there? No.

2268. Have you seen any of the different forms of machinery used for pumping water from these tanks? No; there was an order sent down from Melbourne for some valves when I was up there. That is all the machinery I saw.

2269. Have you had anything to do with the fencing while you were up there? Do you mean the fencing of tanks or the caretakers' paddocks?

2270. Of either? No.

2271. Have you found during your experience up there any interference by the officers of one Department with those of another? Did you ever come into collision with any of them? I only know that Mr. A. P. Wood was unfriendly to Mr. Gilliat.

2272.

- G. Earngey. 2272. How did they come into collision? In what way could they interfere if their work was entirely different? I expect it was on account of Mr. Gilliat's dissatisfaction with the construction of tanks by the Roads Department?
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2273. Do you know whether Mr. Gilliat really complained of the faulty construction of the tanks under Mr. Wood's care? No; but I heard —
2274. That is not the question; that is not evidence. Are you aware whether contracts let at large prices were sublet at very much reduced rates to sub-contractors? No, I am not aware of that.
2275. Have you had anything to do with the construction of wells? No; although there was one well being sunk in the district when I was there. This well is between Wilcannia and Dry Lake.
2276. Do you think the site was a fairly good one? It was about 12 miles out of Wilcannia.
2277. But was it a fairly good site? It was a necessary site. I was at that well when it was being sunk, and when they met with the salty water.
2278. What expenditure has been incurred on that well approximately? A large expenditure has been gone to which might have been saved had they used the water auger. The name of this place is Mulga Valley.
2279. Do you think that this dual control, and the handing over of these tanks when completed, has been the cause of considerable friction? Yes; if an officer is dissatisfied with the site he would not take the same interest in the tank as if the site had been selected by himself.
2280. One Department would, I presume, say that the works were not in accordance with what was agreed upon, and another would say that whatever was wrong arose from the fault of the caretaker? Mr. Gilliat generally went over the route with the squatters, who were better acquainted with the country than the coach driver; the Roads officers, on the other hand, stuck to the roads, while Mr. Gilliat saw the country about.
2281. What officer do you speak of? Mr. A. P. Wood has generally been the officer who undertook this work.
2282. But the road superintendent is the only officer out there? Yes; Mr. Cambridge always travelled by coach, and so did Mr. A. P. Wood, who generally measured the tanks and wells in the district. His knowledge of the district was always confined to the road. As you know the physical features of the country may alter very much half a mile away from the road.
2283. Would any person travelling have to depend upon local knowledge? Yes; but it would be better to get local knowledge and see for yourself, and have a good look around.
2284. You can understand that in an enormous tract of country it would be impossible to know the best sites without getting local knowledge? Yes; but the local knowledge some of these men gained was from the publican and the coach drivers; they never used their own observation, because they did not like to leave the line of road.
2285. Then you think that the inspectors of public watering places have reason to complain that the best sites have not been chosen because the road superintendent was not acquainted with the country? Yes; and the road superintendents do not give time to explore the best sites.
2286. Would that be remedied if the sites so chosen were chosen by the inspectors, and the construction given to the roads superintendent, supposing the inspector of public watering places chose the sites? I think they should not only have the choosing of the sites, but the construction of the tanks.
2287. You think the whole work ought to go into the Mines Department, and not to be divided as it is now? I should think so.
2288. Would it not be the means of creating another Department and so adding to the charge upon the revenue? Would it not entail a new arrangement in the superintending and construction of these works? Yes; but then the present roads officers would not be required. If additional officers were appointed by the Mines Department the roads officers would not be wanted.
2289. But the roads officers would have to be retained in their present position irrespective of the duty which they have to do in looking after tanks and wells;—would it not be unnecessary, therefore, to create a new Department necessitating another set of officers? It would not create a new Department.
2290. But it would mean the employment of a large number of additional officers? Yes; it would require more officers.
2291. And unnecessarily entail considerable expense to the country? Slightly; and the work would be well done. The men who would be employed on the work by the Mines Department would have a knowledge of geology, which would assist them in the selection of sites; because the man who has a knowledge of geology is much more likely to pick out a good site for a watering place than a man without that knowledge.
2292. *Major Penrose.*] Do you think that because the Department is called the Mines Department that therefore its officers must have a knowledge of geology? Yes; because the men employed by it would have greater advantages in studying the subject, inasmuch as they would have an opportunity of seeing the minerals from all parts of the colony.
2293. *Chairman.*] Are you aware that many of these officers of the Mines Department live hundreds of miles from Sydney and perhaps would not see the Geological Museum once in twelve months; and if that were the case how could they study geology? It would evolve, nevertheless, an interest in it; while in the Roads Department the subject is never given a thought.
2294. But supposing, as was the case, that one of these gentlemen lived at Hay, another at Bourke, and others elsewhere, how could they study geology? Well, the Mines Department to a man will have some knowledge of mining.
2295. But it does not follow at all? All officers in the Mines Department would be supposed to have a knowledge of geology.
2296. You are aware that the Forest Department is under the Mines; what has that to do with geology? Well, it has something to do with botany and soil, and that even bears relation to the subject.

[The Commission adjourned.]

THURSDAY,

THURSDAY, 23 FEBRUARY, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R.E.,

J. C. WOORE, Esq.

James Budd called in and examined:—

2297. *Chairman.*] What are you? I am a contractor. I have been a contractor in the vicinity of Cobar for the last twelve years. I have done considerable work for the squatters round there. I have been a contractor for twenty years altogether.

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2298. For private individuals or for the Government? For both the Government and for private individuals.

2299. *Mr. Woore.*] For tanks? Yes.

2300. *Chairman.*] You have not been a contractor for fencing, then? No, not under the Government. I have done tanks only for the Government. In fact, I have done very little work lately except for the Government.

2301. What tanks have you excavated for the Government? The Hermitage tank, the Booroondarra tank, the Burra tank on the Hilston Road, Helman's tank, Kerrigundi and Nullamut tanks. I also constructed two supply tanks on the Wilcannia road; one of these is at Springfield, and the other at Barnato. I had to do the main tank at Springfield; it was transferred to me by another party, and was not done in my name.

2302. By whom was the work transferred? By Coates and Holly. They were the successful tenderers for two tanks; but they only wished to excavate one; and I, being very little above them in price, got the work from them.

2303. At what rate? At 1s. 2½d. per cubic yard. I was only a trifle above them in my tender, so I took up the work at their price. They had the preference of three tanks, and gave me the one they did not want themselves.

2304. You agreed to take the work and construct it for the Government at the same price fixed by them? Yes; but the contract stood in their name. I had to do the work at the same price, and in addition gave them a bonus of £10 to hand over the contract to me. They were entailed in a certain amount of expense in obtaining the contract; and, of course, I had to pay a certain sum to them to recoup them for their trouble.

2305. Have you ever sublet Government contracts that you have taken? No.

2306. And is this the only instance where you have taken a contract from another person? No; I had one transferred to me before. This was the Kerrigundi tank; but it was transferred to me, and carried out in my own name. That was first taken by a man named Webb; but he did not sign the bond for it, and the work was transferred to me.

2307. Were you also a tenderer for the Kerrigundi tank? Yes; but I did not get the work originally.

2308. What rate of pay did you receive for that work? I think it was 1s. 5½d. I am not certain about it just now; but it was somewhere about that sum.

2309. What price did you take it for? I remember that there was only a very little difference between myself and Webb; he was only a little higher. I think there was only a difference of 1d. or ½d. between us.

2310. Is it a fact that the Government have to pay higher rates for excavation and construction of tanks generally than private individuals? Yes.

2311. Can you give us any reasons why this should be so? The principal reason, in my opinion, is on account of the slopes being so steep that it is not possible to have a roadway to take the stuff out. We are not able to plough or to use scoops. Besides that, there is a great deal of delay in getting our money as the work progresses.

2312. This is owing, I presume, to the want of inspection of the work by some officer? Yes; sometimes months elapse without any reports having been made; and in one case I had four months to wait, and had to pay an agent £50 to collect the money. I had to employ an agent named Cummings to get this money for me.

2313. Did this delay take place after the work had been completed? Yes; and in another case I was six months waiting before I got the balance of my money. This occurred in connection with the work done at the Nullamut tank.

2314. Now, are there any other reasons besides these two why the work done in constructing Government watering places should be more expensive than those of private individuals? Yes; because the Government tanks are carried to a much greater depth than the squatters' tanks.

2315. And after tanks have got down to a depth of from 12 to 14 feet the expense of sinking, I presume, increases considerably? Yes; the stuff, too, generally gets harder after you get down 10 or 12 feet in fair ground, and then it is very much harder. I have tendered now for work on the Wilcannia road, and have increased the prices as the depths vary and as the ground becomes harder. I am also prepared to submit a tender at a very much reduced price if a concession be made that the slopes shall be 6 to 1. [*Witness hands in a tender for the excavation of a tank, 14 feet deep, for 1s. 1½d. per cubic yard; for a 16 feet tank, 1s. 3d. per cubic yard; and for an 18 feet tank, 1s. 5½d. per cubic yard.*]

2316. *Major Penrose.*] Does that cover the whole? Yes; that is the average price. It is the price charged per cubic yard for sinking a tank to the depths stated.

2317. *Chairman.*] If you go 18 feet deep, you charge for the whole excavation 1s. 5½d. per cubic yard? Yes.

2318. So that going the extra depth you have to charge 1s. 5½d. for the whole? Yes; on account of the rock that we had to go through.

2319. Do you not always put in a separate tender for rock? No; it is nearly always an average price for a tank at the different depths. I have always had one price in every tank that I have taken from the Government.

2320. Have you ever come across rock in sinking a tank that had not been shown by the trial shaft? Yes.

- J. Budd. 2321. Did you ever receive any allowance from the Government for that? No; but I have often come across more rock than was shown by the trial shaft.
- 23 Feb., 1888. 2322. And the Government gave you no compensation? No; I never applied for anything.
2323. You asked an extra price from the Government on that account? Whenever rock showed in the trial hole I got rather bigger prices on that account; but still I lost money on account of some of the tanks.
2324. Do you remember what price you received when you lost money? Yes; I received 1s. 9d. per cubic yard, and I was out of pocket even at that price.
2325. *Major Penrose.*] Did you really lose money at the price stated by you? Yes; and I made money on excavations at 11d. per yard.
2326. *Chairman.*] Now, have you ever come upon rock in sinking a tank for private individuals;—would they not allow you something in the event of your striking rock? Yes; but it would depend greatly on the conditions of the contract. Squatters, as a rule, do not care in sinking for water to go through rock, and do not care to pay the increased prices which that would involve. They have never paid for it in my experience, and I have put down hundreds of tanks for them.
2327. Are there any other reasons why Government work is more expensive than private work? Well, the squatter always provides water and grass for his workmen. If a tank is to be placed in a spot where there is no grass he will take off his sheep and allow the ground to stand till the grass does come; whereas, in the case of the Government tank you have to buy feed for the horses, and the work is let without any consideration as to where grass and water are to be obtained. The contractor has to buy feed at whatever price he can get it.
2328. *Mr. Woore.*] In fact, in doing Government work you have to take your chance as regards contingencies? Yes; and another thing is this, that the squatters generally crowd in more sheep in the vicinity of the tank than they would otherwise do, because they are opposed to these Government watering places.
2329. Why are the squatters opposed to the Government watering places? The fact of a public watering place being made by the Government increases the liability of the squatter to trespass from travelling stock. Another thing which increases the expense is, that there is a great deal more stuff to be taken from the bottom of the Government tank than from private tanks. Steep batters necessitate a much greater amount of stuff being taken out on account of the greater depth required to make up the total number of cubic yards. The squatter always allows a roadway sloping into the tank, which enables the contractor to get the soil up without trouble. The weight of the soil lies near the top; in fact, when you get half way down in a squatter's tank you have a great deal more than half the excavation work done. The difference is very great when compared with the Government tanks.
2330. *Chairman.*] As a rule, tanks constructed by the Government are intended not to water stock directly, but to water them by means of troughing? Exactly.
2331. But this is not the rule with squatters? No; they prefer to allow the stock to water themselves. I know that, because I have sunk hundreds of tanks in the Cobar district for squatters about there.
2332. The Government are generally more particular in the finish of their tanks than are squatters? Yes, certainly; and especially in the finish of the banks. A squatter does not care much about the shape of the banks, provided they hold the water satisfactorily. The Government tanks, on the other hand, have their banks all dressed down to a certain slope, which entails a considerable amount of extra expense. Again, the trimming work, and so forth, all have to be done more particularly than the same work in connection with the squatter's tanks. There is a great deal of trouble with the embankments round the excavation, as compared with those made by the squatters.
2333. Then, again, in the Government tanks I understand that the bottom must be absolutely level? The specifications say so; but in actual practice they are not very particular. Sometimes the inequalities in the bottom are made up with loose earth, and no objection is taken if portions of the tank are a little deeper than others.
2334. In those Government tanks that you have constructed, do you recollect what the slope has been? In the last tank that I constructed the slope was 2 to 1; but all the others have been $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1. I really forget what the slope in the Nullamut tank is. It is a 10,000-yard excavation, and was constructed for the purpose of allowing stock to water without troughing.
2335. Consequently, the slopes are more gentle than in the case of the other tanks? Yes; the slopes were flatter than $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1, and roadways were allowed in it to cart the stuff out.
2336. Is it only quite recently that the Government officers have changed these slopes? It was only about Christmas, when I completed the last tank, that I heard of that alteration.
2337. What is the usual slope of the tanks that you have seen throughout the country? I should say about $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1. I am speaking now of the Government tanks. With the exception of two places that are being put down on the Wilcannia road, the slopes are all 2 to 1. One of these tanks is complete, and the other is in course of construction. One of the tanks that I have just mentioned will be useless. This is the Barnato tank. The water soaks out of the supply tank, undermines the sides, and goes away. There is good holding ground at the bottom; but, owing to the sides being made with a slope of 2 to 1, the water runs through them as it might run through a sieve. I proposed to construct that tank 3d. per yard less if the Government made a concession of making the slope less steep; but they would not do it.
2338. I find here in one of these specifications the following provisions:—"Should the road superintendent consider that the surface, or any other stratum passing through in the excavation is too porous, the contractor must adopt such steps to puddle the porous ground as the superintendent may direct; the cost of such work to be provided for by a price per cubic yard for puddle being quoted in the schedule of prices?" Yes; but that would not affect the surface in any way. Even if we got gravel we would have to fill it up; but that would not meet the case. It is like a bed of ashes; it washes away with the water and goes down. The soil where Barnato tank is sunk is so exceedingly porous and ash-like that it will not stand up, and the water disappears. As a matter of fact, the contractors had to cart the water the whole time during construction. The supply tank had been filled time after time.
2339. Now, do you not think that this very porous soil could have been observed from the surface, even by one who was not a great expert; and that it would then be discovered it was not a proper place to sink a tank? No; I have often been deceived in the matter myself, and I am considered a pretty good authority.
2340. So that you do not think any blame can be attached to the person who selected the site of the tank? No; because the tank would have been all right if the slopes had been made flatter.

2341. But I imagine anyone would have seen that the holding ground was not good? No; I do not think so. Had it been a squatter who was putting a tank down he would have made a flatter slope.

2342. I presume that you are of opinion no hard and fast rule should be adopted in respect to the putting down of tanks? No; it should not. In fact, the depth of tanks should also be considered. Where you get a flat locality you will most likely get good ground, so that I think a hard and fast rule should not be adopted at all. Of course there ought to be a great change in the specifications. They should be made to suit the localities for which they are framed. In hilly country, where there is a good catch, a shallow tank would be more advisable than a deep one, because very likely you will meet with a bad bottom. In that case, too, the slopes might be made fairly steep, and you could conserve more water on account of this steep formation. You can have a much steeper batter, but not so great a depth as in other parts of country. Then in open country and flat ground, where great depth is desirable for a tank, the batter should be more sloping; but everything depends upon the nature of the ground.

2343. Consequently, all tanks should be sunk in accordance with the nature of the soil and the locality? Yes, exactly.

2344. And variations might be made both in the slope of the batter and in the depth of the tank? Yes; because a hard and fast rule is not at all suitable.

2345. Have local engineers, in your opinion, sufficient discretion and ability that they might be allowed to make variations from the specifications? I do not think that a man requires to be an engineer at all to do this. Of course I can only speak of the men with whom I have had actually to do; and if I am asked about any particular one I can answer the question.

2346. But are they allowed to alter the specifications? No; certainly not. They have their plans drawn out for them and are obliged to work up to them. I have often suggested things to them, and they agreed with me that the alterations were advisable; but stated that they were unable to carry them out. When I tendered for the last tanks that were constructed on the Wilcannia road I offered to do these tanks for 3d. per cubic yard less if I were allowed a 6 to 1 roadway on one side. That would have meant a reduction in the price of the tank to about 1s. 5d. per cubic yard; but I do not think that the matter was ever considered in Sydney. I could easily have done this if I had been allowed the concession. I do not know that my proposal was ever submitted to the authorities in Sydney, but I am not sure.

2347. Did you receive no reply? No; no other reply, except that the work must be done on the old lines—which, of course, I did.

2348. *Major Penrose.*] Have you ever been inconvenienced by delay in receiving payments for your work? Yes; I was compelled by this delay to borrow money at very high rates, and on one occasion I was obliged by it to go insolvent. This was in the case of the Nullamut tank. Fully six months elapsed before I was able to get the balance of my money, and I was obliged to go insolvent. As soon as I got my money I paid all my creditors.

2349. Can you state to whom all this delay is to be attributed? On that occasion I think the great delay was attributable to a mistake in making out the quantities. There is always a delay more or less; but in this case the delay was owing to a mistake.

2350. Is it due in any part to the want of prompt inspection of the work by Government officers? Yes; in a great measure it is, because sometimes they do not come out for three months.

2351. *Chairman.*] So that unless you happen to have money of your own you cannot well afford to compete for the construction of these tanks? Unless one has some money of his own, or that he is given credit. Fortunately for me, I had unlimited credit, and that was what stood to me; but I have to pay more for my goods to the people from whom I purchase than I would otherwise, on account of the long time that I am obliged to keep them out of their money. They know that they will have to wait a considerable time for their money, and consequently they charge me more for my supplies.

2352. And the result of this is, I presume, to lessen the number of contractors? Certainly; men have not the means or the credit to go into these works.

2353. *Major Penrose.*] Can you give us any idea of the difference which the supply of grass and water to contractors makes in the construction of a tank? I think on an average it would make at least 1d. per cubic yard difference if you had the water and the grass on the ground.

2354. But it might make a great deal more? Yes; in some instances it cost me what was equal to about 3d. per yard to feed my horses. If I started a tank on the presumption that I would have to buy-feed all the time, I should put on 2d. or 2½d. per cubic yard extra to remunerate me for the extra expense involved. Cartage is very expensive, and the extra charge would depend greatly on the distance of the place from the railway.

2355. In excavating for private persons, what implements do you use? In some cases I used ploughs and scoops, and in others I employed drays. In shallow, small tanks, scoops are most suitable; and especially where there is a dam to be made. If you have a long tank to make, the best way to do it is by drays.

2356. What do you call shallow tanks? Tanks from 6 to 9 feet deep. After you take out with scoops, then it is cheaper to take the stuff out with drays.

2357. *Mr. Woore.*] Well, then, ploughs and scoops are of very little use in Government tanks? Very little. Even on the top they are of very little use. As a rule squatters' tanks are rather long and narrow, which makes it much more easy to use ploughs and scoops than if the tanks were of a different shape. I have found that as a rule squatters' tanks are not more than half the width on top of Government tanks.

2358. *Chairman.*] Have you made any calculation as to the difference in cost between work done with ploughs and scoops, and work done with picks, shovels, and carts? Yes; but I have not got that calculation here. I think, where the ground is suitable, and the tank is being made long and narrow, the difference would be about 2d. per cubic yard under the cost if the work were done by carts, because so many more men have to be employed in shovelling, driving, and so forth; while it only requires two men and a team of bullocks to work ploughs and scoops. On the other hand, it requires double that number of men to work the drays. Besides, in sinking tanks for the squatters, we generally make an arrangement with the squatter to obtain meat at a very cheap rate, while to the contractors for Government tanks the squatter charges an excessive price for the meat.

2359. And, of course, the squatter also takes into consideration the fact that he will not be paid for a very long time? Yes; that is a fact. I could not have paid them in many cases until I got my money, unless they put me "up a tree" again; and I do not think they would care to do that.

2360.

J. Budd.
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- J. Budd.
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2360. Now, in your experience, with regard to the selection of sites, do you think that sites have generally been well selected as regards catchment area? No; I do not; though I cannot say that I have any fault to find with that. In every case I have seen the tanks filled.
2361. Do you know anything about those tanks out on the Wilcannia to Milparinka road, on the Darling? Nothing further than that I have heard from the contractors, who have been there, that the ground is much better for tank-sinking than the ground out our way. Of course I have not seen this country myself.
2362. You have never erected any fences for the Government? I think I have done some, but it was so very trifling that I do not remember any particulars about it.
2363. *Major Penrose.*] As a rule, are the batters of the tanks which you have constructed for the Government standing well? As a rule they are.
2364. Even at $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1? Yes; as far as I have seen they are standing pretty well. Yet they would be much better if they were flatter, although they would expose a larger surface to the wind.
2365. Do you think these tanks, if constructed as you state, would hold water better than now? I do believe they would.
2366. Do you think that a batter of 2 to 1 will be sufficient in most cases? Yes; but it would depend altogether on the nature of the ground. What would do for one case would not do for another. In some cases, if they were constructed 3 to 1 they would be better, but as a rule 2 to 1 is sufficient. In some cases, where the soil is firm, even 1 to 1 would be better, because there would be a less surface exposed to evaporation; but in other cases, where the soil is very friable, a batter of 3 or 4 to 1 would be advisable. As regards construction, in all cases there should be at least one roadway of 5 to 1. This would admit of a great reduction in the price. It is something extraordinary the difference it would make if this concession were granted.
- [At this stage, the witness submitted a calculation, with the view of showing the very considerable saving that might be made in the construction of tanks. As near as he could estimate the amount of excavation to be 3,000 yards less. At the top side of the excavation of 200 feet there should be one batter of 5 to 1, and on the opposite side one of 2 to 1, to admit of ploughing. On the other sides the batter might be 2 to 1, or steeper, if necessary, if the soil would admit of it. This would reduce the cost of the excavation by about 3d. per yard, being a saving on 15,000 yards of £187 10s. There would also be 3,000 yards less of excavation at 1s. 6d., which would amount to £125, or a total saving of £412 10s. on the tank, the contents of the tank, as shown on the Government drawings, being 18,000 yards. This statement was merely approximate. He did not think that the extra 3,000 yards was worth £412 10s. In the event of the head-gear for pumping water into the troughs getting out of order, then the long slope would be advantageous in allowing the stock to water in the tank until the head gear was repaired. If this were done it might save the lives of stock and thousands of pounds of money.]
2367. Have you put these suggestions before the Department of Public Works? Yes; I mentioned it to Mr. Adams, our road superintendent, but he did not seem to embrace it. I think it would be very desirable, before the construction of a tank was commenced, that the paddock which now accompanies these tanks should be first of all fenced in, so that the grass might have time to grow for the use of the contractor's horses and bullocks, as the case might be. When the supply tank is put down, the fence should also be made, and by the time there was grass and water, the contractor would be there to construct the main tank. This would mean a great reduction, and would materially lessen the cost of construction, making, in some cases, fully 3d. per yard difference.
2368. *Chairman.*] Do you think that the contractors for these Government tanks, even at the apparently high rates charged, make more money out of them than they do out of the squatters' tanks? Well, for my part, I have made more money out of the squatters' tanks at reduced rates. The squatters give every facility for the carrying on of the works by the contractors, and the prices have varied from 9d. to 1s. 9d. The cheapest dry work that I have ever done was done for 11d. per cubic yard, and the cheapest with ploughs and scoops was 9d.; but I have received as much as 1s. 9d. per cubic yard.
2369. What special reason was there for this high charge? Well, we had further to cart water, and the tank was being sunk in cemented ground. I had to cart water in one case some 18 miles. This was to supply the tank in Sussex Station, about 30 miles from Cobar. I had to get a supply of water to sink the big tank there, and for this I got the extra price of 2s. 6d. per cubic yard.
2370. So that you think there may be circumstances under which Government would necessarily have to pay large prices for tank sinking, such as for tanks constructed a long distance from water? Yes.
2371. And there would be nothing unusual or out of the way in the Government doing it? No; the conveyance of water for long distances is a very big item in the construction.
2372. And, as a rule, a squatter does not put down his tanks in adverse seasons, when there is neither grass nor water? No; he does not generally do so, though in some extraordinary cases he might.
2373. But if the public insist upon a tank being put down, the Government are obliged to do it? Yes; and no excuse is admitted for their not doing it.
2374. Do you know of any instance where contractors have sublet their work at very much reduced rates? No; I cannot say that I do.
2375. Now, will you state to us what course you think would be most desirable to carry out these works more satisfactorily in the future? I think it is very undesirable indeed that all these works should be constructed and managed by different Departments. I think the whole thing should be placed under the control of one Department. I also think it would be very desirable that there should be some person who will give proper supervision to the construction of the work, and who will possess at the same time discretion to vary the specifications in accordance with the nature of the soil to be excavated. Even the sizes of tanks should be taken into consideration, because in many cases they are made larger than the requirements warrant.
2376. Do you not think that if these works were managed by some local body the arrangement would be a better one? I think if the matter was left in the hands of the local superintendent—if he is a really good and capable man—that you cannot do any better. In fact, I am certain that it does not require a civil engineer to be a practical conservator of water in that country. What is wanted is a man who has a practical knowledge of the interior.
2377. Do you think the road superintendents would be suitable persons to have the management and control of these works? So long as he is a thoroughly good and practical man it would not matter what he

was

was called. We require really good practical men, with local knowledge. He does not require to be a civil engineer ; but his being a civil engineer is not in his way, if he has local knowledge. J. Budd.

2378. Have you any further suggestions to make whereby water might be better conserved? As regards contract work, I think all tenders should be opened before a Board rather than before one man in the country. I do not want to give any particular reasons for what I say on this point. 23 Feb., 1888.

2379. You need not give the names, but you can surely give the reasons ;—do you think there is collusion between the Government officers and the contractors? Yes ; in some instances. In one case I myself was told that I need not tender for the excavation of tanks on the Wilcannia road. I asked the party who said this at the time, if he was not inviting tenders? He said yes ; but that I need not put in a tender, as he thought there were plenty tendering already. I said to him, "You evidently do not want me to tender?" and he said "No." The person I refer to is a Government official in that part of the country. After this conversation I went to Mr. Barton, a storekeeper and a local Justice of the Peace, and told him what took place. He advised me to wire my prices down to head-quarters in Sydney, which I immediately did, and I ultimately obtained the contract. I had to go a good deal lower in order to get the work than I would otherwise have done. I lost money by the same thing ; but then I got an insight into the construction of the big tanks. 2380. Are you aware that some of these Government officials have lost their situations by improperly dealing with contractors? I was not aware of it before. There is one case, however, which has come under my own experience lately ; but I would rather not refer to it.

2381. All that is necessary is that the facts should be stated? Well, there are numbers of other contractors as well as I who hardly care to go and inspect work at the present time for which tenders have been called. They do not think it advisable to do so, especially if the work is any distance away. Unless it is somewhere convenient to us, we do not think it worth our while to go and look at it.

2382. Why? Well, of course, there is always some little hitch or other by which we are deprived of the work. Our tenders are always informal, or something happens by which other parties get the work. One instance that happened to myself I might as well relate. When contracts were called for the tanks on the Wilcannia road, about June or July last year, I tendered three times—in fact, we all had tenders in for this particular work.

2383. Why did you tender three times? Well, in the first place one of the conditions proposed was that we should engage a certain number of the Sydney unemployed, which, of course, caused high rates to be put in. Then tenders were called, leaving out that condition ; and then we were told that the tenders were still too high, and that the work would not be done at all unless we cut down the prices finer.

2384. What was your tender at that time? I did not reduce mine but very little. The prices were given for different depths of tanks, so that I cannot exactly remember the prices. No one tank is a guide as to what another is worth, as you have to be guided altogether by the trial holes. My third tender was reduced just a mere fraction, but on that occasion we gave in open prices, the tenders not being enclosed in envelopes. Although I was told before that I need not tender for the work, I was then sent for to put one in, and I did put in my tender. Afterwards, when I saw other parties, I concluded that I would not get the work, and I offered to make a wager to that effect. I said that it would be found my tender was just a little over the estimate of the others. I told Mr. Barton about it when I put in the tender for the work, and when I went back I said I was sure I would not get it—that I would be a half-penny or a farthing too high, or something of that sort.

2385. And did the result justify your anticipations? Yes, very nearly. My prices were just slightly over those of another contractor, at whose prices I carried out the work some time ago.

2386. These people were the lowest tenderers? Yes ; the rates were sent into the office at Cobar, and Coats and Holly got the work. As they were not prepared to do both tanks, I offered to take one of them at their price ; but the officer-in-charge refused to transfer it from Coats and Holly to me, telling me that he had wired to the Department in Sydney to know whether the next highest tenderer should not receive the contract. Eventually, after getting Mr. Barton's assistance, one of the tanks was transferred to me ; but it was made out in the name of Coates and Holly, although I carried out the work. No answer was received from Sydney as to whether the second tenderer should receive the work or not. I finished my tank two months ago, but it will be some time before it is fenced in.

2387. You think that in this instance favoritism was shown by the Government officials? Decidedly it was. I should think that in future tenders should never be left to be opened by one official. I don't think that tenders should be opened up there at all. The local officer, after having received my open prices, went down to M'Donald, who had also put in a tender for Coates and Holly, and it was after that that I found out that my tender was a trifle too high. That is why I would like to see tenders opened down here in Sydney.

2388. Now, could not this be done—could not a board be appointed in the country districts to receive and open tenders for such work? That would be very much better, I think.

2389. And you think that what is now done by the local officer it would be desirable to hand over to some local body? Yes ; the only object would be in regard to the tenders. The people up there all know each other, and I got into their bad graces by being pressed for money. In one case I had completed my contract some two or three months before I was able to get the road superintendent to measure up and pass it. When he came up to measure the work, he staked his horse accidentally, and he had to get another from Mr. Leslie, whose place we had to pass. Owing to this, we had to camp out, and in the morning we had some difficulty in catching the horse. The superintendent then said that if he knew he was going to be humbugged in this way, he would not have come up to measure the work at all ; but I did not see that I was in any way to blame for his staking his horse.

2390. Do you know anything about fencing at Government tanks? Yes ; I think that a less expensive fence would answer all the purposes of these watering places. They are too particular in this matter, and altogether the fencing is too expensive.

2391. Have you ever found any difficulty in watering stock at the troughs? I never watered any stock at the troughs myself, but I have heard a great many complaints ; but from my own experience I can say nothing. Every horse that I drove to the troughs watered at them right enough.

[The Commission adjourned until the afternoon, when the sitting was resumed.]

Mark James Curry Tully called in and examined:—

- M. J. C. Tully. 2392. *Chairman.*] What are you, Mr. Tully? I am an inspector of stock and overseer of public watering places.
- 23 Feb., 1888. 2393. Which is your district? My district is the Wilcannia sheep district.
2394. How long have you been a resident of that neighbourhood? Twenty-one years.
2395. How long have you been an overseer, under the Mines Department, of public watering places? Nearly three years.
2396. Of course you are aware of the objects of this Commission? Yes, I know some of them.
2397. I may state briefly that it is an endeavour to find out the causes of the friction which has been shown to exist between the two Departments—the Works and the Mines—and also to examine into the allegations made by the Mines Department with regard to the excessive cost of public works carried out by the Government. Who is the inspector of public watering places for your district? Mr. John Low.
2398. The evidence that we desire to obtain we have arranged in a certain form, and we will take the points *seriatim*. The first thing we wish to take into consideration is the faults of judgment which have been made in the selection of sites for tanks and wells;—can you of your own knowledge say that the sites of any of the tanks that have been excavated are not suitable ones, or are improper and undesirable, and not selected with due consideration? Yes; I know of some cases of that kind. I know that the tank at the Peri Springs and the tank at Cobham Lake, and the Goomboolara tank on the Paroo are badly situated. These are some of the principal cases that I know of.
2399. Why do you consider the site of the Peri tank badly chosen? Because it is in close proximity to the springs.
2400. Do you think that the springs give sufficient water to meet all the requirements of travelling stock? I do.
2401. Are not the springs situated on the travelling stock reserve which is within the leasehold? Yes; but the travelling stock reserve has not been reserved or defined on that portion of the Paroo. I do not think the reserves have been defined lower down than Goomboolara.
2402. Has not this stock road since been surveyed? No; it has never been surveyed or defined.
2403. How far are the Peri Springs from the usual stock tracks? There are two tracks.
2404. But from the track most used? About 2 miles.
2405. Are you aware that this is beyond the usual width of travelling stock reserves? Yes.
2406. Then, any stock watering at the Peri Springs must have been trespassing on the leasehold of the squatter's run? I do not know whether it would be trespassing or not, seeing that there is a road up to the springs that is used for months and months every year. There is a road past the springs that has been used frequently by stock for years.
2407. But you have told us that the usual road is 2 miles away? Yes.
2408. Under these circumstances, do you not think that it would be a very proper thing to excavate a tank at a place where water could only be obtained on sufferance, and by applying to the lessee of the run? Yes; but the tank is in the very same position as the springs.
2409. How far away is the tank from the springs? A little more than 400 yards—I mean only about 400 yards further from the main road than the springs are. The springs are really nearer the main travelling stock road than the tank.
2410. *Mr. Woore.*] Were you in the district when the tank was made? No; I do not think I was in that district at the time. From the year 1880, up to 1881 and 1882, I was not in the district.
2411. Are you not aware that before the tank was made these Peri Springs were on a pastoral lease held by the lessees of Momba run? Yes; I believe they were.
2412. And were not the springs used as a place of refuge by the main body of stock belonging to that station during droughts? It was.
2413. And the lessees of the station—did not they make some little improvements, such as drains running from the springs, and dam up the water for their stock? Of my own knowledge I cannot say, but I believe that improvements had been made before the tank had been put down.
2414. If the Government had resumed these springs for a public watering place, would it not have been a very serious loss to the lessees of the run? I think it would have interfered with the run.
2415. You know that it was a refuge for the whole of the stock of the station in times of drought? That could not be disputed.
2416. *Chairman.*] Then you think that the tank in any event is in an improper position because it is still further from the main track than the springs? Yes; the tank is further away from the main track than the springs.
2417. *Mr. Woore.*] Which was the main road for travelling stock at the time the tank was made? Stock in those times took what is called the right-hand track. The main track did not originally go along by the springs, but stock were always allowed to go up to the springs to water.
2418. *Chairman.*] Then, that is the only objection to the Peri Springs tank—that it was unnecessary, because the springs themselves gave plenty of water for travelling stock? Yes.
2419. *Mr. Woore.*] Is it a good site otherwise—a good site as to catchment area? Yes; it is a good catchment.
2420. Do you of your own knowledge know what number of sheep the lessees of the Momba run used to water at the Peri Springs during times of drought? I do not know the number of my own knowledge; but the present general manager, Mr. Hogarth, told me that he watered from 12,000 to 14,000 sheep there.
2421. Then, if the owners of the station watered from 12,000 to 14,000 sheep in times of drought at the springs, would there be any water left for travelling stock? That I cannot say.
2422. *Chairman.*] Have you any idea what is the average daily supply from these springs? I am not aware what the daily supply is, but I would gather from the fact of so many sheep having been watered there in a day that the supply would have been about 18,000 gallons per day.
2423. Then, in times of drought travelling stock might at any time go to the springs and find them dry? Very probably.
2424. Then, under these circumstances, do you still think that a tank was improperly sunk in the locality? Yes; because the springs and all were proclaimed a public watering place.
2425. Not at this time, I imagine? The tank was excavated on water reserve No. 630.

2426. *Mr. Woore.*] But at the time this tank was made there was no such thing as a public watering place, because the Act had not then come into force creating such places? Yes; but there were reserves set apart for the purpose—water reserves. M. J. C. Tully,
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2427. Do you know what these reserves were really made for? Yes; to prevent alienation of the land.
2428. They were reserves for water supply? Yes.
2429. To prevent the eyes of the country from being picked out by selectors? Yes.
2430. They were not made as reserves for public watering places? No; because the Act had not then come into force; but notwithstanding, I understood that they were for the purpose of conserving water for the use of travelling stock.
2431. I think you will find you are mistaken. Do you believe that all water reserves reserved from sale were made to conserve water for the travelling public? I mean that these spots were reserved so that they might be available for the purpose.
2432. But many of these reserves are off the stock routes altogether? Yes, that is so. [*Witness then explained on a chart the routes referred to, and pointed out the position of the tank and springs.*]
2433. Was not the only road chosen by the public before the tank was made along the eastern bank of the lake, past the springs, and then *via* Olepoloco Lake? Yes; for travelling stock, but not for the general traffic.
2434. *Chairman.*] The next tank that you mentioned as having taken objection to is that at Cobham Lake? Yes; all that class of ground is of a more friable nature, and not such good catching ground as the clay-pan country. All these lakes are liable to be filled up during heavy rains, although some of them have been dry for a very long time.
2435. Is there any objection to a tank being sunk in a lake which is dry? I think it is a useless expenditure, especially as there is sometimes natural water there; and I think that if these tanks were put in dry country they would be much better and more calculated to do good. If a tank is put where there is natural water it is not calculated to be very valuable.
2436. *Mr. Woore.*] Are you assuming that this lake affords a permanent supply of water? No; I am aware that it does not supply permanent water.
2437. Can you say how long the lake has been without water? I believe it has been for many years without water.
2438. Do you not know that the lake is subject to be dry for several years? Yes.
2439. *Chairman.*] Could you put a tank at Cobham Lake in a better position than that chosen? Yes; within 3 or 4 miles of that site there is a much better position.
2440. *Mr. Woore.*] Is that in clay-pan country? Yes; it is some 3 or 4 miles south-east of the lake.
2441. Is the soil in the lake loose, friable soil? Yes; until after going some distance down.
2442. Underneath the sand and drift there is clay? Yes.
2443. *Chairman.*] I presume that in loose soil the water would soak through the ground before reaching the tank; whereas, if a tank were excavated in clay-pan country, every shower would help to fill it? Yes.
2444. *Mr. Woore.*] Are there any good clay-pans in the place that you mention? Yes, excellent clay-pans, about 4 miles away among the sand-hills. It is perhaps less than 4 miles from the tank. I examined that spot recently.
2445. *Chairman.*] Are you aware who chose the site of these tanks at Peri Springs and Cobham Lake? No; I do not know the name of the officer who chose the sites.
2446. What is the name of the next tank you object to? This is Goomboolara, on the Paroo, just about 12 miles beyond Courimpe.
2447. What is your objection to the site of this tank? The tank is put on a neck of water running into the lagoon, which holds about 5 or 6 feet of water more than the site of the tank. The water to go into the lagoon must pass the tank. I have frequently seen water going into the lagoon without filling the tank.
2448. But is there not a drain intended to intercept the water which otherwise would spread out into the swamp and fill it? It may be intended for that, but it does not fulfil the purpose.
2449. Is there no local catchment for this tank? No, beyond what might be collected in the bed of the Paroo. It may be 200 yards wide at this place and is very much like a series of clay-pans.
2450. And then the tank cannot be filled unless the Paroo is running? No, not without.
2451. *Mr. Woore.*] Is there not a natural channel from the Paroo into the swamp by which this water passes? Yes.
2452. And this natural channel has been deepened, has it not? Yes.
2453. *Chairman.*] You say that this tank is in such a position that unless the Paroo runs it cannot be filled? Yes; the tank cannot fill unless the Paroo is running, and unless it runs pretty high it will fill the swamp, but will not fill the tank.
2454. *Mr. Woore.*] Then there is no local catchment? No; there might be local rains that would run the Paroo for some distance.
2455. Cannot this tank be made to fill by means of a local catchment? No; not without a dam is put right across the channel of the Paroo.
2456. I mean independent of the Paroo flood water—cannot the tank be made to fill from local catchment? No; I do not think it could. The tank might have been situated in the swamp or closer to the lagoon.
2457. *Chairman.*] You are not aware by whom the site of this tank was chosen? No; it was chosen before I entered into charge of that district.
2458. Do you know that this lagoon has been filled without any water being put into the tank? Yes; I have seen it full.
2459. *Major Penrose.*] Is there any water in the tank now? Yes; the Paroo has been running almost continuously for the last two years.
2460. *Chairman.*] Have you any fault to find with the construction of tanks—with faulty designs and so forth? No, with the exceptions of the steepness of the batters; otherwise the designs of the tanks appear to be correct.
2461. What do you find the batters to be in those tanks that have come under your own observation? The slope of the batters appears to me to be like 1 in 1 and 1 in 1½.
2462. And at that slope the bank sometimes falls in? Yes; but I would like to say that you could scarcely lay down a hard and fast rule as to the kind of batter to be used.

- M. J. C. Tully. 2463. You would have the slope of the batter fixed in accordance with the nature of the soil? Yes.
2464. Are you aware that the steep batters increase the cost of excavation? Yes, greatly.
- 23 Feb., 1888. 2465. Are you aware that in that hot dry country it is very desirable to expose as little water as possible to the sun and to the wind? Yes; I am quite aware of that.
2466. Then, do you not think it is quite right that the batter of the tank should be as steep as possible? Yes; I believe the batter should be as steep as the nature of the soil will allow.
2467. Have any tanks been constructed with a more gentle slope than $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1? I think none of the older ones, constructed before the Mines Department took charge, had a greater slope than $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1.
2468. Do you know what that slope was? No; I do not know.
2469. Of course, in all these steep-slope tanks the intention is that the stock shall water at troughs? Yes.
2470. And if stock were to water direct from the tanks they would require a more gentle slope? Yes.
2471. Do you think it desirable or otherwise that stock should water direct from the tanks? Not usually; but in certain cases they should be allowed to water at the tanks.
2472. Where should these places be at which you think stock should not be watered by machinery? Wherever there is a large traffic I would have appliances for the watering of stock, but not on that sort of roads where the tanks are seldom used. On these latter places I would be inclined to admit stock to the tanks.
2473. Would that save the expenses of keeping a caretaker there? Yes, it would. I would deprecate any hard-and-fast rule in these specifications in regard to the slope. In every case the question of batter should be considered on its merits, and a greater or less slope adopted if the ground will admit.
2474. Are you aware whether the road superintendents who had the selection of sites and the control of the construction had any discretion in this matter? I was not aware that the road superintendents had any discretion in the construction of any of the works that are referred to here.
2475. Of course, a trial shaft is sunk in every case? Yes.
2476. Well, then, a road superintendent, in seeing these trial shafts put down, ought to be able to form an opinion as to the proper slope to be given to that particular tank? Yes; I think so.
2477. And if he recommends a slope that the nature of the soil will not bear he is to a certain extent reprehensible and guilty of a waste of public money? Yes, assuredly. There are several other places that I might refer to that have faulty sites. Another one is the Tarella tank, to which I would like to draw attention. With respect to this tank at Tarella, after the contractor had commenced the work he found that the plans did not agree, and that the inlet was placed down stream. In connection with the Tarella tank, when the contractor undertook the work he found that the opening was down instead of up. He came to me and asked me what he was to do, and I recommended him to see the superintendent before he went further with the work. Having understood matters, the superintendent altered the inlet to the tank.
2478. Who was the officer who selected this site? I believe the site was selected by the Assistant Engineer for Roads, Mr. A. P. Wood. I am not quite sure, but it was either Mr. Wood or Mr. Earngey. I cannot speak positively. The site of the tank was not a good one, because it was placed very near a watering-place on the Bunker Creek.
2479. *Mr. Woore.*] Then it is placed in the water-course? Yes.
2480. And in the creek? No, not in the main creek, but in the Billabong, and the first flood that went by washed around the end of the tank. This is 3 feet deeper than the inlet to the tank.
2481. *Chairman.*] In any event, being situated on a billabong or creek, the tank was liable to be silted up? Yes, or the banks washed away, or both.
2482. Was this a natural waterhole, or had the supply been increased by expenditure? It was dammed by lessees.
2483. In the event of the lessee refusing water to travelling stock, how would they obtain water? The stock could not have travelled.
2484. And do you still say that the tank was improperly placed, in the face of that fact? Yes.
2485. *Major Penrose.*] What state is that tank in now? It is just about to be completed and handed over to the Department of Mines.
2486. *Chairman.*] Could a better site have been selected in that neighbourhood? Yes; within a very short distance from the tank.
2487. In your opinion, do the road superintendents out there take any trouble to obtain local information as to the best position to put down these tanks in? I have heard it frequently stated that they do not inquire sufficiently or get the advice of the older residents there.
2488. *Mr. Woore.*] You have only heard that? That is all. All I know is that they did not come to me for information. Had they done so I would have given them every information in my power.
2489. And are you aware of any local people in the neighbourhood having been asked their opinions? No; I am not aware of it.
2490. Are you aware that in the early days mistakes were made by the squatters in constructing excavations for tanks, and in putting up dams that were washed away? Many mistakes were made in the early days. I know that some dams on Bunker Creek and other places were washed away.
2491. So that it could scarcely be expected that the Government officers should be infallible. If other men made mistakes, they were liable to do the same? Yes; mistakes were made all round.
2492. *Chairman.*] Are you aware that in some instances drains leading water into these tanks were improperly constructed, and that instead of leading the water in, had a contrary effect? No, not in my district, and it contains altogether twenty-two watering places—three of these being on the Booligal to Wilcannia road. My district runs 150 miles up the Paroo. Previous to the beginning of this year it ran out to Tibbooburra.
2493. Is it your duty as overseer to visit these tanks? Yes; I have to visit these tanks once every two months; and unless there is some reason why, I do so. I am supposed to inspect and report on the tanks every two months.
2494. Now, with regard to excessive cost of construction, are you aware that the Government pay higher prices for excavation work than squatters and others? That has been well known.
2495. Can you give any reasons why that should be the case? I do not know all the reasons why. The only reason that I am aware of is the delay which the contractors have to contend with in obtaining payment for their work. That I take to be the principal reason, because it necessitates a man with a large plant and with considerable capital to enter into these Government contracts.

2496. What machinery have you in your district? We have got four steam pumps, three of which are under my control. M.J.C. Tally.
2497. Do you think that steam pumps are needlessly expensive? Except where the traffic is very heavy I think a steam pump is a needless expense. 23 Feb., 1888.
2498. But you think that in some instances it is desirable to have steam power? Yes; where the traffic is heavy, and where other kinds of machinery might cause delay.
2499. How do you regard steam power as compared with horse-power? From what I have seen of the two I would prefer horse-power for the public watering places.
2500. For what reason? Because an ordinary man can deal with horse-pumps, and you must have a man of more than ordinary intelligence to make repairs if the steam machinery gets out of order.
2501. Of your own knowledge what is the greatest amount of water required in one day at one of these public watering places? I do not know what quantity would be required, though I say about 70,000 gallons. The public watering places in my district have had very few demands made on them lately on account of the seasons being wet.
2502. Do you think it is possible that with a hand-pump a caretaker could always keep the service tank full and available for traffic? I do not think he could. Wherever the traffic is at all heavy I do not think it is possible; but where, on the other hand, the traffic is light, I think he might keep the tank full and attend to his other work at the same time.
2503. *Mr. Woore.*] What is the greatest number of stock that you have known to water at the public watering places during one day? There might be a case of 40,000 sheep watering in one day.
2504. But what is the greatest number that you have known? I think about 26,000 sheep. That number watered at the 35-Mile tank in one day.
2505. And how much water would they each consume? I should say at the rate of a gallon and a-half each. I am under the impression that in this case the sheep were allowed to drink at the silt-tank, as it was about being cleaned out at that time.
2506. I want to find out whether it is possible for any one man with a hand pump to water the greatest number of sheep or cattle that would travel in one day? No; not on a regular road. I think a horse-power pump might do it, but a M'Comas hand pump could not.
2507. *Major Penrose.*] In the event of 40,000 sheep calling for water in one day, would not the water required be 100,000 gallons? Yes; 100,000 gallons might be wanted, but 80,000 gallons would be more like their real requirements.
2508. That would mean four times the water in the service tank? Yes.
2509. And in that case steam power would be required? Yes; but it would not be necessary to water such a number of sheep as that altogether.
2510. *Chairman.*] Then you think that discretion should be exercised in putting up machinery? Yes; wherever several roads converge and the traffic is heavy, steam pumps might be necessary. Expensive forms of machinery might be wanted in such case, but in every other instance I think a horse-pump would be sufficient.
2511. *Major Penrose.*] Have you made any calculation showing the cost of erection and maintenance of horse-power and of steam power? No; I have not.
2512. *Chairman.*] You are aware that the Government fence off paddocks in connection with these tanks for caretakers and their horses? Yes; at many places the caretakers are provided with paddocks. At others the land is set apart but is not fenced in in all cases. In some cases where the traffic is not large, I think the caretaker's services might be dispensed with; that is, if the tanks were constructed with slight slopes allowing the stock to water in them. What I say now only refers to outlying roads.
2513. *Major Penrose.*] Do you find that steam pumps are easily put in repair by your caretakers? No; although I find that they are very liable to get out of order. One of the first things that I have to do is to see to the repair of one of these when I get back to my district.
2514. In the event of accident what provision is made for travelling stock? At one place the stock can water at the tank, because it is on the side of rising ground and is constructed for that purpose. This is the 48-mile tank on the Booligal road.
2515. Do you think that this inability to make repairs arises from the incapacity of the caretaker or from the complicated character of the machinery? Any man who has to deal with the Tangye steam pump must possess something above the average information.
2516. And do not the caretakers know something about these steam pumps? Yes; in some cases, but in this instance the tank was let to Robinson & Wagner and they employed the caretaker. There is great risk to the travelling public in cases where incompetent men are employed. In that case the Department was not responsible because the man was employed by the lessees of the watering place.
2517. *Chairman.*] Now with regard to the fencing: are you aware of any faulty or expensive construction of the fencing of the caretakers' paddocks? I know that a great deal of expensive fencing has taken place, but I would not call it faulty, because its greatest fault is that it is too good.
2518. You mean that the posts are too close together, the wire too heavy, and so forth? Yes; and too many wires. Altogether the fencing is too expensive for the purpose.
2519. Do you know what some of these wire fences have cost per mile? I know that they have cost over £90 per mile in my district.
2520. What is the usual cost of squatters' fences? Fences of the same nature that would be required for a horse paddock would cost about £40 to £45 per mile at the present rate of wire.
2521. *Mr. Woore.*] What is the size of these paddocks? 640 acres usually, but some of them have 5 miles of fencing, according to the shape of the paddock. They are 2 miles long by $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile wide; so that, to fence them, it takes more than is usually required.
2522. *Chairman.*] Now, have you found any trouble with regard to the dual control of these works. The Public Works Department, as you know, has charge of the construction, and then the works are handed over to the Mines? I have not had much trouble nor interference in my district because the local road superintendent has more discretionary power than are given to other superintendents in the Colony. He is not obliged to refer to head-quarters for every little thing that is wanted. In one case the Assistant Engineer laid a very strong complaint against one of the caretakers in my district. This was Mr. A. P. Wood; and the caretaker against whom the strong complaint was made was the man at the 48-Mile tank. The caretaker of the tank complained that the works that had been found fault with were not under

- M. J. C. Tully.** under our control; that they were in the hands of the Department of Work; but Mr. Woods, notwithstanding, blamed the caretaker of the Mines Department for the whole condition of the works.
 23 Feb., 1888. 2523. But I thought you said that that tank was in the hands of lessees? So it is at the present time, but it was not then in their hands. It was still under the control of the Works Department. It was only the watering appliances that were then being erected. The Works Department had made these improvements, but had not handed them over to us; and it was for not looking after them while under the Works that Mr. Wood found fault with the caretaker.
2524. *Major Penrose.*] I suppose that caretaker was an employee of the Mines Department? Yes; and he was in charge of the tank, but he was not in charge of the appliances. My instructions to the caretaker were to see to the watering of stock, but not to interfere with the appliances until the whole thing was handed over to the Department of Mines.
2525. *Chairman.*] Have you any knowledge of the letting of works by the original contractors to sub-contractors? Nothing that I can speak positively about; I have heard of these things, but none of them have come under my notice.
2526. Have you any wells in your district? Yes.
2527. Have you any fault to find with the sites chosen for the construction of these wells? Only one well has been handed over to the Department of Mines. This is Meenamurtee well, which I always considered unnecessary, and the site of which I considered badly chosen.
2528. For what reason? Because the natural water of the creek might have been utilized at the Meenamurtee waterhole.
2529. Was it a very expensive well? No; I do not think it was very expensive, and the water obtained was very fair stock water.
2530. Do you not think it is desirable to have well-water as a stand-by in extreme droughts, during which tanks have been known to fail? Yes; but I would not put a well close to permanent water. As far as possible I would try to have it put down in dry country.
2531. Yes, but the water is not permanent sometimes, although it is thought to be so, and therefore is it not desirable to have a well close by? It is certainly a difficult matter to define what water is permanent in the western country.
2532. Do you think it is sometimes desirable to sink wells as a stand-by in a very long continuous drought? I do not think it would be advisable to do that until the country is better supplied with water in the unwatered portions of it.
2533. Have you had anything to do with the hutting of caretakers in your district? Yes.
2534. There has been some considerable discussion between the two Departments in regard to this matter? I believe there has been, but none of it has come under my notice.
2535. Have you any huts in your district that have cost a large sum of money? No; the Department of Works have not put up any huts in my district lately. One has been put up by the Mines Department. The material was found by the Department, and the caretaker put up the hut, but not by contract. There were some engine-sheds put up in my district that were unnecessarily costly.
2536. In what way? They were very much too heavy. This was the principal item. It was contract work, and the contractor got £50 for putting them up.
2537. What do you think would have been a fair price for work equal to this? My estimate, which was sent in to the Department, was £19, and I think I could get them made for that.
2538. Have you any reason to find fault with the troughing that has been laid down at public watering places? Nearly all the troughing that has been laid down is the new steel troughing, and there is not much fault to be found with it. Of course, the top rail is too high. It shuts the cattle out, and allows the sheep to come in. The road superintendent in my district has tried the troughing without any top rail.
2539. Have you ever found that sheep got into the water? Yes.
2540. And do you not think, then, that it will be necessary to have a rail down the centre? It might. I have recommended the superintendent to try several kinds of rail, and see which will answer the best. I believe there is less fault to be found with the watering places in my district than with those in any other part of the Colony, because most of them have only recently been constructed.
2541. Now, can you give us any idea how best to meet the exigencies of the case—to lessen this unnecessary expenditure, and remove the friction that has arisen between the two Departments. Do you not think that if the whole matter were put into the hands of a local body it would be advantageous to the public, seeing that the men would have local knowledge and experience? If they were placed under local bodies it would be an immense advantage in saving expenses, and in securing efficiency. I think that the construction and maintenance of these works should all be in the hands of one Department.
2542. From your knowledge generally of this locality you think that Local Boards could be appointed, in whom the public would have confidence, to carry out these works in an economical manner? I am sure of it.
2543. And you do not think there would be any risk of favoritism? None, if the parties concerned would take sufficient interest in, and attend the meetings.

[The Commission adjourned.]

FRIDAY, 24 FEBRUARY, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R.E.,

J. C. WOORE, Esq.

Thomas Waddell called in and examined:—

- T. Waddell.** 2544. *Chairman.*] You are a Member of the Legislative Assembly? Yes.
 24 Feb., 1888. 2545. I think you reside at Bourke? No; I live at Croydon, near Sydney.
 2546. You are one of the Members for the Bourke Electorate? I am.
 2547. I think it was at your instance that the papers in connection with this disagreement between the Mines and Works Departments were produced and printed? Yes; I first asked a question about the matter in the House, and afterwards I moved for the papers. 2548.

2548. These papers have been presented to Parliament? Yes.

2549. What induced you to ask for these papers—had you heard anything that induced you to do so? Yes; it was owing to something that I had heard in my capacity as a representative of the district in Parliament.

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2550. What were these matters that you refer to? Well, in urging the Mines Department on two or three different occasions to get tanks constructed in different parts of the interior where they are required, it appeared to me there was considerable difficulty in getting anything done, owing to the work being divided between two Departments. This came to my notice on several different occasions, and I had my attention repeatedly called to the delay caused by this dual control. I may also mention that I have been told by different persons who ought to know, that there has been considerable loss owing to this work being divided between two Departments.

2551. In what way was there a loss? I believe that large sums of money had been paid away for the making of inspections of work, and that these expenses were far greater than the work itself actually cost.

2552. I suppose the difficulty was caused by what is usually designated "red-tape"? Yes; that is it exactly. I may say, however, that I have had nothing to do personally with getting tanks constructed by the Government, and therefore I cannot say much more.

2553. Do you know any particular tank or well or piece of fencing with which fault might be found, and if so we will be glad to hear of it? I may mention to you now before going any further, that one of the strongest reasons that induced me to take action was—knowledge that any business-man would not have—that work divided between two Departments, as is the case here, could not be carried out in a proper manner. That was one of the things that induced me to bring the matter forward, and it seemed to me plain enough that the Works Department could in some cases get their works constructed if there had not been some antagonism between them and the Mines. The latter would find fault with the way that things were done, and demand that a certain alteration be made, which entailed cost and much loss of time; and, besides that, kept the public from having the advantage of the works.

2554. Now, have you any particular case that you can mention which would exemplify what you say? I think you will find that everything is contained in the papers which have been laid before Parliament. I do not know that there is any case that has come within my personal knowledge, but my reason for doing this was my own feeling that work carried on in this way could not be satisfactory. Representations were made to me by other persons to the same effect since I have been a member for the district.

2555. Having perused these papers, what conclusion did you arrive at with regard to the most desirable way of getting rid of this dual control? The conclusion that I have come to is that the wisest plan would be to put these works entirely into the hands of the Mines Department. I think that Mr. Bennett, the Commissioner for Roads, has so much to do that it is impossible for him to look after his work. I have the highest opinion of Mr. Bennett's ability, but I do not think that he has the time, nor have his officers the time either, to give proper supervision to his work, and that it could be better attended to by men who have more time and larger experience. I know Mr. Gilliat personally, and I know that he is a thoroughly practical man.

2556. I gather from what you state now that a good practical man would be more desirable than a trained engineer? Yes; I have had very large experience in the construction of tanks and dams, and the conservation of water generally in the interior of this country, having had stations out there covering extensive areas; and I have noticed by personal observation that large sums of money were thrown away even by private persons in doing work planned by those possessing no knowledge of the country.

2557. But would not a trained engineer possess the requisite knowledge? It is only by local personal experience of the nature of the ground in the interior that any man can say whether a certain spot will hold water or not. I have known tanks of from 15,000 to 20,000 yards constructed by men who had no knowledge of the nature of the soil, and when they were made they would not hold water. The works were consequently useless and the money expended upon them was thrown away.

2558. I presume this occurred not through faulty design, but through want of local knowledge of the nature of the soil in which the tanks were being put down? Exactly. I may also mention one great fault that many men fall into in carrying out tanks in the interior;—engineers and others who have no personal knowledge of the locality often make what is called the batter of the tank very much too steep. The consequence of this is that the waves of water when disturbed by the wind undermine the banks and large quantities of earth fall in and fill it up, so that the tanks are now much shallower than they ought to be. This I have noticed particularly myself in tanks made under the Works Department.

2559. Do you know what the batter is of which you were speaking? Yes; I should say it was about 1 in 1, while it should be about 1 in 4.

2560. *Major Penrose.*] You mean for that particular soil? Yes, for the particular soil it was excavated in.

2561. *Chairman.*] I presume that some soils would stand a batter of 1 in 1? Yes, some soil would do that, but it is very seldom you will meet with ground of that nature.

2562. Consequently you think that any hard and fast rule in regard to specifications for tanks is altogether wrong? Yes, it is impracticable.

2563. Has it never occurred to you that the handing over of the control of these matters to local bodies would be very desirable, and be likely to result in cheaper construction and arrangement than under the present system? Yes, that would be the case if we had a proper system of local self-government. I believe the work could then be done very much cheaper than by having it looked after by some of the Departments in Sydney.

2564. You think the system of centralization involves the unnecessary expenditure of a great deal of money and the waste of a great deal of time? Yes; I believe this is one of the greatest difficulties that the people of this colony have to contend with. That is the centralization of everything in connection with the carrying out of public works.

2565. Do you know much about Queensland? I do not.

2566. Do you know anything about the system in vogue there? No, not the system in vogue by the Government; but I have a very good knowledge of what is done by private individuals in the way of water conservation. I have no knowledge of works carried out by the Government.

2567. Are you aware that the Government of Queensland have created local bodies to carry out public works in that Colony? Yes, I think so. I believe they call them Divisional Boards.

2568.

- T. Waddell. 2568. You do not know of your own knowledge how these local bodies work? So far as I have seen, having travelled round to Normanton, and also travelled a good deal in south-western Queensland, and so far as I have heard, I think the arrangement in Queensland is a more satisfactory one than any I have yet heard of.
2569. *Major Penrose.*] Because, I presume, the people in constructing public works spend their own money? Yes; I think the rates collected on town and suburban properties are applied partly to these works, and that the Government also gives further assistance.
2570. In any big works the Government give assistance? Yes; in large public works I think they assist; but the local people, I believe, are obliged to assist as well.
2571. *Chairman.*] And you think it would be very desirable if such a system were established in New South Wales? Yes, or some similar system by which the people locally would have supervision over the work. I might mention that the present system of watering stock at tanks does not seem to work very well. Wild cattle do not like to drink out of the troughs. At the same time, I am not prepared to offer any opinion or to suggest anything better.
2572. *Mr. Woore.*] You cannot say anything about the manner in which these works are constructed in Queensland? No; I do not recollect how they are constructed.
2573. *Major Penrose.*] What particular tank do you refer to as having its batter too steep? I think it is called Mulga tank No. 5. I drove past the tank, I think, in January, 1887, and it was then almost completed. In fact I believe it was completed. Since then, I have learned on good authority—I have seen it in the local papers—that the tank has become available for use only a few weeks ago; so that it appears to be standing unused all this time owing to something of which I have no knowledge. The delay must have been caused by the bad management of some of the Departments. At all events, the consequence has been that the public who use this road very largely have been deprived of the water for their stock.
2574. Was the machinery up when you were there? No, not at that time, but the tank appeared to be ready then to have the water let in to fill it up. The silt-tank and shoots, &c., were then ready. The distance between Byrock and Gungolgan is about 40 miles, so that every one will see the hardships which stock, and even human beings, must have suffered in travelling that distance without water.
2575. Is that tank full now? I believe it is.
2576. *Chairman.*] Have you made any inquiry about this long delay? No; the matter was not brought under my notice until I saw it mentioned in one of the papers, which showed me plainly that the tank had only recently been completed.
2577. *Major Penrose.*] You could not have noticed the cutting away of the banks in that particular tank? I owned the country once, and have a good deal of knowledge of the nature of the soil, and from my acquaintance with it I should say it will happen that a good deal of the banks will be washed down into the tank and fill it up. Out in that hot, dry district what we always like to have in our tanks is depth.
2578. Have you any reason to find fault with the sites selected for these tanks? Well, in some cases I do. For instance, the tank I mentioned between Bourke and the Warrego river, was not put in anything like the best place that could have been selected. It could have been put in a much better place. I think the gentleman who put this tank down, although a trained engineer, had no local knowledge, and could not be said to be a practical man.
2579. What was the objection to the site? There was not sufficient drainage to fill the tank quickly—not sufficient catchment area. It often happens that if a tank were made in one particular place half an inch of rain would fill the tank, while if it were placed a little further away, it would take 2 or 3 inches to fill it.
2580. Everything would depend upon the nature of the soil? Yes, and upon the catchment area.
2581. *Mr. Woore.*] Has this tank failed in consequence of the insufficient amount of water flowing? No, it has been very useful; but still a large amount of money has been spent on making drains into it when if it had been made a little further away it would have got the hard clay-pans, and about one-half of the drainage would have sufficed.
2582. *Chairman.*] Do you know the name of the road superintendent who selected that site? I think it was Mr. Postle who was at one time in the Works.
2583. Do you know of any tanks the construction of which you have reason to find fault with? Yes, I know tanks that have been constructed with too steep batters.
2584. *Major Penrose.*] A site of the nature such as that you have just spoken of, requires a great deal of drainage to collect the water. Would it collect more silt than a quicker catchment? I don't think it would. In this particular case, the tank was made close up under the hills; and in consequence of this, the drains would take a good deal of dirt into it, whereas if made with broad shallow drains, the water would run so slowly that it would not carry in much earth with it.
2585. Then this particular tank would collect a great deal of silt? Yes, I should think so.
2586. *Chairman.*] Are you aware that the works constructed by the Government have as a rule cost very much more than those constructed by private individuals? I think they generally do.
2587. Do you know any reasons for that? I think the principal cause of it is that the work is looked after by the Department in Sydney. I believe if the work could be done locally and that the people concerned had to pay part of the cost, work would be done very much cheaper than it is at present.
2588. Have you ever taken notice of the machinery in use in these places for lifting water? No, I have no knowledge of the machinery at all.
2589. Do you know anything about the fences that are constructed round these tanks and round the caretakers' paddocks? Yes; in connection with that I may mention that I know of one or two cases where £8 have been paid for making gates for which £3 would have been full value.
2590. *Mr. Woore.*] Can you name these places? Well, I would sooner not do so, as the information in both cases came to me in confidence. I know that tenders were accepted at £8 for the construction of gates that I reckon ought not to have cost more than £3 or at the most more than £4. I think £12 was given in one case where £4 or £5 would have been quite sufficient. The gates were put where slip-panels were used.
2591. *Chairman.*] Do you think any favoritism was shown in giving contracts to these parties? The work was generally done by tender, but complaints were made to me—I do not know on what grounds—that the system of letting contracts by tender is not a satisfactory one.

2592. From what you say, I imagine that you deprecate the opening of tenders by these local officers as being subject to comment? Yes, I think some other arrangement than the present one would be advisable. T. Waddell.
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2593. It is possible, of course, that these local officers may act in collusion with contractors, and that other undesirable things may happen? Yes, I think that is quite possible. I might suggest as a way that would be much more satisfactory, that the tenders should be opened before a bench of magistrates, consisting of at least two magistrates of the town where the tenders were received.

2594. Of course a local board would be still better as a substitute for the present system of opening tenders? Yes; some local body composed say of three persons.

2595. Have you ever observed any unnecessarily costly fencing to caretakers' paddocks in your journey through your electorate? No; I do not know that I have.

2596. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you think that in an outside district there would be any difficulty in local bodies having charge of the matter of water conservation. When people live a long distance apart, it might be difficult to get them together, in the same way as there is now sometimes a difficulty in getting meetings of the Stock Board? I do not think it would add to the difficulty. At present, I think the arrangement is this way—the Bourke road superintendent has tenders sent him for work say 100 miles away. He opens them there, and I do not see that it would add to the inconvenience if the Local Land Board were to open the tenders instead.

2597. *Chairman.*] The next matter is the alleged interference by the officers of one Department with those of another in the maintenance of these public watering places? No; I know nothing special about that.

2598. There is another important matter concerning which we would like information—that is, the subletting of contracts. Are you aware of contracts having been sublet at very much reduced prices? No; I have no knowledge of that. I have no personal knowledge of anything of that kind having been done.

2599. Can you give us any information with respect to alleged misconduct of Government officers in connection with any public works in your district? No; I have no personal knowledge of any misconduct, and I may also add that I have not heard anything to warrant me in supposing that there was any misconduct. I cannot speak with anything like certainty about this. I have only heard rumours that things have not been done in a satisfactory manner by the officers of the Works Department. But I have no reason whatever to come to the conclusion that these rumours are correct.

2600. Do you know that some officers have been discharged for misconduct? Yes; I believe that there have been some cases of that kind.

2601. Have you any knowledge of the public wells of your district? No; no knowledge about them.

2602. Have you heard anything about the erection of huts for caretakers? Nothing except what is disclosed in the papers. I may mention that I do not think that one of these huts should cost more than £50—not any this side of the Darling, at any rate.

2603. I think you mentioned something about troughing. Now do you think that the construction of the troughing has been defective? No; I cannot speak from personal knowledge, because I have not taken sufficient notice of it.

2604. Is there anything else that you would like to state? I do not think there is anything else except with regard to boring operations.

2605. Well, we shall be glad to hear it. Hitherto we have understood large expense had been incurred by the Government in connection with the sinking of trial-shafts, prior to the sinking of wells. Would not the boring, if properly carried out, very much lessen the expense and trouble involved in the putting down of trial-shafts? I think the best plan would be to bore in every instance, and not to sink a trial-shaft at all. The way in which boring operations have been carried out in the interior is I think a very unsatisfactory way, tending to very serious loss to the Government, and very great delay in carrying out the works.

2606. Which of the Departments has control of the boring? I think it is the Mines Department. During the last five years there have been boring operations going on on the road between Bourke and Wanaaring, on the Paroo. And I believe I am quite correct in saying that there must have been several thousands of pounds of public money thrown away, owing to the bad management of that branch.

2607. What bores have been used? I believe the Wright and Edwards, and the Tiffen bores have been used. What I would suggest in place of the present system of carrying out boring operations by the Government, would be that in all cases the work should be let by tender, at so much per foot, binding the successful tenderer to do the work within a given time.

2608. *Mr. Woore.*] And provide him with the plant? No, I would have nothing to do with plant or machinery in any way. There is a gentleman named Loughead in Queensland who often visits Sydney, and who is carrying on boring operations for the Government of that colony. He informed me on several occasions that if our Government wished it he would take contracts for boring for them, and charge so much per foot, guaranteeing to do the work within a few weeks. The works on the Wanaaring road, which have taken the Mines Department some two years to do, Mr. Loughead would undertake to do in a few weeks.

2609. *Major Penrose.*] At how much per foot? I think it would be £1 a foot up to 1,000 feet.

2610. And what did you say the boring under the Mines Department cost? I should imagine that most of the boring between Bourke and Wanaaring has cost—I think I am quite within the limit when I say it has cost—several hundred per cent. more than Mr. Loughead would require to do the work for.

2611. *Chairman.*] How many of these bores have turned out satisfactorily between Bourke and Wanaaring? Three of them have turned out satisfactorily, and I am of opinion that they will be an immense benefit to the public.

2612. And how many have turned out unsatisfactorily? Well, I think several have turned out useless. But the loss has been in the great delay which has taken place, and the money wasted in doing the work.

2613. *Mr. Woore.*] You do not mean to say that the boring carried out by the Mines Department has cost several hundred per cent. too much, but that the contingent expenses and delays have run it up to that? Yes; the loss incidental to the delays and the expenses in connection with the work, have run it up far above what it should have cost. It is only fair to the officers who are carrying out this work to say that

- T. Waddell. that I believe one of the causes of the loss has been the bad machinery that was used. I think the machine of the new kind such as that which Mr. Loughead is using would be much better, and the work could be done at a fraction of the cost.
- 24 Feb., 1888. 2614. What kind of machinery is this gentleman in Queensland using? I do not remember the name of it just now.
2615. *Chairman.*] Then in any estimate of cost it would be necessary to include all incidental expenses? Yes. I do not think the Government could give the exact cost of the work.
2616. If the Government said that one of these bores cost over £2 or £3 per foot, would that include all the expenses and the delay in putting this work down? I do not think so.
2617. That could only be obtained by actually getting returns of the whole cost from the commencement to the completion of the particular work? Yes, the present system is involved in great difficulty; the machinery is bad and there is a difficulty in getting competent men. If the Government officers were allowed to pick out sites, and then let out work by tender, I am satisfied that it could be done at one-third of the present cost.

James Yeo called in and examined:—

- J. Yeo. 2618. *Chairman.*] You are an overseer under the Mines Department? I am late overseer of public watering places for the Ivanhoe District.
- 24 Feb., 1888. 2619. What is your present employment? I am inspector of stock.
2620. We have understood up to the present that these terms are synonymous? Yes, so they are in some districts; but in my district now there are no public watering places, and consequently no overseer.
2621. For what district are you an inspector of stock? For Picton, Berrima, and Kiama districts.
2622. You are now then in the Metropolitan district? No.
2623. How many years were you living in the Ivanhoe district? About two years and six months.
2624. How long since? I left at the beginning of October last.
2625. Have you had any reason to find fault with the selection of sites for tanks? Yes, there are several places where tanks were put down in unsuitable situations.
2626. What is the reason of this? One was put in a swamp, and one is surrounded with water, and should have been put on the ground higher up.
2627. What is the name of that tank? That is the Clare tank.
2628. What objection is there to that tank being placed in low ground? Well, the service tank is endangered, and the water is all round the foundation. The troughing is under water, and it is impossible for any stock to get to the troughing. The embankments are affected a great deal by the continual whirl of the water all round.
2629. Could a better site have been selected in the neighbourhood? Yes, about 300 yards away.
2630. Has this swamp or lake often been filled? I do not think it has been filled for some years till eight or nine months ago.
2631. Then you think that the site was a fairly good one? Yes, it was a fair catch.
2632. If the lake had not been filled with water you would have no reason for objecting to the site? Well, I would not have put the tank into the swamp in any case.
2633. Why? Because the red ground is preferable, and does not take so much water to fill it as a tank put in swampy ground, where the water soaks away before it can get to the tank. One is hard soil, and the other porous.
2634. *Major Penrose.*] I suppose most of the catchment is on the hard ground outside the tank? Yes.
2635. So that you would have chosen the site nearer the hard ground, where the water would have run direct into the tank, filling it with a less rainfall? Yes.
2636. *Chairman.*] Are there any other tanks that you think fault may be found with? Yes, Gunaramby tank, on the Clare run.
2637. What is the situation of that tank? It is in a swamp. There is no water around it just now, but it would have been better if it had been placed on the red ground, because it would catch much quicker. I would also wish to point out the great difficulty in the way the water is carried into that tank. It is by the silt-tank on one side, and there is a lead from that silt-tank around on top of the excavation to the other side, to be carried into the flume. Consequently, with the very loose open soil, the earth between the top of the excavation and drain is liable to be washed into the main tank. There was no protection to the sides or bottom until I had it made. I had a lot of gypsum stones collected, and made a gypsum flume all the way. I pointed out this at the time I was taking delivery from Mr. Wood and Mr. Stilwell. Mr. Wood snubbed me, and said I was not there to criticise the work, but to take delivery of it in the condition in which it stood.
2638. Was any reason given for the exceptional way of taking the water into the tank? No; no reason was given to me.
2639. I presume that is the only instance you know of where this extraordinary way of taking the water was adopted? That is all.
2640. Any other tanks? I think a better site could easily have been selected for the Ivanhoe tank. It is right in the centre of the township, and the drains to it run right alongside piggeries and Cobb & Co.'s stables; whereas the tank might have been put in another place on Government ground, where the stock, in order to get to the tank, would not have to pass through the township.
2641. Were not these stables and piggeries erected since the tank was put down there? No, before.
2642. Who chose the site of this tank that you have just been speaking about? I cannot say, because that work was started before I took charge of the district.
2643. But the Mines Department, as a rule, chose the sites for tanks? Yes, but they generally send an officer of the Works Department with them. I do not know that it was done in any of these cases. There was a site chosen and a lot of work done to it, but they only went down about 2 feet when it was given up.
2644. For what reason? I was informed that the station people, having found out where the tank was to be put down, went and selected the land, and since then they have put down a tank there, although the selection has been forfeited.
2645. Was the ground found to be suitable? Yes; it was very good holding ground.

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2646. And you do not know any reason why the site of the tank was shifted, except that it was selected by the lessees of the run? No; no other reason. The Ivanhoe tank, I may say, does not hold water well; the soil is very porous, and, in fact, for some time the water left it at the rate of 3 inches a day. When I left the district of Ivanhoe the water was leaving at the rate of an inch per day. There is a drain to the Ivanhoe tank that carries the water in an opposite direction instead of allowing it to run into the tank.

2647. *Major Penrose.*] Do you know who laid out that drain? I cannot say whether it was Mr. Stilwell or his assistant. A very excessive price was paid for it, too.

2648. With regard to the Ivanhoe tank, you have already written letters to your Department setting forth your objections to it? Yes.

2649. *Chairman.*] Do you know any other tanks that show great faults in selection of sites? Well, these are the chief ones in my district.

2650. And have you any fault to find with the construction and excavation of these tanks? Yes; in the first place the batters are all too steep.

2651. What are the batters? They are $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 and 2 to 1. Of course, being so steep, in loose, open soil and the continual swelling of the water, the soil caves in, and large quantities go into the tank.

2652. Are there any other reasons for finding fault with the construction of these works? Well, the embankments are much too steep. They scour a great deal, and great complaint was made about the water getting off the embankment at Ivanhoe. A great amount of the embankment washed into the silt-tank.

2653. Could that happen if there was a drain all round the tank between the edge of the tank and the embankment? This that I am speaking about was on the top of the embankment. A syphon was sent up to take this water off, but it was not sufficiently large; consequently, I had to make application to have the angle-shoots put in to carry it off.

2654. *Major Penrose.*] Is this water off the dished top of the embankment? Yes.

2655. But the area of that would be very small? The top of the embankment is, I think, 30 feet wide.

2656. *Chairman.*] You have already mentioned that carelessness has been exhibited in laying out the drains of the Ivanhoe tank? Yes; any one can see that instead of bringing the water to the tank it leads the water in an opposite direction.

2657. I presume you think that no levels could have been taken? No; there could have been no levels taken.

2658. Now, about the excessive cost; how comes it? As a rule it has been alleged that the Government pay very much higher prices for the construction of their works than private individuals? Well, there is only one reason that I can give and that is the great length of time that contractors have to wait for their money. On that account the contractors insist on getting good prices for their work.

2659. Do you think that was sufficient reason to warrant the extra charges in every case? I think there is no reason why the Government should give more for their work than station owners. If contractors for the Government only received their money directly they finished their work, I see no reason why the work should not be done as cheaply.

2660. Is there no other reason you know of besides that? No.

2661. Would not a much steeper batter be more expensive? Of course it would; but I thought you were speaking of the drains just then. The batters are much too steep, and the making of them necessitates extra labour and a larger sum of money. Particularly steep batters necessarily cause great expense.

2662. And as a rule the Government sink their tanks some 2 or 3 feet deeper than squatters? Yes; as a rule they do.

2663. That would entail extra expense? Yes; and of course the deeper you go the more the tank will cost.

2664. Is there not sometimes considerable difficulty in inducing the officers to measure and pass the work while it is in progress? Yes; I think there is; in fact I am certain there is.

2665. Do you think that the very elaborate manner in which the Government insist upon all the earth being placed evenly around the tank, would add to the expense? Yes; undoubtedly; I think a great many of these things are not necessary.

2666. Then, taking all these matters into consideration, do you think that the alleged excessive finish required by the Government in their tanks warrants the tenderer in asking more money? Yes; but I should like to add something else to that. The tanks are made in an unnecessarily expensive manner. I think it is quite unnecessary to lay down a hard and fast rule as to what kind of tank should be constructed in these places. There should be no such rule, but a tank should be made so as to suit a locality in which it is placed.

2667. *Mr. Woore.*] You think there is no necessity for the delay in the payments? I think not; and if a competent man were appointed to look after the work, there should be no delay.

2668. *Major Penrose.*] To what do you attribute this delay in payment for work? In some instances I think it arises on account of not having the work passed immediately, but there is a great deal of delay apart from this for which I cannot account.

2669. Some of the delays, I presume, are due to the local officers, and others are departmental? I should imagine so, but I am not in a position to say.

2670. Are you quite sure that a delay has occurred? Yes; I know it has occurred in some cases.

2671. A delay in inspecting and measuring up the work? Yes.

2672. What forms of machinery are used for lifting water in your district? Some of them are horse-power pumps and others are steam pumps.

2673. *Chairman.*] You said something about the excessive cost of making the leading drains? Yes; 15s. per chain was paid at Ivanhoe.

2674. *Mr. Woore.*] What was the size of the drain? About 6 feet wide by 1 foot deep.

2675. *Major Penrose.*] What is the usual price for such work? From 3s. 6d. to 5s. per chain.

2676. *Chairman.*] And can you account for the excessive price paid in this instance? In this case no tenders were called for the drain.

2677. And was the party who made the contract the local road superintendent? Yes, the men who did the work I know perfectly well. They made an arrangement to ask 7s. 6d. per chain for it; and then one of them said: "No, it's Government work; we'll ask 15s. for it, and possibly we will get 12s. 6d." They asked the 15s.; there was no question about it, and they got the work.

2678. *Mr. Woore.*] Did you see these drains being constructed? Yes.

2679. And can you tell how much of that kind of drain a man can do in a day? The work was done with ploughs and scoops, and I should say that a tremendous lot of it might be done in a day. 2680.

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2680. Do you believe that these men made a good profit on the work? Yes, an enormous profit; I am quite sure of that. The same men made drains in the same paddock, and the same kind of drain, for 3s. 6d. per chain.
2681. And how do you account for this excessive price having been given to them? I cannot say; all I know is, that it is a fact. I remember the incident perfectly well, because there was a row about it. Two of the men wanted to turn out the third man and they had a fight which I saw myself.
2682. *Chairman.*] It was then that you became aware of the fact? Yes.
2683. Do you think that any intended favoritism was shown in giving the contract to these men? I am not aware of it. I would like to read an extract from a letter which will confirm my statement.
2684. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you know who let this other work for 3s. 6d.? Yes, Mr. Brougham, of Ticehurst. The road crosses the drain of this tank in four places that have been stoned at a cost of £16 10s. or £17 each.
2685. What would have been a fair price for this work? I should think if they got £5 each it would have been sufficient.
2686. Is stone available in that neighbourhood? No, it is not very plentiful, but there is a good deal of stone there suitable for the purpose.
2687. Was this work also done without tendering? I cannot say; I have been informed by Mr. Williamson that he had drains almost similar put down for 5s. 6d. per chain.
2688. *Chairman.*] Now, do you think that the machinery that you have seen working at the tanks is of a more expensive character than is necessary? Well, I am not aware of the cost of the machinery. I have never had a chance to find out what the cost of it was.
2689. Do you think that hand pumps would be sufficient to keep the service tanks supplied without these expensive forms of machinery? I do not think so.
2690. Of course it would depend upon the particular road on which the particular watering place was situated? It would. I do not think a hand or M'Comas pump would be sufficient.
2691. Do you know how many gallons in a day could be pumped with one of these M'Comas pumps? I think one man would pump enough water with one of these pumps to water 8,000 sheep. This would be 8,000 or 10,000 gallons, or perhaps more.
2692. Could the caretaker do this? Yes; but he has other work to attend to as well.
2693. What is his other work? Cleaning the drains, and keeping the tank in proper order, and looking after his fencing.
2694. As a rule stock are not continuously on the roads? No; there might be two or three or four mobs of sheep along in one day, and sometimes none at all.
2695. *Mr. Woore.*] What is the greatest number of travelling sheep that you have known to water in one day? About 20,000 sheep.
2696. That would take about 40,000 gallons of water, including wash? They drink a lot of water.
2697. Would they empty a service tank containing 20,000 gallons twice? Yes.
2698. *Chairman.*] Consequently, one man could not provide for that large number? No.
2699. *Major Penrose.*] Is there a steam pump at Ivanhoe? Yes; and I think it is working well.
2700. You say that from practical experience you have found that a steam pump is dearer than a horse pump? Yes. The caretaker has given him 640 acres, which provides enough feed for his horse.
2701. And, therefore, as one man could not do the work, you do not think the machinery put up on these roads is unnecessary? No; I do not think so.
2702. Do you think the drovers in charge of travelling stock would be able, with the assistance of the caretaker, to raise enough water to supply the stock? Yes; but it would be very difficult to make them do it. They would not feel inclined to do that. They would be more inclined to rush the tank, and allow the stock to get into it.
2703. Do you know any particular tank where machinery is used, and where the traffic does not warrant the expenditure on the machinery? Since I have been in the Ivanhoe district the traffic on some of the stock routes certainly does not.
2704. *Chairman.*] So that in this matter, as in others, a great deal of discretion should be exercised by the Department? Yes.
2705. You know something about the fences round these caretakers' paddocks? Yes.
2706. Has it come under your observation that they have cost an excessive amount? Yes; very excessive.
2707. For what reason are the specifications unnecessarily strict? I have never seen the specifications, but I have no doubt that they are. For instance, the posts are too big and the wire is too heavy. It is almost impossible for a man, single-handed, to strain No. 4 wire. The posts of the fence round the Ivanhoe tank are splitting already on account of the way the wire is strained on them. There is no straining-posts put in—and in a great many places the posts are made of split pine.
2708. Could more durable timber for the work be found in the neighbourhood? Yes; they could have got plenty of belar; it is quite large enough.
2709. Are you aware what this fencing has cost per mile? The contractor for the Ivanhoe tank told me that he got £112 per mile for it, and that afterwards he sublet it to a man named Elliott.
2710. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you know this of your own knowledge? Yes; but I could not find the price that Elliott got from Bevan. Elliott sublet the erection of the fence to one Chas. Anderson, and the carting of the posts to Pat Gallagher at £5 per 100. Anderson was to get £18 per mile from Bevan—the latter to find the wire himself. I think you will find all this in the papers. The first contractor must have made a profit of £60 per mile on the transaction.
2711. Now, can you give me any reason why this enormous price was paid for the fence in the first instance? No; I cannot say.
2712. Do you know that it was let by tender? This particular fence was not let by tender.
2713. By whom was this contract made? By Mr. Stilwell.
2714. With this man Bevan? Yes; this information I got from Bevan himself. Bevan told me further that he had had several other works along the road; and Mr. Stilwell said to him that, seeing he had all these works, he (Mr. Stilwell) might as well give him this one, too.
2715. Have you had any difficulty in regard to interference by the road superintendents? Yes.
2716. In what way—will you mention any particular case that has come under your notice? In connection with my duties, do you mean?

2717. Yes; the officers of one Department interfering with the officers of another? Yes; something occurred in connection with the Merri-Merriwa tank—with regard to the cleaning out of the silt-tank at that place. It is a part of the maintenance; and since I have been in charge of the district I know, from my own personal knowledge, the silt-tank has been cleaned out twice. The caretaker in this case was waiting until the tank was dry before he attempted to clean it out, because the work could not be done while the tank was full of water. In spite of this, a contract was let to clean out the tank by the Works Department.

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2718. Was this before the tank became dry? Yes; before it became dry they let the contract to clean it out; but they had to wait until it was dry.

2719. Who was the road superintendent in this case? Mr. Adams, of Cobar.

2720. What business had he to interfere with the maintenance, so long as it was under the charge of the Mines Department? He had no right to interfere in the matter at all.

2721. Did he state as his reason that the tank was being neglected? No; I did not know that he had let the work until I got round on my usual inspection, and found that it was done.

2722. If the road superintendent found the caretaker neglecting his duties, would he have been justified in attending to the matter? Well, I think he should have reported it first, and then I could have called on the caretaker for an explanation as to why he did not attend to his duties.

2723. What was the result? The contract was let and the tank cleaned out by the contractor to whom the work had been let by the officer of the Works Department.

2724. *Chairman.*] At what cost? I cannot tell you.

2725. You think that in any case it was unnecessary, because it was the caretaker's duty to do the work? Yes; and he had done it twice before.

2726. Is there any other glaring instance where the caretakers have been interfered with by the officers of the Roads Department? In one case Mr. Stilwell reported negligence on the part of the Mines officer. It might have been myself, or the caretaker, as he merely said Mines officer, and did not mention names. It was the caretaker of the Mount Manara watering place, to whom Mr. Stilwell spoke of the state of the pump. The work was completed, and I received instructions to go and take delivery of it. On my arrival I found there was no water in the tank, and of course I would not take delivery of the works on that account, because I could not test them. It remained then for four or five months until rain fell, when there was about 3 feet of water in the tank. I met by appointment, to take delivery from Mr. A. P. Wood, the Assistant Engineer, and Mr. Stilwell, but the machinery had not been transferred to the Works Department previous to this by the contractor, who was to meet us there also in order to transfer the machinery. These works had been exposed to the weather during the whole time of their construction; consequently they were quite rusty and could not be started when steam was got up. The contractor did not arrive; so Mr. Wood and Mr. Stilwell set to work the whole of the day, and in the evening about five o'clock the pump commenced to work, but not in a satisfactory manner. Mr. Stilwell then said to me, "If you will take delivery of these works as they are, I will send my travelling mechanic at once to put them in thorough repair for you." I said to him that if he would do this I would have no objection, in order to save trouble and to save us from travelling the same distance over again for the same object, to accept the transfer from him on these conditions; but Mr. Stilwell did not visit the tank again until the following October (this was in June), and in the meantime no travelling mechanic had arrived. In spite of this, Mr. Stilwell reported the caretaker and myself for negligence, but I referred to what happened between Mr. Wood and myself, who was present to transfer the work. Mr. Stilwell alluded to the fact that the state which the machinery was in at that time was owing to the negligence of the Mines officer, although it got into that state before it was transferred. I am referring now to the Mount Manara tank, and it only shows Mr. Stilwell's own neglect in not sending up the travelling mechanic which he promised to do. He also told the caretaker not to interfere with the arrangements; that he would send up a travelling mechanic to put the works in order. Mr. Stilwell then did something to the work himself, and the machinery worked better after that.

2727. You say you refused to take charge of this work till the rain came? Yes.

2728. Now, supposing that the rain did not come for a year or two, who is to look after this work;—if it is completed and you refuse to take it over, what arrangements are made in regard to taking delivery? We take delivery of nothing until we can test it.

2729. Then, if rain did not come for two years you would not have taken delivery until the end of that time? No; the Works Department would have to keep some one there between the completion of the work and its being handed over to us. In this particular instance, I put on a caretaker after the work was finished, but we could do nothing with it until Mr. Stilwell came again, when he complained of my want of attention.

2730. *Major Penrose.*] Do the Mines Department, when taking over the works, take over with them the caretaker appointed by the Works Department? In some instances they do. If the man is a good reliable man he is taken over.

2731. *Chairman.*] Is there any other case where the caretakers have been glaringly interfered with? Yes; at Boonoonna tank.

2732. What was the nature of this? The pump did not throw the water fast enough; the horses had to go at a jog trot to draw the water to fill the pipe. I complained to Mr. Wood and Mr. Stilwell that it did not throw the water sufficiently fast to water stock. They appeared to think that it would be right to test it, and from Mr. Wood's test the service tank should have been filled in about six hours; whereas it takes most men about two days to fill it with the horse pump. On one of my own inspections I examined it and found that the leathers in the caretaker's pump had quite perished. I could not get out the plunger, although the caretaker and I pulled with all our might. The bearings were taken to pieces and covered over, and I reported the matter at once to Mr. Stilwell, saying that the work was out of order, and asking him to send a practical mechanic at once.

2733. *Major Penrose.*] Was the tank under your charge at this time? Yes. In connection with the machinery the Works Department took it upon themselves to put it into repair. They always kept a travelling mechanic going about for this purpose, and it appeared from what Mr. Stilwell said that the travelling mechanic was away at Deniliquin and could not come. I therefore directed the caretaker to put the works in order if he could do so; but he could not do it. Mr. Stilwell, the next time he came along, fixed it up and then reported the matter again.

- J. Yeo. 2734. But if this work could have been done by a travelling mechanic alone, how comes it that you require three men? Well, we could not get the plunger out otherwise. It was stuck very tight.
- 24 Feb., 1888. 2735. Would you send many miles for a travelling mechanic to put in a piece of leather? No, I would not; but we were impressed not to interfere with the machinery internally, and on that account we expected the Works officers to come and make such repairs as were required.
2736. So that this little thing would necessitate the travelling mechanic coming several miles to attend to;—now, could it not be done by an ordinary man? Yes; but we are not allowed to interfere with the internal arrangements of the machinery at all.
2737. *Mr. Woore.*] If, with the assistance of the caretaker, you could have got the plunger out, would you not have set the pump in working order without troubling the Works Department at all? Yes, decidedly.
2738. Although it would not be your duty, or the caretaker's duty either? Yes; but Mr. Stilwell told some of our caretakers distinctly not to interfere with the machinery internally.
2739. But, notwithstanding this instruction, you would have made the repair if you could, in order to save trouble? Yes.
2740. And you spent the whole day in trying to do it? Yes.
2741. *Major Penrose.*] Were the public debarred from getting water all this time? No; it so happened that there was a lot of water in the swamp close by, otherwise it might have been very serious.
2742. There are no hand pumps to fall back upon in case of accident? No.
2743. *Chairman.*] Then this interference between the two Departments caused unnecessary delay, and leads up to what has been called friction? Yes; but I am sure I was never anxious to have this at all. I was always anxious to have things put in proper repair, which I think will be seen from the way in which I took delivery of the Mount Manara steam pump.
2744. Are there any wells in your district? Yes; there are two.
2745. Have you any reason to find fault with the construction of these wells or the sites selected for them? I consider that the Holy Box well should never have been put in that position. There was a splendid site there for a tank; in fact, a tank was sunk there down to about 3 feet and then abandoned.
2746. Do you know for what reason? It was put down before I took charge of the district. The only reason that I know of was that wells were thought more suitable at the time.
2747. Is this a good well? No; the water is very salt and brackish, and travellers who pass by will allow their stock to perish almost rather than allow them to drink there. The oldest drover on that road, John Clancy, who has been on the road for 25 years, would not think of letting his stock drink there. At the time Cobb & Co. leased it they had had to take their horses away or they would have died.
2748. *Major Penrose.*] Was that the well where the baling was going on? Yes.
2749. Did not the baling improve the water? Only very slightly. The caretaker does not use it even now, but carts his water from elsewhere.
2750. Then he is still baling the well? Yes, still baling.
2751. *Chairman.*] Will the public use the water? Very few. Any one who knows the road at all does not use it.
2752. *Major Penrose.*] Is it not true that a flock of 10,000 sheep watered there at one time? Not since I have had charge of the district.
2753. You think that it would have been much more satisfactory to have continued this tank than to have sunk a well? Decidedly it would.
2754. Are you aware that brackish or salt water is found in many of the wells sunk in that country? Yes; in a great many of them. And they have been abandoned and tanks substituted in their place.
2755. You do not complain that wells should be sunk in suitable localities if you can ensure fresh water being obtained? No; there would be no objection to it at all.
2756. For this reason, I presume that the tanks might go dry—while you can always rely on wells? Well, I think it will be a very long drought that will send some of these tanks dry.
2757. *Chairman.*] Have any wells been constructed in your district during your term of office? The Willandra well was in course of construction. They sunk a shaft and it caved in at the bottom. They got into sand drift.
2758. What about this Willandra well? It is put down in a place that would be very good for a tank. It has been abandoned by three or four different parties—some of them experienced men, too. They could not get through the drift.
2759. *Major Penrose.*] That could not have been foreseen when the site was chosen? I do not know whether they put down a trial shaft or not, but they could have seen a good site for a tank close by.
2760. *Chairman.*] Do you think that if they had put down a boring or a trial shaft that they would have found this out? Yes. I may say that I am informed that they are putting down a shaft alongside of the well now, which is ridiculous. A portion of the work was on the private property of the Kilfera Pastoral Company.
2761. *Major Penrose.*] Is the Willandra well also in Mr. Stilwell's district? Yes.
2762. *Chairman.*] Have you had anything to do with the erection of huts for caretakers? Very little; but I have seen some of the specifications.
2763. Have you any fault to find with the troughing supplied to these tanks and wells? Yes; the draught rail is too high. It prevents the cattle reaching the water.
2764. Is that now being obviated? Yes; it is in some cases.
2765. Could not the difficulty of animals reaching over the rails have arisen by the wearing away of the soil from underneath? No; because the troughs put down were generally too high from the first. In fact at the Ivanhoe tank the ground had to be raised directly the trough was erected.
2766. But the troughing is good as a rule? Yes; as a rule it is good; but it is the position of some of it which I object to.
2767. What do they use for the construction of the troughing? Galvanized iron for some of them.
2768. What protection would they require in your opinion? From fresh water I do not think galvanized iron requires any protection.
2769. Now, with well water, what do they use? They use tar and tallow. In hot weather it melts, forming a scum over the water, and the stock won't touch it. In one case the rails were taken down by a drover and he rushed the tank. I had him summoned and fined £10.
- 2770.

2770. Since complaint has been made of this composition, has not the use of it been given up? Yes; in my district it has.

2771. Now, do you not think that if these works were given over to local bodies—to people living in the localities—that it would be greatly to the benefit of the community generally, and that it would lessen the cost of these works? Well, it is a difficult matter to get local men to attend to anything of this sort. As a stock inspector, I have had great difficulty in getting meetings of the Stock Board together to do business. They generally have other meetings which take up a great deal of their time; and besides most of them have a long distance to come to town.

2772. Do you think the Divisional Board system of Queensland would be a success here? Yes; but in any case they would have to rely upon the opinions of their stock inspectors.

2773. Do you not think it would get rid of the difficulty in regard to the payment of money? No; I think not. It would be just as well if the Inspectors under the Works Department were kept up to their work. The overseers should be bound to visit the tank once a month and measure it, so that the contractors could be able to obtain a certain percentage of their money. This would, I think, meet the difficulty.

2774. Then you think there would be difficulty in making this local system work? I think there would.

[The Commission adjourned until the afternoon, when the sitting was resumed.]

James Cotton called in and examined:—

2775. *Chairman.*] What are you? I am an inspector of stock and overseer of watering places for the district of Cobar.

2776. How long have you been in office? I have been in office for nearly six years.

2777. Have any of the tanks that have come under your observation been constructed in wrong positions, in your judgment? As a rule, in the Cobar district, the sites of the tanks have been fairly well selected. The sites have answered the purpose very well. I daresay sometimes a better site might have been found for one of these tanks a mile or two further on, but it would not have answered the purpose of a public watering place; because it would not have been at the proper distance between two other places. I have no particular fault to find, therefore, with the sites of public tanks.

2778. Do you know of any faulty sites in other districts than your own? Yes, there is one; but I can hardly say that it is within my district, although it is under my control. It has been handed over to me. I consider that the catchment area at this place is too small.

2779. What is the name of that tank? The Mulya tank. As a proof of what I say, I may mention that it has now only about 9 feet 3 inches of water in it, or it had that on my last inspection. It has been constructed for over two years, and on one occasion there was a rainfall of 8 inches within a week over that portion of the country, and yet this tank did not fill. I am opinion, therefore, that the catchment area of this tank is too small.

2780. Who chose that site? So far as I know it was chosen by the road superintendent at Bourke, Mr. Coleman.

2781. Is it not a fact that the road superintendent, in fixing the sites for tanks, has to act in conjunction with the overseer of public watering places? Well, this is what we are told by the Watering Places Branch; but, as a rule, the road superintendents never do consult us.

2782. Is this tank that you speak of near Gungolgan? No; I think it is about 14 miles from Louth, on the Louth to Cobar road.

2783. Could that faulty catchment area have been observed, in your opinion, by a man of ordinary intelligence? I think so, because it has been handed over now to another road superintendent, who has been to a great deal of trouble indeed in getting a mile more of drains into the tank. He told me that he had very great difficulty in getting ground and utilizing the catchment area, running his levels very low that they would be able to run the water in. By this means he said that he hoped to be able to get another mile of drains.

2784. And the fact remains that in this unusually wet season the tank would not fill? Just so.

2785. Then this very injudicious selection of the site has caused a large expenditure of money with very little good result? Yes.

2786. *Mr. Woore.*] Is there a better site in the immediate vicinity? I think a far better site might have been found. It is out of my district, but I was instructed a little while ago to go there and effect a transfer of the works from the Public Works Department to the Mines. I did so, but while there I had not sufficient time to go round and examine the country to see whether there was a better site. Yes; I am of opinion that a better site could have been chosen.

2787. Is the usual machinery erected at this place? Yes; a steam-pump.

2788. *Chairman.*] Are there any other cases of faulty sites? No; none that I have special knowledge of.

2789. The next question is as to the faulty catchment areas;—but, with respect to the construction of these tanks, do you notice anything faulty in the specifications? Yes; I think the specifications are for the most part wrong. I wrote a letter on this subject some time ago, which I would like to read.

2790. We would prefer taking your own statement? Well, in the first place, I consider that the construction of these watering places should be under the supervision of officers that are thoroughly acquainted with stock and all the requirements of stock, and who have had experience in conserving water in dry country for stock purposes. For these reasons it seems to me that one set form of tank to be constructed at each place should not be adopted; while these specifications have hardly ever been departed from, notwithstanding the variations in the nature of the soil.

2791. You mean that the Roads Department have applied a hard-and-fast rule? Yes; and this hard-and-fast rule will not answer for every place. Their slopes or batters are in every instance too steep; their watering appliances are expensive, and I think unnecessary. I may mention that in my opinion there are many places where the ground would stand a 2 to 1 batter or less, but there are other places where it would require as much as a 3 to 1 batter on account of the porous nature of the soil. In this friable soil the top of the tank has a tendency to fall in. Another fault in the construction of these tanks is that there is no roadway left to take the stuff out. Now, in my opinion, there ought to be a roadway left in each one of these tanks, and a roadway sufficiently wide and sufficiently

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- J. Cotton. sufficiently complete to allow the stock to water if necessary at the tanks, in the event of the machinery getting out of order. It is always possible for these steam pumps and horse-gear pumps to get out of order altogether. My district is a very dry country, and if it should happen to occur when the thermometer was at 118° in the shade, as it often is up there, stock would never reach the next tank alive. At these steep tanks of 1½ to 1 it is utterly impossible to water the stock. Certainly, you might get them in, but you would never get them out again; and this I consider a very great mistake indeed in the construction of the tanks. No practical man could have made such a mistake in the construction.
- 24 Feb., 1888. 2792. Do you not think it desirable to have batters as steep as possible, so as to prevent the evaporation of the water? Well, I really think that the evaporation that takes place is not worth considering. I know for a fact that we had only some 7 inches of rain in 1884, and that year every tank was then full to the brim; so that I think that matter of evaporation is not worthy of a second thought. The Cobar district is an undulating country; and, as I say, in other districts a steeper slope might be possible—that is, where the catchment area was very slow, and where the storage of a large amount of water is required.
2793. The soil in your district is of a good, firm character? Yes; it is hard, and makes a good catchment.
2794. I presume 7 inches of rain per annum would never fill a tank in the black soil plains in the interior? No; it never would, indeed. That is why I say that no hard-and-fast rule can be applied in such matters.
2795. *Major Penrose.*] Was there much demand upon your tanks lately? No. In 1884 the stock were not able to travel. There was no grass whatever, and the stock could not get along. While all the sheep were dying throughout the district for want of feed, there was on the other hand, any amount of water.
2796. *Chairman.*] Are you aware that it has been alleged that the Government have to pay very much more for the construction of their works than private individuals? Yes.
2797. Can you give us the reason why? Well, one reason why is in the specifications which the contractors have to work under, compelling very steep slopes, and allowing no roadway to cart the last 4 or 5 feet of stuff out of the tank; this causes it to be very expensive to get out the bottom of the tanks. Another reason is the delay which ensues in the matter of payments. I have heard contractors complain very bitterly about the delay that they have experienced in getting their money.
2798. Is there not a Mr. Budd in your district, a contractor? Yes; he has put down a good many of the Government tanks.
2799. Are you aware that on one occasion he actually became insolvent by reason of the delay of the Government in paying him for his work? I am not aware of that, but I have heard that he and others complained about delayed payments. I know a man named Ryan, who put down the Mulya tank, who complained to me very bitterly two or three times about not getting paid. He appealed to me to assist him if I could, but I was unable to do anything in the matter. He said to me that he had finished his work, but he was unable to get it inspected by the Government officer. He was delayed for months and months; and although his creditors were pushing he could do nothing.
2800. *Major Penrose.*] To what do you attribute this delay? The delay was in the inspection of the work. Had it been inspected there is no doubt the contractor would have received his voucher.
2801. *Chairman.*] I presume the proper officer to do this is the local road superintendent? Yes.
2802. And was he not available? No; of course I do not know if he has much to do elsewhere or not. The superintendent, Mr. Coleman, has a very large district.
2803. Then you think generally the specifications for these Government tanks are altogether too strict, and that their strictness is the cause of the extra price which the Government are obliged to pay? Yes; and the delayed payments.
2804. You think that under these circumstances the prices asked for by the contractors are excessive? Not under the circumstances. Considering all these matters, I should say that the prices asked by the contractors are not excessive. Having to conform to all these requirements, I do not think that they asked too much.
2805. Then these alleged excessive prices are not really excessive? Under the existing circumstances, no; but if the circumstances were altered I should think that the contractors would then be able to do the work much more cheaply. I know, as a fact, that a fair price for squatters' tanks is 11d. per cubic yard.
2806. And what is the highest price that you have known to be given in your district? Well, I really know very little about the prices which have been paid for these Government tanks.
2807. But surely you must know something about it? I have only heard about them; I have had nothing actually to do with them.
2808. *Major Penrose.*] It is commonly reported, I presume, that the prices for Government work are very much higher? Yes; everybody knows that; but I can hardly say from memory what the Government pay.
2809. What was the highest price you have known to be given by squatters? I know one case where the squatter paid 2s. 6d. per cubic yard; but that was for going through solid rock. The usual price given by the squatters for ordinary work is from 11d. to 1s. 2d. per cubic yard.
2810. I suppose you have never heard of 1s. 9d. having been given? Oh, yes; I have already said that I have known squatters to give 2s. 6d. for the excavation of certain ground, but in the ordinary way the price is from 11d. to 1s. 2d.
2811. But, as a rule, the squatter has more choice in the selection of a site than the Government can possibly have? Yes; there is no doubt whatever about that.
2812. Then it might easily occur that the Government tanks cost a good deal more than private tanks, because the Government, in their choice of a site, are much more restricted than private individuals? Quite so.
2813. *Chairman.*] In your district, I presume, machinery is used for raising water? Yes.
2814. Do you think that this machinery is of too expensive a character? Yes. If I had been allowed to read the letter which I spoke of, I could easily show that. I feel very strong on that point, and have been writing about it for the last three years. I am of opinion that this machinery is not only too costly but is actually unnecessary.
2815. What is the largest number of stock that have been driven over a road at one time in your experience; how many sheep have you known to require water in one day? I think the maximum would be about 20,000; but as a rule not so many.

2816. How much water would these 20,000 sheep require? They would require 20,000 gallons. One gallon per sheep is perhaps slightly above the quantity that is drunk. I know that by personal experience, because I have been watering stock for many years in South Australia. A gallon per sheep is slightly over the amount required. I got my living for over twelve years as a drover on the roads. J. Cotton.
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2817. *Mr. Woore.*] By what means have you arrived at the conclusion that a travelling sheep will not drink more than a gallon of water in a day—by measurement or otherwise? By watering the sheep myself, and counting the number of buckets that were emptied. I have done this not only once but scores of times.
2818. *Chairman.*] Are you not also aware that thirsty sheep, by being allowed to go into the tank, not only consume a large quantity of water, but also take away a great deal? Yes.
2819. Would one gallon per sheep be sufficient for all that waste? No; not for the waste.
2820. Then, suppose the 20,000 sheep consume to-day all the water in the service tank and another 20,000 come along to-morrow, how is the second 20,000 to get water? What I suggest will pump the water every bit as quickly as the steam pump, and it would require an extreme case like this to upset the arrangement. By the Public Watering Places Act the caretakers should be empowered to call upon the drovers for one or two men if required. What I would suggest is Flood's lift of $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches, by which one man is supposed to raise 40 gallons per minute from a depth of 24 feet. I take 40 gallons as the maximum, but I will divide that by two, and say that by this means a man can raise 20 gallons per minute. I reckon, therefore, that with this machine one man would be able to water 10,000 sheep per day without taking the service tank or troughs into consideration at all. The service tank and trough hold 20,000 gallons. The Flood's lift costs about £16, and there is nothing in it to break except a chain which can be mended by a piece of fencing wire; that can be done at any time. The depth a man can lift from is 24 feet; but as these tanks are nearly always full he would not have to raise the water more than 6 feet under ordinary circumstances. I am now speaking of circumstances when there would be only a little water in the tank, but even then he would be able to raise the amount of water I state from the bottom. In most cases these tanks are full to the brim; but no matter what happened, Flood's lift is quite ample. In fact, a 3-inch pipe through the embankment would, in some cases, fill the tanks in my district without the use of a pump at all.
2821. *Major Penrose.*] Is water conserved above the natural level of the ground in your district? Yes; in some cases it is; but it might be better if, instead of making these square embankments in a set form, wings had been carried out, which would in some cases have conserved water fully 6 feet above the natural surface of the earth.
2822. Then you do not conserve water inside the embankments by pumping it over? No.
2823. Of course, now you are only speaking of what is done in your own district. Are you not aware that in some outside districts, where they travel enormous mobs of sheep, it is possible to have 40,000 sheep watered at a tank in one day. Would it not be impossible to water these 40,000 sheep merely by the aid of human labour? Upon my word, I do not think that these steam pumps are at all required. I have thirteen of them in my district and five horse pumps out of a total of twenty two, and my impression is that, with Flood's lift, you can get the water up as fast as with a steam pump.
2824. And if one man was not able to do it I presume you would employ two pumps? Yes; two pumps or two men, if you like. It would be better than bringing these expensive things there that are of no use at present, and require skilled labour to keep in order.
2825. So that you think there is no necessity for these steam pumps? None whatever.
2826. Do you know what these steam pumps cost? I think I have heard that they cost £120 without carriage; but I really do not know the amount. It is only just hearsay.
2827. This includes the boiler? Yes.
2828. *Chairman.*] And you state that this Flood's pump only costs £16? Yes; it will scarcely ever get out of order, and may be worked if necessary by a blackfellow.
2829. You think that it is very desirable in every instance to have one sloping batter to allow the stock to water at the tanks in the event of the machinery meeting with an accident? That is just what I mean. If 40,000 sheep came along they could water at the tank itself, which would be available for any emergency, although such emergency might not occur once in five years. Still, it wants to be provided for.
2830. Do you know of any case where the public have suffered materially through the pumps going wrong? No, I do not. They have not had sufficient time yet; they have not been up long enough yet. Ever since stock have been able to travel since the drought there has not been very much demand on the Government tanks, as you can see from the returns.
2831. *Major Penrose.*] From what you state, I presume you think that many of the tanks are too large? Yes; in my letter I showed that in my district, a tank from 9,000 to 12,000 yards, according to the catchment, would be amply sufficient. There are more Government tanks in mine than in any other district in the Colony. Some of them have been made as large as 30,000 yards, which I consider entirely unnecessary.
2832. So that your testimony bears out what has been shown here already—that tanks should be sunk with reference to the special conditions of each locality? Yes.
2833. In a very dry country, and with a bad catchment area, you want a very large tank? Yes.
2834. And in your district, where the catchment is good, small tanks are ample? Yes.
2835. *Mr. Woore.*] Have you had any experience of a severe drought in your district? Yes, I have had. In the early part of 1884 I was obliged to pay 20s. a bushel for oats and 42s. per cwt. for chaff to keep my horses alive.
2836. And at the same time there was an abundance of water? Yes, any amount of water. It is hard ironstone country, and will run water like the roof of a house. And in these droughts, the drier the soil gets the more water it will run, because in getting bare it also gets very hard. I may say that I have no personal complaint to make of the officers of the Roads Department. Any differences that have occurred have been simply differences of opinion; and, in many instances, in little details as to the position of a gate or anything of that sort, the suggestions that I have made have often been acted upon; but it is this great principle of construction that I differ with them about. Our differences, therefore, have only been differences of opinion.
2837. *Chairman.*] Have you had any interference from the road superintendents? No; no trouble at all. As I have already said, all our differences are merely differences of opinion.
2838. Do you know anything about the subletting of contracts? No.
2839. Have you ever been aware of any favoritism having been shown to people in the Cobar district with regard to contracts? No; I cannot say that I know of any favoritism having been shown. 2840.

- J. Cotton. 2840. There are no wells in your district? No; no wells.
2841. Do you know anything about the fences round the caretaker's paddocks? Yes.
- 24 Feb., 1888. 2842. Do you think that money has been spent unnecessarily on them? I think they have been too costly. In the first instance, the posts are 2 feet 6 inches in the ground, which is a most absurd thing. No practical man would ever expect posts to be put down to that depth, especially with 10-foot panels.
2843. And the wire is of too large a gauge, is it not? No; I do not object to the wire—indeed, I believe in a strong wire at the top. They have No. 4 wire at the top, which I thoroughly believe in. I believe this wire is better than any rail which you can put on a fence. Nothing, almost, can break it in the ordinary way; and if it is broken, in five minutes you can make the fence as good as ever it was.
2844. We have heard here that in case a No. 4 gauge wire is broken one man cannot mend it? I do not know that. I think the gauge of the remaining wire might be considerably reduced, but I believe in having a strong wire at the top.
2845. Have the fences in your district a top rail? Yes, a few; and I object to it for this reason—that if there is a rail broken at any time—I do not care how you repair it, or how nicely you put in a new rail—it is always a slip-rail from that time out. In one case that I have just been reporting upon, I notice that at some of the tanks in my district the fencing has cost as much as £70 per mile, while I am of opinion that a very good fence, and sufficient to meet all purposes, can be put up for £42 per mile.
2846. But, under the circumstances, do you think that the £70 per mile was an excessive price for the fence in this particular case? Well, I am not in a position to say; I never saw such a fence before.
2847. We want to find out whether the cost is greater than it should be, or whether the fence is of a better character than was required? Well, I really cannot say.
2848. We would now like to get your opinion on any other matter that we have not questioned you about; we shall be glad to hear anything further that you may have to say? I do not think there is anything else. Anything that I could tell would be in relation to some particular case, and would only bear out what I said before, that a hard-and-fast rule cannot be followed. I know a place where there is a tank going down now. This is the first lot of tanks that have been put down in my district of a slope of 2 to 1; all the rest are 1½ to 1, which is the regular slope of all tanks in my district. A little while ago there were three new tanks started on the Wilcannia road, with a slope of 2 to 1. The gentler-sloped tanks were only adopted in the Cobar district in July last.
2849. *Mr. Woore.*] Are you not of opinion that even a 2 to 1 is not a sufficient batter in some cases? Yes; in some cases. One of these tanks which is now being sunk has a 2 to 1 batter. The tank I refer to is the one at the 55-Mile post, on the Cobar to Wilcannia road—I think it is called Barneto. This is being put down in very loose soil, which melts like sugar as soon as the water goes on to it. I am of opinion that 2 to 1 is not a sufficient slope for this tank. If I were making it I should construct it with a batter of 3 to 1 on three sides, and 5 to 1 on the remaining side, to allow the silt to deposit itself on the batter, and then I would allow the sheep to go in and puddle it all round. My reason for saying this is that I have seen a supply tank which was put down there, and which was filled with rain-water three or four times, allow the water to get out through the sides, and then the sides fell in.
2850. *Major Penrose.*] Does not the engineer-in-charge see to this? Well, I suppose he does.
2851. *Chairman.*] When the contract is once entered into I suppose it must go on? Yes; I expect the road superintendent is like myself in many cases—he must do what he is told. We have to do a great many things that go against the grain.
2852. You think that great discretion should be exercised by these local officers? Yes; and I think these officers should be men who have a thorough knowledge of stock and the requirements of stock; for just a very slight mistake will render a watering place utterly useless. In one of the tanks that I have taken over I found an entrance gate for stock right on the point of a fence. Now, how could a man get a lot of wild Queensland cattle into a gate like that? Of course they would run down both sides of the fence. There can be no doubt that the gate was placed there owing to the want of practical knowledge on the part of the man who did it. I saw Mr. Adams about it, got him to shift the gate, and now the thing works very well.
2853. *Major Penrose*] Do you think that the stock routes ought be fenced off? Well, that is a very difficult question to deal with. I have thought over this question as much as anybody, and still I cannot see how this is to be done. If you fence off, you must reserve the land from lease; and if you do that, the Government must destroy the rabbits on it.
2854. And it would be nobody's business to compel stock to travel a certain number of miles every day? Oh; yes, the stock inspector would see to that. I have talked to Mr. Bruce about it, and have asked him to make as few reserves from lease as possible in my district on account of the rabbits. Of course, if the river frontage were taken away by the stock routes being reserved from lease, it would ruin the squatter. It might be done in the Cobar district, or any place where there was water on the road. It would be a little awkward for the squatter to cut them off their tanks, but they could make provision if compelled to do so. The difficulty is in the rabbit question, and it is going to be a very big difficulty indeed.
- [The Commission adjourned.]

THURSDAY, 1 MARCH, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R.E., | J. C. WOORE, Esq.

Peter Leslie called in and examined:—

- P. Leslie. 2855. *Chairman.*] You are a resident on the Parramatta river? Yes; I reside there just now, but I live at Amphitheatre station, near Cobar.
- 1 Mar., 1888. 2856. Have you long resided in that neighbourhood? I have resided in that neighbourhood since 1881.
2857. What are you? I am a squatter; I am one of the lessees of Amphitheatre station
2858. Have you had much experience in the excavation of tanks upon runs? Yes; I have had a great deal of it. 2859.

2859. There are a considerable number of Government tanks in your neighbourhood, I presume? Yes, P. Leslie.
there are.
2860. Are you aware of the objects of this Commission—that this Commission is appointed to find out¹ whether, in some instances, improper sites have been chosen for the excavation of tanks and wells? Yes; I believe that to be the object of the Commission. ¹ Mar., 1888.
2861. And to ascertain what truth there is in the allegations that construction of such works have been faulty and unnecessarily expensive? Yes; I believe that to be the case.
2862. Have you any fault to find with the sites for public tanks chosen in your district? Not with the sites, because I have never taken much notice of them; but I noticed that the construction of them was very expensively carried out. I never looked to see whether the sites could have been better or not.
2863. Then it is the construction that you find fault with? Yes; I believe that the majority of the tanks have been constructed on far too expensive a scale.
2864. Just state shortly your reasons for making that statement? Well, I believe that the tanks could be excavated for far less money if the batters had been lower, and if the contractors could have got a portion of their money while carrying out their contract. No contractor can work his team to advantage on the batter of Government tanks.
2865. Do you know what that batter is? It is $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 and 2 to 1—that is the latest. I think there is only one in the district of 2 to 1 that I know of.
2866. Have you observed that these batters slip in with the action of the water? Yes; I have noticed it.
2867. In all cases? Not in all cases, but in most; unless in exceptionally hard ground.
2868. You therefore think that any hard-and-fast rule for excavation of tanks is undesirable? Most certainly.
2869. And every tank should have its particular batter, in accordance with the stability of the ground? Most certainly. I do not think any tanks should be excavated with a batter of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1, no matter what the ground may be. It costs too much to take the stuff out, and all the extra water you can conserve on that account is of no great benefit. I have gone through two seasons—through the years 1883 and 1884—on my run with less than 16 inches of rain, and yet I was never short of water. All my large tanks are 3 to 1 on two sides, and 6 to 1 on the other sides; all my small tanks are 3 to 1 on three sides, and 6 to 1 on the other side. I allowed this batter that the contractors could get at their stuff from both sides of the large tanks and one side of the small. I have been short of grass, but never of water.
2870. Are you aware that with a sloping batter much more water is exposed to the wind and sun, causing a greater amount of evaporation? Yes, there is a little more exposure; but when the embankments are all round these tanks I do not think they can be more exposed than a tank with a $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 batter. I really do not think they will suffer any more by evaporation than a tank with a shallow batter. If they were open they might, but with the banks that the Government put round their tanks I do not see that they can. The embankments break the wind.
2871. Do you think the tanks in your district are constructed on too large a scale? I think 10,000 cubic yards is sufficient for any tank. It all depends upon the catchment; and if you have a slow or porous catchment, of course you want a large tank; but it is a foolish thing to put down tanks in slow, porous soil.
2872. Then a good deal depends on the rainfall. You say you had under 16 inches and yet had plenty of water? Yes, under 16 inches for two years; that was in the years 1883-84.
2873. Are not the Government tanks of greater depth than tanks constructed by private individuals? I believe they are.
2874. If so, would not that add to the expense? No, I don't think it would. The depth does not make so much difference if the contractors can work their teams along the banks. Nearly all my tanks have been put down to a depth of 15 feet—they narrow at the bottom and become very small—and this stuff I had taken out at 11d. per cubic yard. In the last tanks I had made, the contractor offered to do the same work at 10d. per cubic yard if I gave him ten weeks to complete the work in. I wanted these two tanks cut out quickly so that they would be ready for the rain, and I bound him to do the work in six weeks, and got the work done for 11d.
2875. If you had these tanks put down in accordance with the specifications of the Government as to batter what would they probably have cost? Well, I hardly know. I think the tanks would have cost at least 3d. or 4d. per yard more—perhaps even more than that. A tank of 5,000 cubic yards would narrow very much as it gets to the bottom and be more difficult to excavate.
2876. *Major Penrose.*] With this very gentle batter to the Government tanks, you probably could not put the earth all round the tanks, because the areas would have so much increased? Yes, with a 10,000 cubic yards tank I could put it all round. I am sure it could be done. I put the earth round three sides of my tank, leaving the inlet open. I have one tank which will hold 12 feet above the natural surface of the ground, and in all my tanks I conserve water above the surface, more or less.
2877. Are the catchments there favourable to holding water over the surface? Yes, in most places.
2878. Well, in that case, embankments all the way round would seem not to be suitable for that district? I think so; but with an embankment all round the water could come into the tank by a pipe, and it would still remain behind the tank if wings were carried out to stop it.
2879. *Chairman.*] Are you aware as to what the ultimate object of the Government is in making embankments all round a tank? The ultimate object I take it is to utilize the embankments for the conservation of water. I concluded it was for that purpose the banks were made. All the Government tanks in the Cobar district have not had embankments put round them.
2880. Some of them were used for watering stock at the tanks without troughs? I do not know of any accessible in this way, except the one at the Cobar township. There were others at one time, but I think the tank at Cobar is the only one open now. At least it was open when I last watered stock there.
2881. Do you allow stock to water at all the tanks excavated on your run? Yes.
2882. If you intended to put pumps there you would have done the same? I would, and made the batters to my tanks 3 to 1 on three sides and the remaining side 6 to 1; but if I were going to pump the water out, and had to improve the country for that purpose, I would make all the embankments round my tanks square. I would stop all the water I could behind the banks by wings, and pump it into the main tank. If you run wings out you can stop a great body of water in most places.
2883. *Major Penrose.*] How would you pump the water over? With a movable engine—one that could be taken about.

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2884. But would that suit the Government? I do not think so.

2885. *Chairman.*] Do you think it is desirable for the Government to allow stock to water at the tanks direct, instead of having machinery to pump the water into troughs? Certainly not; the Government have the travelling public to consider, and stock will spoil the water for human use. I do not see how water could be used for human purposes if stock were allowed continual access to the tanks.

2886. Of course you are aware, from your experience of your own tanks, that if stock are allowed invariably into the tank the water would be spoiled? Yes; the sheep will go in and swim in the water and spoil it. I have seen the water in some tanks turn quite green on this account. It may be right enough for stock to drink, but they should not be allowed in, except in extreme cases, where human beings have to use the tanks.

2887. Have you any reason to find fault with the flumes or drains for taking the water into the tanks in your district? No; they are all right, so far as I know.

2888. They could not make a mistake in your district on account of the hills? Not very well.

2889. Do you think that the machinery used by the Government for pumping is unnecessarily expensive? I do think so.

2890. What kind of machinery is this which is being used? Tangye's steam pumps.

2891. What would you suggest in lieu of these steam pumps? Well, I think the M'Comas lift would be better, or a double whip would answer admirably, as the water has to be lifted only a short distance.

2892. Would the caretaker be able with one of these pumps to supply all the demands made by travelling stock? I think so. It is done on stations where there are more stock than generally come to a Government tank in one day. It is done with double whips. The water is drawn straight up with a horse by means of two buckets, one coming up and the other going down. The horse travels outwards in drawing the bucket up. A whip is, I think, too slow, although it may be a very good thing for deep wells. I have seen a horse with a single bucket water 8,000 sheep in one afternoon. This was done with a single whip, the horse pulling right around with a wheel. The horse goes round and round, and when he gets straight out from the post the bucket is up. I have seen 8,000 sheep watered in this way without very much delay.

2893. Do you think it would be beyond the caretaker's capacity to keep the service tank filled with a M'Comas pump? I think it would be easy enough. That would not necessitate carting wood to burn or buying horse-feed. I think the M'Comas pump would be the best for the tanks, and would do away with a great deal of expense.

2894. I presume a M'Comas pump is so simple that any man could repair it in case anything went wrong? Yes, I think so.

2895. Have you observed that any very expensive fences have been put up around the caretaker's paddocks adjoining the tanks within your district? No; I did not notice particularly, but I fancy they are more expensive than I would think of putting up. I think a good fence could be put up for less money, and would answer the purpose just as well.

2896. Do you refer to the fences around the tanks? Yes, and around the paddocks, too. I think a top rail to a fence round a tank is a mistake, and besides that the wire is too strong. No. 8 wire is quite strong enough, and will go much further in a fence than the wire that is now being used. No. 8 wire will outlast the posts.

2897. Are you now referring to sheep or to cattle—in speaking of the fence? Both to cattle and sheep.

2898. Do you not think that a mob of Queensland cattle that have never seen a fence before in their lives would be likely to break this down after a long journey? They are just as likely to break a fence down with a strong wire as with a weak one.

2899. But I mean with a top rail? No; I don't think there is any danger. Cattle outside are not so apt to try to rush into a small enclosure as they would be to rush out of the enclosure if they were in it. There is one thing I would like to say—that in watering sheep at these troughs it is sometimes difficult to get them to drink, and some of them will not drink at all. I think the caretakers should be instructed to allow such sheep to water in the tank—that is, whenever they will not water from the troughs. I had a drover coming over from Nyngan to Cobar with some eight-tooth ewes, and the first tank belonging to the Government that they came to he was unable to get more than one-third of them to drink. A good deal of that was probably owing to the rail along the front of the troughs.

2900. Have you ever lost any sheep by reason of their refusal to drink at the troughs? No, not by refusing to drink at troughs; but I have lost sheep by their refusing to drink at an open tank on the Bourke road, where there was only one end open to drink at. I took 14,500 sheep there one day. The first flock puddled the water so much that the rest would not drink it. The caretaker would not allow me to let the sheep into the large tank, so that they could not get a good drink. He told me that I would have to water the stock at this narrow opening. It was a double tank, and the big tank was fenced off all round. The tank looked like a large supply or silt tank. The first lot of sheep got water, but puddled it so much that the others would not drink it.

2901. Your remark would not apply to one of the present tanks? No; if they had allowed me to get at the big tank my sheep would have had a good drink.

2902. That is not an answer to my question;—have you ever lost any sheep through their refusing to water at these troughs? No, never.

2903. *Major Penrose.*] That was not one of the later style of tanks? No; this was before the Department put down the troughing.

2904. Then you think the caretaker should have discretionary power to allow or not allow sheep in to drink at the tank? Certainly. Where the sheep will not drink at troughing, they will perhaps not live to reach another watering place. On stations, I have had sheep for three days trying to make them drink at troughs, but to no purpose. A lot of them would not drink after being kept there for three days.

2905. *Chairman.*] You said something about the rail? Yes; I think it is the rail alongside the troughing that prevents stock in some places from drinking. I believe they are doing away with that now, and putting a rail down the centre.

2906. That is a better plan? Yes; I suggested it two or three years ago.

2907. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you think that any sheep would drink at a trough with a rail down the centre? No; there are some sheep that will not drink the first time they are brought to troughs, and it is a very difficult thing to get weaners to drink. As I have said, I have kept sheep for three days and a lot of them would not drink then.

2908. But you speak of sheep on a station; I am referring to travelling sheep—would they drink out of the troughs? The first time weaners come to the troughs, even when they are travelling, they will not always drink; and you cannot get them all to drink the first time they are brought to troughs. P. Leslie.
1 Mar., 1888.
2909. *Chairman.*] The best way would be to get them to water at the troughs before they are weaned? Yes; but there are plenty of weaners travelling as well as other sheep during the year that could not be broken in to drink at troughs before they were weaned. It is not on every station that you have a chance of breaking in weaners alongside their mothers, because it is not on every station that you have to water at troughs.
2910. In the event of the pump going wrong it would, of course, be a terrible loss if the sheep could not get to the water? Yes; and in a case like that they should be allowed to water at the tank.
2911. *Major Penrose.*] Do you think it would be safe to allow sheep into a tank constructed with a batter of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1? No; it would not be at all safe. The tanks at present in existence are very bad for watering sheep.
2912. But you said just now that tanks are for the benefit of the travelling public, and that sheep should not be allowed into them? It would not hurt the tanks if the sheep were only allowed in in extreme cases, but if they were always left open for stock it would certainly spoil the water.
2913. But if the caretaker were allowed to do this at all would there not be the danger of his allowing it in every case? Yes; there is something in that. There is no doubt there would be danger if the caretaker were allowed to let the sheep water at the tank; he might do so in every case in order to save himself the trouble of pumping.
2914. *Mr. Woore.*] Can you suggest any method of watering stock other than by troughing or allowing the stock into the tanks? Well, there are other ways, but I do not approve of them. I have known of people to cut out a long, narrow tank in the earth and pump the water into it.
2915. *Chairman.*] That would soon get destroyed? Yes. You cannot get any better way of watering stock than by troughing, and it must be stuck to at the Government tanks.
2916. *Major Penrose.*] Has it not also been largely introduced on stations? Yes; many stations have nothing else.
2917. *Chairman.*] Of course where stations are watered by wells troughing must be used? Yes; it is inevitable. Over a large part of Liverpool Plains the stock are watered from wells.
2918. You cannot make tanks there as a rule? No; it is a deep black soil, 10 or 12 feet deep, and silts up quickly.
2919. Do you know anything about the subletting of contracts. I may explain to you that it is stated contracts have been taken at very high prices and sublet at very much reduced prices? No; I do not know anything about that.
2920. There are no wells in your district? No; none near me.
2921. Do you know anything about the wells far out in the plain country? No; nothing about Government wells.
2922. Have you had particularly brought under your notice the huts lately erected for the caretakers? No; but I have seen some of them. I know nothing specially about them, but I think that under the circumstances they are necessary.
2923. Now, you are aware that a good deal of trouble has arisen in the construction and maintenance of these public works by their being under a sort of dual control. The Works Department construct the works and then hand them over to the Mines, which Department is charged with the maintenance. Are you not aware that friction has arisen in consequence of this dual control? No; I am not aware of it. In what way do you mean?
2924. Do not the road superintendents select the sites, and then, when the work is finished, hand it over to the Mines, complaint being sometimes made that things are not done properly? No; nothing of that sort has come under my notice. I have heard of such things, but I know nothing positively.
2925. Now, there is another matter. Are you aware that these Government works cost a good deal more to construct than the works put up by private individuals? Yes.
2926. Do you think that if this alleged faulty construction and delay in getting paid were done away with, that the expense of these works might be lessened. Do you not think that if these works were in the hands of local bodies, who have much more knowledge as to the best sites than the people who now have the management—do you not think that then they could be constructed more cheaply? I do think so.
2927. Do you think it would be quite possible to get a sufficient number of independent men in the various districts to give their attention to these works and see that they are properly carried out? Yes, I think so. I think it is possible to get a sufficient number of men to make specifications for the work to be done, and to have it done by the overseer of watering places, or whoever was in charge of the tanks in the locality. But I think that, unless they were paid, you could not expect them to do this work.
2928. But you know that in Queensland there are Divisional Boards who take these works into their own hands without any remuneration? Yes, I know they have boards there, but I think they must pay them. You can get plenty of men up-country to do the work if they are only paid for it.
2929. What I mean is this: we have now such bodies as municipalities, where gentlemen take upon themselves great public duties without any payment. Of course they have officials under them to carry out the works, but all control of public matters is in their hands. Now, do you think it would be possible for these works, which cost large sums of money, and which are surrounded by a great deal of red-tapeism and delay, to be better constructed and managed, were they placed in the hands of local bodies? Yes, I am sure of it. The work would be done far better and far cheaper.
2930. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you think the Stock Boards could undertake the construction and supervision of these works? Yes, I think it is quite possible. I am a member of one of the Boards, and I am always willing to do all that I can for the benefit of the district.
2931. Would it not have this good effect, that the Boards would take very good care that tanks were so constructed so as to suit the conditions of the locality? Yes.
2932. They would have the batters formed in such a way that they would not cave in? Certainly; I do not believe in steep batters at all.
2933. You think that on occasions sheep should be allowed to water at the tank themselves? No; only in extreme cases.

- P. Leslie.
1 Mar., 1888.
2934. *Chairman.*] I suppose it is inevitable that there should be bad catchment areas selected in some cases on stock routes? Well, I have not taken much notice when going along the roads, and I cannot say, but it is certainly more difficult to pick a good catchment area on a stock route than on a run. A Government tank must be very close to the road, while a half mile or even a couple of miles do not matter to the squatter so long as he can get a good hard catch. On the Nyngan road I think the tanks have very good catchment.
2935. Have you any further information to give? No, I do not think there is anything else.
[The Commission adjourned until the afternoon, when the sitting was resumed.]

Arthur Hastings Doudney called in and examined:—

- A. H. Doudney.
1 Mar., 1888.
2936. *Chairman.*] Where do you reside? I am living in Sydney at the present time.
2937. You were formerly a contractor? Yes; a tank contractor.
2938. *Mr. Woore.*] For the Government? Yes.
2939. *Chairman.*] And I presume for private individuals as well? No; I never did any tanks for private individuals. I did some ploughing and that sort of thing for them.
2940. Have you constructed many tanks? Three.
2941. What are their names? Tinda, near Condobolin, Babinda, 15 miles from Nymagee, and Gilguys, 40 miles from Nyngan. They were 15,000, 16,000, and 20,000 yard tanks.
2942. And their depths? The first one was 18 feet, the second 16 feet; and the third 15 feet.
2943. What were the relative prices? I got 1s. 9d. per yard for the 18-foot tank, 1s. 4d. for the 16-foot tank, and 1s. 2d. for the 15-foot tank.
2944. What methods of excavation did you use? I used Fowler's steam scoop.
2945. Was the plant your own or did it belong to the Government? It was our own. I was then a partner with William Sloane and Co., now the Union Mortgage and Agency Co., Limited. I gave a good deal of time to these tanks, and spent about ten years in the back country.
2946. Now did you find it very difficult to work your plant under the Government specifications? Yes. I had very great difficulty indeed; the specifications were all dead against us.
2947. Just state why you had this difficulty? Well it was the high banks and the steep batters, and generally the tank conformity and the distance we had to place the dirt away from the tank. We got our plant to work but it was at a great loss. These are the only reasons.
2948. Of course the rate of excavations varies with the depth of the tank? Yes; just as I have already shown.
2949. So that if, as a rule, Government tanks were sunk 18 feet in depth they would necessarily cost more than the squatters' tanks? Yes; the difference in the price of Tinda and Gilguys was caused through allowing me to spread the dirt round roughly instead of exactly. I could do it even deeper than I did, and yet make good money where that was allowed. We did that tank in the quickest time on record. Eighteen weeks was the quickest time a tank had ever been done before, but we finished it in nine and a half weeks. We lost a great deal of money over the tank which we excavated at 1s. 9d.
2950. If the Government had allowed you to make the batter 1 in 5, would that have made any difference in the matter of cost? If that had been allowed we would have taken the work willingly at 1s., that is, if the slopes had been 5 in 1 on each batter all round, or even 4 in 1.
2951. What was the batter of those tanks that you constructed? The batter of the first one was 1½ to 1, the batter of the second tank, the Babinda, was 2½ to 1, and, I think, the batter of the last was 2 to 1. I cannot recollect exactly now whether the batter was 3 to 1 on the second or not, but it is either 2½ or 3.
2952. Did you observe many of those Government tanks sunk by other contractors in that neighbourhood? Yes; I have seen them all over the country round at Wilcannia and other places.
2953. What was the usual batter? 1½ to 1, and sometimes 2 to 1.
2954. Was the batter increased lately? It might have been. My knowledge only goes back to those that were 3 to 1.
2955. How did you come to have this modification made in your favour? Because we represented to the Department that we had bought a very expensive plant, and that it was utterly useless to us. We showed that we worked out a tank at such a loss of money and time that we had to have a greater slope, and we kept at Mr. Bennett until he had to allow us to alter the batter. As it was we lost four months in trying to get him to do it.
2956. We have heard a great deal about the delay which it is alleged exists in getting work measured and paid for? Yes, contractors have a lot of trouble in this matter.
2957. And in such cases as when the work is progressing and is not finally finished? Yes, that is true. In fact if I had not had a good firm to fall back on I would have been closed up before I finished the first contract—before I got half through with it.
2958. Then it consequently means that when these steep batters are insisted upon by Government, combined with the difficulty which contractors are said to have in obtaining their money, that no one but a man of considerable means can tender for these Government works? No; he always loses.
2959. And consequently poor men are shut out from tendering? Yes; and I should say that these contracts have ruined them, one after another. The only man that seemed to get along at all was Budd; but he made a lot of money from the squatters and lost it on the Government works. I do not think he made money, certainly; but the other contractors were shut up all round and lost their money.
2960. You are not aware that any other contractors have had this modification made in their favour? I think there is a tank called the Limestone tank, near Nymagee, which was also made with a batter of 3 to 1. The contractors made it to a depth of 15 feet instead of 18 feet, which was allowed on account of the rock they met with.
2961. Did you ever meet with rock in your excavations? Yes, in the Babinda tank we reckoned on 1,500 yards of rock or sandstone. It was not cemented gravel which we got at the Gilguys, but with the steam ploughs it does not matter. This was all the rock that we found.
2962. Did you make any application for compensation for this rock? No; I never made any written application, because the matter did not worry me much, and I was anxious to see how we would get on with the Government. I did ask Mr. Adams about it, but he said we would not get anything.

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2963. *Major Penrose.*] Did you put down any trial-shafts in that case? No; the rock comes right up to the centre. I would have made application for compensation for the rock but I was anxious to get more contracts from the Government, and I did not push them for it. I thought by taking out the rock in this way I would have got more work from them.

2964. Have you lately made any contracts with the Government? No; I knocked off contracting three years ago, and the plant was sold for a mere song.

2965. Taking into consideration the first cost of the plant, did you find it more efficacious than the use of bullocks? I would sooner have the bullocks and scoops in a good season, such as the present one, because there is no worry, and there is not the continual strain of breakages which may occur with the other appliances. But if I were tank-sinking again, I would have two small engines and a plough with the bullocks and scoops to follow, and drays to finish. One steam plough would keep a hundred drays going easily.

2966. Did you never see any of these patent earth excavators? I have seen them all at work, and brought some from Melbourne some years ago, having taken the contract for the Ivanhoe and other tanks, which I afterwards threw up, and which were let to others. I then bought ploughs and scoops.

2967. Were you the contractor for the Mount Manara and Ivanhoe tanks? Yes; but the Department let me throw up the contracts, so that I did not start the work.

2968. I suppose that when you had a contract at 1s. 9d. per yard you expected to make money out of it? Yes; we expected to make a great deal of money indeed.

2969. It is considered a large price? Yes, a very large price; but when you come to do the trimming, and all that sort of thing, you will find that no man can make it pay and go to the bottom.

2970. What was the cause of your tendering at so high a figure? Because we showed that we had bought this very expensive plant, and that similar plants had done good work for Sir Thomas Elder, and that if this tank was a success for the Government we could put down tanks very quickly. This was before the drought, and when the Government could not get the contractors to leave the squatters at the ordinary rate of 1s. per yard.

2971. *Chairman.*] Give us the reason for that? Because it is much better to work for a squatter than to work for the Government at any price.

2972. For the reasons you have stated? Yes; and for other reasons. If you are working for a squatter your water is secure, and he will arrange to give you meat, provisions, &c. Besides that, you know that your money is safe and easily obtained; you also know that the squatter is himself always watching the work, and that if you do a fair thing for him he will be satisfied. That is to say, you are not left for a month or six weeks doing work in a certain way, and then finding out that it is condemned when the inspector comes round.

2973. *Major Penrose.*] In that particular case were there difficulties in the supply of water and feed? Yes; there was no grass within 6 miles of the place, and we had to carry water from the tank, about 5 miles away; and nobody could do that except by steam, the engines required so much. The tank next to this one was let for 1s. 9d. A man named Bull did the work. I think it is the Moonbil tank, on the Wangeribone Creek. That was done at 1s. 9d. per cubic yard, and the contractor "went broke" over it.

2974. *Chairman.*] For what reasons did they make it 1s. 9d.? They had a horse plant, and there was no grass. They had to pay large prices for water and for provisions and horse-feed. For instance, they paid 1s. 3d. for a sheep that would not make a meal for ten men. The sheep had been fed on scrub, and had not seen grass for two years. The leg of one of these sheep would not make a fair-sized chop, and then there was no nourishment in it. This was in 1883; about the middle of the drought.

2975. Were many squatter's tanks being sunk during that year? Very few, and afterwards they stopped altogether.

2976. *Major Penrose.*] I suppose it was absolutely necessary that some Government tank should be put down there? Well, no. I think that all these tanks were too late. Had they been put down there ten or fifteen years before they would have been most useful. It seems to me that the Government do not look far enough ahead. Stock go upon a road, and reports are sent down to Sydney that tanks must be constructed, and while all this red-tapeism is being gone through, the real push and the real necessity for the tank passes away, and the road is no longer used, because trucking is so much better than droving that the squatter always goes straight for the railway.

2977. Now, from your experience in working for the Government, do you think that it would facilitate and cheapen these works if they were handed over to local bodies? Yes, certainly; and that is the only way they can be made to pay or to be put upon a proper commercial basis. The only way that this can be done is by fencing in the travelling stock routes, and then by making the drovers pay a certain amount for the sheep whether they used the public watering places or not. The routes could be divided into sections, the drover to pay for each section of 50 miles a certain sum. One ranger could be appointed for a section, and it would be his duty to ride up and down, and stop at the tank at night. That would do away with the expense of a caretaker.

2978. *Chairman.*] And would do away with the objection to the stock remaining longer on the road than they had a right to remain? Yes; and the ranger could also keep the squatter's sheep from the water. At present if there is a sign of grass on the travelling stock route the squatter sends all the stock on to it and eats it down.

2979. Now would you not like to modify your remarks applying to the river frontages in the dry country? Yes; that would never do in certain cases.

2980. So that you now say each case would have to be dealt with according to the circumstances? Quite so. It would not do even to have lanes leading through.

2981. All these matters require so much local knowledge and local experience that they should be dealt with by local bodies who have a good knowledge of the country? Yes, certainly; but besides these you want a man such as Mr. A. P. Wood to be in charge of the construction. Everything should go through his hands. He is the most practical man that I know of.

2982. Have you ever been in Queensland? Yes; all over Queensland.

2983. Do you know how those things have been managed in that Colony? No; I have been mostly along the coast, and have no experience of their system of water conservation. The country is sufficiently well watered up there.

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2984. Do you consider that a fairly correct judgment has been exercised in the selection of sites for public tanks—that is, considering the distances along the roads at which these tanks had to be placed, and the catchment area? Yes; I think so. I think that every where the sites of the tanks have been chosen well. It is a thing that many people are often greatly deceived in. In regard to one tank which I constructed I was under the impression that we were working on the top of a hill, but notwithstanding this impression, the tank became full when the rain came. There is one tank on the 70-Mile track to Wilcannia which, I admit, was put in a bad place and never filled, but that is the only one that I know of.
2985. Do you know of a tank on the road between Louth and Cobar which has never yet filled? I have never been on that road at all.
2986. Has machinery been put up on those tanks that you are acquainted with? Yes.
2987. What kind of machinery? Tangye's steam pumps. I forget the names of the others.
2988. Do you think that this form of machinery is desirable or necessary? If you want to have good, clear water in the troughs, this machinery is better than horse-power.
2989. Do you think that the caretaker himself would be well able to keep the service tank full with the M'Comas pump? A great deal would depend on the road, and upon the number of stock that were travelling.
2990. But in that part of the country you are most acquainted with, do you think the number of travelling stock is so great that the men could not meet the requirements? I think any man might have met the requirements on any road that I have been on, except the Booligal to Wilcannia road.
2991. So that you think it was an unnecessary expense to put up these Tangye pumps in every instance? Yes; except on very large stock routes.
2992. Do you know the capacity of a M'Comas pump when worked by hand labour? I cannot say that I know it exactly, but you can do a tremendous lot of work with a M'Comas pump. I think there has been a great amount of dissatisfaction with it, simply on account of the want of labour in the back country. If there is any hard work to be done you cannot get people to do it.
2993. But these caretakers have nothing else to do? Then that is all they are good for; a ranger could attend to all their duties; and could, when required, go ahead of the stock and pump all the water that was wanted.
2994. *Major Penrose.*] It has been suggested that the drovers should be compelled to render some assistance? They will not do it for you.
2995. *Chairman.*] Another thing I would like to ask you;—do you think it necessary that caretakers should be placed at these tanks, because the number is now quite alarming;—do you think that every tank should have a caretaker? There is this difficulty in doing away with them: A caretaker might not be the slightest advantage at a tank for twelve months, and yet in one day, in consequence of a flood, his presence there might result in a saving of much property from destruction; so that the Government would be amply compensated by keeping these men there. But if you had the roads properly fenced in, of course you would not require a caretaker.
2996. *Major Penrose.*] Under present circumstances I suppose the caretakers are necessary to prevent squatters from watering their sheep at the tanks? Yes; it is in bad seasons that these tanks are unprofitable. In bad seasons the squatter trucks his sheep, if there is a railway handy.
2997. And yet you consider that these tanks are necessary? Yes; there is no doubt about that.
2998. To carry out your ideas fully every man would have to pay a certain water tax? Yes; and I think they would be only too glad to do it. The advantage of having a road fenced in is, that you have grass and water all the way. At present there is no certainty that you will have grass. As soon as there is any grass on the stock routes, the squatter himself puts his sheep on it and eats it down. The squatter does not wish sheep to travel through his run, because it necessitates his sending his men with them to shepherd them through his property, making them travel the specified number of miles per day. If the road gets bad, from want of grass or any other cause, the travelling stock will not use it, and will have to travel by some other route. I do not blame the squatters. I have seen as many as ten men belonging to one station shepherding travelling stock over the Kilfera run, and were kept at it for three or four days. This is a very large stock route, and it gives any amount of trouble to the station owners. I think it is some 97 miles through the run. Large numbers of cattle and sheep go along that road.
2999. *Mr. Woore.*] I suppose there are nearly always travelling stock on the run? Yes.
3000. *Chairman.*] Have you taken contracts and sublet them? Only drains; and in one case only.
3001. As regards drains, what price did you get from the Government, and what sum did you sublet them for? I think I got from the Government about £1 per chain for 12-foot drains, 9 inches deep, and with 3 to 1 batter. I sublet the work for 17s. 6d. per chain. I then got, I think it was 10s. per chain, for the 10-foot drains. I cannot be at all certain, because it is a long time since I did the work. The only reason I sublet this was that I had done with the tank. At Tinda tank there was a tremendous catchment, and I dare not put drains in for fear of destroying the engines. I had great trouble with labour, and it was on that account that I sublet the drains to a man who was living close by.
3002. Do you know of any wells? No; I only know of old wells. They were all sunk before I went there.
3003. What is the nature of the well water generally? The water in the Jumping Sand-hill is occasionally rather brackish for human consumption. Then the Holy Box well was abandoned, and Mr. Wood put a man on to bale the water out, and they got good water at the last report. The well at Mount Manara was abandoned before they had gone to a very great depth. One well further away from the Mount Manara—one about half a mile away—supplies magnificent water, but it is private property.
3004. Have you ever put up any fencing? No; I would never touch woodwork.
3005. *Major Penrose.*] Are any of these tanks constructed so that they will conserve water above the natural level of the ground? No; unless the water is pumped over the embankments from the silt-tank. The only advantage of the banks is that they act as a break-wind.
3006. *Mr. Woore.*] A violent wind blowing would drive the water against the sides of the tank, and bring the earth down? Yes; and I do not believe that any batter of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 gives much resistance.
3007. These banks which are put round the tanks, although they may not conserve water above the natural level, tend to conserve the water within the excavation by sheltering it from the wind? Yes; they do that, but all that means money. You can shelter a tank with a brushwood fence which would cost only about 2s. per cubic yard, or less. I have noticed in these banks with a steep batter that the waves will cut not only the earth, but will cause it to fall in. I have a letter here that I would like to read. It is addressed to a member of the late Water Conservation Commission, Mr. Franklin. [*See Appendix.*]

3008. *Chairman.*] You said you had fault to find with the management of the tanks under the Mines Department? No; I did not exactly say that because I have no particular case to bring forward, and no particular fault to find; but it seems to me that the whole thing is mismanaged. I have seen for years back good tanks unattended to; the drains were not cleaned out and then the tanks silted up and became utterly useless. There was the Boonoono tank, for instance. It was more than half full of sludge; and although I admit it was very bad country, still they ought to have kept their drains clean, which is the chief thing.

3009. Is there a silt-tank there? Yes; but it disappeared long ago.

3010. *Major Penrose.*] Is there a caretaker there? I do not remember that there is any caretaker there now. There was a caretaker there at one time, but he never did anything. I think he did more in shifting the horses for Cobb & Co., than ever he did for the Government.

3011. *Chairman.*] So through the negligence of this caretaker this valuable work was allowed to fill up and become useless? Yes; and not only that, but the tank was in such a position that a tremendous fall of rain would fill the swamp all round it. I do not know what Department it was under at the time, but nothing whatever was done. They quietly stood by and took no notice while the squatter who leased the Kilfera run, and who had a tank in the same swamp, filled his tank brimming full, while the Government tank remained empty. Not only did they take no steps to fill the Government tank, but they did nothing towards blocking the station owner from doing this.

3012. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you know under whose charge this tank was at the time? I cannot say.

3013. You do not know whether there was a caretaker there or not, or whether the tank had been leased? I have no knowledge whatever of that.

3014. Do you remember in what year this incident occurred? I think it was in 1882 or 1883. But that is only one instance. Of course I look upon it in this way—that these tanks ought to be made to return something, just as well as the railways and the roads return something. The railways of this Colony are most expensive, and our tanks, which are magnificent tanks, are also the most expensive in the world; but if you adopted this system of tollage, there can be no doubt that they would bring in a large revenue.

3015. *Chairman.*] Now I want to get this further information. Is it a fact that the case of this Boonoono tank is pretty generally the case of all the tanks that are under caretakers? Yes; all the tanks that I have any knowledge of. I do not wish to cast any reflections on the Department.

3016. You will only state facts? I mean to say that the whole affair is so gigantic and is spread over so enormous an area of country, that there is a great difficulty in getting reliable men. In any case until the thing is put upon a proper basis, it never can be satisfactorily worked.

3017. You think that local bodies should have the management and control? Yes; the only way is by local bodies with an inspecting engineer over them all.

3018. *Major Penrose.*] You state in the letter which you have read to us that in measuring up the tank the contractor can get round the Government officer. I should think that the measurement would be a very simple affair? Yes; it would be, no doubt, if the Government officer had a staff with him; but when he comes alone into the enemy's camp—as it were—he is bound to be “got at” in all directions. If he is at the top of the bank with a rope in his hand, the man at the bottom gets at him in the depth; and if he goes to the bottom the man at the top is getting at him with the level, because he makes the inspecting officer push up. If the Government officer measures round the side with the tape, the man at the other end grasps 18 inches or 2 feet of it in his hand, and the inspector, unless he is very sharp-sighted, cannot possibly tell. Indeed, I know of one short-sighted officer who has been imposed on in this way by the man at the other side taking 2 feet of the tape in his hands.

3019. *Chairman.*] Is there not another way of misleading the Government officer by making up the soil so that you cannot tell the new ground from the old? Yes; I believe that has been done repeatedly.

3020. *Major Penrose.*] And could not the contractors cheat the squatter in a similar manner? No; because the squatter is continually on the ground, and besides that the squatters are too practical in their knowledge, and know too much to be cheated by the contractors. In one instance, in sinking a tank, I, myself, came upon what is usually called cement. The road superintendent happened to visit the tank at the time, and told me not to go any deeper, as I should probably lose the water, as the water would pass through what he thought was gravel, which exactly suited me. Although Mr. Wood has been very hard indeed upon me, I believe him to be a good man, but he is terribly embarrassed by the incapacity of the men under him. I know a great number of tank contractors, but not one who has made money. There never has been a rush for the Government tanks, and had the squatters continued their improvements a few years ago the Government would not have one-half their tanks down now, because men would not dream of looking at them. Had it not been for the continual drought and the passing of the present law, which prevents squatters from going on with their improvements, the Government would have had extraordinary difficulty in getting tenders for their tanks at all. I know that at the beginning of the drought, when I tendered for Ivanhoe and Mount Manara, they kept on advertising, but nobody would have the work, and Mr. Wood himself was sent up to offer all sorts of inducements to men to take the work. Years ago I believe that Burton Brothers made a lot of money out of tank-sinking, but it was in the days when everybody was making money, and when there was an abundance of grass and water.

[The Commission adjourned.]

THURSDAY, 15 MARCH, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R.E.,

J. C. WOORE, Esq.

William Christopher Bennett called in and examined:—

3021. *Chairman.*] What is your position, Mr. Bennett? I am Commissioner and Engineer-in-Chief for W.C. Bennett. Roads and Bridges.

3022. Of course, Mr. Bennett, you have read over these printed documents that have been printed and placed before Parliament, containing various letters and complaints from the Mines Department as to works performed under your management? Yes,

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- W.C. Benhott. 3023. And the various allegations that are made in these papers? Yes; and I have written a letter protesting against the question being put before the House and the Commission in this one-sided way.
- 15 Mar., 1888. 3024. As soon as these printed documents reached you? Yes; and I requested that the paper should be forwarded to the Commission. If you have not received it I will provide the Commission with another copy.
3025. The Mines Department have formulated their allegations under ten different headings, but of course you have seen all this? Yes; I am conversant with the documents.
3026. To enable us to refer to these matters more conveniently, we have asked each witness questions under these headings, *seriatim*. You have been supplied hitherto with a copy of the evidence taken? Yes; I have.
3027. You think it would be preferable if you would give us your evidence without going through the form of asking questions. First of all, you might speak in connection with the selection of sites for tanks and wells, referring in your statement to the most salient points—those cases which have been said to be the most glaring ones? I was preparing my statement in the form of a paper, but I was not able to complete it by the time of meeting of the Commission. The evidence is very voluminous, but I have gone through it and marked everything to which I wish to refer to particularly. But I wished to have the views of the Commission before I present a document of that sort to them, because it would be equivalent to a speech of counsel on evidence; and I thought the Commission might consider the position I was in, and allow me to justify myself by a formal defence in reference to the evidence.
3028. I am quite prepared to admit such a statement, having already done so in the case of other witnesses. (*Witness then said that he would hand to the Commission a written statement replying fully to the various allegations that had been made, with a view to lessen the labours of the Commission, and would give his views in defence.*)
3029. How many years have you been in the Public Service? I have been 34 years in the Public Service in New South Wales, and 10 years before that in the Imperial Service—on a service of a collateral character—which my connection with the Imperial Service led to.
3030. In what capacity? In the capacity of engineer-in-charge of works or surveys.
3031. When did you commence to take charge of tanks and wells in New South Wales—when did you first commence constructing them? In 1869.
3032. And, speaking approximately, how many tanks have you excavated, and how many wells have you sunk since then? Well I think that altogether there are 165 public tanks, wells and dams in the colony.
3033. Since when have complaints been made in regard to faults of construction and with respect to badly chosen sites for tanks and wells? Ever since the Mines Department got charge.
3034. Were no complaints made by private individuals prior to that time? I have no recollection of complaints having been made. There were criticisms and suggestions by private individuals, but no complaints.
3035. Before you selected a site for a tank or well, as the case may be—by whom where you moved? In the first instance—in the earlier stages—a sum of money was generally placed on the estimates at the instance of a member of the House; and I was directed to inquire where tanks were necessary on a certain road, and provide them. The first thing I did was to send Mr. Wood, the assistant engineer, up to bore in the country between Hay and the Darling. Mr. Wood provided a full boring plant at the expense of the Government. He was an old officer of the Department and then made a great many borings between Hay and the Darling. Some time during that period Mr. Wood reported that he found it cheaper to sink prospecting holes or trial-shafts than to bore. Sums of money were placed on the estimates occasionally, on the motion of members of the House, in an arbitrary way; and sometimes on our advice. We constructed a number of wells between the Lachlan and the Darling as well as tanks, as Mr. Wood reported most advisable.
3036. Was Mr. Wood instructed to avail himself of local knowledge where possible? Yes; we have been in the habit of consulting local people in every work we have undertaken. Of course it is not for us to follow exactly the dictum of local people, because they may be swayed by motives opposed to those which we are told to act on. After these works were completed the question of occupancy and revenue arises. We found that we, as a Department, had no local powers whatever to lease the works or compel payment of tollage; and we were told that these powers rested with the Crown Lands Occupation Branch; and the wells and tanks were then handed over to the Lands Department.
3037. *Major Penrose.*] About what time was this? It commenced in 1869 and went on to about 1872 or 1873. Then we were from time to time ordered to make repairs, which in some cases amounted to restoration, the works having in the meantime fallen into decay from want of superintendence and care. After the repairs were completed the works would be again handed over to the Lands Department. This restoration of some of the works occurred more than twice.
3038. Do you mean that the works were handed back to you for repair? Yes; the works were allowed to get into disrepair by one Department, and then taken over by us and reconstructed, after which they were again handed over to the Lands Department. During this period the M'Comas pump was used; but in one or two instances open tanks were made which the stock might drink from.
3039. *Chairman.*] Who used these M'Comas pumps? They were used on our works. Some of these works were leased by the Lands Department and the pumps were used by the lessees. We leased some of them, also, but we found that we had no power—or at least no power to compel the lessees to pay anything.
3040. *Mr. Woore.*] Some of these places were leased to the lessees of the runs on which they were situated? Yes; when the lessees tendered for the work. At that time it was held to be very objectionable to allow the lessees to lease the works, because it was said the lessees would use the tanks to suit their own purposes.
3041. *Chairman.*] We would like if you would detail the whole history of this matter in your own way? At different times sums of money were placed on the estimates to water other roads. There were some tanks made between Hay and Deniliquin.
3042. These were chiefly stock routes? Yes; stock routes. And on the opening of the Western line of railway to Nyngan there was great pressure put upon the Department to get the road to Cobar, and then the road from Cobar to Bourke, watered. On the road from Cobar to Bourke, the tanks at that time were all small open tanks. Between Cobar and Nyngan a larger and better style of tank had to be constructed. About the time of the completion of these tanks—my memory is rather vague on the matter—the Mines Department got charge. For some time there was no Chief Inspector, and Mr. A. Bruce,

Bruce, the Chief Inspector of Stock, recommended generally where tanks should be put down, and we fixed the sites locally—that is, within a mile or two of the place indicated by Mr. Bruce. Mr. Bruce wished to carry out a number of innovations, and suggested a great number of improvements. So far as was practicable I adopted some of Mr. Bruce's suggestions; but there were others which I did not think it desirable to adopt. There was a good deal of discussion about drinking tanks, and generally Mr. Bruce wanted more accommodation for stock, fences, &c., than were hitherto thought necessary. Then Mr. Gilliat got charge and made some tours of inspection; and, in many cases, in a rather arbitrary way, directed that alterations should be made by the caretakers without reference to the Roads Department at all. He condemned several works—notably wells, the water of which he condemned. I should say that Mr. Bruce recommended that the Mines Department should have a hydraulic engineer of their own, do their own work, and have a separate Department of their own. Then some years afterwards Mr. Harrie Wood, the Under Secretary for Mines, recommended Mr. Abbott, the then Minister, to have a hydraulic engineer. Mr. Abbott thought it was unnecessary, and said that he knew me very well, and knew what experience I had had, &c. Then from that day—for the last five or six years—there has been nothing but a continual fire of letters and complaints.

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3043. *Mr. Woore.*] By whom? From the Mines people, through their Minister, to the Works Department. The complaints were in most cases about trivial things, but the reiteration of these trivial things must have made an impression.

3044. *Chairman.*] Carrying on this line of statement, how does the friction arise between the two Departments;—had you any control over these works after giving them up to the Mines Department, or had your road superintendents any control over them? Yes; there was a minute giving us charge of repairs, and I always objected to hand over the works, as previously, when they had been handed over to the Lands Department; they had been allowed to get into disrepair. I have always feared that a similar state of things would ensue if the works were left entirely to the mercy of the Mines officers.

3045. *Major Penrose.*] You mean to say that you objected to giving up control over these works altogether? Yes; they were my children, as it were; and I wanted to see that they got fair play.

3046. *Chairman.*] Had your officers directions to see to the works after they had left your hands? Yes; that was a perfectly understood thing.

3047. Will you state what was the nature of these directions? That they were to do all repairs and report to me every time they went round to inspect the works. Besides that, they were to do the urgent repairs, as it would not do to wait on their report to the office. They were given the fullest freedom of action in reference to repairs, because in most of the men, particularly at this epoch, I had very great confidence.

3048. Did the repairs you speak of include minor repairs? There was a limit of £10, but it was a very hard thing to draw the line.

3049. *Mr. Woore.*] Who suggested the limit? The Mines Department. A valve or something else in a pump, the cost of which would not be more than 6d., was frequently a cause of complaint and of delay in giving water. Necessarily our officers, when they saw this, made reports.

3050. *Chairman.*] Did these caretakers receive any instructions not to meddle with the pumps? No; no general instructions. I believe that in some cases when the officers found the men in charge so unfit for any duty of the sort, they have told the caretakers verbally, "If anything goes wrong do not touch the pump, but let me know."

3051. We have it in evidence that they would not do the smallest job, because they had received instructions not to touch the works? In some cases they did not receive instructions, but of course no officer would complain of a man not doing work which he himself had instructed him not to do.

3052. *Major Penrose.*] You had no power to lease these works or to take them over after construction? No.

3053. And do you think it was a good thing that these two Departments should have something to do with the works? I thought it was a mistake then. I think instead of giving over to a new Department this power, it would have been much better to have conferred the power on the Works Department by a short act.

3054. Did you suggest that? No, I did not.

3055. *Mr. Woore.*] Who was it that first suggested this handing over of your works to the Mines Department? It arose entirely out of our inability to lease.

3056. And were you unwilling to hand over these works to any other Department? I saw that the law positively did not allow us to lease—that it was a privilege or a duty of the Lands Department, and then it was not so easy to get the law altered as it is now. And I never thought of waiting for the alteration of the law, but quietly handed over the works as I was told.

3057. *Chairman.*] Did you foresee any complications from this dual control of the works? No, I did not. The whole thing was in a rather embryo state at the time, and had not assumed the very large proportions which it has assumed since. These works were merely made as aids to the travelling public without any idea of getting revenue from them. The matter of revenue was an afterthought altogether.

3058. Did you ever anticipate that these works would be taken over by some responsible body outside the Government? In the year 1865 I recommended the decentralization of the Department so far as the roads and bridges were concerned; and in every report I have written since I have most strongly urged that matter. There is a paper of mine in the blue book (produced) which contains some minutes that I have written. But I must confess that I never anticipated local government in these localities, because the material for local government did not exist there in these days. It is only very lately that it can be said to have existed at all, and if such machinery can be found I would strongly advocate that the control of these works should be placed in the hands of properly constituted bodies.

3059. You think it would tend to satisfy public requirements and also, I presume, secure economy in the construction and administration of these works? I think so.

3060. Local bodies must necessarily know better the requirements of the district than an officer coming from Sydney? Yes, and they would sympathise with the contractors and other persons employed on the work, and it is now said that the contrary is the case.

3061. We have it in evidence that it is so? I would wish to add something with reference to what I have said with regard to handing these works over to local bodies. There should be some control over the local bodies in order that they might not be allowed to stop a road, because a local body from motives of injudicious

W.C. Bennett. injudicious economy or for some other reason might neglect works which would inconvenience the travelling stock. That has to be considered, so that rather more supervision would be required over these tanks and wells than over the ordinary road and bridge works of the colony, which it is so desirable to decentralize.

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3062. You mean this, that local bodies must not be too local, and that they must not be allowed to take a too narrow view of their responsibilities? Yes, and particularly if the Government should agree to any scheme to subsidise them. There should then be a central authority to see that the subsidy was properly disposed of.

3063. *Mr. Woore.*] You mean that they ought not to be entirely free from the supervision of a Government Department? No.

3064. *Chairman.*] You know that there are Divisional Boards in Queensland that have control over works in that Colony? Yes, I know that they have control of the roads; but I do not know that they have charge of tanks and wells. Persons who know both frontiers perfectly are best satisfied with the result under the roads and bridges system of New South Wales. They are better; but, notwithstanding the evils of centralization are so great that it would be better to put up with inferior roads and bridges, if it were a consequence necessary to the control by local bodies—though I do not think it would be—than to keep up this system of centralization. In the year 1865 I recommended this, and I have never since then had reason to change my opinions. I said then that it might be that the works would not be so well done, but that the general results would be more satisfactory.

3065. *Mr. Woore.*] It appears from the evidence given before us that some tanks and wells constructed by your Department have been placed near waters conserved by the lessees of runs—was that done with your knowledge? Not with my knowledge at the time.

3066. But what I want to know is, were not these waters, adjacent to which works were constructed, conserved by the lessees at their own expense? Yes; but the works were not put there at the time with my knowledge. Mr. Wood was sent up there owing to the great rush to Mount Brown. The papers teemed with extracts relating the sufferings of persons who had perished with thirst.

3067. You say that these works were not put down with your knowledge? No, but I endorsed everything that Mr. Wood did.

3068. It was done by Mr. Wood, who had great power vested in him? Yes, he had plenary powers to construct such works as were necessary to save life.

3069. But do you think it was a good principle to go upon,—to put these works for watering stock upon stock routes near squatters' improvements, or do you think that the squatters' improvements might have been availed of for the purpose of meeting the public requirements? Well, we were told to prepare for a great rush to a new gold-field.

3070. I am now speaking generally? In that particular case I have stated we were told to prepare for a great rush, and, as has occurred during the previous rushes, we know how very valuable these private waters of the squatters would become. A squatter might refuse to allow the people to enter, and then we ran the risk of having suffering, because there was no tank at a certain place. Or, on the other hand, we must have been compelled to purchase the squatters' works at a very large price, or again, the waters conserved by the squatters might have given out. If it had not been for the great rush, the works would have been designed and carried out with more deliberation.

3071. But do you think it was a proper principle to go upon—not to depend upon squatters' improvements for watering these roads? In that case, certainly.

3072. And also in fairness to the squatters—not to throw the public upon them for water? I think so.

3073. The waters having been conserved at their own expense? Yes, we are obliged to pay great deference to private rights in this country,—much more so than I found necessary at home.

3074. Therefore if a public watering place were required in a position on a stock route where water had been already conserved at the expense of the lessee, you think it is necessary for the Government to construct their works, notwithstanding that the squatter had already conserved water for his own use? Yes, I do.

3075. *Chairman.*] This is one of your specifications for tanks? Yes. (*See Appendix.*)

3076. Is this the same specification you have always adopted? No; this is the most recent one.

3077. You did not always adopt this specification? No; in the previous one a blank was left for the slopes, which blank was to be filled in by the officers.

3078. In the earlier specifications were the slopes usually steeper than the slopes in the later specifications? Yes.

3079. What was the steepest slope you have put in a tank? 1 to 1; but this was in the beginning.

3080. Was that slope universally adopted at that particular time? No. Many works then done had that slope, but few of them came under my own immediate attention. That was a good many years ago—nearly twenty years—and we had then only a very slight knowledge either of the rainfall or of the demands likely to be made upon these tanks. There were no squatters' tanks at all like them, and we were anxious to make our works most durable, so that they would hold out in any drought. And we then considered a 1 to 1 slope as the most economical.

3081. You must secure by this slope less evaporation than by a gentler slope? Yes. I have had a table made out showing the per centage. I hand this in as showing how I arrived at this conclusion. I came to that conclusion by practical experience, and this table has since been formulated. We knew that the local evaporation was very great, but we did not know what duration of drought we would have to provide for. In fact the whole thing was tentative. This is the table I referred to:—

Comparison of tanks 18 feet deep with varying slopes.

| | 1 to 1. | 1½ to 1. | 2 to 1. | 3 to 1. | 4 to 1. |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Capacity | 22·153 c. y. | 22·486 c. y. | 22·614 c. y. | 23·712 c. y. | 22·275 c. y. |
| Mean depth..... | 14·95 ft. | 13·77 ft. | 12·73 ft. | 11·1 ft. | 9·6 ft. |
| Evaporative surface | 40·000 s. f. | 44·100 s. f. | 49·284 s. f. | 57·600 s. f. | 62·500 s. f. |
| Decrease in mean depth | | 8 per cent. | 14·8 per cent. | 21·6 per cent. | 33·7 per cent. |
| Increase in evaporation area | | 10 „ | 23·2 „ | 44 „ | 55·5 „ |

3082. You never went into this question of evaporation closely? For years I have been endeavouring to arrive at a conclusion regarding evaporation, and my opinion now is that evaporation causes a loss of between 4 and 5 feet of water per annum. I consulted friends of mine in India and other places during the time the late Sydney Water Commission sat, and this was the result. W.C. Bennett,
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3083. It was in consequence of trying to get depth of water with as little surface exposure as possible that you adopted this 1 to 1 slope in the batter? Yes.

3084. Did you never find in these days the necessity of making provision as to the nature of the soil? Well, yes; there was provision made, and each case was considered by itself. Mr. Wood was the man on the ground at the time.

3085. Of course you are aware that in some grounds a 1 to 1 batter would stand very well? I have considered that subject very carefully.

3086. But in other places where there is loose soil a batter of 1 to 1 would not possibly stand? It would slip in the first time anything touched it? Yes.

3087. Then were you sufficiently careful to consider the nature of the soil when sinking these tanks, and so modify the specifications to make a gentler slope where the soil was loose and friable; or did you have a hard and fast rule? It was left to Mr. Wood to a great extent, he being then the officer in charge. The officer who had the laying out of these works used his own discretion with regard to what the slopes should be. The officers I refer to are the road superintendents under Mr. Wood. They filled in the specifications in accordance with what they saw of the soil in the trial shafts.

3088. So that in the event of any batter being found to be too steep it was an error of judgment on the part of the officer who filled in the specifications? Yes; but at the same time I do not shrink from the responsibility myself, because there were the plans which the officers had to follow. They were drawn $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1, and that was the lead which was to guide the local officer.

3089. *Mr. Woore.*] But subject to modification by the local officer if he thought desirable? Yes.

3090. *Chairman.*] As a matter of fact, I suppose most of the early tanks were sunk with these very steep slopes? Yes, most of these on the Wilcannia road.

3091. *Mr. Woore.*] And do you and your Department know now from experience that that was a mistake. Of course everything was new then, and experience had to be gained? We found that the droughts, which were the principal causes in making us construct steep slopes, were not so great in their operation as we had anticipated; and we also found that the slopes did not stand so well, and we modified them accordingly.

3092. *Major Penrose.*] Practically have these banks fallen in very much? No, not very much. Most of the slopes stand very well; but Mr. Wood will be able to give you evidence on that point.

3093. *Chairman.*] Are you aware in some instances that these steep slopes that you have insisted upon for public tanks have cost more money for excavation than they would were the slope a gentler one—would the excavation have not cost less had there been a long slope say of 4 to 1 on one side of the tank? I think it is quite impossible that a tank of 1 to 1 could have fallen in to that extent. But if any particular case is cited I will take the trouble to have cross-sections made, if the gentleman making such a statement will name the tank or tanks he refers to. I will have these cross-sections made and laid before the Commission to show you to what extent this slope takes place. There are two other reasons that I want recorded, justifying these steep slopes. One reason is that the same area of bottom would not be given in the flatter-sloped tanks. A flat-sloped tank would give much larger excavation on top, which would cost more money, being of greater cubic contents. I imagine that a great deal of this harm is caused by the small waves washing against the sides, but if there was a larger surface necessarily you would have larger waves.

3094. Have you found in practice that the original steep slopes were too great, and have you modified them by a more recent specification of two to one? Yes; $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 first, and then 2 to 1.

3095. Have you found that the present specification of slope of 2 to 1 is sufficient? We think so.

3096. And has not your attention been drawn to the fact that this has slipped in? No; but we have had complaints, and I believe we should still have complaints if we made the batter 6 to 1.

3097. *Major Penrose.*] I see that some of them have 3 to 1 slopes? Yes; this was done merely to allow the use of Mr. Doudney's excavating plant. We tried to meet them in every way, so that the prices for the work might be reduced.

3098. *Chairman.*] You have not had any valid complaints that these batters are still too steep? No.

3099. Of course these tanks with these steep batters were never intended to allow stock to water directly at them? Never. Some tanks were intended to allow stock to water at them, but in these cases there is a batter of 1 in 6 to allow the stock to go down on one side.

3100. But latterly all tanks have been excavated with the idea of putting machinery down to lift the water into troughs? Yes; and not to allow the stock into the troughs. That was done on the Hay and Wilcannia road, and in some of the tanks first put down.

3101. You mentioned just now one tank which had been damaged by the water lapping and so forth on the sides? Yes.

3102. In excavating you have to put the soil from the tank all round some distance from the excavation—we presume for the purpose of protecting it from the winds? That was one reason. The other reason was that which was acted upon in one of the earliest tanks, Boonoo Boonoo, for the purpose of making the excavation hold water above the natural surface of the soil. We made staging and flumes to carry water from the high land across the flat, so that the storage might be utilized to the fullest extent above the natural surface of the ground. That staging was allowed to get into disrepair and it became useless.

3103. Have you ever used machinery to pump water outside the tank into these embankments and increase the capacity of the tank? We never had machinery powerful enough to do so to any extent, and we never required it.

3104. *Mr. Woore.*] In many cases the embankments are now left open? Where there is any possibility of accumulating water above the level of the ground we have closed the embankments and put a flap sluice in to prevent the egress of the water after the tank is filled up with heavy rains.

3105. *Major Penrose.*] How much water can you conserve above the natural level of the ground in that way? It depends upon the slope of the ground.

3106. *Mr. Woore.*] But in most of these instances where the embankments are put around it would be quite possible to pump outside water into the tanks? Yes; if you had machinery powerful enough.

- W.C. Bennett. 3107. *Chairman.*] You make these embankments solely for the purpose of protecting the water from the winds? Not wholly; many of them impound the water above the surface.
- 15 Mar., 1888. 3108. *Major Penrose.*] Have any of the contractors ever represented to you that they could make tanks much more cheaply if they were allowed certain concessions in regard to one or two batters of the tanks? No proposition of that sort was ever made to me. The only proposition made to me was one from Mr. Greig, of Fowler & Co., the proprietors of the steam excavating plant; and he wanted me to modify the batters to meet his views, but he did not modify his price. We thought he could do the work at a lower price if he were given this concession, but he did not make the price a bit lower. Therefore there was no reason for modifying the batters in the ordinary tanks unless they could be done cheaper. We called for tenders in every possible way, giving the contractors the advantage of this alteration, but we got no reduction in price.
3109. You tried to see whether the price could not be lessened by introducing a gentler slope where possible? Yes; and Mr. Doudney, who managed the plant, and Mr. Kilgour, could not afford to tender any less than they did under the other circumstances.
3110. Was the 3 to 1 batter your limit? Had they asked for more we should have given it.
3111. Would you be prepared to give it now to any other contractor? Decidedly; if we could get from them a reduction corresponding to the advantage which we give them.
3112. Would you accept a contract at 3d. per yard less on that account? No; because if you go into the question of evaporation and mean depth you will find that the loss would be greater than the saving.
3113. It has been stated in evidence that the steep batters are not such a gain as would appear, and that the loss from evaporation is not to be compared with the loss by soakage through the sides? Well, the loss through the sides is an additional argument for the steep batters.
3114. No; because on the gentler batters a fine suspended clay falls, and this is said to lie very well and stanch the tank? Well, that is a minor matter; because we find in the very worst tanks, such as that at Ivanhoe, if they are filled once or twice the steep banks become quite retentive. I have evidently misunderstood your question. There is a greater surface exposed to evaporation by capillary attraction with the gentler-sloped tanks than with the steep tanks.
3115. There is a much greater area of warm water? Yes; the main depth gives evidence of that, though not to its full intensity.
3116. *Chairman.*] The tanks that you are in the habit of constructing are about 18 feet in depth? Yes.
3117. Are you aware that this is a much greater depth than squatters are in the habit of sinking their tanks? Yes, it is.
3118. But you adopted that because it was considered very desirable to have great depth, and to have so much absolute capacity in the tank, which makes the water so much cooler? Yes; and it is an element in the evaporation. We wanted to have the duration of our tanks to continue to the very utmost period of the drought, because the drying up of one tank might neutralize the others. If a squatter's tank dries up he can send his stock to any other part of his run; but if our tanks were to give out travelling stock are deprived of all resource.
3119. Now we have also had it before us that the Government have gone to unnecessary expense in sinking wells in the neighbourhood of tanks? That is entirely a misapprehension. I do not know a single instance of it.
3120. We have had it in evidence here—and you must have read it—of wells having been sunk in close proximity to tanks in one or two instances? Yes; wells have been sunk in close proximity to water-holes, but not to tanks.
3121. Were the officers who had charge of these works told in every case that they must judge of the nature and formation of the soil in laying out the work? In the first instance we had to trust to the officers altogether, because the whole thing was tentative. It was impossible to make regulations, but the officers were told to do the best they could, and they had the benefit of many years of experience. It was a question I took the greatest interest in, and I gave them fully all the knowledge that I possessed. I told them to be most careful, and that the permanence of water in these public watering places was a most important thing; so that if we have erred at all in reference to the slopes it has been on the side of caution.
3122. And of course it may now happen that faults can be found, because since these works have been constructed you have been profiting by experience? Yes; and I think it would be very hard if the complaints about these faults came from persons whose experience has been acquired on our works. When our officers first went out there that country was a perfect *terra incognita*.
3123. And you admit freely that there exist things in connection with some of the works which have been constructed which your present knowledge might have obviated? Yes; I have stated in writing before that the whole thing was tentative, and that we were improving as fast as we could.
3124. *Major Penrose.*] The complaint is that with all this experience which has been gained, you are still going on constructing tanks in an expensive manner, and without taking advantage of the experience gained by squatters and other practical men? I think not.
3125. I am merely stating that that is the charge? Well, we will be able to disprove it. We will be able to prove that we have utilized all *bona fide* good experience. You no doubt have seen that a variety of opinions were put before the Commission.
3126. *Chairman.*] We have also heard that drains have been carelessly constructed, and that, in one instance, the water, instead of running into the tank, runs away from it? That was explained to me by Mr. Stilwell. In one place the drains crossed a flat or depression in the ground where there was a bank made for confining the water. A big flood came and washed away the bank. It was not replaced, and consequently the water runs back from the tank solely through the neglect of the caretaker.
3127. You say that a fluming was made to carry the water over the depression and on to higher ground, so as to utilize the full capacity of the tank, and that this fluming was allowed to get out of order? Yes; it was destroyed. I think it occurred in more than one case, but I am certain of this one.
3128. What has been called the defective system of fluming has been spoken of? That has reference to the fluming leading into the tank and within the tank itself.
3129. Of course the inlet pipes should be of stone rather than of wood, it being exceedingly difficult to get wood and soil to work together? Yes; but then we have to bring the stone 300 miles. If these works were continued in my hands and more money had been voted for them, I would have substituted concrete; and if there was no stone or wood about we would make the fluming of concrete, of cement, and of burnt clay.

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3130. Is not this soil exceedingly friable? Yes; it melts away like sugar. There is one other thing that strikes me. In making the original tanks we were rather limited in the matter of money. A certain sum was voted for watering a particular road, and we wished that that money should go as far as possible; and that was another reason for having steep slopes. Economy was more imperative then than now, though whether that economy was judicious or not is open to question; but at that time it appeared to us that economy was imperative.

3131. You have sent us the list showing us the cost of the whole of these works that have been handed over? Yes; a large number.

3132. Showing the cost of excavation as ranging from 10½d. to 1s. 9d. per cubic yard? Yes.

3133. In no instance did the cost of excavation exceed 1s. 9d. per cubic yard, except where rock or cement was met with? No.

3134. When the Government were giving 1s. 9d. per cubic yard for excavation, were you aware that the squatters were getting their tanks sunk for a very much less sum? Yes.

3135. Are you aware that as much as 2s. 6d. per cubic yard was given in some cases for excavation? I am aware that it is said that somebody said that somebody had told somebody else that another person had got the contract at 2s. 6d. per cubic yard and had sub-let it to somebody else for a less sum.

3136. *Mr. Woore.*] That is not true in any case? It is not, because we have the receipted vouchers and can produce them.

3137. Are you aware that at the time the Government were paying 1s. 9d. per cubic yard for excavating tanks squatters were getting their tanks sunk in some localities as low as 1s? That may have been the case.

3138. *Chairman.*] That being so can you account for the difference? Yes.

3139. Then we will ask you to go fully into that point? In the first place, the depth of our Government tanks is considerably greater than that of private tanks. That is valued at 2d. Then the increased finish—though I do not admit it—I say it is equal to 2d. Then the squatters give the contractors water, which I find is valued at 1d. Then there is the question of feed for the bullocks, which is equal to 3d.; that makes 8d.; and then there is the meat, and all the other accommodations that squatters can give their own men, and which we are unable to give them. I notice that great stress has been laid on alleged delays in payments. Well, no other Government Department has ever done what we have done in the prompt payment of money. This applies to within the last five or six years, since the pressure began. When an officer goes on to the ground and measures the work, he is instructed to give a cheque to the contractor for one-half the amount of the work measured. At the nearest telegraph office, he telegraphs the amount of the cheque, which is at once placed to his credit in the office in Sydney. Then he sends a voucher for 30 per cent. of the work, so that 80 per cent. of the value of the work done is paid for. The officer pays one-half of that 80 per cent. on the spot, and a voucher is sent down for the remainder. The only amount kept back is 20 per cent.; and the only delays that take place in payment are those delays which are necessary in checking the accounts of the contractor and the officer.

3140. When is the original 50 per cent. paid? Immediately when the officer measures. It is a payment on account for the amount of work done then.

3141. *Mr. Woore.*] Is there not sometimes unavoidable delay in inspection by the officers? Yes; but the officers cannot be ubiquitous; and had we more officers than we at present have, there is no doubt that that too would be made a charge against us.

3142. *Major Penrose.*] Do you think that the estimate of 8d. per cubic yard, which is said to be the advantage to be gained by dealing with squatters, on account of their supplying grass, water, meat, and so forth, can be justified? I think these particular items should be taken *cum grano*; but there are other reasons besides those furnished by the contractors, which may account for the difference between the prices the Government pay and those the squatters pay.

3143. *Chairman.*] Will you kindly state those reasons? One great reason is that these tanks have to be pushed on regardless of the nature of the season, while in all probability the squatter selects his own time.

3144. The distance from water would also add to the cost? It would.

3145. *Mr. Woore.*] And besides that, the number of persons who would tender for these works is rather limited? Yes; but there is no reason why the number should be limited. There were times when we had the most extraordinary difficulty to get contractors to take the work up at all.

3146. What I mean is that, as these contractors are thrown largely on their own resources, those who take Government contracts must have considerable means to carry the work on? Yes, that is so. That fact limits the number of contractors.

3147. *Chairman.*] There is another reason given also, and it is this, that the contractors are quite certain that the Government will always accept the lowest tender; however high the tenders generally may be? I am prepared to show that in many instances we have declined to accept the lowest tender; and in one very hard case brought against us here, we absolutely declined to do so. We called for fresh tenders, and ultimately we were obliged to accept some of those prices which are now objected to.

3148. On account of the pressure brought to bear on the Department to have the works constructed? Yes; pressure was brought to bear on us to construct works to save life, and to allow the country to be opened up so that stock from other colonies might pass through. All these arguments were adduced.

3149. As a rule you are aware that the Government are looked upon in a certain sense by people as an institution which may be fleeced? Yes; unfortunately.

3150. And a contractor invariably asks a higher price from the Government—other things being equal—than he would ask from the squatter? The condition of other things being equal is in this case almost an impossibility.

3151. But I am only putting a suppositious case—do not contractors think that the Government is fair game to be fleeced? A contractor will get as much as he can from everybody, and he is only restrained from asking a high price because he fears that he will not get the job; and that if he did ask a very high price he would get no more work. I think it is all a matter of freetrade. There is a great deal more made of this than there should be. Contractors have a great desire to get the work.

3152. It is said that there is a sort of conspiracy amongst these people to keep up the prices for work? I do not think so. We frequently rejected tenders, and we did so in the very case complained of in the evidence given by Mr. Budd. Delays often arose from our calling for fresh tenders, but this man attributes all sorts of improprieties to the local officer. I should like to refer to one statement which is given in the evidence of Mr. Budd. The statement was to the effect that favoritism was shown.

3153. Do you think it is possible that favoritism could be shown in the acceptance of tenders? No.

Instructions

W.C. Bennett. Instructions to the local officers are issued to open all tenders in the presence of the Police Magistrate, or in case he is absent, in the presence of the Clerk of Petty Sessions, or the senior magistrate on the Bench, or the highest-ranked officer of the Mines Department in the district. The amounts of the tenders are put in schedule form with the officer's recommendations and sent to Sydney for approval, and are submitted to the Minister.

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3154. Not only contractors but squatters have stated as their opinion that the cost of constructing all these tanks with the steep batters is not compensated for by the lessening of the soakage and evaporation. They state that the extra cost which these batters necessitate is not compensated for. I suppose that is a matter of calculation. You know what the increased cost is, and we will take that as a basis to go upon? It will entail 3d. per cubic yard more, which is 25 per cent. more, taking the normal price as 1s. per cubic yard. This list is made up from the past to some extent. It deals with the dearest work we did, but I think 1s. per yard is not too high a price to put down now as the normal cost of a tank.

3155. It is said that the Government pay 1s. 9d. per cubic yard, and out of this 3d. is paid on account of the steep slopes. If a squatter's tank had a slope of 1 in 3 or 1 in 4 could it be done at 1s. per cubic yard, or would not the extra 3d. be fairly spent by lessening the evaporation which a steeper batter would effect? I think so. Threepence is 25 per cent. on 1s., and I suppose evaporation is in proportion to the surface exposed. That will, I think, be granted. Now the surface evaporation in a 3 to 1 tank—

3156. It would not be 3 to 1 all round? Well, then, we will go roughly to work and say a-half, as I have calculated here. Everything being the same with a 3 to 1 tank, the evaporative surface, and, of course, the evaporation, would be 44 per cent. more, the half of which would be 22 per cent. And, in addition, the mean depth of the tank would be 3 feet 9 inches less, or 21½ per cent., adding to the evaporation and decreasing the duration of the tank.

3157. The question is whether a tank of such a character would withstand lengthened drought such as we know has occurred in this country? Yes.

3158. We have had droughts for say three years, during which very little rain has fallen? Yes; but I think that the tanks as they are constructed, with careful administration of the water by pumping it into troughs, would enable the water to last over a three years' drought; but if, as suggested, they would not do so, then if 3 feet 9 inches were taken off the depth (together with the greater amount of exposure) the tank would not last three years.

3159. *Major Penrose.*] Then you do not consider that in certain districts, where the catchment is very quick, the size of the tanks might be reduced? Well, if there was an elaborate engineering survey made all over the catchment, and the whole thing gone into as thoroughly as it is possible with a full knowledge of the rainfall, it is possible that a smaller-sized tank might be found advantageous. But we had no opportunity of doing all these things. The whole thing was a rough-and-ready arrangement. We had to do the work first, and what I told the officers was that they were to get the water first and we would defend the matter afterwards. My instructions were, first get the water and I will fight it out afterwards. If we had time to obtain reports and surveys of each catchment, there is no doubt that a variation of the size of the tank might be made.

3160. We have had it in evidence here that in the Cobar district the size of the tanks might have been reduced to 10,000 yards, as the catchment in that locality is very hard and quick? I do not think so. As an instance of this, I may state that there was great suffering in Cobar because the tank there very nearly gave out. I will grant that what is said was true, if we had had time to examine the catchment in each case. But I would point out that this assertion neutralizes the statement that the sites of the tanks have been badly selected. At the initiation of these works, we had had no experience of what the rainfall was in these localities, and even now it is a very capricious element. You may have a thunderstorm in one place and for years you will have no rain in the same locality, while the rainfall may extend over ten months or ten hours.

[The Commission adjourned until the afternoon, when the sitting was resumed.]

The witness handed in, and read the following documents:—

DEPARTMENT OF ROADS AND BRIDGES, NEW SOUTH WALES,
Supplementary General Instructions—Wells and Tanks.

THE works that have up to the present time been carried out by this Department, in providing for water supply on the different stock routes, have necessarily been of a desultory and intermittent character, on account of the smallness and irregularity of the votes granted for such works; but the large expenditure now proposed, together with the rapidly increasing importance of this question, necessitate a more uniform system and course of action on the part of those officers who will be charged with the construction of tanks and wells.

In dealing with these works they will in future be guided in their *general* action by the following instructions:—

1. The sites for proposed works, and the nature of the work to be carried out—whether tank or well—is to be decided by the officers of the Mining Department; but, should it be considered that a more advantageous site than that chosen can be obtained in the same locality, or that a well would be preferable to a tank, or the contrary, the facts of the case must be at once reported to this office with sufficient data to enable a definite conclusion to be arrived at, and if necessary, a recommendation made to have the nature of the work altered.

2. In forming an opinion as to the sites suitable for tanks, great attention must be paid to the following leading points:—

1. Area of watershed.
2. Nature of surface, whether porous and absorbent, or the reverse.
3. Fall of ground, which if considerable, will to a great extent counteract its absorbent nature, and *vice versa*.
4. Nature of ground in which excavation is to be carried out. On this point great judgment must be exercised, as many strata which, when first opened, appear too porous puddle themselves under the action of the water. Originally porous ground is often made perfectly water-tight by the deposit of silt from the waters collected off the shed, and the nature of the throwing surface must, therefore, be considered. Strict scrutiny will be necessary to detect the existence of drift veins should any be cut in the course of excavation, and great care taken to puddle the exposed faces of such veins, as an otherwise water-tight tank might be rendered valueless by neglect of this precaution.
3. In forming an opinion as to the sites for wells, the only safe guide is positive information. Any opinion likely to be formed from the geological features of the locality, is at the present time not to be relied on. Actual test of the underlying strata, or careful comparisons of the results attained by the Crown lessees in any wells sunk under similar conditions in the locality, offer the best guides. Of these two courses, the former is decidedly preferable as giving an absolute knowledge of the depth and nature of the supply. The latter course is not always to be relied on with the imperfect data obtainable.

4. In practically testing any locality for underground water it will be found that sinking trial-shafts is preferable to boring at any depth from which water can be economically raised. In such shallow, or comparatively shallow works, the cost of transporting boring plant, and the cost of the preliminary arrangements on the site, are so great that sinking proves more economical than boring. In addition to this, a trial-shaft has the further great advantage of enabling a reliable opinion to be formed as to the quantity and quality of the supply. W.C. Bennett.
15 Mar., 1888.

5. Type drawings and specifications, for two classes of tanks, and for top-works for wells, have been prepared; but it must be noted that in selecting the character of the works to be constructed for conserving surface water, it is not intended to insist on a slavish adherence to the standard plans. Cases will arise where, both from a constructive and economical point of view, a departure from the type will be advisable.

When such a course appears to be necessary, plans and sections of the site should be forwarded to this office with the necessary data and suggestions to enable a definite opinion to be arrived at. It must, however, be borne in mind that, as far as is practically possible, under such altered conditions, the general principles shown in the type drawings must be adhered to.

The conserving tank, as shown in drawings, is suitable for sites where there is an open shed, and where the water will have to be drawn to the tank by feed drains; but where the rainfall is concentrated in a well-defined channel it will probably be better to widen and deepen the bed, and construct an embankment at one or both ends according to circumstances.

In cases where there is a considerable fall, it might be found advisable to carry the dam some feet above the level of the banks of the creek, and extend the embankment on each side of the channel until, carried on a level, it cuts the natural surface.

In all cases where creek works are carried out great care must be taken to provide a sufficient by-wash to carry off all surplus or flood waters.

Whenever embankments are necessary, the greatest attention must be paid to the proper grafting of the new material with the old surface of the ground, and if necessary, on account of the too porous character of the surface soil, to the construction of an efficient puddle wall.

In situations where a rising bank offers the necessary conditions as to level and drainage, attention should be given to the advisability of feeding the tank from two levels—from the natural surface through the inlet pipe, and over the top of the embankment by fluming brought from the rising ground so as to utilize the area contained within the embankments for the storage of water.

When underground water of good quality is obtainable at a depth of 18 feet, or less, the type of tank shown in "A" drawing should be adopted.

It is, however, impossible to lay down instructions to suit every case, and the officer in charge of the works must use his own judgment, and when he thinks alterations advisable, forward a full report accompanied with plans and sections.

6. As soon as sites have been finally determined for either tanks or wells, the local officer will furnish a tracing showing the positions of same, so that they may be charted on the maps in this office, and steps taken to ascertain if the necessary reserves have been proclaimed.

7. From time to time, as other duties permit, information on the following points should be collected and forwarded to this office:—

1. Approximate positions of wells sunk by the Crown lessees, giving level of surface, depth of shaft, and the rise, quality, and the probable quantity of water.
2. Information as to any change that may have taken place in the quantity or quality of water since well was first sunk.
3. Information as to any change that has taken, or may take place, in the level of water in wells during long-continued periods of wet or dry weather.
4. Evaporation of water in tanks, noting depth of water, general shape of tank, conditions as to exposure to prevailing winds, and the general character of the surrounding features.
5. Approximate flood contour lines of rivers, and of waters spreading from outflows of rivers, such as the Willandra, &c.

Roads Department, Sydney, 19 June, 1882.

3161. *Chairman.*] Now this is something so utterly opposed to the evidence which we have had here that it is desirable we should have a little more information on the subject? Well, our first essay in this matter was to send Mr. Wood down to bore between the Lachlan and the Darling. He had a full equipment, and after putting down a great many holes he found that between smith's work and also the delays which occurred, that prospecting shafts were infinitely better for the depths that we had to deal with than boring.

3162. What were these depths? Up to 200 feet.

3163. *Mr. Woore.*] What drill did you use? The ordinary instrument used by boring parties—this is before the Wright and Edwards' borer came into use. It was the ordinary boring apparatus in use in engineering works, but there was no particular name for it.

3164. Would the experience obtained by Mr. Wood apply if more modern instruments were used? Not if you went systematically to work to do a great many bores in the same locality. But in these days transport was very expensive, and one of the chief difficulties a party would have to contend with was the transport of the water.

3165. Could not these augers be used without water? No; water was required for the men and the cattle. I would not hold this objection as applying in the case of the Pennsylvania boring apparatus, but it applied then, and that was our experience. We gave the matter a very good trial and this was the result.

3166. You are not sure that that objection would apply now? I am not certain that it would apply at the present time.

3167. Because that quite upsets my notion? The country is now opened up and there are facilities for transport which did not exist then.

3168. We would like to obtain the figures as to what the work cost? Mr. Wood will supply the figures. I have not the slightest idea of them, because it is fifteen or sixteen or more years ago, and one cannot recollect figures. I can have the figures supplied as an addendum to the evidence. Mr. Wood will give you full particulars of them. Sometimes deception is practised, and in one instance I know of, there was a bottle of water produced as from a certain shaft to deceive the officer. This occurred in the case of a man named Gordon, who was for a short time in the service at Hay.

3169. *Major Penrose.*] Do you know what well that was? Gunbar was one, but I do not remember the other case.

3170. *Chairman.*] Well, on that subject we might inquire further. We have been told here by one witness that the Government are always liable to be swindled. For instance, a road surveyor goes to measure a tank. He has no help, and must get one of the tank-sinker's men to assist him in measuring, and whether the officer is at the top or the bottom of the tank he is liable to be swindled and deceived? If the officer is worth anything he can prevent that. That is a worn-out trick of the contractors, and an officer with the slightest sharpness will prevent its being carried out. It is an old story, but as you

are

W.C. Bennett. are on that particular point I may mention it is stated that they sometimes bank up 2 or 3 feet of earth from the point where the 18 feet is measured. Here is a circular which I sent out to the surveyors, to enable them to detect that:—

Circular, copied from Tanks and Wells Letter Book, page 172, book from June, 1882, to June, 1883.

MEMO.

Roads Office, Sydney, 19 April, 1883.

When laying out tank works you must in all cases fix the levels of the four corner pegs of the excavation in reference to a BM situated near the site; and the levels of the corners must be checked when the final measurement is made.

In the case of works now in hand you must, when making the final measurement, carefully examine the cess between the excavation and the embankment, and satisfy yourself that the then level is that of the original surface of the ground.

ARTHUR P. WOOD,

(For Commissioner).

3171. You see how an inexperienced man could be taken in. When a tank is sunk with bullocks the original surface of the ground is worn away, and we have been given to understand that some of the more clever hands among the contractors would take care to throw on the top soil in the immediate vicinity new soil, which would give the appearance desired, and so bring up the levels? If the instructions given in my circular are adhered to that cannot be done.

3172. Can they not remove the bench marks? A man will have a separate mark outside the nearest fence, or on a stump or something else, and these four things would show the original level, so that the contractor would be "bowled out". Supposing that there was a bench mark it is impossible that a rude navy could put the pegs down to the exact level of the tank. I do not mean to say that such a thing has not been done, but it has not been done since this circular was issued in 1883.

3173. Now here is a curious thing told us of one of your officers who had been sent up to measure the tank:—We have been told that he asked, "Where is this 20,000-gallon tank," when, as a matter of fact, the tank was a 20,000-yard tank. Apparently he was not aware of the difference. Now this is what was told us as a fact of a young fellow who was sent up to measure the tank? I do not think that any officer of mine ever could have done that.

3174. Do you nominate all your own officers? No, but I would nominate any man who was sent out there to measure tanks. If such a thing occurred at all the man must have been very inexperienced; and you will see all the officers here.

3175. Another matter which we heard was this:—A contractor had sunk four trial-shafts in four corners, with a view of putting down a tank, but in getting into the centre he came upon cement; you know what cement is? Yes.

3176. Then this contractor says, that having sunk the four trial-shafts he had given himself no protection in the event of his coming on cement. He said he should lose money if he went on with his work; but luckily for him, the road superintendent came up to the camp. The contractor told the road superintendent that he had come to sandy bottom,—to drift, that would not hold water. He said that he had gone down about another foot and got into a seam of drift, but instead of that it was this exceedingly hard soil. The road superintendent said it was a very bad case, and allowed the contractor to desist. They covered the bottom all over with clay, and thus the contractor was saved the heavy loss of sinking in hard ground;—now will you tell us is this a fact? Well, if this place were named I could have the matter investigated. I can very easily see if any of the tanks constructed were stopped after sinking the trial-shaft.

3177. Now, with regard to the expensive forms of machinery for lifting water, we have had a great deal of evidence, and we would now wish to obtain your reasons for adopting this expensive form of machinery? Well, the two forms of machinery that have been used are pumps. One is a horse-pump and the other a steam-pump. Originally we had the M'Comas lift, and the Mines Department proposed what was called a double whip. At first, from the description, I gave approval to this double whip, but I said I would not give a final decision until we had the drawing (which I now produce). In the M'Comas lift we had something similar to this, and it was continually getting out of order. The worst of this was that, when the thing was most required, and when there was plenty of water in the tank, we could not get it, and there was no end of trouble and expense. The whole thing was silted up, so I determined that our tanks should be perfectly square without any projections or hollows on the sides. This enables us to make repairs at any time, but under other circumstances we could not make repairs without emptying the tank or making a coffer dam. There is nothing now in the tanks that cannot be removed when required. That is my great objection to this machinery. There was a tunnel in the tank, and the sides were fixed up with slabs. Our experience was that, just at the very time the water was most required and there was plenty of it in the tank, the whole thing might be upset by something going wrong. Then I found it was most desirable to avoid anything in the shape of corners in the tank, because a great amount of silt always collect round them. Besides that we wished to keep our tanks in such a way that there would be no impediment to the working of the scraper or scoop to clear the silt out at any future time.

3178. Have you found out the extent of this deposit that remains floating in the water—the water you know retains a large amount of clay? No; I do not know the amount of clay which the water holds in suspension, but I know it is very large.

3179. Do you think that the steam pump and the horse-whim are necessary in a very large number of instances;—would not the M'Comas lift answer all purposes at very much less expense to the country? I think that the steam or horse-pump is necessary in most cases. The Department has tried the M'Comas lift, and it was condemned. It got out of order, and was neglected in several cases where it was tried—on the Hay to Wilcannia road. But the most objectionable part of the M'Comas lift is the position in which you have to put it, and the leads necessary to bring the water to it. You have to make an excavation in the side of the tank and line it with slabs and piles, so that the thing is continually getting out of order.

3180. *Major Penrose.*] Could you not pump the water from the top? We have never tried; we consider the other much simpler. I do not think you could do this advantageously; you would want a lead for the main pipes, which would come as expensive as the steam-pump or the horse-pump. The M'Comas pump was tried, found wanting, and condemned. I pointed out that the most objectionable feature was the amount of woodwork necessary to make the lead to the water below.

3181. *Chairman.*] What is the expense of the Tangye pumps? The following gives the information required:—

Memoranda—Cost of pumps, &c.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Tangye "Special," 4 in. x 3 in. complete in Sydney, capacity about 2,500 gallons an hour | ...£87 10s. |
| "Holman," 4 in., with horse-gear complete, capacity about 2,500 gallons an hour | ...£49 0s. |
| "Amos," steam complete in Sydney, capacity about 2,500 gallons an hour | ...£124 0s. |
| "Amos," horse-gear complete in Sydney, capacity about 2,500 gallons an hour | ...£54 0s. |
| "Appleby," steam complete in Sydney, capacity about 4,000 gallons an hour... | ...£128 0s. |
| "Hot air" engine, complete in Sydney, capacity about 1,200 gallons an hour... | ...£75 0s. |

3182.

3182. Now, you mentioned that in dry seasons it is difficult to get horse-power to do the necessary work; W.C. Bennett. would not the same thing apply to firewood for the steam-engine? The caretakers ought to have a stock of firewood on hand to anticipate any such thing. 15 Mar., 1888.

3183. Then the cost of this blocking and so forth for the M'Comas lift was really something enormous;— why should it be so expensive? Because a great amount of timber is required below the water, and you have a long distance to bring the timber.

3184. Could not iron be substituted, and the expense in that way very materially reduced? Iron would be still more expensive than timber, and be quite as perishable below water. If you had iron piles to support the staging it would be very expensive.

3185. I should imagine that something in the nature of telegraph posts would be quite sufficient? Quite so; but four telegraph posts would be rather expensive. I think that four telegraph posts, delivered up at one of these distant places, would cost a considerable sum of money.

3186. We have had a number of witnesses who say that these steam pumps are needless, except where there is a large amount of traffic, or in the event of their being situated near some inland town? To show that we have been anxious to economise I may mention this: On some of these roads—for instance the road from Cobar to Bourke—we objected to put any appliances up, but to allow the stock to water at the double tanks that were there. The Mines Department insisted on our putting water appliances up, and they are put up now. We then provided, as in all other cases, these steam pumps; because we considered that it was impossible to predict in this country when a road may or may not be extensively used, and we felt ourselves obliged to provide for the maximum wants of the future traffic.

3187. But when the seasons become so very bad that stock cannot travel, owing to the absence of grass, this traffic ceases? Well, we were told to provide for any possible drought. This is what we were instructed to do. We were not told that at any time traffic was to cease; and even in the case of the Mount Browne gold-field that would not apply. We had to provide for the maximum traffic.

3188. *Major Penrose.*] You also had to provide for human beings in all weathers? Yes.

3189. *Chairman.*] Are you aware that since the opening of the railway there is not the same demand for water on certain stock routes as was originally the case? I think—and I have found it to be true in similar cases—that the railway necessitates greater accommodation being provided, except on lines parallel to the railway itself. But, on lines running at right angles to the railway, water is still as necessary as ever. For instance, if a man beyond Cobar wanted to truck his cattle, and there was no water between Cobar and Nyngan, he would not be able to get his stock through to the railway. What I have said applies to this road, because we have had a great cry out for watering places on routes running at right angles to the railway.

3190. But is not the road between Cobar and Bourke nearly parallel to the railway? Yes.

3191. And are you not aware that since the railway has been opened, traffic has to a certain extent ceased on certain stock routes? That shows that our proposal to economise in the matter of pumping appliances on the Cobar to Bourke road was correct, but it was overruled by the Mines Department, and we were peremptorily ordered to put down the tank appliances and pumps.

3192. Now another question with regard to the machinery, which is the most vexed question we have had to inquire into. Has your attention been drawn to the necessity in some cases of allowing stock to water at tanks rather than compelling them to go to the troughs, at which some of them have not been accustomed to water? If you want tanks to withstand the extreme droughts to which this country is subjected they must be fenced in, and I have already given the reasons for the steep slopes, which are incompatible with the stock being allowed to go down into the tanks. But I will meet the case of the "weaners" that you put, and which was never put before. It is possible that a silt-tank or some similar tank might be utilized, having been filled with water by the pump, and "weaners" might drink in this way. The number of "weaners" travelling cannot be very large. In any case they could be divided into small flocks and taken a few at a time. But there is plenty of evidence that allowing them to go into the tanks pollutes the water and renders it unfit for any purpose. Not only do they waste and take away a great deal of water, but they pollute that which remains.

3193. Do you think it would be advisable to give discretionary power to these caretakers to afford in certain cases to stock perishing from thirst access to the tanks. It is giving as you know very great powers to the caretakers? I fear that this privilege would be very much abused.

3194. Then we have had some gentlemen here who assert that the whole system of caretakers is a complete mistake. They think that the care necessary for the due attention to these works might be given by travelling superintendents who would be continually going backwards and forwards along these routes. Such a superintendent would know when certain stock were passing, and would see that they passed without undue delay. This would not necessitate the employment of caretakers, and would save a large amount of money? That opens up a very large subject. The first subject it opens up is the propriety of charging for water at tanks at all, or whether it would not be advisable to adopt a mode of collection which was suggested years ago by our Department, and by one or two witnesses in this case. That question is whether it would not be better to make the travelling stock, when they got their permit or register to travel, pay for the water whether they used it or not. The reason that these works were constructed is that there should be water for the stock in dry times. But so long as the present traffic arrangements are in existence you probably will require caretakers. The question is whether the office of caretaker might not be amalgamated with some other office. I know it was a very objectionable thing, and Mr. Fosbery, the Inspector of Police, objected to it very much; but it was once proposed to have the maintenance men along the roads amalgamated with the police force, as is done in Prussia. It might be possible to concentrate the duties of a stock inspector and a policeman, and a number of offices of that sort, and those of a caretaker might be added to it. He would know when large flocks of sheep were coming to his tank, and he could be there to give them water. There is no doubt about it, it is a very great expense to the country to keep these men, and this expense ought to be reduced as much as possible.

3195. *Mr. Woore.*] How could a man attend to his police duties and attend to his tank at the same time, supposing he had a warrant to execute 20 miles away? An officer in my Department discussed this question eight or nine years ago and foresaw more clearly than I did the possible extent of this watering of stock in the interior. The name of that officer was Higman, and he suggested that the drovers should be made to pay for the water whether the stock used it or not.

[The Commission adjourned.]

FRIDAY,

FRIDAY, 16 MARCH, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

J. C. WOORE, Esq.

William Christopher Bennett called in and further examined:—

W. C. Bennett 3196. *Chairman.*] Have you anything further to say with regard to the expensive forms of machinery?
 16 Mar., 1888. No; except what I intend to say in remarks on the evidence and the general question, which I intend to put before the Commission. I wish to add that these horse and steam pumps, if not required at the place where they are originally put up, can be removed to another place. No such thing as that can be done in the case of the appurtenances of the M'Comas lift.

3197. Consequently on routes that have now been somewhat interfered with by the railway, these pumps can be removed from these localities and taken to others where there are more stock passing? Precisely. All the appliances of the M'Comas pump—the leads, and so forth, except the iron staging—would be irremovable and would add to the loss if they were required elsewhere.

3198. To carry on that matter further, will you say that the M'Comas pump, although costing originally a very small sum, becomes rather expensive on account of the fittings and appliances, and so forth? Yes; a large amount of money is sunk in a particular place. A great part of this staging is below the water and is impossible of access when the tank is full, so that when anything gets out of order the repairs are very expensive. Our experience of that was (particularly after the Mines came to manage the works) what I have stated, and we determined to have something that was impregnable. We determined to have tanks in which the silt could not accumulate, and which could be cleaned out with the scoop. With water in the tanks and the steam pumps on the surface they would be accessible at any time, and would be easily removed in case of being more required elsewhere.

3199. How much do these M'Comas pumps cost? About £15 or £16.

3200. And all the appliances to put them in position—the staging and retaining walls—would need about how much? Mr. Wood's paper gave the cost at from £150 to £300.

3201. Consequently, although the M'Comas pump costs comparatively little at first, by the time it is up it will cost more than a steam pump? Yes, and be less effective and more liable to get out of order.

3202. You have seen all the papers which have been printed and presented to Parliament by the Mines Department? Yes.

3203. Do they contain all the evidence and correspondence in connection with the two Departments? No.

3204. What letters are chiefly left out of the printed reports? Papers recorded in the Roads Department, which consist to a great extent of reports of our officers bearing out the views of the Roads Department.

3205. And to a large extent these would rebut many of the allegations contained in the published papers? Yes.

3206. *Mr. Woore.*] Do I understand you to mean that those papers, which have been printed by the Mines Department, are papers which have been drafted out by them, presenting their own view of the question? I would not say that, but the papers in the Mines Department and issued by them contain a large number of papers conveying their own views.

3207. These papers according to your account present in fact only one view of the question? Yes, one view.

3208. *Chairman.*] Then hearing from you that a large amount of correspondence that has not been made public is contained in your Department, I will request you to produce it and such portions of it as you may think relevant to be placed in the appendix to the report of the Commission? Very well. I have the papers all here, but it might be injudicious of me to make a hurried selection. Now I have a report here on this subject of machinery for tanks and wells which I would like to put in evidence. It is as follows:—

M'Comas and Flood Lifts and Douglas Pumps.

Department of Public Works, Sydney, 2 December, 1884.

I most willingly comply with the request of the Hon. Secretary for Mines.

The M'Comas lift referred to herein and stated to be nearly identical with the Flood lift, also referred to, is the appliance which was supplied in the first instance with several of the tanks constructed by this Department before the Mines had anything to say to them.

It was in common with most other of the arrangements of this Department then in existence condemned—as it was called in the printed reports—and disused. It is satisfactory to note that the officers of the Mines Department now see they were wrong in such condemnation, and I hope that after a little more experience they will find that the horse and steam pumps supplied to the works—now being handed over and being supplied to the others as rapidly as time will admit—will not with proper care break down so often as they anticipate; and that it will be unnecessary to revert to the simple and primitive appliances supplied in the first instance by this Department with a view to economy, and then condemned by the Mines officers in favour of the double whip, which was not adopted as involving, according to the plan supplied, complex and perishable timber work.

The Douglas-pump is the ordinary hand-pump in use in every house; the steam and horse-pumps supplied are equally simple and as little liable to get out of order if properly taken care of.

Under Secretary, Mines.

W.C.B.

3209. Is it a fact that the Mines Department have at any time given approval to the new form of machinery for lifting water rather than the old and now disused forms? Yes; Mr. Gilliat in a letter on page 174 of the printed papers (the Mines Blue-book) has done so. This is the paragraph:—

BUT as I have stated in my minute to Mr. Overseer Jones' report, *re* fencing (minute and sketch herewith), I consider the present fencing a very good one, if proper attention is paid to the height of the rails in proportion to the position of the troughing upon the ground; and I think a little energy, combined with a desire to make the best of what I think are substantially good, although not perhaps perfect improvements, yet certainly far in advance of anything done for the convenience and comfort of travelling stock, as far as my experience goes, in any part of the world I have visited, would enable the overseer, with the labour of the caretaker, to remedy the defects that exist in the height of the rail. This depends to a great extent upon the formation of the ground, and may not be the same along the length of the troughing. The sketch submitted will show the plan I think may preferably be adopted.

There

There is another opinion of Mr. Gilliat's given before the Water Conservation Commission, in which he expresses unqualified approval of the tanks and everything else. He says at page 137 and 139 of the first report of the Commission referred to:—

W.C. Bennett.
16 Mar., 1883.

Chairman.] The other form of batter could be given by the steam appliances in use? There I agree with Mr. Bennett, so far as steam-power has yet been used. We got very low slopes, and there is consequently an increased tendency for the water to splash up round the edges of the bank, and this especially in hot and windy weather.

Is that pump (the Tangye pump) effective? Yes; it is an excellent pump. With occasional repacking it will stand very well, and is sufficiently strong to bear the rough treatment of the men we employ.

Here are the papers going back to 1875, in which Mr. Bruce advocates the same thing that is advocated now—that a man could work these pumps, which we have disproved by experience.

3210. A considerable amount of correspondence appears to have taken place between Mr. Gilliat and your Department with reference to the double whips? Yes.

3211. The double whip was very strongly advocated by Mr. Gilliat? Yes; very strongly advocated.

3212. Did he give you the cost; because I do not see it in this paper? He may have done so, but from the drawing the cost would have been more than the M'Comas pump, it necessitated such a large amount of wood work.

3213. And is more liable to get out of order? Yes; more liable to get out of order than any contrivance I have ever seen.

3214. And was condemned wholly by your Department? Yes.

3215. Have any such whips been erected? Not by our Department.

3216. Are you aware that any have been erected by the Mines Department? Not to my knowledge. It is simply an application of the ordinary gold-fields whip.

3217. And for drawing water up out of a well is a good idea? Yes; a shallow well. I would now like to hand in the opinion of Mr. Hanna, in reference to the M'Comas pump.

Sir,

Having when in Sydney recommended M'Comas lifts (hand power) for some of the tanks in this district, I took an opportunity recently to inspect one, and am satisfied from what I have seen that they would not be suitable for supplying the service tanks from main reservoirs.

Tallywalka, 10 September, 1885.

The one referred to was lifting the water about 15 feet, and the work at this height was quite enough for one man.

It might be necessary at times to raise the water almost from bottom of tank to at least 6 feet above the surface, in which case I do not think two men would be equal to the task.

I have not before had any practical experience in the working of these water-lifts, and was led to believe from reports, &c., that they were much more easily worked.

I would therefore recommend that horse-gear pumps of the design, now being used, be ordered for the following tanks:—Tarella, Maxwell's, The Peak, Waratta, and Coalley Dam.

Maxwell's and Tarella are good positions for wind mills if considered reliable.

Shall advise as to transit after making inquiry. Have heard there is a light draught steamer at Bourke waiting for rise; if so, and not fully loaded, that will be the quickest and best route.

I have, &c.

Engineer-in-Chief for Roads, Sydney.

W. J. HANNA.

3218. Have you ever had any conversation with Mr. Hanna as to the relative merits of horse gear and steam-pumps? Yes; I think I have had some conversation with Mr. Hanna on the subject; but he will be here himself.

3219. I was going to ask whether he had not changed his mind in reference to the horse gear? Yes; even where there is timber to be had, my experience of the pump was sufficient to condemn it—not the lift *per se*, but rather the mode of appliances attached to it. The Tangye steam-pump cost only £87 in Sydney.

3220. But would not the weathershed and the cost of transmission and erection so raise the price as to make the cost greater than the cost of the M'Comas pump in the first instance? Yes; it would, very nearly so. I would be very glad to show you the Tangye pump, which is at work at the Centennial Park. I wish also to state that all the appliances of the Tangye pump—piping, connections, &c.—are all made of iron, and are far less perishable than the wooden appliances of the M'Comas.

3221. *Mr. Woore.*] A great portion of the woodwork of the M'Comas pump would be continually under water? Yes; except when the tank was dry.

3222. But we have been assuming that the tanks are never dry? Sometimes they would be nearly dry; but then the woodwork is exposed to the sun, and it is in the worst possible position for the duration of the appliances.

3223. Would you recommend an expensive Tangye steam-pump at all tanks, or that some simple form of hand pump should be substituted on stock routes which are not very much frequented? Well, where the importance of a stock route justifies so large an expenditure as is necessary on the normal style of tank, I think the difference in cost between the pumps and working them is inconsiderable—not worthy of consideration—having regard to the large outlay on the tank. If certain stock routes were selected, and we were told that they were only of second-rate importance, then we might have second-rate tanks and second-rate appliances; but our orders from the Mines Department were always of a most peremptory character, and whenever we suggested that there might be a saving, as in the case of Cobar to Bourke road, we were overruled.

3224. *Chairman.*] In some localities where tanks are required to be only very small, would not a simpler form of machinery—like the Californian pump—be suitable? It possibly might meet the requirements of the public, but it would be incompatible with a large expenditure on the tank. If there were any small or less used stock routes that it is necessary to supply with water, as I have said, second-rate accommodation ought to be provided for them.

3225. And in this case very inexpensive pumps might be used? Yes.

3226. *Mr. Woore.*] Are not these Californian pumps very apt to get out of order? These forms that have been suggested would scarcely be effective if the water in the tanks was very low. The most important thing is that they should be able to raise water when the tanks were low, and the country dry.

3227. Have you seen any simpler appliances for raising the water where the water has not to be raised to any great height? Yes; there is a number of simple appliances for raising water used in India and in Egypt.

3228. *Chairman.*] The next matter is the excessive cost of fencing. We have been given to understand that

W.C. Bennett. that the fences round the caretakers' paddocks are altogether too expensive; that very much heavier timber than is necessary was used, and also a much stronger gauge of wire? Well, in the one case brought against us—Bevan's case—we called for tenders three times over.

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3229. I am speaking now as to the specifications generally? Of course fencing is not a matter with which I am intimately acquainted, but it appears to me that the general fault-finding with the heaviness of our fences is caused by contrasting them with the fencing on sheep runs which are only intended to keep sheep apart, while our fences are intended to resist wild cattle. And we have amongst our papers the approval of Mr. Bruce as to the character of the fencing generally, and insisting on the use of a top rail, which we have omitted in some cases.

3230. Upon whom do you rely to give you information about the fencing? Mr. Wood and the local officers, who necessarily must have acquired considerable local knowledge. Mr. Wood has had 28 years' experience out of doors in the Department, and must have acquired a good knowledge of pastoral appliances; and then we have had Mr. Bruce's general approval to this style of fencing.

3231. Are you aware of the cost of some of this fencing per mile? Yes; but I think the most expensive fence was that of Bevan's, which cost £112 per mile.

3232. A fence of a similar kind put up by a squatter would, you think, cost as much? I am not aware what the cost of fencing such as ours would be, but I know that the squatters' fences cost from £30 to £60 and £70 per mile.

3233. Then, admitting that it was very desirable to put up a strong fence to protect the tanks from the inroads of wild cattle, was it necessary to put up the same expensive kind of fencing round the caretaker's paddocks—these paddocks which were a mile square and which necessitated 4 miles of fencing? Well, I am not prepared to answer that.

3234. Taking it for granted that it requires very strong and expensive fencing to protect the tank, is it necessary to put up the same expensive fences round the caretaker's paddocks, involving some 4 miles of fencing? I should say that the usual style of fences for roadways only would be necessary.

3235. Has your attention been drawn to the fact that these useless expenses have not been incurred by squatters and others who hold country in the vicinity of these tanks? I do not think so.

3236. Your attention has never been directed to the unnecessary cost of this fencing? Not directed to the difference between the two styles of fencing.

3237. I suppose you are aware that much has been made of these charges by the Mines Department? Yes. I would wish to say here that there is one gentleman to whom I am greatly indebted for all sorts of valuable information about the interior—that is Mr. Edward Quin, who always gave us sensible and practical information.

3238. We have also had complaints that the fencing is unnecessarily expensive because the posts are put into the ground much too deep for the ordinary wire fence? Well, that is a matter of detail that I can hardly speak of. It strikes me, though, that the posts of a road fence in that part of the country are not too deep at 2 feet 6 inches. However, that is a matter of practice.

3239. Now, as to the reported interference with the caretakers by the officers of your Department, what have you to say? Well, the chief man that has been complained of as interfering with the caretaker is Mr. Stilwell, and he will appear before the Commission himself. I wish to say that Mr. Stilwell is one of our best officers, and whatever he has done comes not from any defect, but may be attributed to his very great anxiety for the protection of the works.

3240. Are the road superintendents, who have had the construction of these works under their supervision, instructed to report to you if they see anything going wrong with the works after they have been handed over to the Mines Department? Yes; not only to report, but to remedy it at once. That has always been an understood thing.

3241. To whom are the officers to report? To me.

3242. They would not report to the Mines officer who had charge of the work? No; each officer reports to his own Department. It is utterly impossible to have officers, especially technical officers, reporting to any other Department than their own.

3243. This matter has evidently caused a great deal of friction, because it has been said that needless reports have been sent down to the head office in Sydney, when they might have been made to the overseers of watering places, who would have attended to them at once? That very action on the part of the Mines Department has formed a large source of complaint in the Works Department. It seems to me that needless and frivolous reports were sent in by the Mines officers with a view of disparaging the works and the officers of the Roads Department, and to create an impression that it was absolutely necessary to take the works out of our hands.

3244. We have been informed by a minute of the Minister that the officers of the Mines Department have a right to make any repairs in cases where these repairs will not cost more than £10? Yes.

3245. Have you been informed of that minute? Yes.

3246. But the limit of £10 might be a very arbitrary amount, and difficult to ascertain;—did it not cause a good deal of friction between the two Departments? It ought not. Friction has chiefly arisen concerning matters which could be attended to by the caretakers themselves without any expenditure whatever; so that the £10 limit could hardly be said to have operated in this matter.

3247. Of course, in respect to this friction you only know it from your own officers? Yes.

3248. It has been said that you are so anxious to uphold the action of your own officers that, in some instances, very unworthy men in your Department have abused the trust that you have reposed in them, and that you have not taken sufficient steps to secure the public interest? Only one case of this sort can be brought up. I am wrong; there is a second. But there is only one case of absolute robbery, and the man concerned in that was imprisoned for the offence. With regard to the second part of your question, as to his going about fixing sites, the chief ground for that assertion, or opinion, seems to be in the statement of Mr. Earngey, an officer of our Department, whose services were dispensed with, because he became so impracticable as really to be unfit to be trusted. My own opinion of him is stated in the papers, wherein I recommended his retirement on a pension. These papers, together with an absurd pamphlet, which proves the state of this man's mind, were I think forwarded to the Commission. As to the statement that Cambridge selected certain sites, I may state that the sites of the works referred to by Mr. Earngey were selected by Mr. Wood himself with Mr. Cambridge, and the surveyor of the district, who now lives at Tumul. They had two buggies and they drove round to select the sites of most of these works.

works. Mr. Wood will be in a position to give full particulars so far as Mr. Earngey's random statements have gone. With regard to another statement made by Earngey that Mr. Stevenson, the member for the Wollombi, had told him that I was very angry with him (Earngey) when he came back from that expedition because he had exposed Cambridge's improprieties, I have spoken to Mr. Stevenson on the matter. Mr. Stevenson said that not alone did he never make such a statement, but he proved that it was impossible, because I had not seen him for several years before, and not for three or four years after this time.

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3249. I do not think it is necessary for you to make any elaborate statement concerning Earngey's evidence, because he has been here? Mr. Higman, Cambridge's predecessor in the same district, was removed from the service for having dealings with Mr. Burton, a contractor. There was nothing to justify a prosecution; he was dismissed, and has since died. I think that Burton built him a house, or something of that sort.

3250. Referring to this same matter further, I may tell you that some curious instances have come before us in these papers. This is the case of proposed alteration, the cost of which would be exactly £3, but which through a system of red tape has cost nearly £50? That is an exaggeration. It assumes that the officers went for no other purpose but this, whereas they travelled not only to inspect this work, but for general purposes. This may have been the motive of going up, but they inspected generally both when going up and coming back; so that this is really one of those statements that contain a small grain of truth and a large amount of embellishment.

3251. Instead of your wishing to keep up this system of red tapeism, you have always been an advocate of local government? Yes, and I would have been very happy at any time to have handed these works over to the Mines Department. I got no fee or reward for my work in connection with them, but when the Mines Department took charge it evidently was with a fixed determination to get all these works out of my hands not merely because they wished to relieve me of the duty, but because they wished to make it appear that we were unequal to the proper carrying out of the works.

3252. It has been complained also that you have departed from the proper departmental rules not to write to the newspapers in justification of your conduct? Well, I have the approval not only of my own Minister—the Minister for Works—but of the Premier as well, to whom I showed the letter before it went into the paper. I think it is much less harm to write in a paper over one's own name than to attack people in paragraphs which are evidently inspired. I have always made it a rule of my life to be in a position to go into Court and swear that I never directly or indirectly was the cause of any paragraph appearing in the newspapers except I signed my own name to it; and I have done this on only two or three occasions.

3253. I would like to draw your attention to a statement made in the *précis* furnished to us. It is No. 4, and has reference to a document dealing with the dual control question, which document has since been lost. Can you give us any information about it? I have written a reply to that statement which was sent to the Minister and mislaid, but it was returned to me a few days since. I shall obtain it and forward it to the Commission.

3254. Complaint has been made also that you have used improper composition for the coating of supply tanks rendering the water undrinkable by stock? This composition was put on in three cases, in only one of which was any complaint made about it. The mixture is one not new to the Department; but it was suggested in a report by Mr. M'Kinney, Engineer to the Mines Department, as having been used with the greatest success in Victoria. This is what Mr. M'Kinney says at page 26 of the second report of the Water Conservation Commission:—

While the works are, as a rule, of well known types, the flume shown in the accompanying plan presents some unusual features. This work consists of a trapezoidal flume of sheet iron of No. 12 gauge, that is of the thickness of less than one-ninth of an inch, supported in a framework of timber. It has been seven years in use, and has given entire satisfaction. It is laid with a fall of 8 feet per mile, or 1 in 60; its length is 920 feet, and its total cost was £1,500. The ironwork is cleaned annually, and coated with a mixture, prepared in the proportion of 2 lb. of tallow and 2 lb. of resin to 1 gallon of tar. This is put on in hot weather, and at a time when the channel is not in use. It is found that the mixture applied assumes a glossy surface, and does not affect the taste of the water. The erection of this flume was simply and expeditiously done, by making it in sections above its bed, lowering the sections by screws, and rivetting them together in position. The Ballarat Water Commission owns 2,300 acres of land outside the limits of the catchment area of the present works.

3255. We understand that you relinquished the use of this composition when you found it was bad? No; we stopped using it because the Mines Department complained; but it has realized the end required, and it is now like a sort of varnish on the ironwork, just the same as it has become in Victoria.

3256. We were given to understand that you had abandoned this composition on discovering that it was improper stuff to use? We only gave it up because we desired to give the Mines Department as little reason for complaint as possible.

3257. Although it was recommended by their own officer? Yes. I do not say that it was used entirely on his recommendation, because the mixture was known to our Department long before.

3258. *Mr. Woore.*] Was the mixture removed from this tank when it was complained of? No; it is now on the tank and does not affect the water in any way. It affected the water a little at the first when it was put on, a slight scum having arisen.

3259. But it is now a success? Yes; and the man who used it will be here to give evidence before the Commission.

3260. *Chairman.*] I must ask you to look at the 15th charge in the *précis*, the clearing out of the silt tank at Merri Merriwa. The report says:—"This work is one of the Mines caretaker's duties. Papers show this had not been neglected; but at the time, owing to rain and water in silt-tank, caretaker could not perform the work. The Works Department officer conceives this to be a case of neglect by Mines caretaker, and lets a contract for this work; but the contractor also has to wait till silt tank dries before commencing work. A case of unnecessary expenditure. *Re* also paper *re* caretaker by Mr. Bennett." We do not want to go into the case of any particular well; but it was stated here generally that in the sinking of wells you have made contracts for the erection of head works, which the contractor, as a rule, has put up before sinking the well, helping him in the excavation, without knowing whether there was any water underneath or not, or whether the water will be fit for use if it is got? No contract for well sinking has ever been made without a prospecting shaft, where possible, having been put down, and, in some instances, boring. In two cases we had reason to doubt the genuineness of the samples of water produced; in all other cases fair stock water was obtained in the trial holes that we put down. The two cases where it was not possible

W.C. Bennett, possible to put down trial holes were the Normanstone and Baloola wells, which are in basalt. With respect to the lifting appliances, frequently the contractors have been allowed to put up the head gear; in fact, we were obliged to make them do so where the wells were beyond the ordinary depth.

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3261. Why go to the expense of putting this well in basalt without knowing what the result would be, whether good water could be had, or any water at all? Mr. Gilliat himself selected the site, and yet he now states that the wells are not on the sites he selected; but we have been assured by a gentleman who was with Mr. Gilliat at the time the sites were selected—Mr. Kelly, manager for Sir Patrick Jennings—that the wells are practically on the sites chosen by Mr. Gilliat.

3262. Why did you go to the enormous expense of sinking a well through basaltic rock merely on the *ipse dixit* of Mr. Gilliat, and against your own better judgment? The matter was not practically brought before me in detail. Perhaps, if I had been fully aware of it, I would not have allowed it to be done. It was one of those things that Mr. Wood was in charge of, and I think he did all the necessary work relating to it.

3263. Mr. Woore.] Was your Department aware when these wells were being sunk that they were going through basalt? I was not aware of it.

3264. There were two instances, you said, in which you doubted the genuineness of the samples of water. Can you give us any information in regard to them? The Old Gunbar was one; but I cannot tell you the name of the other just now.

3265. Is basaltic formation as promising for obtaining water as other formations? Yes; it is, if you can get through it.

3266. Chairman.] In what way were you doubtful about the water that came from the Old Gunbar well? We doubted whether the water came from the well at all or not, because the water produced was good, as reported by the superintendent, Mr. Gordon, a man who was only a short time there; but, since then, we have found that it is not so.

3267. The water in the Old Gunbar well was so salt as to be unfit for use? Yes.

3268. Although in the trial shaft you were under the impression that it was good? We were under the impression that it was good water; but then, I think, this was a false sample. The sample produced to me was good water; but I now believe that it could not have been genuine. This water came from the bore.

3269. We have also heard that there has been an enormous expenditure on these wells—over £10 per foot? I think that is an exaggeration. In many of these cases the cost includes the whole works, and embraces restoration and repairs.

3270. I would like you to turn to No. 17 of the *précis*—the case of the Holy Box well—concerning which it is stated:—“This well was sunk, and a small supply of fresh water tapped, followed by a great flow of salt water, which, when twice analysed, was declared unfit for use. Evidence as to the saltiness was submitted. Well was abandoned and tank commenced. Works officer stopped work at tank when about 3 feet deep, declaring well water good. Well again handed to Mines, and constant baling insisted upon to improve quality of water. This done without result. Cost of well and price referred to—94 feet deep—cost over £1,000. Mines has to bear cost of maintenance and employ caretaker to bail and protect headworks. There is no prospect of leasing salt wells. Caretaker has carried drinking water 17 miles. Whim, service tank, and troughs erected before quality of water decided suitable. Iron in troughs destroyed by action of salt. Well almost useless for stock, and quite unfit for travelling public.” Do you see that the sinking of 94 feet costs over £1,000? Yes, that is possible.

3271. Mr. Woore.] Does that include the cost of erecting headworks and troughings, &c.? Yes; it includes fencing and everything connected with the well. Besides, the well was sunk in dear times. It very likely includes also some additional repairs; but we can produce the original vouchers. I will reply to this in the evidence I am about to furnish.

3272. Chairman.] Now are not you aware that in most instances wells at this depth have turned out to be salty? The results of boring, exploring for water in these countries, particularly in the country between the Murrumbidgee and the Darling, are so very fluctuating that it is almost impossible to say where water was to be obtained; whether the water would be salty or fresh, or whether there would be any water at all. The difference in the cost between a well and a tank was so great that the inducement to sink a well was considerable. Of late years I think most of the well sites have been decided on by the Mines officers. This is my impression.

3273. With the appliances which we now have for sinking, and the knowledge that we can get artesian water, would you now sink wells? No; I wish to explain to the Commission that when this thing was first started there was but £1,000 put on the Estimates, at the instance of Mr. W. H. Suttor, for artesian water boring in the country. And I myself pointed out that it was a duty which the geological knowledge in the Mines Department best fitted that Department to undertake.

3274. And under that Department boring is now being carried on? Yes; artesian boring is being carried on entirely by them.

3275. In connection with this, of course all tanks may become dry during a long drought? Well, if there was a drought for a long period, I think that it is likely some of our tanks would become dry; but certainly they would not go dry during any drought known to the present inhabitants of this country.

3276. But to make proper provision for such a catastrophe it would be advisable to sink wells occasionally? Yes; artesian wells. Objection is now made to the large cost of these works, but I hardly think Government would be justified in adding this additional cost to meet contingencies which might not occur during the existence of a tank or a well either. Of the superiority of wells over tanks, if you can get good water, I am firmly convinced. The best proof of this is that the first steps taken by the Department to provide water for the country between the Murrumbidgee and the Darling were to send out a boring party in the year 1869, under Mr. Wood.

3277. Can you give us any information about this costly hutting for caretakers? We were told to provide huts for the caretakers, and I all along thought that the adjuncts to these works were too expensive. The first works were simply water-holes; then we were urged from one thing to another. A sum of money was put on the Estimates, at the instance of the Mines Department, for cottages for caretakers, Mr. Bruce's estimate being £100 for each. Mr. Gilliat's figures were the same. We made out a drawing and called for tenders.

3278. Will you state what the accommodation was? I have the specification here, which I will hand in. [See Appendix.] One room was to be 8 feet by 12 feet, and one 12 feet by 12 feet, and one

8 feet 6 inches by 8 feet, to be built of timber, with galvanized iron roof. Iron chimney and iron tank with pipes to provide for fresh water. We received tenders from £80 to £100. Our plans were suited to the amount which was voted by Parliament. Before we incurred such a large outlay I thought it was necessary to have the approval of the Mines Department before I accepted any tender. The papers were sent on to the Mines Office, and the reply we got was that they could get the work done very much cheaper.

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3279. *Mr. Woore.*] Was it the same class of hutting? They said they would supply the material and get the caretaker to work up the building himself—to make a number of piecemeal arrangements which we were not in a position to do, even if we considered it advantageous. So far as I can learn the houses built by them have not the accommodation which we proposed, and are not of equivalent stability or duration. I considered the difference between the two in quality is much more than equivalent to the difference in the price. Still, I am not fully informed of what the Mines Department have paid for the work.

3280. Then the Mines Department stated that they could get caretakers' huts put up for one-half of the price, without stating what the accommodation was? Yes; and I think that this was calculated to mislead both the Minister and the public.

3281. *Chairman.*] No doubt, a hut built altogether of iron would be very inexpensive? Very.

3282. But would it be at all suitable for people to live in? It would be uninhabitable.

3283. And it would be cruelty to the people to ask them to live in such a place? Yes; and no man in his senses would live in it. If I were asked I know that I should prefer to live outside. The tenders for these houses were forwarded to the Mines Department merely for the purpose of ascertaining whether they thought it desirable to go to such an expense, which, in the aggregate, would be very considerable. The policy of putting up these huts was not an engineering question at all, and before it was decided finally I wished to give them an opportunity of expressing an opinion on the subject, and that was why the tenders were forwarded to the Mines Department.

3284. What steps would you take to avoid this dual control in the future? Pending the establishment of Local Boards, I think the maintenance of public watering places should remain with the Works Department, and that the collection of rates, inspection, and so forth, should be with the stock inspectors. If the Mines Department were given clearly to understand that under no circumstances would they get the control or construction of these works, much of the friction would disappear. I have already stated what is equivalent to this in the report to the Minister for Works.

[The Commission adjourned until the afternoon, when the sitting was resumed.]

Arthur Pepys Wood called in and examined:—

3285. *Chairman.*] What is your position in the Public Service? Assistant Engineer in the Roads Department. A. P. Wood.

3286. You have had considerable experience in the construction of tanks and wells under this Department? Yes. 16 Mar., 1888.

3287. How many years have you been engaged in this particular work? It is about 20 years since I first started; but then there was an interregnum of about ten years.

3288. What was the cause of it? I was engaged on other work in the Department—not engaged on this work specially.

3289. *Mr. Woore.*] So that I suppose altogether you have had about ten years' experience of tanks and wells? Yes; about ten years' experience.

3290. *Chairman.*] A large portion of the duty of selecting sites for tanks and wells has fallen to your share? No; not entirely. I have selected the sites for a good many tanks on certain lines, but to a great extent the duty has been carried out by the local officers. My duty has been more particularly to inspect the various works during construction, and see that they are properly completed before being finally passed. I might perhaps be allowed to make a remark just here, as it is only due to those officers who have been acting under me. I see that Mr. Doudney, one of the witnesses who has given evidence, has stated that I have been handicapped by the inefficiency of the officers under me; and I wish to give a most decided and emphatic denial to that statement. I consider some of the officers under me to be the most efficient in the Department that I belong to.

3291. It has been said that some of your officers who were charged with the duty of selecting sites for tanks and wells have merely sat on the box of one of Cobb & Co.'s coaches, and selected the sites from that position, consulting no one but the driver and occasionally the publican at whose house they stopped, forming their conclusions from the very limited amount of knowledge gained in this way? The statement was made in regard to myself as well as in regard to others, and I now wish to give it my most emphatic denial.

3292. Has it been your object to obtain all the local information possible in order to guide you in the selection of sites for these works? Yes; it has been my object. I do not mean to say, however, that in obtaining this local information I consulted all the residents who were scattered sparsely over the different districts, but I examined each locality to get the best position within reasonable distance for a tank for the benefit of the travelling public.

3293. And you can answer for it, as far as you know, that your officers have been actuated by the same sense of public duty and have not been swayed by the opinions of other parties—I mean by the opinions of drivers and publicans? I am as certain of it—with one exception—as that I am answering your question. The officers have not been swayed by any person in the selection of sites. I admit that there is one unfortunate case that came within our knowledge; but there is no necessity to touch upon it.

3294. That officer has since been dismissed? Yes.

3295. We thought it advisable that you might give such rebutting evidence as in your opinion it was necessary to tender without going through the whole case, about which you may or may not know very much. You might give us whatever information you possess with regard to the allegations that have been made by the officers of the Mines Department. We shall be very glad to get such evidence from you, and your evidence can be taken down without the necessity of our putting questions. Perhaps it will be as well to take what may be regarded as one of the most material cases first, that of the Roto well, which

is

A. P. Wood is first on the list? It has been said of the Roto Well that "it is in close proximity to a water-hole in the Willandra Creek." In reference to that I may state that the site was selected by me when I made an inspection of the line. A report on the matter was submitted to the Commissioner, and by him forwarded to the Mines Department, and the sites mentioned by me in the report referred to were approved of by that Department, this site of Roto Well being one of them. It is now objected that this well has entailed a great waste of money, on account of its proximity to permanent water in the creek. In the statement made in this book (the *précis*) over Mr. Gilliat's signature—I do not remember the fact of having seen the statement anywhere in Mr. Gilliat's handwriting—

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3296. Everything that comes from the Mines Office bears Mr. Gilliat's endorsement? At page 192 of the Mines papers we have Mr. Keighran, Overseer of Public Watering Places, summoning a lessee for neglecting the condition of his lease; and Mr. Gilliat, in a minute upon Mr. Keighran's report, traverses the decision of the bench in the case and states:—"The conditions were the same as when he executed his lease, except that the Willandra Creek was then empty." I mention this as simply showing that there was no permanent water there at all, and that, practically, there is no permanent water in the creek; inasmuch as the water comes down there when the Lachlan is about two-thirds full, and would then run to waste if it were not for certain efforts made by the lessees; but even by these efforts, permanent water has not been made in the creek. The next case is the Cobham Lake Tank; it is objected to on account of the uncompleted works being submerged. Well, I consider the fact of these works being submerged as being rather an argument in favour of the selection which has been made of the site, inasmuch as it proves the spot selected was the natural conserving ground, while the data that have been collected and obtained in regard to the filling of this lake, prove that is only at long intervals that the lake itself can be relied on for any comparatively permanent supply.

3297. Are you aware that though some of these lakes have been dry for many years, after they have once become filled, that the water, resting for some time, eventually becomes so salty that it cannot be used? Yes.

3298. Would not that apply to Cobham Lake tank? No; because the water would be prevented from resting to the extent which would allow it to become salty. The water in the body of the lake, when the lake is full, is quite fit for human consumption; and the water is actually conserved within the boundaries of the embankments within the lake.

3299. When the water rests, the last water which remained in the lake would go into the tank, and would become so impregnated with salt that it would not be fit for use? I do not think so; the conditions that existed at the time this tank was made do not exist now. The water will be admitted into this tank by an inlet pipe, and the consequence is that we can shut it off if we find it necessary to do so. Consequently, we can have the water in a state of greater purity in the tank than it would be if it were allowed outside in the bed of the lake, exposed and absorbing saline matter for a long time.

3300. Are not the beds of some of these so-called lakes of very porous soil, and undesirable places as sites for tanks? There are some cases, I admit, where you will find drift in the lake beds. In fact, in this case towards the northern end, there is a salt shallow drift; but in this particular spot where the tank has been placed, we have not come upon any drift in the excavation so far as it has been carried out.

3301. Mr. Woore.] Whereabouts is the tank situated in the lake? It is towards the south-eastern end, I think.

3302. Chairman.] It has been suggested that in making tanks on the edge of these lakes you do not get good hard firm soil; and although the catchment may be easy, it is contended that it is an error in the choice of sites not to sink in good hard soil? The site of this tank was not selected by me; and the tank has been constructed partly since I have been up here. I cannot swear to this, but Mr. Hanna will be here and he will tell you positively that the tank was constructed on the edge of the lake. But I do not know of any case where works have been constructed on the edge of these cane-grass swamps; and certainly no case where a tank has been constructed in them. As to the Dry Lake tank, the same argument has been advanced against it—that it is submerged; but that particular site, although not recommended by Mr. Gilliat, for the immediate construction of a tank—of course it is understood that Mr. Gilliat is an officer of the Mines Department—was named by him as being a place that would make a splendid site for a tank. One reason for constructing a tank there was that at the time of my visit special instructions were given to arrange for works along the road. The only watering place in the locality was in the hands of a private owner—a man by the name of Smith—and this man had the command of the water. I thought it a rather injudicious thing that the public should be at the mercy of a man who, although he made professions that he would supply water at reasonable rates, still had the power in bad seasons to demand any rate that he thought fit, or to refuse the water altogether. That tank, I may say, has been completely submerged—the embankments and everything else being out of sight; a state of things which according to the evidence of the residents in the district was never known before. Seaville's tank was a similar case, and the same argument was urged against that. In that case I must leave the statement to the local officer, as I never saw the site of the tank. Then there is the Booorbarban tank, on the road from Deniliquin to Hay. The objection to that is its proximity to a water-hole. That work was recommended by Mr. Gilliat in one of his annual returns and in his recommendations for works in 1882.

3303. Mr. Gilliat, I think, says that he generally recommended sites to be adopted within certain limitations. He might choose a particular site, but perhaps you would not sink the tank within a mile or a quarter of a mile of it; and he states that that is where the discrepancy arose? If Mr. Gilliat meant that we should sink a tank in the creek, then I admit that it is not sunk there; but it is sunk on the overflow from the creek, and within about 100 yards of the creek itself.

3304. Are you aware that Mr. Gilliat has objected to the rejoinder made by the Works Department that when he selected a site that site was not adhered to, and therefore the remark about the injudicious selection of sites did not apply, because his selections were departed from to a certain extent by the Works Department? The actual spot where these works were placed was chosen, I will admit, by the Works officers themselves, on the recommendations of the Mines officers as to the necessity of water in the vicinity.

3305. The next case is that of the Peri Springs? I have never been up the road, so cannot say anything about that; but I have seen the Tarella tank since it was started; the site of this I fixed myself. The objection to this tank is presumably that there is permanent water close by.

3306. Mr. Woore.] So that the Works officers were responsible for the actual spot chosen? Yes; the Works

Works officers were responsible for all constructive details, which includes the selection of the best and most efficient catchment within a reasonable distance from the point necessary to properly divide the stages of the stock route. The objection to the J.K. well is exactly the same; that it was placed in proximity to permanent water. At the time I selected the site I did not consider that it was desirable to interfere with the water that had been conserved by the Crown lessees, more particularly in a district where water was more valuable than in any other part of Riverina. The lessee of the Wannaminta run offered to improve the works for the conservation of water at that particular spot to allow travelling stock to water there, on condition that he should be paid 6d. per cubic yard for the earthworks involved in carrying out these improvements. It was decided or recommended by the Works Department that, in the interest of the travelling public, an independent watering place should be provided, and the decision was endorsed by the then Minister for Mines, Mr. J. P. Abbott, in the following minute, bearing date 3/7/84:—"I think tenders should be accepted for a well, as by this means a more permanent water supply is likely to be had, and entirely independent of the lessee." The same remark applies, as I have said, to the Tarella tank.

3307. Does the minute of Mr. Abbott apply to that particular case, or does it apply generally? It applies to that particular case, but the principle was applied generally—that principle has been a guide to the Department in all subsequent cases. It covered our action. But there are no other cases except this at which it occurred at the time, with the exception of the Roto well. But I have proved by Mr. Gilliat's own statement that the creek was dry at the time the work was handed over to the lessees.

3308. *Chairman.*] Have you had anything to do with the sinking of the Old Gunbar well? In 1882 I was instructed to examine the road from Carrathool to Hillston and select sites for watering places. I made certain alternative recommendations, and from the evidence which I obtained during my trip I recommended that wells should be constructed, because I thought there was a very reasonable chance of obtaining good stock water, as these reports show:—

Sir,

Hillston, 29 March, 1882.

I have to forward the following report, on my examination of the road from Carrathool to Hillston, with a view to the selection of sites for tanks on this line:—

14 miles from Carrathool.—The "Dry Lake" is a very suitable situation for conserving water, and a tank here would, if the ground prove retentive, provide permanent water. The local drainage from the plains is very considerable, and in wet seasons when the Merool is full this swamp is fed by back water from the creek.

2 miles from Carrathool.—About 1 mile south of the "Corner" the Merool Creek crosses this road. This would be a very good site for a tank. The local drainage is not as good here as at Dry Lake, and the supply would be more dependent on waters brought down the creek. The Merool in this locality is more distinguishable by the belt of timber along its course than by any marked depression. There is however a considerable width of waterway here in wet seasons, about 1,500 yards. Very good water has been obtained on this creek in a shallow well about half a mile from the road, and it is very probable that similar water could be obtained at the Dry Lake.

36 miles from Carrathool.—The Burnt Stump, or Gunbar Swamp, is crossed by this road, and is a very good site for a tank, as there is a very good local drainage, which in wet seasons would be supplemented by water flowing from a watershed extending some 2 or 3 miles. In ordinary seasons this is collected by a chain of swamps, but in more favourable times they overflow, and then our proposed tank would, if not otherwise filled, have the benefit. Between this site and the previous one good water has been obtained in several places at about 15 feet. The supply is generally very good, and the water suitable for human consumption.

At Gunbar Hotel, one of these wells has watered 300 head of horses and cattle during the drought, and on a selection 2 or 3 miles south of it a similar shallow well has yielded 10,000 gallons a day.

I am informed that the level of the water in these wells, which is about 11 feet below the surface, has been but little affected by the long continuance of dry weather.

39 miles from Carrathool.—About a mile and a half north of Old Gunbar station there is another swamp, which offers a most favourable site for a tank. This is also a promising locality for a shallow well.

52 miles from Carrathool.—M'Kinlay's. At the public-house here a well has been sunk in which a strong supply of good water was obtained at a depth of 120 feet—the water rising between 20 and 30 feet.

58 miles from Carrathool.—6 miles from M'Kinlay's there is a very favourable site for a tank in a swamp near the Crow's Nest. Watermarks are visible on the trees growing in this basin which prove that from 2 to 3 feet of water collects in the wet seasons, and as the area is very considerable this would give an ample supply for storage.

72 miles from Carrathool.—The Lachlan River is touched about 6 miles below Hillston, which is distant about 78 miles from Carrathool, and 80 miles from the Murrumbidgee.

After careful observation and inquiry, I have to make the following recommendations for your consideration, involving, as they do, a departure from Mr. Gilliat's proposal for watering this line.

Before any works are let I would strongly recommend trial holes being sunk at the following places:—

Dry lake, 14 miles from Carrathool.

29

"

"

25

"

"

Swamp 58

"

"

In the event of water being obtained at the usual shallow depth of from 15 to 18 feet, I would recommend tanks being sunk to tap the drift—to be 20 yards by 3 yards in the bottom, with batter of 1½ to 1. This will expose a large area of drift, and will I feel assured give a supply that will prove fully equal to the demands made on it by travelling stock. I would also recommend that the water be lifted into service tanks of similar construction to those built by this Department for the wells on the Booligal and Wilcannia road. Stock to be watered from troughing fed from this service tank.

In cases where a supply does not exist near the surface good water is found at depths ranging from 50 to 120 feet, and this being the case I am of opinion that wells will, in this district, be equally serviceable as tanks, and at the same time more economical.

If you do not approve of either of these proposals, I have to recommend tanks at Dry Lake, at Gunbar Swamp, and at the swamp near the Crow's Nest.

These works will divide the distance from the Murrumbidgee to the Lachlan into four stages, as follows:—

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1st. To Dry Lake | 16 miles. |
| 2nd. To Gunbar Swamp | 22 " |
| 3rd. To Crow's Nest Swamp | 22 " |
| 4th. To Lachlan River | 14 " |

In the event of your favouring any proposals for wells, either shallow or deep, Mr. Gordon, who has accompanied me over the line, should be instructed to at once let the sinking of trial shafts, and if you decide on constructing tanks, he should at once call for tenders for excavating them.

Three contractors accompanied me as far as Gunbar; there two of them left, and I cannot recommend the acceptance of any of the offers made. I attach the tenders for your information. I am strongly of opinion that the shallow-seated drift I have drawn your attention to can be most successfully utilized, if a sufficient area of it is exposed.

I would also call your attention to the possibility of making these drifts still more valuable by assisting nature, and sinking soakage shafts in suitable sites to more fully allow the surface waters flowing into them during storms and wet seasons. In many localities dry drifts are to be found near the surface, underlaid and overlaid by impermeable clay-beds, and I think it well worth, not only consideration, but practical trial, whether by such soakage pits water cannot be stored near to, but below, the surface.

In

A. P. Wood.
16 Mar., 1888.

In lifting water from our wells I do not think we have sufficiently considered the importance of wind power as an agent. This, with other questions bearing on our policy in this country, will be treated on in my general report.

The Commissioner for Roads, Sydney.

Sir,

I closed my report of yesterday's date without giving any estimate of probable cost of proposed works. This information is given below:—

| Tanks. | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Dry Lake | £1,500 0 0 |
| 2. Gunbar Swamp | 1,500 0 0 |
| 3. Crow's Nest Swamp | 1,500 0 0 |
| | £4,500 0 0 |
| Wells. | |
| 1. Dry Lake..... | £800 0 0 |
| 2. Gunbar Swamp | 800 0 0 |
| 3. Crow's Nest Swamp | 800 0 0 |
| | £2,400 0 0 |
| Tanks supplied under ground. | |
| 1. Dry Lake..... | £700 0 0 |
| 2. 28 miles from Carrathool | 700 0 0 |
| 3. 42 miles from Carrathool | 700 0 0 |
| 4. 58 miles from Carrathool | 700 0 0 |
| | £2,800 0 0 |

This last system will, I think, be found practicable at three of the above places—where not practicable, wells are almost a certainty, and that with water fit for human consumption.

If tanks are decided on, the question of type might be left for consideration, as at present I am still in favour of lifting the water; and on this point my views are borne out by those of parties I have spoken to on the matter.

Tenders might be invited for excavating the storage tank, and for running the earth to bank at a distance of 11 yards in the clear from top of excavation to the edge of bank. This bank is not necessarily for use to increase storage, but forms a most valuable check on evaporation. While the work of excavation is in progress the other details might be under consideration.

The Commissioner for Roads, Sydney.

ARTHUR P. WOOD,
10/5/82.

Works on Road from Carrathool to Hillston.

I have given Mr. Wood's valuable report on the different classes of works for water supply between Carrathool and Hillston most careful consideration.

In making his recommendation, Mr. Wood's remarks, "that they involve a departure from Mr. Gilliat's proposals." The matter is not of great importance, perhaps, but I may say that it was not until after my schedule of works for the current year was prepared that the urgent necessity of these works was pressed for consideration on the Department, and that my recommendation of tanks (which is what I presume Mr. Wood alludes to) was made before the road had been examined; of course subject to the information I should subsequently obtain.

Since then I have had an opportunity of seeing a portion of the road and obtaining the opinion of gentlemen well acquainted with the country and of one resident upon it, and have ascertained that, in his opinion, good water, in a very fair supply, may be counted on at a depth of from 60 to 100 feet. From pressure of other work I have been unable to give this question earlier consideration and had proposed deferring it until I had made a personal examination of the road. But as the Commissioner and Engineer for Roads and Bridges pressed for immediate action, and I am deeply impressed with the importance of this Department causing no delay in the operations of the Department of Public Works, I beg leave to submit at once the following remarks for the consideration of the Hon. the Secretary for Mines:—

Mr. Wood suggests three plans for watering this line of road,—two with tanks, and one with wells.

In my report of 1880 I stated that "where an ample supply of good water can be obtained at a moderate depth, wells with proper whims, troughing, &c., are probably the cheapest and most reliable form of work for water supply."

The information I have obtained agrees with that of Mr. Wood's—that sufficient supply can be gained at a moderate depth. I should hesitate about depending on the supply from a shallow shaft, but would urge that in each case the shaft should be sunk until the stronger supply is struck at from 60 to 100 feet.

The sites named by Mr. Wood had all been mentioned to me as suitable, and are as follows:—

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Carrathool to Dry Lake, 14 miles..... | 14 |
| " Burnt Stump Swamp, 58 miles..... | 22 |
| " Crow's Nest, 58 miles..... | 22 |
| " Lachlan, 72 miles | 14 |

I would, therefore, submit that the request of the Commissioner—that the sites for these works be approved of—should be complied with, and that steps should at once be taken to secure the reserves at the points named.

HARRY GILLIAT, 10/5/82.

3309. *Chairman.*] You came to the conclusion, after travelling that road, that wells would be better at Dry Lake, Gunbar, or Burnt Stump and Crow's Nest? Yes; the sites of these works having been referred to the Mines Department were approved of by Mr. Gilliat in his report of 10/5/82.

3310. Then Mr. Gilliat also came to the conclusion that the sites were proper ones, and that wells were suitable, and that water might be obtained at depths from 60 to 100 feet? Yes; the local officer had a trial shaft put down at the Burnt Stump or Old Gunbar, and a sample of water was forwarded to the office. The trial shaft was put down to a depth, I think, of 95 feet—I will not be certain as to the exact depth—and the water was approved of. It was never referred to the Mines Department, but the water was so good that I would not object to drink it myself, and on the strength of the sample the main shaft was sunk.

3311. How far away was the main shaft from the trial shaft? Well, to the best of my recollection I think it was about 100 feet, and the water we then obtained is, as we admitted, unfit for stock.

3312. How do you account for this discrepancy between the two samples of water obtained—one from the trial shaft and the other from the main shaft? It is certainly very difficult to account for; but it is an extraordinary fact that in the country I speak of you may put down a shaft in one place and get water utterly unfit for stock, while you may go 100 yards away and obtain water that is fit, not only for stock, but for human beings as well.

3313. And in this instance you only went 50 yards away? Yes. I know another case at Teryaweynia, where there was an accommodation house. The owner sunk in front of his house, and obtained water which was utterly unfit for human consumption, while in a shaft put down not quite 100 yards distant at the back, he obtained very good water indeed.

3314. Another suggestion that has been made is, that the contractors are so anxious to obtain this work that they will substitute good water for bad water in order to be allowed to put down a well at some particular place? Such a thing would, I admit, be quite possible. 3315.

3315. *Mr. Woore.*] But, at any rate, you were misled by being told that this water came from the bottom of the trial-shaft? I do not admit even that, because it is quite possible that good water may have been obtained in the trial-shaft, and that the main shaft may have given bad water. A. P. Wood.
16 Mar., 1888.

3316. But, at all events, you were misled into sinking a main shaft by the fact of your being told that good water had been obtained in the trial-shaft? Yes.

3317. *Chairman.*] In those other wells that have the reputation of being too salty even for stock, how were they sunk;—does the same remark apply to them as to the Old Gunbar or Burnt Stump well? I do not admit the fact at all, Mr. Chairman; at the Holy Box well a trial-shaft was put down—I am speaking now from reports—I was not present, and cannot speak from my own direct knowledge—a trial-shaft was put down, and fair stock water obtained. The main shaft was then put down, and similar quality of water obtained. After transfer to the Mines Department, the well was condemned as being unfit for consumption by stock; and after the lapse of some time the Works Department started to put a tank down in the immediate vicinity to supply the public wants at that particular stage. After we had started the work we applied to the Mines Department to be allowed to use the material in the top works to effect a saving in the construction of the works then in hand. When the well was handed back to the Works Department I instructed the contractor for the tank to have it thoroughly baled out in order to test the quality of the water. This was done, and on my reaching Wilcannia about a week afterwards I received a telegram from the contractor and from the local road superintendent to the effect that the stock then passing had been successfully watered there. On the strength of this report the tank works were stopped; the well was further tested; further equally favourable reports were received, and ultimately the tank works were abandoned. Since then there has been a conflict of opinion between the two Departments as to whether the water is or is not fit for the use of stock.

3318. *Mr. Woore.*] Of your own knowledge can you say that the water has since been used for stock purposes almost continuously? No, not continuously. It has been used, though. There has been a man left in charge of the place, and the water has been ready for anyone to use; but I cannot say that it has been continuously used.

3319. Have travelling stock watered there just the same as at any other public watering place? I cannot say that of my own knowledge.

3320. *Chairman.*] Is it a fact that the water is so salty that it destroys the iron troughing? I cannot say that of my own knowledge, either; but, in fact, any water, unless it is absolutely filtered, will destroy ordinary galvanized iron if you give it time. I am not speaking in that restricted sense; of course all water contains minerals which will destroy iron in time.

3321. *Mr. Woore.*] It is alleged that a lot of salt could be scooped up in the troughs? Yes; I saw it in the main tank, presumably where water had been left for some time and evaporated, and there was a lot of salt in the bottom of it. We could furnish you with a sample of the water taken from the Holy Box well, which was taken out in the presence of one of our officers. It is now in Mr. Bennett's office, and I have drunk it myself, and have lived for many a long day on worse water. In my opinion it is equally as good as the water at the Jumping Sand Hill, and that was always considered good water.

3322. *Chairman.*] What about the Dolmoreve and Willandra wells? I will take the Dolmoreve well by itself. I do not know where the line is to be drawn between what is good stock water and what is utterly bad stock water. I will simply instance the report made by one of the overseers of public watering places, who said:—"I boiled some of the water, and tasted it after it became cold; also made tea of it. In each of these cases it was quite undrinkable. With constant baling, however, I cannot understand why it should be unsuitable for stock. I gave this as my opinion to Mr. Lindsay, the manager of Til Til station, who informed me that some of the wells that their sheep watered at were no better, if even as good, as the Dolmoreve; and that if the Government would let him water his stock at it, instead of baling and letting the water run to waste, he would gladly avail himself of it, and would not be afraid of his sheep being injured in any way from drinking the water. It is now nineteen years since I first went to the Kilfera back-blocks, were I remained for about two years, and was at the sinking of several wells, the water being quite as brackish as Dolmoreve well, and decidedly more worse-smelling, yet the sheep drank freely of the water, and without any ill effects; in fact, some of this description of water at the homestead well (Kilfera) was condensed at the well by a condenser, and turned out quite drinkable for human beings, thus saving long cartage of water. In reference to the Dolmoreve well, I would respectfully suggest that if the water as at present drawn is not considered by the general stock-travelling public to be sufficiently good for watering purposes, that the well should be constantly baled dry, and boring rods used to deepen the present shaft, on the chance of striking fresher water. Should the new supply turn out no better than the old, I would then respectfully suggest that trial bores be sunk in the vicinity of the Dolmoreve well, so that, if successful in securing better water, the whole of the Dolmoreve whim, plant, may come in, with short distance carting for the new well." Of course, I do not pretend to be an expert with regard to stock.

3323. Then about the Willandra well? Remarks have been made about this well before it has been finished. Objection is now taken to the site.

3324. They state that this well was not asked for by the Mines Department? The well has not yet been completed, nor handed over, and therefore the Mines Department have not any right to say anything about it. We have had a lot of trouble with this well on account of the drift, &c. As to the other charges in connection with this well, I think I can disprove them under another heading. It was stated by Mr. Gilliat in his evidence that only one work was recommended between Clare and Balranald. He says:—"On the road from Balranald to Ivanhoe the water supply is required chiefly for carriers and their teams, and the works do not need to be on so large a scale, or so close to each other, as upon roads more frequently used by travelling stock. I am of opinion that, if the proposed tank at Clare is completed, one other, half way from Clare to Ivanhoe, will be sufficient." The statement is repeated on page 27 of the blue book before the Commission; yet in Mr. Gilliat's recommendations for works for 1884, which guided us in constructing these watering places, he recommends two works, both of 20,000 cubic yards capacity. One of these is 9 miles north of Clare, and another 10 miles south of Kilfera. [The witness then put in evidence the following]:—

Pumps for Tanks.

(83,383 A.)

I SUBMIT for the consideration of the Commissioner the following memoranda bearing on the application of pumping gear to the tanks now being constructed by this Department.

The designs lately prepared for these works provide for a M'Comas water lift or chain pump—this is to be fixed in a timbered shaft, communicating by a timbered adit with the main reservoir. Department of Public Works.
Tenders

A. P. Wood.

Tenders having been invited for some of the proposed works, it has been found that the cost of the timber-work required ranges from £150 to £300.

16 Mar., 1888.

Apart from the cost, there can be no doubt that so much timber-work in this submerged work is an element of weakness.

This has never been disputed, but it was considered that other descriptions of pumps which would have obviated the necessity for all this timber-work would have been more liable to damage—would have required skilled labour to repair them, and would possibly be out of order at the very time they were most required.

Further consideration of the question, and also the further development of the country, the railway extensions rendering transport of such appliances easier, and the increase in traffic and settlement, facilitating repair, and making the works more necessary, has led to the conclusion that the risks of failure in the timbered shaft and adit, combined with the great cost of same, balance or more than balance the objections to the use of higher class pumping gear.

The decision as to the class of pump to be employed must be guided by the varying conditions surrounding each work. Where timber is readily obtained, it might be advisable to employ steam, which has the advantage of compact power, and of being available in the worst seasons, when it might be impossible to keep horses to do the work.

If steam power is used it would be well to consider whether under certain conditions its employment should not be extended, and the water collected outside the embankments, pumped over them. This course would require the use of more powerful pumps, but would be a source of very considerable economy, and would reduce the cost of storing the water by 40 to 50 per cent. In addition it would make these works more reliable during long-continued dry seasons.

This plan could be adopted in cases where tanks were constructed in shallow swamps and hollows, where the banks of the basin are not of sufficient height to admit of water being collected by catch drains before reaching swamp, and brought by gravitation over the embankments.

The same pump, could, if required, be used to supply service tank, but as long as water was stored in main tank above the ground level, there would be no necessity for this, as the troughing could be fed by gravitation.

When pumps are used for the purpose, a small centrifugal will probably be found most suitable for the work.

Where the natural features of the ground do not favour the necessary storage of water outside the tank embankments to pump into the tank, or where they are favourable for filling the tank by gravitation over the embankments, then a large size pump will be unnecessary, and a small "special" to deliver two or three thousand gallons an hour will be sufficient, and will prove best adapted for the work of supplying the service tank and troughing.

Where timber is not available within a reasonable distance steam power is out of the question, and either wind or horse-power must be utilized for lifting the water.

Wind-power should prove the most economical in its action, and in open plain country where timber for steaming cannot be obtained, the most favourable conditions exist for steady and constant winds.

Should it be decided to employ wind-power in any of the many cases where it could be applied, larger service tanks than those needed when steam or animal power is used would have to be constructed, so that a sufficient quantity of water could be stored for feeding the troughing to meet the demands of travelling stock when wind was wanting, or of too little force.

This drawback would not so much affect windmills employed for pumping water into main tanks.

The use of horse-power must for practical reasons be more limited than either steam or wind, and could not be successfully employed for aiding in the storage of water, as the number of horses required would be too great, and the conditions surrounding their maintenance of a very uncertain character.

For the limited pumping required for supplying stock with water drawn from the storage tank, horse-power can be successfully applied, though as previously remarked they might when most wanted be found too weak for their work, or possibly be lost.

The use of pumps in connection with our wells is also worth consideration, and a trial should be made to test the advantages attached to them.

The cost of sinking a shaft for a pump would be much less, and existing top-works (whim and poppets) could be dispensed with. This would go a considerable way towards meeting the cost of pumping gear, which it cannot be denied should be a great improvement on the primitive whim.

Mr. M'Donald might be instructed to assist in the selection of suitable machinery and in preparing estimates of probable cost of all or any of the schemes submitted, embracing the application of steam, wind, and horse-power.

The Commissioner for Roads, Sydney.

ARTHUR P. WOOD.

Mr. M'Donald to assist as far as possible; but as I have already instructed, I think we should first try a horse or wind pump and a steam special pump at a suitable place, and as waiting to design windmill may delay, Messrs. Wood and M'Donald should carry out the verbal instructions already given to find out the most suitable pump and horse gear, and the most suitable boiler and special pump now available in Sydney. Let me know price, and I will get Minister's authority to purchase. When both have been worked under the conditions required, we will be in a better position to decide. In the meantime that need not prevent the further consideration of the subject in offices, as the preparation of designs for alternative windmill or horse gear.

Mr. Wood to consider the best place to send each machine.

W. C. B., 6/10/82.

[The Commission adjourned.]

THURSDAY, 22 MARCH, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R.E.

J. C. WOORE, Esq.

Arthur Pepys Wood called in and further examined:—

A. P. Wood.

22 Mar., 1888.

3325. *Chairman.*] You mentioned on Friday last that some of the other witnesses will probably be in a position to say more about the Willandra well than you? Yes; and also in reference to the works on the Balranald to Ivanhoe road, and the Paroo works.

3326. The next two wells which are referred to are the Normanstone and Baloola, and they are found fault with because they are sunk in basalt? Yes; I believe that that is the reason.

3327. Do you think that there is any validity in such an objection as that? I do not. I know many wells that have been sunk through basalt rock, and they have proved very good water-yielding wells indeed. I can instance another well upon the same road, at Mannum, and there are several also in the Liverpool Plains district, but I do not know their names; but on Garrawilla Station there are some where a plentiful supply of water has been obtained in basalt. There is another point in connection with this. Mr. Gilliat states that we did not put the wells on the sites recommended by him.

3328. Of course there are places where you will not get water in basalt because the basalt sometimes overlies dry country? Yes; and it did so in those two cases of Normanstone and Baloola. Mr. Gilliat says that tanks were recommended there, yet here is his own report in which he recommends wells as against the recommendations of his officers for tanks:—"The first site recommended by Messrs. Mackie and Dove is for a well at the junction of the Mannum and Burloo Creeks, parish of Mannum, county of White, 15 miles from Coonabarabran. The site is well selected, and the indications are good for a large supply of water. The site and position of reserve I have marked in red upon the annexed tracing. I may say,

say, in conclusion, that tanks of the size suggested by Messrs. Mackie and Dowe, say of 4,000 cubic yards, are of no use in keeping open traffic. There is every reason to believe that water can be obtained by sinking at a moderate depth, and wells are at once a cheaper and more durable source of supply. I have therefore to recommend that these works be approved for construction." [Witness produces tracings of Baloola and Normanstone Wells, to show that the actual sites adopted were within short distances of the sites pointed out by the Mines Department.]

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3329. *Mr. Woore.*] Does this report of Mr. Gilliat's apply to those wells? Yes; what I quoted just now applies. To the best of my recollection Mr. Gilliat says in his evidence, given before this Commission, that his Department recommended tanks at these places.

3330. *Chairman.*] I notice that at page 154 of the Mines blue book, Mr. Gilliat says of this Baloola well:—

Baloola Well.—I examined the site of this well on the 17th June, 1884, but, as the works not being completed, reserved my report. I find from my journal at that date: The position chosen is about a quarter of a mile from where I would have put it. The shaft has been sunk on the shoulder of the hill, and is now down 94 feet; 9 feet of stiff clay, 5 feet of sandstone, the remainder basalt; no water. On the flat below, in the black soil, water is usually obtained at from 80 to 100 feet. The station, I think, has a well in the neighbourhood.

Normanstone Well.—This shaft has been sunk 4 miles from the site selected by me on Basin Plain.

—? Instead of being 4 miles from the spot chosen it is only a few chains. I think you will find a statement similar to that in the evidence.

3331. Has water been since found in either Baloola or Normanstone wells? No; not in Baloola. In the Normanstone well we have a very small supply—only about 200 gallons per hour—and we are now proposing to drive at the level of the inflow.

3332. Did you get through the basaltic formation? Yes.

3333. And in regard to the Baloola well? In regard to that I may say that we have got down to 200 feet, and it is practically dry, but boring operations are now going on.

3334. What have you got into? We have got into a sort of shale, not solid rock. I think it belongs to the carboniferous formation.

3335. You know that other wells sunk in the neighbourhood have given an abundant supply of water? Yes.

3336. *Major Penrose.*] I see here that Mr. Gilliat asks for a tracing of which there is no record in his Department; this is not the tracing referred to by Mr. Gilliat here? It cannot be. These are the original instructions sent to Mr. Wilson:—

Mr. Wilson will prepare plans and specifications (copies herewith) and invite tenders for wells at the undermentioned places on the road from Coonabarabran to Gunnedah:—

1. Near the junction of the Mannum and Burloo Creeks, about 15 miles from Coonabarabran.
2. 13 miles from Rocky Glen, and 34 from Coonabarabran.
3. About 55 miles from Coonabarabran, and about 43 from Melally.

Attached is a sketch showing the approximate positions of these proposed works. Mr. Wilson will report on the necessity for extending the reserves round the wells, and forward a sketch showing any alienation interfering with such extensions.

The specifications will provide for sinking 100 feet, and intending tenderers must be instructed to give a schedule rate at which reductions from, or additions to, this depth can be valued. Tenderers must also give a separate price for service tank and for troughing.

Mr. Wilson will examine this line of country, and if he thinks any slight alteration in the sites advisable, report same to the office, giving his reasons for same; he will not, however, delay calling for tenders on this account.

3337. *Chairman.*] Do you know the Liverpool Plains country? I do to a certain extent. I have gone over the roads there on several occasions.

3338. The soil of that country is loose black soil? Yes.

3339. And quite unsuitable, in most instances, in your opinion, for tanks? As a rule it is.

3340. Wells, generally speaking, having been successful in the locality, you thought they were infinitely preferable to tanks? Well, I certainly agree with the recommendation of Mr. Gilliat himself in that respect. He recommended that in the papers which came to our Department from the Mines Office.

3341. The next case is the Milparinka well, which is said to have been put down in vertical slate formation? It is in alluvial, not rock at all. But assuming that it has been put down in vertical slate formation, as we have obtained a good supply of water, I do not think there is any reason to find fault.

3342. *Mr. Woore.*] Has this Milparinka well been handed over? I would not like to say that without reference to the papers; but I am under the impression that it has not been handed over.

3343. Then probably this comment was made before the water was struck? I cannot find out in the papers where this statement has been made. I remember now that the well has not been handed over.

3344. *Major Penrose.*] You will be able to hand it over all right? Yes.

3345. Is it good water? Yes; fairly good water—water that could be used at a pinch by human beings. It is a little brackish, but only very slightly.

3346. *Chairman.*] What about the Menamurtee well? There was no distinct sanction obtained for this well, but I think it is fairly covered by the decision of the Minister for Mines in the case of the J.K. well. You will notice on page 217 of the Mines blue book a minute from Mr. J. P. Abbott, then Minister for Mines, in these terms:—"I think tenders should be accepted for a well, as by this means a more permanent water supply is likely to be had, and entirely independent of the lessee." There are one or two other cases that I would like to draw attention to; they are mentioned in the evidence. The Ivanhoe case was one of those referred to by the Mines officers.

3347. *Major Penrose.*] Apparently there were altogether three sites selected for that tank? Yes.

3348. *Chairman.*] You wrote here at the beginning of March, 1885, recorded at page 66 of the Mines blue book, referring to the Ivanhoe case:—

When works for watering stock routes were first undertaken in 1870 a well was sunk at Ivanhoe, which yielded a plentiful supply of good water. This well was subsequently handed over to the Mining Department, fell into disrepair, and was ultimately condemned by its officers.

In 1882 application was made for a tank at this place, but in view of the fact that good water has been proved to exist under ground, a well was strongly recommended by the Department, both on the score of economy and certainty of supply. This proposal was strongly opposed, and tenders were then invited for constructing a tank on the Balranald road, about 1 mile west from the township; but owing to the seasons, no reasonable tenders were received, or, when accepted, were not taken up. This occurred time after time, until a change took place in the season, and tenders were again invited, and Casey's tender accepted, for constructing a tank at the site already mentioned. This being settled, the lessees of Kilfera run, in conjunction with some of the townspeople, brought pressure to bear, and the site was removed to the Box Swamp, about 1 mile east of the town, on Ticehurst run. Here the contractor was served with a notice by the lessee that he was trespassing, and it was then discovered that the land was selected a few weeks before.

The question of site was ultimately settled by constructing the tank on the village reserve, which pleases Kilfera, Ticehurst, and the residents of the township.

Just

A. P. Wood. Just give the facts in connection with the sinking of the well? At the first onset the Department wished to put down a new well in place of the abandoned well sunk in 1871. This course they proposed following on account of the known quality of the water in that well. But as the townspeople wished to use the water for drinking purposes, a good deal of pressure was brought to bear to have a tank sunk in lieu of a well. This desire was eventually acceded to, and a site chosen on the Ivanhoe to Balranald road, about a mile to the west of the town. Then the townspeople, in connection with the owners of the Kilfera pastoral holding, on which the site of the tank was situated, brought pressure to bear to have the site again altered.

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3349. *Major Penrose.*] After the work of sinking had been commenced? No; we had not commenced the work. Mr. Williamson, the leading townsman of Ivanhoe, was very anxious that we should have the site in his paddock, which he offered to part with to the Government on condition that he was allowed a much larger area—I forget the proportion—adjoining his ground to the northward, in addition to a certain sum to be fixed as the purchase money for the 50 acres to be taken for the tank site. We then selected a site about a mile to the east of the town; trial holes were put down, and the contract for the construction of the tank let.

3350. Without further reference to the Mines Department? Yes, I think so; but I am under the impression that the papers would show that the Mines Department knew of it. Between the time of sinking the trial holes and the arrival of the contractor on the ground, the lessees of the Ticehurst run selected the site that we had chosen; and when the contractor arrived he was ordered off the place. After some little delay, and after further political pressure from the members for the district and local people, the site was fixed where the tank is now constructed. And, in my letter, on page 66 of the Mines blue book, which was referred to the Mines Department, this site was mentioned; and, in a minute on the same page, signed by Mr. H. Gilliat, it is stated:—"The exception taken by this Department to a well at Ivanhoe has always been based on the ground that the subterranean water, while good stock water, was too brackish for domestic purposes; second, that any watering place constructed here would be required for the use of the township, as well as for stock purposes. It was therefore submitted the watering place should be a tank, and within a convenient distance of the township. These conditions are, I think, fully met with in the site Mr. Wood has selected." I do not think there is anything else necessary. It has been stated by some witnesses who have been examined before the Commission that this particular site catches all the town drainage, and renders the water unfit for human consumption. There was a drain there which I objected to during one of my trips; but more on account of its destroying the allotments that were to be put up for auction than on account of any evil effects that the drain is likely to have upon the water. The site recommended by Mr. Gilliat in Mr. Williamson's paddock carries the drainage of nearly the entire township, which must go there owing to its position. And, therefore, I think, from that point of view, the site which we have selected, and which has been approved of by the Mines Department, is much preferable to the site in Mr. Williamson's paddock.

3351. Then you were in a manner forced to put the tank where you did eventually place it? Yes; it was owing to the pressure which was brought to bear, and from which, I am sorry to say, no public Department is completely free.

3352. *Chairman.*] Will you turn to page 68 of the Mines blue book, and observe the diagram showing the way the water runs. The road from Booligal to Wilcannia runs through the township. Are these drains which are above it the drains which convey the water into the tank? Yes.

3353. Consequently, the water, instead of flowing from the tank when full, flows towards the township of Ivanhoe? Yes; it is in a sort of valley.

3354. *Major Penrose.*] You mean to say that the tank is higher than the major part of the town? No; I do not mean that.

3355. *Chairman.*] According to the diagram shown here it would appear that the drains which conduct the water into the tank are above the township? Yes, with the exception of Cobb & Co.'s stables; and even these are below the drain that formerly assisted to fill the tank. But this drain has since been closed up. But in addition to the stables there is a public-house and a few other buildings.

3356. But no water from these buildings can flow into the tank? No; at least not by the drains, though it is possible that it might come down by an indirect course.

3357. *Major Penrose.*] Mr. Low, one of the Inspectors of Public Watering Places, says in his evidence about this tank:—"Drains.—These are badly constructed, evidently with no intention of leading water to main tank, much of them running from instead of to the main tank. Two of those drain water from the tank, the other runs parallel to the main road, overflows silt-tank, and fills a private tank belonging to Elliot?" As regards the state of the works at the time Mr. Yeo took charge of the tank, it is correct. But I am now giving evidence which it would be better for you to obtain from Mr. Stilwell, Assistant Engineer in that district. You will find when you have examined him that it will be very easily accounted for.

3358. *Chairman.*] The site was objected to on account of the character of the soil? Our local officers objected to it.

3359. Then why was the tank sunk in such a place when the soil was so unsuitable? On account of the opinion given by Mr. Webb, one of the owners of Kilfera station, who said that he had tanks in similar ground, and that they held well; and also because this statement of Mr. Webb was supplemented by a guarantee to the extent of £500 to puddle the Ivanhoe tank in the event of his opinion being wrong. This was why the site was adopted.

3360. In any instance in connection with the drains leading to this tank, does the water run from the tank instead of towards it? I cannot say from my own knowledge, but I should say from what I know of the conformation of the country that such a thing is extremely improbable.

3361. Then it is not a fact that the drains supposed to lead water to the tank, lead water from it? From my own knowledge of the ground and of the works, I should say most decidedly not, so far as I could judge by the eye. Of course I did not see the water running when I was there.

3362. There is another tank that is mentioned as having an injudiciously selected site—Gunaramby. It is referred to in the evidence, as follows:—

Gunaramby Tank.—This has been excavated in rotten copai ground, which, owing to steepness of batters, has fallen in to a very large extent. A good site for a tank could easily have been secured near to this. Drains.—These are badly laid out, and the system of leading water round excavation inside of embankments in ground such as this must lead to damage and washing in of batters.

—? Copai is found in the best ground.

3363.

3363. *Major Penrose.*] But apart from that fact, is it rotten ground? This ground, when the water is not upon it, dries up, and when exposed to the sun cracks up into little sections. It is friable to that extent; but it is not friable ground as I understand the term. A. P. Wood.
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3364. Does the tank stand well? I have not seen it since it has been filled with water. I believe it is full now—at least this is the effect of the last report we had from our local officer.

3365. Are there any other tanks that we have omitted to ask you about, and which you would like to refer to? In reference to this Gunaramby tank, it has been complained that we have put it in a wrong site, in a swamp, instead of high ground that was near the swamp, and that we have had feeds to this tank. It is put on the edge of a swamp, where the rising ground commences, that rising ground being used as one of the four enclosed sides. It is fed from the swamp level through an inlet pipe with a valve, and from the upper level, from the higher ground, through a shoot; so that, when the water rises to the level of the swamp, we close the valve, and you get a good supply of water by gravitation to fill the tank above the natural level of the swamp itself.

3366. Is it not a fact that the soil of this swamp is very open and porous, full of cracks, and that it is very difficult to collect water in it, except after very heavy rains? In some swamps I will admit that this is the case; but in others, it is just the reverse. The cane grass swamps form splendid catching ground.

3367. But is it not a fact that these swamps are generally in very friable ground, which cracks very much in dry weather, and so requires a very heavy rainfall to make the water run? Only some swamps. Some of our best holding tanks are in these situations, and, in this case, we used both the hard edge of the swamp as well as the swamp itself as a catchment area. There is one point you have taken exception to—the way in which drains are cut on the berm; Mr. Low, in his evidence, states that in one case he was frightened the whole berm would be washed away.

3368. The objection that has been taken is this: that instead of the water flowing directly into the main tank from the silt-tank, it is conducted round the top of the excavation, by an open drain, before it is allowed to flow into the main tank. Why is this done? To save the expense of an extra shoot. There would have been a second shoot necessary if the water had been conveyed direct. Instructions were given by Mr. Stilwell, in my presence, that this drain was to be protected with copai, and when that has been done, or if it has been done, I do not think there is much danger of any evil resulting from it. At the same time, as a matter of economy, a second shoot would have been preferable. Then there is the Polygonum Hut well, referred to in the evidence given by the Mines officers. It is said, in the first place, that the water from this well is unfit for stock, if I remember aright. Well, the water in this well is not only fit for stock, but it is very fair water for human consumption. It is stated, also, that there is a swamp close by, whereby a grip or drain might be made for £5, which would be sufficient to conserve a quantity of water that would meet all the requirements of the travelling public. In reference to the last statement, I must say that I put down a bore at this particular spot in 1869, and camped on the ground where it is stated a permanent supply could be obtained by storage.

3369. I think the word used is "whip," not "grip." The statement is that a whip, costing £5, could be put up instead of a windmill? I think the statement must have been made in another portion of the printed document, because it is distinctly stated that a well is unnecessary. I am aware that some remark is also made about a whip costing £5, by which water could be drawn.

3370. *Mr. Woore.*] Is not this the case in which it is said that the water evaporates as fast as it is drawn? Yes, this is the case so referred to; but it is not a fact that the water evaporates as fast as it is drawn. As soon as a certain quantity of water is brought up, and the tank filled, the windmill should be thrown out of gear.

3371. We were given to understand that the windmill would not draw more water than would go off in evaporation? That is not the case. Had it been the case we could never have filled the tank; because in addition to the evaporation the soakage there was tremendous.

3372. *Chairman.*] During his evidence Mr. Low made the following statement about windmills:—"I would not like to object to windmills as a method of lifting water, but I should object to them where there is only one man stationed because if anything goes wrong a man cannot put it right without assistance." You have heard the last statement from Mr. Low about the use of windmills? What have you to say in regard to them? I consider if the conditions are favourable that it is the most economical way to raise water. It is the only windmill which we have tried. This is on an open plain where scarcely a day passes but there is a fairly strong wind blowing to keep the mill at work; and we find that the duration of these winds is ample to allow of a sufficient quantity of water being pumped into the service tank to provide for any consumption that may be called on. We have to make larger service tanks to meet such a contingency as calm weather.

3373. *Mr. Woore.*] What part of the country is this in? It is about 15 or 16 miles south of Mossgiel.

3374. *Major Penrose.*] Reference has also been made here to the Mulya tank. It has been said that this tank has been constructed for about five years and yet there is no water in it? I am not sure that that tank has yet been handed over to the Mines Department. If it has been handed over it has occurred within the last month or two. I admit that it is not a good site, but in that locality it is impossible to get a really good site. To divide the stage between the Darling and the next tank at Kerrigundi, this was the best site obtainable. We were hampered to a very large extent in fixing the sites by the necessity of dividing the routes into stages with equal distances between.

3375. *Chairman.*] Now with respect to faulty design and defective construction a great deal has been said here. In the first place we have been told that the batters of all these tanks are altogether too steep? There is a good deal of conflicting evidence about that. I have read the evidence through and there seems to be as many witnesses in favour of the steep batters as against them. The general opinion seems to favour the steepest batter consistent with the nature of the soil, and this is what we have endeavoured to carry out. I readily admit that in some of the older tanks—notably those in the Liverpool Plains at Galatbera and Boggy Creek on the road between Narrabri and Moree—the batters (which are 1 to 1) were far too steep for the nature of the soil. But I am not aware of any other cases where tanks have suffered to any extent from the slopes that have been adopted.

3376. That is a batter of 2 to 1? Well, the batters vary from 2 to 1, to 1½ to 1, and on the Wilcannia and Mount Brown roads we adopted a 3 to 1 batter.

3377. Then who has the discretion of fixing what the slopes shall be? The local officer. He is particularly instructed not to adhere slavishly to the specifications in regard to this matter.

- A. P. Wood. 3378. And after sinking the trial-shaft has he the discretionary power to order a certain slope which from experience he believes to be desirable? Yes.
- 22 Mar., 1888. 3379. *Mr. Woore.*] So that no hard and fast rule is carried out in regard to the batters of the tanks? No.
3380. And never has been? No; never has been.
3381. *Chairman.*] You are aware that all these tanks with comparatively steep slopes are not intended for the direct watering of stock? No; not for open watering of stock.
3382. Consequently the steepest possible slope or batter consistent with the soil has always been adopted? I will not say has always been adopted, because in one or two cases we have adopted more gentle slopes in order to cheapen the cost of the work.
3383. Now is it a fact that the tanks excavated by the Government cost very much more than tanks sunk by private individuals? Yes; I believe that is a fact.
3384. Will you explain the reasons why? Well there are many reasons why? In the first place the very question that you have just touched on includes one reason—the steepness of the slopes.
3385. Precluding the use, I presume, of ploughs and scoops? No; the contractors do use the scoops still to a very large extent. The contractor roughs out the tanks with the ploughs and scoops.
3386. *Major Penrose.*] You have known all along, I presume, that the Government tanks cost more than private tanks—that is to say from their construction they must necessarily be dearer? Yes.
3387. We have been given to understand that it is impossible to use ploughs and scoops on one of these steep batters? It would be impossible to finish the work with ploughs and scoops, but a portion of the earthwork can be taken out with them.
3388. Are ploughs and scoops universally used? No; I will not say that, because there are some contractors who prefer tip-drays to ploughs and scoops. Mr. Gleeson, a man who has constructed a great many tanks in Southern Riverina, used to say that he could do the work cheaper by means of tip drays.
3389. We have been told that if the Government would allow the slopes of these tanks to be made longer that it would cheapen the work? There can be no doubt but that it would lessen the cost to some extent.
3390. Do you know to what extent it would lessen the cost? It was stated, I think, in a communication from Mr. Budd. He is the only contractor who ever made an alternative offer to the Department. I have gone into the question once or twice myself, and I think that with a couple of flat slopes the cost ought to be lessened by 2d. or 3d. per cubic yard.
3391. Now would that lessened cost be commensurate with the lessened efficiency of the tanks so constructed—I mean taking into consideration the greater amount of surface which would be exposed to evaporation and to capillary attraction? No; the main depth of the water would be reduced to a great extent, and there would be a larger evaporation area.
3392. And a much larger soakage area? Yes; but that would not be a very large element.
3393. *Chairman.*] Have you ever worked the problem out? Yes.
3394. And what conclusion have you come to? Taking the tanks with $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 slopes and the tanks with 4 to 1 slopes, there would appear to be a difference of 50 per cent in the main depth and 30 per cent in the evaporation area, with an additional 30 per cent in the soakage area.
3395. *Mr. Woore.*] That is, tanks with equal slopes all round? Yes; I have not taken the estimate with merely the end slopes at 4 to 1.
3396. *Major Penrose.*] The comparison is between tanks of equal capacity? Yes; and of similar maximum depth.
3397. *Chairman.*] Consequently the Government tanks, which it was presumed would last through a considerable drought, must necessarily cost a great deal more than private tanks, and would justify the expenditure? Well, that is the opinion the Department has arrived at, and it is the opinion which has actuated us in the construction of the works. I might mention that the station owners have to adopt these flat slopes on account of the open watering of the stock, but according to the evidence given before the Royal Commission on the Conservation of Water it seems that a large number of station owners were of opinion that their tanks never would have lasted a drought through. The flat slopes and open watering are to a very great extent, in my opinion, the cause of the non-permanency of the water.
3398. Then you think there are other reasons still why the Government tanks should cost more than those put down by private individuals? Yes, there are other reasons. In the first place a contractor who works for a station owner has every facility given him for carrying out the works—water, grass, supplies of every kind are available. And then there is another most important feature of the case, that the squatter generally constructs his tanks at a time when there is plenty of grass and water in the immediate neighbourhood of the site selected; while the Government are obliged to construct their works whether the season is dry or not, and without the option of selecting sites where grass and water can be obtained.
3399. With regard to delay in payments—we have been given to understand that this is one of the reasons why contractors ask large prices from the Government? I am inclined to doubt that that can be any reason. There have been no delays in payment except in one or two trivial cases where final payment involving only small amounts have been concerned; and where there has been a hitch between the contractor and the local officer, necessitating correspondence and a certain delay consequent thereon.
3400. Well, we have had it in evidence that one man was obliged to go through the Insolvent Court on account of the difficulty which he experienced in obtaining the balance of the money that was owing to him? I am very sorry to say that a great many of the contractors have become insolvent, but not from that cause. Neither can it be from the reason mentioned by the officers of the Mines Department that the contractors received too much money for the work which they performed for the Government.
3401. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you know that many of the contractors have gone insolvent? Yes.
3402. *Chairman.*] Thus showing that they did not as a rule make money out of the work performed by them for the Government? Presumably they did not make money. It is a very strange thing that as a general rule the contractors will take work from the squatter where the work is available, when they will not take it from the Government. I think this clearly shows that the Government do not give excessive prices for the character of the work performed. We may be paying more than the squatters pay, but there is not a large profit attached to it—that is, allowing for the conditions under which the work is taken

taken from the Department—in regard to feed and rations. To show that we did everything that we could to accelerate payments to our contractors in the back country I would like to put in evidence this circular issued to our officers as far back as 1883:—

A. P. Wood.
22 Mar., 1888.

Department of Public Works. Office of Commissioner and Engineer for Roads, Sydney, 5 February, 1883.

(Circular.)

WITH the view of as far as possible assisting contractors for tanks, you are authorized to make payments in future as under, subject to the following regulations.

1. That when a measurement is made for an advance, 50 per cent. of the value of the work done can be paid at the time, the remaining 30 per cent. to be returned for as a further advance on a separate voucher which will be paid immediately upon receipt at head office, and officer advised by telegram. It must, however, be accompanied by receipted voucher for amount paid in advance.

2. That no payments in excess of 75 per cent. of the amount of officers' guarantee policy to be made to any other contractor (unless total is within that sum) until E. T. advice of lodgment to officer's credit of prior payment is made.

3. Receipt, stamped and witnessed must be obtained on the regular form at the time of making the payment.

4. Telegraphic advice of such payment having been made must be at once forwarded to head office.

(Signed) P. H. FLYNN,

For Commissioner and Engineer for Roads.

3403. There has been a general consensus of opinion that great delays occur in making these payments? All I can say is that the delays which take place are delays necessary to any Department having large disbursements of public money. The checking of accounts of course necessitates delay to some extent, but as soon as a man's account is passed for payment it goes to the Treasury, is returned to us and is paid after being examined, and having been placed to our credit. Certainly all this means delay, but there must be delay if you are to have a proper check over public expenditure.

3404. *Mr. Woore.*] Is there not a considerable delay sometimes in inspection? Well, the best answer I can give to that is that I have driven over most of these roads while the major portion of the works were in course of construction, and I never heard any complaint from the contractors on that ground. And I may say that if contractors have any cause of complaint they are generally very ready to make it. That is my experience of them.

3405. In the event of a tank being filled before the inspector comes round what is done then? I have only known two cases where that has occurred. The tank is measured afterwards by sounding. I believe the Purnamoota tank was one of those which was filled that way.

3406. *Major Penrose.*] I should think that would be a very good way of measuring? Yes; because you have a good level to work from.

3407. *Chairman.*] Is it a fact that the Department is so strict, that although the tanks may be the full depth, if there are any inequalities on the bottom the work will not be passed unless the contractors smooth it over? No; that is not a fact. I can say emphatically that it is not a fact.

3408. Again it is said that the Government are very particular in having the tanks dressed down with such nicety that this in itself causes a large expenditure? No; that is not a fact. So long as the spirit of the contract is fulfilled we are not particular as to the letter, and you will not have much difficulty in finding in this evidence statements which are rather contradictory on this point. Some of the Mines officers said themselves that the banks were not neatly trimmed.

3409. It has also been said most distinctly that unless men have considerable means, they are unable in consequence of these delays to tender for Government works—hence the paucity of tenderers in comparison with the number of tenderers for private tanks? I do not see that the work in connection with these tanks require contractors that have any particularly large amount of capital. A man with a plant, ploughs, and scoops, and bullocks, is in just as good a position if he has enough money to last him for a month, as the man who had £1,000 at his back.

3410. But whenever a tank-sinker is working for a squatter, he can go to the squatter and get a percentage of his money. On the other hand it may not be convenient for the road superintendent to inspect the works, and he may not come round for weeks after the work has been finished. The contractor wants money and has to pay for everything he gets from outside, the consequence being that he is in a worse position than the tank-sinker who is working for private individuals? There is a certain amount of reason in that statement of the case, but it has only a limited application. I think you will find that as a rule all these men have had payments at intervals of about a month, and a man ought to be able to pay the wages of his employees for that time. If not I think he had better leave contracting alone, and work some time longer and save a little more money. Assuming that a man was kept three months out of his money, I am certain that it must have been an exceptional case, and it is scarcely fair to bring an exceptional case to prove a rule.

3411. Yet it is exceptional cases which weigh with contractors, because they know what is going on, and what happens to one may occur to another? I am only assuming that such a case exists, because I really do not think that there has been any great delay.

3412. What has been the longest delay that you have known? I would not like to answer that from memory. There was one case in which a man named Bell was concerned, and in which a small amount of money only was involved, but it hardly comes within the scope of your question. There was a delay of some months in this case, but it was owing to a dispute between the local officer and the man. After the final payment for the work that had been actually made, this Mr. Bell entered claims for extras which the local officer had presumed were included in the first payments, and when the matter was gone into it was found that the contractor was entitled to a portion of the amount which he claimed.

3413. It has been said that 2s. 6d. per cubic yard has been given for excavation work—is that true? Not to my knowledge.

3414. But would you know it if it were true? Yes; a paper has been sent you in reference to the completion of one or two of these works. It is possible that such a price has been given by the Railway Department, but 1s. 9d. per cubic yard is the highest price that we have paid.

3415. *Major Penrose.*] One of the charges made is that you have adopted a certain size of tank without reference to the formation of the soil, and it is stated that this is especially true with regard to the Cobar district? We have been guided by instructions. When we received instructions from the Mines Department to carry out certain works the site of the tanks required was generally fixed by them.

3416. We have had witnesses here who stated that in part of the Cobar district 10,000-yard tanks would be ample for all purposes. Mr. Cotton, an official of the Mines Department, said so, and I believe Mr. Chesney gave evidence to the same effect? These tanks were carried out under the Mines recommendation that they should be 20,000-yard tanks. I put in recommendation. [See Appendix.]

A. P. Wood. 3417. *Chairman.*] I asked Mr. Bennett a similar question about the Walla Walla tank, and Mr. Bennett said that he was not responsible—that he was obliged to carry out the works according to the size fixed by the Mines Department? In that case I do not think the Mines Department mentioned the size of the tank. We only received general instructions to carry it out.

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3418. The allegation is that the Walla Walla tank is a very expensive one, and that it was needless because the water would only be used by a number of selectors in the vicinity? We do not maintain that the work is at all necessary. We have nothing at all to do with that question. Certain works are recommended by the Stock Branch of the Mines Department, and our duty is simply to carry them out. We have to do this without any reference to the question as to whether such works are going to offer an equivalent benefit to the public or not.

3419. *Mr. Woore.*] This point as to the necessity for the works has to be decided by the Mines Department? Yes, we simply construct.

3420. *Major Penrose.*] Another allegation made with regard to these tanks is that square embankments have been put round when they might have been run out as wings to the hill side? Wherever such features were obtainable we ran out the embankments as wings to the high ground.

3421. *Chairman.*] We find that instead of having tanks of 860,000 gallons capacity we have tanks of three million gallons capacity? There would be no use in putting down tanks of 5,000 yards capacity. If you carried that down to 18 feet it would be almost practically speaking an inverted pyramid. And without you go to 18 feet deep you cannot have permanent water.

3422. That all depends upon the nature of the rainfall. In the Albury district they have a rainfall of 24 inches? To a certain extent it depends upon the rainfall, but it also depends upon the catchment. They suffered for two years down there from the drought, and there was not a drop of water to be had.

3423. Then if the Mines Department make this recommendation for a small tank why does the Works Department go out of its way to construct these very expensive works? There are two reasons. In the first place we had other tanks recommended by the Mines Department in that district of 15,000 yards capacity, and in the second place it was better to be on the safe side and err in the matter of storage, especially as the cost of extra excavation bears but a small proportion to the cost of the appliances. You would have the same expensive appliances with a small as with a large tank.

3424. *Major Penrose.*] A 5,000-yard tank is a very small one in your opinion? Yes, very small, and perfectly useless.

3425. *Chairman.*] As this Walla Walla tank was put there apparently for the use of the ordinary traffic was it not sufficient, seeing that it was not on a stock route, as this was not very urgent work, and the rainfall much larger and less uncertain than at other places. I am inclined to think the allegation that unnecessary expense was incurred here was somewhat borne out? Well, the tank we were recommended to construct was 15,000 yards. I would like to put these documents in evidence, as they show that the tank was not constructed at our instance:—

Public Tank at Walla Walla.—I was under the impression, from my knowledge of the district for which the tank is asked, that a considerable amount of both stock and ordinary traffic passes through the proposed site. I requested the local inspector, Mr. Mackay, to report as to this and also to the other places at which water is to be obtained on the road from Albury to Doodle Cooma (one of the cross-country roads from the Murray to the Murrumbidgee) in the dry season of the year, Mr. Gilliat's report not having touched fully on these points. Mr. Mackay reports that there is a large amount of general traffic on this road, but is unable (having only lately been appointed) to state the extent of the stock traffic, and he further says that there is no water in dry seasons available to the public, except by sufferance, on this stretch of road, which is about 45 miles in length. It would seem, therefore, that the work applied for should be carried out, especially as it would also meet the requirements of the settlers who sign the memorial, and I would suggest that it be considered in the same class as the other works asked for on the road from the Murray to the Murrumbidgee, the construction of which, however, should, I think with Mr. Gilliat, give place, in the meantime, to the more urgent works in the outlying waterless portions of the Colony, where the rainfall is much more uncertain and very much less.

If this be approved, Mr. Day, M.P., might, perhaps, be informed, and the papers forwarded to the Department of Works.—A. B.

Stock Branch, 24/10/82. The Under Secretary for Mines.

I do not see that any action can be taken by this Department in this case. The Jindera papers, which were given to the Mines some time ago, are now required in this office.—W.C.B., 13/11/82.

(82-342)

Sir,

Stock Office, Albury, 12 June, 1882.

I have the honor to report that, having visited Walla Walla, and inspected reserve No. 730, I would recommend that a tank of say not less than 5,000 yards be excavated in the south bank of Petric's Creek at one or two eligible sites between the Walla Walla road and the swamp, and that the earth taken from the tank be used to form two dams across the creek, one to throw the water into the tank, and the other to dam the water in the creek a few hundred yards lower down, where the bed of the creek is wider and deeper.

I would also recommend that the tank be enclosed with a secure sheep and cattle-proof fence, and that pumps and troughing be fixed for watering stock, as if they are allowed access to the water it would soon become unfit for household use.

I have, &c.,

GEO. E. MACKAY.

I am unable to offer an opinion upon these papers before personally inspecting. I would recommend that the decision with regard to this application be suspended until my return from the west, when I could in three days visit the site proposed, and ascertain the amount and character of the traffic to be supplied; and if it then appears desirable, the work could then be included in the schedule of new works for 1883.—H.G., 16/6/82.

Sir,

Stock Office, Albury, N.S.W., 18 October, 1882.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your B.C. 12/10/82, attached to Mr. Gilliat's report on the application for a public tank at Walla Walla. I regret that I am quite unable to state what amount of stock travel by the route mentioned; but there is a large amount of ordinary traffic, and the Billabong Creek is the only point between Albury and Doodle Cooma where travellers can obtain water in summer-time without being dependent on the owners of the adjoining freehold lands. And now the Billabong does not afford sufficient water for any considerable number of stock when accessible from the road in an ordinarily dry season.

I have, &c.,

GEO. E. MACKAY.

3426. *Mr. Woore.*] What is the cubic measurement of this tank? It contains about 3,000,000 gallons. I will find out the cubic contents of the tank itself.

3427. *Chairman.*] It would be about 15,000 yards? Well, that is what they said. Lowesdale and Daysdale were the other works. They were on the road from Urana to Corowa; at Coree and Daysdale there were 15,000-yard tanks also.

3428. Consequently the Walla Walla tank was constructed with the same capacity? Yes; in accordance with the general recommendation.

3429.

3429. And Mr. Mackay's very simple request was not confirmed by the heads of his own Department? No. A. P. Wood.
The recommendations of the Mines Department always guide us in regard to the size of these tanks.

3430. *Major Penrose.*] During the early history of these public works you constructed them much smaller than now? Yes; we then had double tanks; but Boonoonoona, which is one of the early works, was 18,000 yards capacity. 22 Mar., 1888.

3431. *Chairman.*] Referring to the published papers from the Mines Department, we see a letter here from Mr. Gilliat, stating that the Walla Walla tank was unnecessary. He says, in a report bearing date 9th October, 1882:—" Bearing in mind the large expenditure required in the dry districts of the Colony, the comparatively good rainfall here, and the trifling expense at which water can be conserved by the settlers themselves, and the fact that the construction of a tank here would be taken as a precedent, and be followed by numbers of applications for similar works, which would be convenient, but not absolutely necessary for the well-being of the settlers, I am not prepared to grant this application."? I know that in a letter from Mr. Bruce, dated 24th October, 1882, Mr. Bruce recommends the Works Department to carry out this work on the same plan as the others in the Murrumbidgee district.

3432. *Major Penrose.*] Then, is this published correspondence with reference to the Walla Walla tank misleading and incomplete? Yes; inasmuch as Mr. Bruce's letter does not appear in it. On page 141 of the Mines blue book, two or three works are mentioned as having been begun, without reference to the Mines Department. All these cases are easily explained. The Black Swamp tank on the road from Deniliquin to Hay is an error. It is a mistake for them to say that this tank was constructed without reference to the Mines Department. That is one of the works upon their list. As to the Nymagee tank, between Cobar and Condobolin, that tank was constructed under the authority of the Minister for Works. We have the papers if you should wish to see them. The work was undertaken on a petition from the residents of Nymagee, and the object was to give a supply of water to the town.

3433. There were sufficient grounds for the construction of a tank apart from the supply of water for stock? Yes; the Jindera case is a similar one to that of Nymagee, action having been taken by direction of the Minister for Works. The Galathera tank, between Narrabri and Moree, was constructed before the works were taken over by the Mines Department in 1878. A special vote of £3,000 was set apart for tanks and wells in the Liverpool Plains district at the instance, I think, of the local member, and it was with a portion of this money that the Galathera tank was constructed.

3434. Mr. Chesney states that the fourth tank is unnecessary, and his evidence would lead us to infer that Government tanks have been in nearly all cases built with four embankments, and that no provision has been made by running out embankments as wings to conserve the water above the natural surface? All the tanks on the road from Cobar to Bourke, with the exception of the one at Helman's, are constructed with three embankments abutting on natural rising ground, and this has been done as far as the features of the country will allow. Then on the Cobar to Louth road, at Cuttygullyaroo and at Kerrigundi, the water is conserved above the surface, but at the other two sites the features of the country do not allow of this being done.

[The Commission adjourned until the afternoon, when the sitting was resumed.]

3435. *Chairman.*] The next thing we would wish to go into is this charge of using expensive material; it has been urged that your Department has spent a good deal of money on machinery where a much simpler style of pump would have answered all purposes;—what have you to say in regard to that? Well, in the first place, it is simply a matter of opinion. I think I can advance other opinions against those advanced against us.

3436. Do you not think that is a matter of pounds, shillings, and pence rather than a matter of opinion? No; I think it is to a very great extent a matter of opinion. But even, as a matter of pounds, shillings, and pence, what the Mines Department have proposed is more expensive than what we have adopted. The original machinery that was used in the Department was a M'Comas water lift, which involved a great amount of timber-work and submerged timber-work. And so far as these early works were concerned the cost of supplying M'Comas lifts was very much greater than the cost of the new types of pump that we have adopted for our works since 1882. What was recommended by the Mines Department was a double whip. Well, I went into that and I found that the cost amounted to something like £200, involving a great amount of submerged timber-work, and in addition necessitated the use of horses. We were recommended to apply this form of lifting gear to the tanks already constructed, as well as to those projected, and as most of the tanks then constructed were full or partly full of water it would have been a matter of impossibility, without the use of divers, to have carried out the work. I submit tracings of the double whip from the Mines Department. The two kinds of pumps that we have since adopted are horse-gear and steam.

3437. In all the evidence so far the steam-pumps have been called the Tangye pumps? Well, they are not all Tangye's. The horse-gear pumps are the Holman and the Amos & Smith. The latter has been adopted latterly as being simpler than the former. The steam-pumps that we have principally adopted are the Tangye, which is called the "special" on account of its simplicity. But we have also some of the Amos & Smith type, and two direct-acting pumps from Appleby & Co., which do not belong to any recognized type.

3438. What is the relative cost of these pumps? The Holman pump, with the horse-gear, is £49, delivered in Sydney. The cost of the special Tangye steam-pump is £87 10s., with the boiler. One of these pumps is now at work at the Centennial Park, and may be seen by the Commission. The Amos & Smith pump and horse-gear costs £52 or £53, and the steam-pump £120. The cost of the Appleby pump is about £125.

3439. Then the cost of erection of these horse-gear pumps would be very considerable? With the Holman pump it would be a very considerable item, because we would have to put the pump in a timbered well.

3440. The same remark would apply to the scheme submitted by the Mines Department? No, not exactly.

3441. Will you just state what would be the relative cost of these horse-gear pumps and steam-pumps in the matter of erection? The steam-pumps are about the most cheaply erected of the lot, because they only require sleepers to carry the bed-plate. 3442.

A. P. Wood. 3442. So that with the cost of erection thrown in, the expense of the horse-gear pumps would be about equal to the cost of the steam-pumps? Nearly so; with the exception of the Amos & Smith, which does not require the same expensive timbering.

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3443. *Mr. Woore.*] Then there is the cost of horse, harness, feed, and so forth? Yes; we have found that in the timbered districts, where we only erect steam-pumps, in regard to cost the steam-pumps are cheaper than the horse-pumps. The Mines Department are paying—and we have had to do the same—their caretakers as much as 10s. per day, while the men who take charge of the steam-pumps only receive from 7s. to 7s. 6d. per day.

3444. *Chairman.*] And there would be added to that, I presume, the cost of firewood? Yes; that is obtained by the caretaker, and is brought in, or should be brought in, by him in good seasons, while as with the horse-gear pump, the expense of working in the seasons would be very heavy.

3445. *Major Penrose.*] Could not the M'Comas pump have been put up in a cheaper manner by erecting it further out on staging? Not with the big pumps that were used originally. We used a 4-inch M'Comas; but if we were to put it further in the tank, some very heavy staging would be required to meet the strain. Besides, there would be 79 feet of belting from the point to the horse-walk.

3446. But we are speaking of the M'Comas hand-lift? The thing is utterly impracticable.

3447. *Chairman.*] Why? For the simple reason that no man could possibly raise the amount of water required. Of course in erecting a pump you must provide for the maximum depth from which the water must be lifted; that is, to lift a sufficient supply from the greatest depth of the tank, to meet the requirements of travelling stock in dry seasons. The maximum depth from which water would require to be lifted is about 27 feet.

3448. How much water could a man lift 27 feet in a day? A man's work at a winch would be about 2,600 foot pounds per minute. A gallon of water weighs 10 lb., and reckoning the height from which the water has to be lifted at 26 feet, a man would lift 10 gallons per minute, which is 600 gallons an hour, and at eight hours a day would be 4,800 gallons. This would be the total result of eight hours steady work in a blazing sun. Of course caretakers may be exceptional men, but in my opinion they are not.

3449. You are speaking now of the maximum amount of work that would be required? Yes.

3450. But in an ordinary season it would not be more than half that? Well, if you will fix the level of the water I will be able to answer it.

3451. Well, say that the caretaker had only to pump half the depth you speak of? Then the caretaker could pump 10,000 gallons per day of eight hours working continuously.

3452. *Major Penrose.*] Do you think that a man could keep up that rate of work, 2,600 foot pounds per minute, for eight hours, in that climate? Well, he would be supposed to. This is the result of a long series of observations that have been made on the subject. There is one thing that has not been allowed for in that result, and that is the friction, which in the M'Comas is a very important factor.

3453. We have had it in evidence from some of the witnesses that they have known of men to water 10,000 sheep per day with one of Flood's lifts? Well, I believe it is possible with a short lift, because it is stated there that the drovers sometimes assist the caretakers; but then that is no question of one man's work.

3454. One witness said that this could be done from a 20-foot lift? I am certain that it cannot be done. Of course if you keep a gang of men, each taking a five minutes' turn, they can put in a great deal more energy into their work than they could if each man worked continuously for eight hours. Professor Rankin says as the result of experiments, that one man turning a crank or winch is equal to the following work:—

| Effort in lb. | Velocity ft. per sec. | Hours work pr. day. | Ft. lb. per sec. |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 12·5 | 5·0 | 8 | 62·5 |
| 18·0 | 2·5 | 8 | 45·0 |
| 20·0 | 14·4 | 2min..... | 288·0 |

But of course you have to deduct friction from this result, and with the M'Comas I should say that the friction would be at least 20 per cent.

3455. *Chairman.*] Then it is said that it is desirable to give more work to these caretakers? It is indeed; there is no doubt about that.

3456. Then why not utilize their labour instead of employing expensive machinery? Well, it does not appear that they can do the work which they are really paid for, judging from the reports which we receive from our field officers as to the state in which the works are kept; and if they are given the excuse of having to attend to additional duties apart from those they are now supposed to attend to, I should say that the result would not be a satisfactory one.

3457. *Mr. Woore.*] You think that the care of the tank and the drains, and the watering of stock, and such duties are sufficient to keep the caretaker employed? Certainly not—not at all sufficient to keep an active man in work.

3458. Of course, sometimes everything being in good repair, and no stock watering at the tank, he would not be employed? Quite so; he has nothing whatever to do at times except to read the *Gazette*.

3459. How would you suggest profitably employing a caretaker's labour during slack times? The caretaker could not be employed raising water, because during these slack times there is no demand for water. When the service tank was full there would be no necessity for any further labour.

3460. But the caretaker is a necessity? Yes.

3461. Would you be in favour of a caretaker looking after two or three tanks? No; that would be quite out of the question, because it is quite possible that sheep might be travelling in different directions at the same time.

3462. Then there is nothing for it but to allow the caretaker to retain his easy billet? No; nothing. There is no doubt that if a man could himself raise and store enough water to meet the requirements of 50,000 or 100,000 sheep, the difficulty would be got over, because he would put in all his spare time at the winch.

3463. Admitting that these men have a great deal of idle time on their hands, does not their presence at these tanks in times of flood sometimes save the works from damage to such an extent as would pay their wages for the whole year? Yes.

3464. Is it necessary, then, that someone should be there whether there is anything to do or not? Yes; for

for, supposing a drain is foul by brushwood coming down, causing the water to go in another direction, if the caretaker is present he will remove the difficulty, and the water will go into the tank. So that a caretaker may save great loss of water and the tank from great damage.

3465. *Chairman.*] Is it not a fact that at all these public watering places paddocks are fenced in for the use of the caretakers? Yes; at most of the watering places paddocks are fenced in for the use of the caretaker or the lessee.

3466. Consequently if the caretaker or lessee chooses to allow horses or cattle in, the owners must pay an agistment rate? Yes.

3467. Can you suggest any means of employing these men by which this army of caretakers may be made to earn their wages? Taking the average of the men they are really earning their wages now.

3468. In what way? Although a man may not have enough work to keep him constantly going during the whole time he is stationed at a tank, yet he has to be constantly on the watch. There is no necessity to employ young and active men. What these tanks want are men who are about half fit to go into the benevolent asylum—not men who are blind, but men who can dodge about like our maintenance men, patching up little things here and there. These are men who are past their prime, and are yet well able to do the work allotted to them. They could go about cleaning drains and filling ruts in the embankments, and fettling up the work, cleaning out the silt tank is also a part of the caretaker's duty; and then in times of heavy rain they are on the spot, and if they are only watchful they can save, perhaps in an hour or two, what might be the value of their wages for the entire year. I believe, although we are blamed for sticking to a hard and fast rule, if the Mines Department had not stuck to another hard and fast rule in regard to these lease areas, that they could have done a great deal better with the fencing. Originally it was intended that only 200 acres should be fenced in, and regulations were made out giving the caretakers certain rights. What I now understand is that the conditions have never been altered, and that, although 640 acres have now been fenced in, there is no greater inducement given to the caretaker or lessee than when the area was only 200 acres.

3469. If it were possible to lease these tanks, it would of course get rid of a great deal of the expenditure? Some of the greatest complaints that have been made have been made concerning the tanks which were leased. More particularly those which were leased to Messrs. Cobb & Co., the coach proprietors.

3470. *Mr. Woore.*] Do the men now employed as caretakers keep the tanks in proper order? Well, judging by the reports which we have received from our officers, and from what I see on some of my inspections, I should say that some of the caretakers do not keep the tanks in proper order.

3471. And the caretakers in most instances are able-bodied young men? Yes.

3472. That being the case, would the tanks fare better, when even able-bodied men do not keep them in proper order, if they were in the hands of old men? Yes; because an able-bodied man is more independent than an old man. An old man would work to be kept in his situation. These young men are rather fresh, and when they get a few pounds together, it is a matter of perfect indifference to them whether they leave or whether they remain on duty.

3473. *Chairman.*] What is your conclusion as to the best forms of machinery to use on these tanks for lifting water? The conclusion that I have arrived at is, that where timber is available, the special steam pump is the simplest and most effective machine you can use. I repeat again that this is true where timber is available, but where it is not available, the Amos & Smith horse-gear pump is the best—that is, of the type that I am acquainted with. There may be some better ones.

3474. Have you had anything to do with fencing? Yes.

3475. We have had various complaints from the Mines Department, and from independent witnesses also, that your fencing is excessively costly? Will you excuse me for one moment before we drop the other subject. I would draw your attention to Mr. Gilliat's approval of the type of pump that we used. In his evidence before the Royal Commission for the Conservation of Water he stated that the Tangye pump was one of the most simple and effective pumps he had ever seen, and that with a few renewals in the shape of bucket leathers, it was such a pump as could be worked by any ordinary bush hand.

3476. Now with regard to the excessive cost of fencing we have been told that these fences of yours have cost as much as £120 per mile? They have.

3477. And we have been informed by various witnesses that squatters pay about £45 per mile for their fences? That I do not know, but I do know that there is a wonderful difference in the class of fence. Our instructions for these fences came originally from the Mines Department. Mr. Bruce, who was then in charge of this particular branch, recommended fences with six wires and a top rail for the tanks in the leasehold areas. [*Recommendation produced. See Appendix.*]

3478. For the caretakers' paddocks as well as the tanks? Yes; for the lease areas. Mr. Gilliat, in a letter of the 16th October, 1883, recommends that the fences should be of a substantial character and sheep proof; the posts to be not more than 8 feet 6 inches from centre to centre, five wires and a top rail where timber is plentiful.

3479. Then why did you extend these very expensive fences round the caretakers' paddocks when they were only intended to protect the main works? But Mr. Gilliat recommends it for the caretakers' paddocks as well. We have adopted it except in two or three cases, but then we have lessened the expense by omitting the top rail.

3480. During the erection of these fences were representations ever made to you by the Mines Department that you were spending too much money on them? No, never.

3481. When did the first complaint appear; when did you first hear the complaints about this excessive cost of fencing? About the time that Mr. Gilliat recommended the transfer of the whole thing over from one Department to the other.

3482. *Mr. Woore.*] Was it the duty of the Public Works Department to decide what sort of fencing you were to put up, or did you act as in the case of the tanks, merely to carry out the suggestions of the Mines Department? We acted to the best of our judgment on general lines. We were instructed to enclose certain areas of land. We had a certain type of fence recommended to us by the Mines Department, and finding that type too expensive, we adopted another that was less expensive, and I think equally serviceable.

3483. *Major Penrose.*] In Mr. Low's evidence the case of the Boonoona tank was mentioned, and he stated that the fence round the tank cost £120 per mile? He is very nearly correct. It cost £112 per mile.

A. P. Wood.
22 Mar., 1888.

A. P. Wood. 3484. Mr. Low says :—" The erection of this fence, in comparison with the prices paid by station owners in this district, I consider to not be worth more than £26 per mile, inclusive of wire, and in this opinion I am borne out by Mr. Webb, of Kilfera, who has had much fencing in this locality, and who, after inspecting this fence, values it at £26 per mile, exclusive of wire ;"—how much would the wire be worth there? Well, I have not made an estimate just now.

22 Mar., 1888.

3485. Mr. Low says, in another place in his evidence, that he would estimate the wire at £30 per mile, and the posts and so forth at £26 per mile, which would make the cost just £56 per mile, and just exactly half what was given by the Works Department? It is a funny think that Mr. Low—yes, he is the gentleman—in 1887, fared no better than we did. I think he called for tenders for a fence at Ivanhoe, in connection with a lease area there, and for a similar style of fencing to that which we erected. The tender he received was £100 per mile. He received another tender for £75 per mile, but that involved a modification of the design of the specification.

3486. Was the gauge of wire used suggested by Mr. Bruce? No. Mr. Bruce suggested a top rail, but that was merely round the main works. The top rail was also recommended by Mr. Gilliat.

3487. *Chairman.*] Mr. Bruce did not then recommend this heavy gauge of wire? No; the gauge we picked ourselves. Objection has been taken I believe to the No. 4 gauge as a top wire.

3488. *Major Penrose.*] With regard to the fence at the tank at Ivanhoe—that was the same contract? Yes; the same as Boonoon.

3489. Mr. Low makes a calculation about the fence at Ivanhoe in which he makes it appear that, by sub-letting, the cost of the fence was only £82 per mile, and that the first contractor gained a clear £33 11s. per mile—that is on the supposition that the Government paid £120? He is wrong in that. It was only £112 per mile.

3490. The calculation was evidently made on the supposition that the cost was £120 per mile; how was this contract let? Tenders were invited for the different works. We invited tenders three different times, and this was the lowest tender received on the last occasion, and lower than any previously received.

3491. Was the work pressing? Well, we were urged by the Mines Department to get it done, but whether it was pressing or not is another question. As I have said we called for tenders three times for it.

3492. *Chairman.*] Why did you use this excessively heavy wire for the caretakers' paddocks as well as for the tanks? Simply because the fence was required for cattle as well as for sheep. We thought a top wire would offer a greater resistance, and would be a better safeguard. With a fine wire, cattle would not be balked in the same way as they would with a No. 4.

3493. Do squatters in fencing public stock routes and roads use such heavy wire? No; I am not aware that they do; but I think there is a great difference between the two cases. In one case you have a station paddock—supposing the stock route is fenced—and in a bad season station paddocks are very little better than the stock routes. In the other case, you have a special lease area where the caretaker is only allowed to put in a very limited number of stock, and where in all probability there is far better feed than on the stock route. Again, these fences are in close proximity to the watering places, and when cattle are being watered they rush about—perhaps being drafted—and consequently a stronger fence is required than would be needed under ordinary conditions. There is one extraordinary thing that I would like to point out—that as far back as 1883, when I travelled with Mr. Gilliat to hand over some of these works to him, he expressed himself as perfectly satisfied with all the appliances, and in fact with everything pertaining to the tanks. And in the presence of Mr. Cronin, the local officer at Deniliquin, he stated that nothing could be more perfect. Now we have to deal with an altered view altogether.

3494. You think that Gilliat has grown wiser as he has grown older? It is possible.

3495. There is another very grave charge made against your Department; and it is this, that you spent enormous sums of money in putting up gates that were utterly beyond the requirements—gates, for instance, to caretakers' paddocks to which there is neither ingress nor egress except by the caretaker's own horse. Why was this done? We have simply acted, as I have said before, under instructions. Some of the local officers will prove that Mr. Gilliat on the very trip that I am alluding to, referred to this very question, and recommended—I think at Cuttygullyaroo, if I remember aright—that a gate should be put in. But there is nothing particularly expensive about this style of gate.

3496. It cost £15? Yes; but these gates were not let singly, and you cannot pick them out of a tender. Supposing a contractor put in a lower tender for fencing and a higher one for gates, although his price is excessive for the gate still he is lower for the whole work, and therefore the gate has to be taken in connection with the whole work.

3497. But why specify such an expensive form of gate when a more primitive one would have answered all requirements? My impression is that where cattle are constantly passing through these gates, the gates require to be strongly constructed. On the stock routes the station gates, which are simply and cheaply constructed, are generally found to be utterly wanting, and are hanging up alongside the fence.

3498. I think one witness mentioned that the gates are only used by the caretaker's horse going through? I believe it is true in one case, but that is a purely exceptional case. I know it was mentioned as having taken place in the Albury district, but the local officer will give you evidence about that.

3499. Now the next question is one that has caused a great deal of ill-feeling between the two Departments—that is, the interference by the road superintendents with the caretakers? I have seen a good deal of neglect on the part of the caretakers, and when you are going into the matter of wasteful expenditure I would like to speak about the cottages.

3500. *Mr. Woore.*] Will you give us some information about this interference? I know there has been a good deal of ill-feeling, particularly in the Hay district, in consequence of the reports that Mr. Stilwell, in the course of his duty, has been obliged to send in, in regard to the neglect of the men employed under the Mines Department.

3501. Do you know anything of your own knowledge about this interference? Not of actual interference, but I know a great deal about the neglect of the caretakers.

3502. Great complaint has been made to us of interference by your road superintendents with the officers of the Mines? Well, I cannot say anything about that; but their neglect has called for action by our officers.

3503. Can you mention any case of gross neglect by caretakers which, in your opinion, would justify the so-called

so-called interference? On my last visit to the Hay district I had to report on the neglect of the caretakers at Tom's Lake, Boonoona, Ward's tank, and 48-mile tank, on the road from Booligal to Wilcannia, and in regard to the caretakers at several of the tanks on the road from Ivanhoe to Balranald. I think this carelessness would fully warrant our local officer in writing as strongly as he has done on previous and subsequent occasions to the head office in Sydney.

A. P. Wood.
22 Mar., 1888.

3504. Is that all you have to say on the subject? Well, I think that is the only district where this so-called friction with the field officer has been complained of.

3505. *Major Penrose.*] What did you find fault with? With the utter neglect of public works. The drains were fouled and silted up, the pumping machinery was neglected and worked without oil, and all the appurtenances neglected.

3506. Was it the duty of the caretaker as a rule to clean out the silt tank, because there is a great deal of correspondence here about the cleaning out of the silt tank at Merri Merriwa? Yes; that is at page 167 of the Mines blue book. Mr. Gilliat writes a minute on a paper to this effect:—"The cleaning out of these works will, I suppose, have to rest with the Works Department, no further action can be taken by this Department." This was in 1886, yet in 1887, when we cleaned out this silt tank, Mr. Gilliat states:—"It is of course very probable, owing to the wet season, that the caretaker has been obliged to wait until the tank is dry enough to clean it; but it will be observed on 87-4,648 that the contractor engaged by the Works Department is compelled to do the same. But the main point, which does not appear to occur to the officers of the Works Department, is that any proven neglect on the part of the caretaker can hardly be regarded as a justification for expending public money on a contract to do work that should properly be performed by a public servant, and that a due regard for the public service would have led them to show to this Department that the caretaker's duties were neglected."

3507. Then he says, "Since writing the above, my attention has been called to the minute of Mr. Bennett, which is written as a minute on the report of the road superintendent, that the embankments of the tank are kept in good order:—"I think this should go to the Mines. We report bad men; a good man should have the benefit of the favourable report so far as it may weigh with the authorities of the Mines.—W.C.B., 14/8/86. Under Secretary for transmission to Mines." That is all to the credit of the caretaker for the way in which the tank was maintained. That was a flattering minute which the Commissioner wrote, thinking that it was only right to let a man see that he recognized when work was well done. I think that is a sufficient reply to the accusation of the Mines Department in regard to our clearing out the Merri Merriwa tank.

3508. Apparently you still considered it the duty of the caretaker to clean out the silt tank? Yes, we did; and then we got this minute from Mr. Gilliat that the work properly devolved on our Department.

3509. But when it became a large job, would you still expect the caretaker to do it? Yes; it is the caretaker's proper work, and he ought never to allow the silt tank to become full.

3510. *Mr. Woore.*] Ought he not to clean out the silt tank whenever opportunity offers and keep it clean? Most decidedly; it is his duty to do so.

3511. There has been some complaint made about the greasing of service tanks—that a certain substance has been used which has so affected the water that the stock will not drink it? I may state that the composition which we used was a mixture of tar, pitch, and tallow, in the proportion of 1 gallon of tar to 1 lb. of pitch, and 2 lb. of tallow. This composition was recommended to me when I met Mr. M'Kinney, the engineer to the Water Conservation Commission, down at Hay, some time ago. He stated that the composition was a very serviceable one for the purpose, and on the strength of his recommendation we tried it. For the first few days it did produce a film upon the water, but the second water that ran into the tank has never been deteriorated in the slightest degree, as the composition became hard on the tank.

3512. Then it makes a hard cement-like covering? Yes; but I am speaking from Mr. Stilwell's report.

3513. Notwithstanding the complaints that have been made about this substance having been employed, you still believe that it was a good thing to use? From the reports that I have received I do most decidedly think it was a good thing to use.

3514. Then its effect on the water was only temporary? That is all.

3515. I suppose you are aware that in the case of a cement tank the first water that goes in cannot be used? Yes; I am aware of that.

3516. On these complaints being made, did you consult the Mines Department and give up the use of the composition? Yes; we stayed this work on account of the objection of the Mines Department, and the works having been handed over to them, we did not feel warranted in persevering in its use.

3517. It was not a case of failure? No; they made a great deal about our having paid a man £6 per week to do this work. Well, this man makes periodical trips up the stock route, putting the horse-gear and other pumps into working order. He is a travelling mechanic employed by us, and as he was passing along he was instructed by the local officer to put this composition on the tank. There is no doubt that this man was paid £6 per week for his work, but considering that he only took a day to do the work, it was really much cheaper than specially sending a lower-wage man a long distance to do it.

3518. Then a man was not sent specially to do this work, but performed it while on his tour? Yes; just so. I would like to put these papers here in evidence. (*See Appendix*).

3519. *Major Penrose.*] In this matter of putting composition on the tanks were the officers of your Department within their proper sphere? We considered that we were within our proper sphere, because there had been a great many conflicting opinions expressed as to where the line of demarcation was drawn between the two departments. We had been called in on so many occasions to effect trivial repairs that ought to have been carried out by the caretakers themselves, that we felt perfectly justified in adopting this course to protect public property; but when the Mines Department raised a distinct opposition, the local officer was instructed not to proceed any further.

3520. Do you think that if this painting of the tanks had been a success—and admitted by the Mines Department to be a success—that you would have heard anything about this question of alleged interference? Had they admitted that it was a success I do not suppose there would have been any talk about interference.

3521. Although the interference—if it were interference—would have existed just the same? Yes.

3522. *Mr. Woore.*] Are there any other cases that you can call to mind of alleged interference? Not any of which I have personal knowledge.

3523.

- A. P. Wood. 3523. *Major Penrose.*] Have you ever had complaints sent in by your road superintendents that you had reason to believe were unfounded? No; I have the greatest faith in the officers. They are some of the best men we have in the department.
- 22 Mar., 1888. 3524. You thought that the road superintendents had been merely doing their duty? Simply that, and nothing else.
3525. And that they had not been vexatious in their complaints? No; I am certain of it.
3526. *Mr. Woore.*] And they have not been actuated by an unfriendly feeling? No, I would not like to say that, because such feeling must be only natural under the circumstances.
3527. But you do not think that this feeling induced them to exaggerate their reports in any way? No; I do not believe that; they are men of too much integrity to allow their public actions to be influenced by any personal feeling.

[The Commission adjourned.]

FRIDAY, 23 MARCH, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R.E.

J. C. WOORE, Esq.

Arthur Pepsy Wood called in and further examined:—

- A. P. Wood. 3528. *Mr. Woore.*] I see by the evidence of one witness here that the contractors can make up the surface of the ground, and so add to the apparent depth of the tank? I do not think that is possible under our present arrangements. But supposing that the ground were made up to the higher level, the overflow of water through this open shoot from the outside to the inside would of itself prove the existence of such a fraud.
- 23 Mar., 1888. 3529. *Chairman.*] But this is done in the measuring up of the work and before the tank is tested? Well, even the very lay of the shoot would at once expose it. In passing from the natural level of the ground outside the tank to the level of the berm within the embankment, any such error in levels would be discovered in the laying of the shoot. I may say that I had heard of such things being done in 1883, and I produce a circular which was written to the officers, instructing them to fix a peg in each corner of the tank, and have a bench mark so as to get the level of each peg with the bench mark, and then when finally measuring up to take these levels again.
3530. *Mr. Woore.*] It was stated in evidence by Mr. Earngey, that by raising the surface of the ground the excavation could be made to appear deeper than it really was, and that this has been done to the extent of 2 or 3 feet? Well, I maintain that it is utterly impossible to do any such thing without its being at once discovered. It is quite possible that a few inches might be put on or added accidentally, but it cannot be done on any scale at all worth considering.
3531. *Chairman.*] Then with regard to want of attention that has been implied in laying out these works. It has been the custom in some instances, it would appear, for the officer in charge to go up and down in the coach, and all the information he could obtain would be that which was procurable from Cobb & Co.'s coachman or the local publican, at whose house the officer stopped. It has been further said that he never learned anything of the local requirements from any person more interested? I think I have given that statement my most emphatic eniادل before. The only occasion on which Mr. Earngey could possibly have formed an opinion was that on which he went up to take charge of the district on Mr. Cambridge's removal. Mr. Earngey ought to have been aware that on that occasion I travelled in a buggy or waggonette with Mr. Barlow, the district surveyor, and Mr. Cambridge, who was to hand the district over to him, and with whom Mr. Earngey himself came back from Tibbooburra. So that Mr. Earngey has been swearing what he must know to be absolutely false. I know that the officers of the various districts, Mr. Cronin, of Deniliquin; Mr. Stilwell, of Hay; Mr. Coleman, of Bourke; Mr. Adam, of Cobar; and Mr. Adams, of Walgett, all invariably travel in buggies.
3532. Then another way in which it is said the Department is swindled is this. An officer is usually alone when he is proceeding to measure up these works, and the consequence is that he has to employ the contractor's men to assist him in using the measuring tape; and it has been said that whether the man is at the top or the bottom of the tank the swindle can be perpetrated with equal facility? It is possible if you have a very short-sighted man at one end of the tape that this may be done, but I do not believe from the character of the officers we have in the field connected with these works that such a swindle as this could be perpetrated on them. I think they are too keen. I admit the possibility of this thing being done if a man is really inattentive to his duties, but many things which are said to have been done never took place at all. The contractor sometimes thinks that he stands better amongst his workmen than other contractors if he pretends that he has been able to swindle the Government.
3533. *Mr. Woore.*] You were asked yesterday about delay in payments. Now here is a rather prominent case which it may be well to bring under your notice. Mr. Budd, in his evidence, makes the following statement. The questions are:—
2312. *Chairman.*] This is owing, I presume, to the want of the inspection of the work by some officer? Yes; sometimes months elapse without any reports having been made, and in one case I had four months to wait, and had to pay an agent £50 to collect the money. I had to employ an agent named Cummings to get this money for me.
2313. Did this delay take place after the work had been completed? Yes, and in another case I was six months waiting before I got the balance of my money? This occurred in connection with the work done at the Nullamut tank.
- ? I know nothing of this alleged delay. In the first place, it was before I took charge; but still I can easily find out whether such a delay occurred, and what was the cause of it.
3534. *Major Penrose.*] In connection with these charges of interference by the Works officers and the overseers, can you state to the Commission the exact facts of the case as they appear from the papers in your possession? I may state that some considerable time back—in July, 1883—there was a disagreement

as to which Department should undertake the repairs of these works after their being transferred to the Mines Department, and it was then decided that the Works Department should have the repairs, but that the Department of Mines should be allowed, in any case of great emergency, to spend a sum not exceeding £10 upon any repairs that might be required. About twelve months afterwards it was also decided in a minute from the Mines Department that the caretakers and lessees of these works should, in view of any repairs being required, place themselves in immediate communication with the officers of the Works Department in order that these repairs might be effected. In connection with this matter I desire to put in the following documents as evidence :—

A. P. Wood.
23 Mar., 1888.

Public Tanks and Wells.—Departmental Arrangements.

As doubts have arisen as to which portions of the business relating to the several classes of public watering places should be conducted by the Department of Public Works, and which by the Department of Mines, the following statement of the different classes of works, and of the principal action called for with regard to these works is submitted, with the view of its being definitely settled which Department shall take the action as the necessity arises. The public watering places may be divided into three classes—A, B, and C.

Class A are those works which are situated at a distance from any town or village, and solely for the use of travellers, teamsters, and travelling stock.

Class B are those which are partly for the use of travellers, teamsters, and travelling stock, and partly for that of the inhabitants of towns and villages near which the works are situated, and—

Class C are those which are almost entirely for the use of the inhabitants of towns and villages, and of course also of ordinary travellers and of teamsters, but only to a small extent of travelling stock.

The principal steps again to be taken with respect to these works are the following :—

1. To decide as to the necessity for the construction of a watering place on any particular line of road, or in any particular locality.
2. To decide as to the exact site.
3. To decide as to the description of the work, *i.e.*, whether it is to be a tank, well, or dam.
4. To determine its dimensions and capacity.
5. To settle the form of construction.
6. To determine the sort of watering appliances.
7. To decide as to the extent and description of the fencing.
8. To determine the area of land to be let.
9. To the supervision and management after construction.
10. The carrying out of repairs and alterations.

With regard to works of Class A, I believe it is definitely arranged that steps (1) shall be taken by the Department of Mines, (2) by the Works, (3) by the two Departments jointly, (4) by the Mines, (5) by the Works, (6) by the two Departments, and (7), (8), and (9) by the Mines, and (10) by the Works.

As to Class B and C, nothing definite has I believe as yet been decided into which Department shall take the steps here mentioned, and it is principally with a view to this being settled that this memo. is now submitted.

A. B., 22/2/83.

I shall be glad if the Commissioner for Roads will favour me with his views upon this matter, as it will be well to have these several matters settled. For Minister for Works.—J. P. ABBOTT, 26/8/83.

Class B might be dealt with as Class A, and No. 4 should be decided jointly by the two Departments—practically it has up to this been decided by the Works. Class C, which is being dealt with by Harbours and Rivers, should be together under the Works.—W. C. B., 3/4/83.

The recommendation of the Engineer-in-Chief for Roads, &c., may be approved.—H. W., 6/4/83. Approved.—J. P. ABBOTT, 7/4/83.

I would refer this to the Minister for Works with a view to the recommendation of Mr. Bennett as to Class C being at once carried out. It seems to me ridiculous that three departments should be dealing with these tanks, &c.—J. P. ABBOTT, 7/4/83.

Departmental Arrangements *re* Tanks and Wells.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 24 April, 1883.

Referring to my B. C. communication numbered as per margin 83-286, Tanks and Wells, and forwarded to you on the 9th inst., I have the honor to request that I may be informed if the Minister for Works has given his decision thereon, and if so, that the papers might be returned to this Department.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary for Mines.

The Under Secretary, Public Works, Sydney.

Papers were returned by me.—W. C. B., 28/4/83. Mr. Bennett for further report.—F. A. W., 5/6/83.

As the repairs and alterations called for on existing works are very extensive and now of a character which calls for professional knowledge, I would beg leave to withdraw the recommendation made by me in the accompanying memo.—that these repairs and alterations should be made by this Department, and to suggest that they be carried out by the Department of Works.—A. B., 6/7/83. The Under Secretary for Mines.

For the Commissioner for Roads.—J. P. ABBOTT, 7/7/83.

Before resuming charge of the maintenance of these works I would point out that this is the second or third time they have been handed to us to maintain. On the previous occasions the repairs required almost amounted to reconstruction, but as I have always thought that the maintenance should be retained by this Department, I will endeavour to carry out the instructions of the Minister. As there are no funds at my disposal for this purpose it would be advisable to transfer the balance of vote obtained last session by Mines to the credit of Works at the Treasury. It would also be useful if a list of repairs or alterations proposed by Mines Department was supplied. I presume it will be necessary to supply drinking arrangements to all the tanks.—W. C. B., 15/7/83.

Tanks and Wells.—Transfer of Maintenance and Alterations to the Department of Public Works.

Sydney, 12 July, 1883.

As the Department of Mines has determined to hand over the alterations to and maintenance of tanks and wells to this Department, information should be furnished as to the amount still available for this service, and steps taken to transfer the existing balance. A list should also be furnished giving the names of and wages received by the different caretakers.

Steps will be at once taken to provide the necessary watering appliances for the earlier works constructed, when the difficulties surrounding the question necessitated the adoption of a system that, though at the time best suited to meet the case, is now capable of considerable modification and improvement.

It must be borne in mind that this Department has had no control over any of these works since they have been constructed, and that from sundry causes much will require to be done to bring them up to the same standard of efficiency possessed by our more recent works.

A. P. W.

Tanks and Wells, Stock Branch.

Department of Mines, 31/8/83.

As the Commissioner for Roads is prepared to carry out any repairs or alterations to the public watering places which the Minister for Mines may deem necessary—the only question to be settled seems to be the proposal that the Department of Mines should, on an emergency in order to keep its works serviceable, effect repairs which floods or accidents rendered necessary to the extent of £50; and as the Works Department will, as a rule, have some of its staff on the line of road on which the watering places are situated, the proposal might perhaps after all (seeing there are objections to it) be withdrawn, and the arrangement which has otherwise been agreed to, finally settled between the departments.

The proposal that urgent repairs to the extent of £50 might be carried out by the Department of Mines was made in the interests of the public, and to save the Works Department the trouble and inconvenience entailed by having to send hands to do slight but urgent repairs, which might be at once carried out under the directions of the Inspector of Public Tanks and Wells, or one of the overseers on the spot.

Mr.

A. P. Wood.
23 Mar., 1888.

Mr. Bennett estimates that £12,000 will be required for repairs and alterations. I do not think that amount would be available, but £10,000 might be so after setting aside, say £6,000, for boring and expense of Public Tanks and Wells branch; from the balance of the vote of £23,027 taken by this Department for public tanks and wells, which amounts at this date to £16,490 ls. 3d.
The Under Secretary for Mines.

A.B., 29/8/83.

Stock Branch, Department of Mines, 27 July, 1883.

With a view of preventing any future misapprehension of the extent of the duties of each of the Departments, I may suggest that it does not appear to have been the intention of the Chief Inspector of Stock, in his memo. herewith, to convey that this Department desired to resign the maintenance of the tanks and wells; as it seems to appear from the minute of the Commissioner and Engineer of Roads and Bridges he has understood the proposal.

The intention (if I rightly understand it) is that repairs, other than such as devolve on the lessees, or of such description as can be performed by the caretakers under the direction of the overseer—or in cases of emergency where the inspector may think it advisable to undertake a certain outlay to meet some immediate requirements—should, on the approval of the Hon. the Secretary for Mines, be forwarded to the Roads and Bridges for execution, that branch of the Department of Public Works having the necessary staff.

A list of the repairs considered urgent has been furnished to this Department, with special reports on the Boonoono, Quondong, and One Tree Tanks. Although the latter would come appropriately under class C, in which case the control would not rest with this Department if the proposed arrangement is carried into effect.

H.G., 24/7/83.

The list of papers will follow in a day or two.—H.G., 24/7/83.

The explanation of the Inspector of Tanks might be forwarded to the Works, and it might perhaps be desirable to limit the repairs to be done by this Department to such as would not exceed, say, £50.—H.W., 1/8/83.

Approved.—J. P. ABBOTT. The Under Secretary for Public Works, 3rd August, 1883.

I am prepared to carry out zealously all instructions that I receive, but it is rather bewildering to have contradictory suggestions to act on. I have already dealt with the Narrabri and Boggy Creek works, as their restoration did not admit of delay. I fear the divided responsibility proposed in Mr. Gilliat's, Mr. Bruce's, and Mr. H. Wood's suggestions will be prejudicial to the efficient maintenance of these works, as the division of duties, through fixing a minimum outlay for the Mining Department, does not say if that amount (£50) is to be the minimum outlay for the Department. If it is not so intended there will be an overlapping of control and a consequent absence of responsibility, and if it is intended as a minimum outlay for this office, I would point out that really efficient maintenance depends entirely on attention to details, e.g., the old adage of "a stitch in time saves nine." It is reported to me by Mr. Wood that all the works seen by him latterly require thorough restoration and renewal. Some of the renewals proposed by Mr. Gilliat can be postponed by timely repair to the existing works, but at the least some £12,000 will be required, and there are no funds for this purpose at the disposal of this Department.—W.C.B., 20/8/83.

Under Secretary.—J.R. Will my hon. colleague of Mines favour me with his views upon Mr. Bennett's report?—F.A.W., 23/8/83. Submitted.—A.B., 27/7/83. The Under Secretary for Mines.

Urgent repairs to Public Tanks and Wells.

Department of Mines, Stock Branch, Sydney, 18 July, 1884.

MEMO.—Referring to the accompanying papers, from which it will be seen that considerable damage was done, and more rendered imminent through the want of immediate attention and temporary repairs, I would suggest that, as no objection was taken by the Works Department to any repair, however urgent or temporary, being made at the instance of the officers of the Mines Department (see accompanying papers herewith), that the caretaker or lessee, as the case may be, should be allowed to communicate direct with the proper officer of the Works Department, as well as with the overseer or head officer in order that there may be as little delay as possible in the necessary repairs being made.

In the event of there being no officer of the Works Department in any of the districts that Department might perhaps be asked whether they would not empower the overseer to carry out urgent repairs to the extent of, say, £20 or £30.

The Under Secretary for Mines.

A.B., 17/7/84.

I shall be glad if Mr. Bennett will have this attended to at once.—J. P. ABBOTT, 23/7/84.

The repairs to the Balranald and Ivanhoe road have been reported as completed. It must not be forgotten that they were handed over to us in the state complained of. As there are officers of this Department in all districts where tanks are constructed, there can be no necessity to empower the "overseer" to expend any sum in repairs; but I think the suggestion that the lessees or caretakers should report any urgently-needed repairs to our local officers is a good one, and might be carried out with benefit.—A.P.W., 23/9/84.

The Secretary for Mines will be advised in a day or two of all the works of which repairs have been completed.—W.C.B., 29/9/84. Tanks and wells.

Respecting Repairs to Tanks and Wells.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 31 August, 1883.

Referring to your blank cover communication of the 27th inst. (83-7,876, Works), forwarding report from Mr. Commissioner Bennett as to the future carrying out of repairs to tanks and wells, I have the honor to forward herewith a copy of the decision thereon as given by the Minister for Mines.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary for Mines.

The Under Secretary for Public Works, Sydney.

Steps should be taken to have the Treasury advised of the transfer of the £10,000.—W.C.B., 4/9/83.

So that from these papers I think it will be seen we were actually charged with the maintenance and repairs to these works.

3535. *Major Penrose.*] Since these papers were written has anything been done to disturb that arrangement? Nothing except what I will call the arbitrary action of some of the officers of the Mines Department in regard to it.

3536. *Chairman.*] This completes the documents which have passed between the Departments in connection with this matter? Yes. I would like to add something to the evidence which I gave in regard to fencing last night. I would wish to point out that one great source of loss to the country in regard to these tanks arises more from the extraordinary shapes of the lease areas than from the asserted excessive cost of the works. The Mines Department have employed their own surveyor in the majority of cases to lay out the leases, and as they have no power to lay out Crown lands other than those dedicated to stock routes or as reserves within their control, they had to lay out these areas in long narrow strips along the stock routes. The consequence of this is that there is a great increase in the quantity of fencing. A great deal more has to be done than if the Lands Department had sent their surveyors, who could have dealt with the Crown lands outside the limits of the stock route.

3537. Are we to understand that the Mines Department employ surveyors as well as their various other officers? Yes; they do. The strip of land at the Woolondool well, for instance, set apart as a special lease, is about three miles long and only about 30 chains wide.

3538. *Mr. Woore.*] The shape of the area would not affect the cost per mile? Of course it would not affect the cost per mile, but it would entail a far greater mileage of fencing. I am not using this as an argument bearing on the cost of fencing per mile.

3539. *Major Penrose.*] We have had it in evidence that there was great delay in getting these areas surveyed by the surveyors of the Lands Department? Yes; that was in the very early days, but afterwards the Mines Department took the matter into their own hands.

3540.

3540. *Mr. Woore.*] Was the Mines Department confined in its selection of special leases to the land under its own control? Yes. A. P. Wood.

3541. That being the case could these areas have been surveyed in a more economical shape for fencing than that in which they have been laid out, seeing that the Department was confined to the stock route? No. I will not say that, but then if the matter had been left to the Lands Department this extra mileage expense would not have been incurred, because the officers of the Lands Department would have the power to go beyond the stock route and on to the crown lands adjoining. 23 Mar., 1888.

3542. *Chairman.*] Can you give us any information with regard to the alleged subletting of contracts? No; but I believe this has been the general custom in many things, and in fencing particularly. In excavation there is not so much room for subletting, and the contractor himself generally does the work. There is one case that might be instanced—on the Cobar to Wilcannia road, where the earthworks were stated to be sublet to another man at a considerably less rate than that paid by the Government; but in that case there was an actual transfer from one man to another on the original terms; the first contractor having obtained two jobs and not being prepared to carry out more than one.

3543. Now with regard to the construction of wells and the erection of all the head works before the supply and quality of water was proved—we have been told that contracts have been made for the whole work to one man, who erects the whim before there is any water found at all. It is stated that the head gear is all erected on the site of the well before anything else is done. Can you give us any information with regard to this? In the first place the contract is let in bulk as you have just stated. The contract includes the sinking of the well and the erection of the head gear, but the practice is not to allow the contractor to put up the headworks until the water is found and its quality is proved. Trial-shafts are as a rule put down and if they are not put down the headworks have, except in one case, not been erected till the finding of the water. It is cheaper to let the whole work in a lump in this way than to have two separate contracts, one for the sinking of the shaft and the other for the erection of the headworks. One man will take the work at a lesser rate than could be obtained under any system of dividing the work.

3544. *Mr. Woore.*] What instance is that you speak of where headworks were allowed to be erected before the water was found? I was referring to a case on the Mount Brown road.

3545. That work has not been handed over yet? No; it was stated by one witness that the Normanstone well was a case in point, but the Normanstone well had no headworks at all. At the Baloola well the contractor started to erect the service tank and was stopped. The whim was erected, but that is very often necessary in carrying on the sinking of the main work.

3546. *Chairman.*] But the whole question hinges on this, is it desirable to sink wells until you have proved the water by putting down a trial-shaft? But we have sunk trial-shafts. We did it at Gunbar.

3547. But I am speaking of this other contract? Well, it would be cheaper to sink the main shaft on speculation than to put down this trial-shaft on rock.

3548. Is not that then a case where boring should come in? Decidedly.

3549. Why was not a bore used in these two cases of Normanstone and Baloola? It would have been a decidedly preferable course to have adopted. The sites were selected first by the Mines Department and we sunk the wells afterwards at the places stated. But it would have been a better course had the Department bored in the first place.

3550. Now we have also had it in evidence that some of these wells have cost as much as £10 per foot? I do not know where they are, except it be the well which was put down at Tibbooburra by the Mines Department and which cost about £15 per foot.

3551. Will you turn to the second page of the *précis* of evidence. It is said that a portion of the headworks of the Willandra well were placed upon the private property of the Kilfera run owners? That includes all the top works, whim, service tank, troughing, and so forth. It has been put in such a way as to lead to the conclusion that it was for sinking only; it is the same thing as the Holy Box well. There was an encroachment on an old conditional purchase of Mr. Webb's who did not actually know of the position of this conditional purchase, according to his own statement.

3552. *Major Penrose.*] Then, it is said that the construction of this well was not asked for by the Mines Department? I gave it in evidence on the first day that the Mines Department distinctly asked us for two works between Clare and Ivanhoe, but Mr. Gilliat now says that he only asked for one.

3553. Apparently they asked for tanks? Yes; and we put down a trial-shaft in the first place. Mr. Gordon, the local officer, stated that good water had been obtained, and on the strength of that statement we put down a well, but we never bottomed it, on account of having reached running sand or drift. Another well is now being sunk adjacent and the head-works utilized, the other shaft having been abandoned.

3554. *Chairman.*] Would it not have been better under the circumstances to have sunk a tank instead of trying a new well? Considering that the existence of good water had been proved by the trial-shaft, I thought a well would be more economical and more reliable for permanent water than a tank.

3555. Now with regard to the Wooloondool well, I see that the allegation is that the "well has been bored from bottom of shaft, neither pipe nor floor placed in well. Bore liable to, and is constantly choked from silt. Constant baling, even when water is not required, necessitating great wear and tear and useless labour, insisted on by Works Department, as necessary to keep bore from silting. Bore choked on many occasions, and has caused much needless labour and correspondence. The Works Department endeavour to show it is the fault of the Mines caretaker or lessee." What have you to say with regard to that? This well has been bottomed on good stiff clay. It was bored through that stiff clay, and the bore-hole is now larger than it was originally, and is not choked by any swelling ground. I admit that when the well is standing for a considerable time, that the silt deposits will choke the bore. It is usually freed by putting a rod down it, which any man could do, but the putting down of a pipe would rather increase the evil, because it would have a fixed and lesser diameter than that of the existing bore. In fine silt drift like that, I think it is almost impossible—indeed I believe it is impossible—to keep the bore clear, unless the well is in constant use, and there is a current of water through the bore-hole.

3556. *Major Penrose.*] As I understand you this bore has been made through stiff clay? And the drift is below it. The water is artesian and rises above the level of the bottom of the shaft.

3557. *Mr. Woore.*] Is not this bore, having been put through clay, liable to get choked? Yes; but it increases in size by the flow and force of the water. Of course there are cases where putting a small pipe down a bore would answer the purpose, but in this case it is not necessary, because the bore is in good stiff sound clay. They would find that they would have just as much difficulty in keeping the pipe clear as in keeping the bore clear. 3558,

A. P. Wood. 3558. The only way to stop the bore from getting choked is to pump? Yes, without pumping in a case like that, they would find the drift increase. We have had reports that the well has run dry, but if it has, it is due to their neglect of this bore. Their statements have all proved groundless. Mr. Keighran reported in a great state of excitement that a large number of stock were coming along, and that there was not sufficient water at this place. Mr. Stilwell went out from Hay, pricked the bore, and found an unlimited supply of water there.

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3559. *Chairman.*] I would ask you to look at page 3, where the Holy Box well is referred to:—"This well was sunk and small supply of fresh water tapped, followed by a great flow of salt water, which, when twice analysed was declared unfit for use. Evidence as to saltness was submitted. Well was abandoned and tank commenced. Works officer stopped work at tank when about 3 feet deep, declaring well water good. Well again handed to Mines and constant baling insisted on, to improve quality of water; this done without result. Cost of well and price referred to—94 feet deep, cost over £1,000. Mines has to bear cost of maintenance and employ caretaker to bale and protect head works. There is no prospect of leasing salt wells. Caretaker has carted drinking water 17 miles. Whim, service tank, and troughs erected before quality of water decided suitable. Iron in troughs destroyed by action of salt. Well almost useless for stock and quite unfit for travelling public?" Perhaps I had better give the whole history of this well. It was originally sunk in 1878, by Mr. Cambridge, when good water was reported as having been obtained. It was transferred, with other works, to the Mines Department, in 1879, and was condemned by them as being unfitted for stock. A year or two afterwards we were instructed to construct a tank close to the swamp. A contract was let for it, and in view of the top works of this well being in good order and that they could be utilized for new tank works, our Department applied to the Mines for transfer of them, intending to dismantle the well. The Mines Department transferred the Mines to us. Shortly afterwards I was travelling up the road and from what I heard I thought it was advisable to have the water of the well thoroughly tested before dismantling. I employed the contractor for the tank to bale down the well, which he did and found that the water was of a very good quality, and at the very time 10,000 sheep watered there, according to a telegram which he sent me to Wilcannia. Since that time several lots of sheep have watered there; and horses, to my certain knowledge, have drunk the water. I therefore considered that the objections raised to the well by the Mines Department were based on their original action when, at the onset, they condemned the water without giving it a good test. We have a sample of this water in town, which we will submit to you, if necessary.

3560. *Major Penrose.*] Prior to your baling the well you had urged this baling on the Mines Department as necessary? Yes; I believe it was done, but it was done on the strength of Mr. Cambridge's report that the water should be thoroughly tested before being condemned. Testing of course necessitated baling. But the opinions formed in regard to stock water are very conflicting. The Jumping Sand Hill well was said to be unfit for stock, but it has turned out to be the very best water in the district, and the same may be said of the Lignum Hut well. I have seen the letters in the Mines Blue Book concerning these matters, and I think that the quality of the water is very often a matter of opinion.

3561. Sometimes you find that if a well is baled out the water improves? Yes.

3562. *Mr. Woore.*] Might not the refusal to the stock of water have occurred from the troughs and service tank not being kept clear of saline sediment, and the water taken from the well being affected by this sediment? Yes; Mr. Gordon says at page 36 of the Mines blue book, that Parker informed him that Mr. Evans, the manager of Conoble, said he would work the well during the summer months if allowed. Mr. Croydon adds that it might be well to let him do so in order that the efficiency of it might be established. And I know, from other hearsay evidence, that Mr. Evans was anxious to get hold of this well himself. If the water were so bad I do not think that Mr. Evans or any other station manager would be desirous of getting the well into his hands.

3563. What is being done with the well now? It is in charge of the Mines Department. When I last visited it, two years ago, I drank the water from the well, and would not object to drink such water at any time on a pinch. It was brackish but still drinkable. There is another statement that conveys a wrong impression, that the well was over 90 feet deep and cost £1,000. That amount includes the headworks.

3564. Then this sum of £1,000 is inclusive of machinery, timber, and so forth? Yes; and we will furnish you with the final voucher if necessary.

3565. *Chairman.*] Now about the Mount Manara well, it has been said that the whim and head works were erected before the water had been tested? I can swear positively that that statement is not correct, because the work was done under me in 1870, and there is sufficient corroborative proof in that the service tank was made of exceptionally large size to meet the small yield of water that was obtained; and as we had not expected the small yield when we started the sinking, it proved that the headworks had been constructed after the water had been discovered.

3566. Then the report goes on to say that the tank was finally abandoned and another constructed 4 miles away? Under instructions from the Mines Department a tank was constructed 4 miles away.

3567. *Major Penrose.*] Do you think that that well is still a useful one? With repairs it would be; it is put down in good sound ground, part of it in slate rock. I have myself heard that it yielded with the extra surface and storage very nearly sufficient for the travelling stock. Its yield is, I think, about 400 gallons per hour, and with a large service tank, I think it will meet all requirements. There was one objection to it, and that is, it had to be sunk to a very considerable depth—200 and odd feet.

3568. Would that supply have been increased by driving? We did drive. But even assuming that the headworks had been erected before the machinery was put down, we were justified in doing it, because I think we had put down a bore there, and good water was obtained before we started. It was splendid water; nearly fresh.

3569. *Chairman.*] Would it not be possible to find out from the bore what the supply would be? Not very easily.

3570. Now, as to the Dolmoreve well, does the same thing apply to that as to the Holy Box well;—it is said that the caretaker here has to go 4 miles for fresh water? I have seen a report from one of their own officers, in which it is stated that the water is very fair stock water. It is stated at page 111 of the Mines blue book by Mr. Gilman, an acting overseer of public watering places:—

With constant baling, however, I cannot understand way it should be unsuitable for stock. I gave this as my opinion to Mr. Lindsay, the manager of Til Til Station, who informed me that some of the wells that their sheep watered at were no better, if even as good, as the Dolmoreve, and that, if the Government would let him water his stock at it, instead of baling and letting the water run to waste, he would gladly avail himself of it, and would not be afraid of his sheep being injured in any

any way from drinking the water. It is now nineteen years since I first went to the Kilfera back-blocks, where I remained for about two years, and was at the sinking of several wells, the water being quite as brackish as Dolmoreve well, and decidedly worse smelling, yet the sheep drank freely of the water without any ill effects; in fact some of this description of water at the homestead well (Kilfera), was condensed at the well by a condenser, and turned out quite drinkable for human beings, thus saving long carriage of water. A. P. Wood. 23 Mar., 1888.

3571. *Major Penrose.*] The baling of 6,000 gallons a week was not very arduous work for one man? No; not from that well. A man ought to have been able to bale 1,000 gallons per hour. The baling of 6,000 gallons per week, or 1,000 gallons per day, would have had no effect.

3572. *Chairman.*] You have read of the case of the breakage of the wire rope;—no doubt a wire rope would very soon corrode in this water? Yes; and it would be owing to the neglect of the caretaker in allowing it to remain in the water. He should have suspended the bucket mid-way. A wire rope will corrode more rapidly in brackish water than in fresh water.

3573. What sort of rope do you use in these wells? Except in one case, where we had a coil of black iron rope sent us, all the wire ropes were galvanized.

3574. You do not use steel ropes? They are steel.

3575. *Major Penrose.*] Then the Dolmoreve well is perfectly useless? Yes; according to the Mines Department.

3576. And you think it has not had a fair trial? I will not say that as a fact, as I do not pretend to be a judge on the point.

3577. *Chairman.*] As to this costly hutting for caretakers, can you give us any information with regard to that? We were instructed by the Mines Department to have these huts erected. They recommended at the time, two-roomed cottages, 24 x 12, with iron roof, windows, floors, chimneys, and so forth, the cost of which was estimated by Mr. Bruce to range from £56 to £100, according to the part of the Colony in which they were erected. Mr. Bruce issued a circular to the officers in his Department in July, asking them to submit estimates of the cost of the different classes of buildings of that size; and it seems from the estimates of his own local officers that in Bourke the cost would be £100 for a two-roomed dwelling of a type like that recommended by Mr. Bruce—weatherboard, with iron roof, floor, and so forth. At Cobar the cost would be £80; at Hay, from £80 to £90; at Cannonbar, £56; at Narrabri, from £63 to £90; and at Wilcannia, £80. In the average the cost of these works is considerable, but the Mines estimate does not embrace the three-roomed cottages for which tenders were received and plans and specifications issued by us.

3578. *Major Penrose.*] Were your huts bigger than theirs? They were the same size, taking the front part of the main building; but there was a skillion room at the back of our huts which was not in the Mines—that being added on the recommendation of that Department, which is quoted on page 137 of the Mines blue book. The works which they compare against ours are, judging by the reports received from our local officers, of a different class altogether; but very likely the local officers themselves can speak about that when they are examined before you.

3579. Do you think that the tenders sent in for the cottages for which you issued specifications were fair and reasonable tenders? I do.

3580. *Chairman.*] With regard to the defective construction of troughing—which really means that the animals had a difficulty in getting to the troughs—can you give us any information about the original design as shown in your plan? The plan produced shows how the guard to the trough has been erected, and when the works were being handed over to the Mines Department Mr. Gilliat expressed uniform approval of them. We—that is the officers of the Works Department—do not pretend to have an intimate knowledge of stock, and we only acted on the opinions expressed by those whose speciality it was.

3581. *Major Penrose.*] Was the design for the troughing submitted to the Mines Department in the first instance? Before we ever adopted it I saw it at a station when travelling along the road from Hillston to Cobar. I made a sketch of it on that occasion, which I included in my report, as I thought it was a good idea. The report and the sketch were sent on to Mr. Gilliat and approved of by him, and when we handed over these works (which include this type of troughing) he expressed approval with a slight exception that the sharp edge of the rail which caught in the wool of the sheep should be trimmed. In these Mines Papers, at pages 174 and 175, Mr. Gilliat expressed his approval of this troughing, and said that, although it required a little alteration, the caretaker, if he was a man of any energy, could do it.

3582. You are now aware that this fence is being taken up and a centre rail being put down? Yes; they throw the rail more over the centre than before. We are now using steel troughing, as shown in the plan. The other is a thing of the past.

3583. We have gathered from your evidence and the evidence of others that a considerable amount of friction exists between the two Departments? Yes; there is a good deal of what may be called friction with no doubt a certain amount of animus; and I must confess that our officers feel it just as much as the Mines officers do, and I think they would be wanting in "go," in energy, and in self-respect if they did not feel it. Men could not be expected to feel otherwise when the character of their work has been unjustly depreciated by the officers of another Department.

3584. You think it was a mistake to have ever taken over the control and maintenance of these works from the constructing Department? Yes; I think that whatever Department has the constructing of the works should also have the maintenance.

3585. You think it is almost impossible to carry on satisfactorily these public works if this dual control is to continue? Well, dual control has proved as evil in this case as in others.

3586. Then what would you suggest to get rid of this unfortunate difference? That one Department or the other should have the control of the works until such time as local government becomes the order of the day.

3587. In fact you believe that local government would tend to lessen the expense of these works, and enable them to be carried out more efficiently? Well, I do not know that they could be carried out more efficiently than they are carried out at the present time.

3588. I mean with a better regard to the requirements of the public, from the more intimate knowledge which the members of the local bodies would have of the locality in which the works were to be put down? Well, I think it would be better, and for this reason—that many works which are practically unnecessary would not be carried out under a system of local government, as they are at present under the pressure which is brought to bear from political sources upon the Government of the country.

3589. For instance, at present where a small tank would meet all legitimate public requirements, pressure is brought

A. P. Wood. brought to bear to have a large tank put down? Well, I am not in favour of small tanks to start with. If you have a good catchment and a good rainfall perhaps there is no necessity for the construction of a public tank at all.

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3590. What I mean is this,—that if a small tank only were required the people who have to pay for the work under a system of local government, would take care that only a small tank were put down? Yes; there is no doubt that it would form a very useful check on public expenditure.

3591. As the Department of Public Works does not pretend to interfere with the stock arrangements, at whose instance would these public works be commenced? Assuming that the works were in our hands for construction and maintenance the difficulty would be very easily dealt with. The Stock Branch is attached to the Mines Department. It would be for the Stock Branch to say that a certain route required watering, and then leave everything else in the hands of the constructing Department, without any interference with the works or the officers of the Department. The Stock Branch would merely say that water was required at certain stages, and we would pick out these sites in accordance with these stages. We would then act entirely irrespective of the Mines Department from the commencement of the work to the finish.

3592. *Mr. Woore.*] There would be no possibility of friction under such an arrangement as that? No.

3593. After these works were constructed who would take care of them? The constructing Department, as I have said. I would decidedly recommend that the revenue received from the watering of stock should be collected, as was suggested some time back, by the stock inspectors, at the time they were issuing traveller's permits. That would free us entirely from any connection with the levying of tolls and rates.

3594. *Major Penrose.*] The caretakers would then be merely responsible for seeing that the water was supplied? Yes; and for keeping the works in order.

3595. *Chairman.*] Are you aware how similar public works are constructed and maintained in Queensland? By the Divisional Boards—from what I have heard. In Victoria I understand that they have local water trusts. The central Department simply acts as a check upon the expenditure of the money lent by the Government to these trusts for the construction of the works.

3596. And you think some such system as that in vogue in Queensland and Victoria would be very desirable in New South Wales? I do; and I believe that a system of local government would be a very great boon.

3597. Now we have heard that great success has attended the boring for artesian water in one or two instances? Yes.

3598. Do you know anything about the country—about the sub-soil—where this water has been found? I know the country a little, but I have not seen the sections of the bores. These bores are not in my opinion the success they are supposed to be by the notices in the newspapers. Mr. Coleman can give you evidence on this point if you should require it. He knows that country, and what has been there.

3599. Does not that simplify the whole matter in that particular part of the country? We understand that it is in this cretaceous formation that you get this abundant supply of artesian water, and if this is the case, will it not do away with the necessity of tanks and caretakers in that part of the country? On the assumption that an abundant supply of water has been obtained it will do away with the whole machinery of public watering places.

3600. *Major Penrose.*] Has this question of artesian boring ever been taken up by your Department? No; we have bored with the ordinary rod, but only on a very limited scale—down to 200 feet.

[The Commission adjourned until the afternoon, when the sitting was resumed.]

William John Hanna called in and examined:—

W. J. Hanna. 3601. *Chairman.*] What are you? I am a road superintendent.

3602. In what district? Wilcannia district; but my local quarters have been shifted to the Barrier, and the name of the district has not yet been settled. I think I had better say the Wilcannia district.

3603. How long have you been in your present situation? About four and a-half years in the west.

3604. Have you had the superintendence of many of these tanks or public watering places? Yes; a great many of them.

3605. In fact I suppose in that part of the country there have been a great many works done lately, owing to the influx of population? Yes; and the scarcity of naturally-conserved water.

3606. *Mr. Woore.*] In what way were you occupied in your Department before you went to the west? I was for four and a-half years in charge of the Young district, and a little over nine years altogether in the service.

3607. *Chairman.*] You are aware that allegations have been made by officers of the Mines Department and also by private individuals, finding fault in various ways with the work done by the Public Works Department? Yes.

3608. These allegations take the form of statements that the sites of the tanks were improperly selected, that the construction was defective and costly, and so on? Yes; and some of the sites, I believe, were selected by the officers of the Mines Department themselves.

3609. Is it usual to consult the officers of the Mines Department or those in the Stock Branch of the Department, in selecting sites? Yes; it has been done by the head office. I do not do so. I report to the Engineer-in-Chief for Roads direct.

3610. Will you state exactly what your position and duties are in regard to this matter—how these things are brought about and what puts you in action? I suppose pressure is in some way brought to bear on the Government to put watering places on a certain route? I act under instructions. The necessity for watering various routes at particular stages is sometimes brought up by the people themselves and sometimes by municipalities. Then the matter is brought under the attention of the head office in Sydney. If sent to the Works Department, I am requested to report; but sometimes the application goes to the Mines Department, and then the officers of that Department deal with the matter. When my report is received in the head office, I believe the custom is to send it on to the Mines Department for their approval or otherwise.

3611. And when the matter goes first to the Mines Department do they forward it to the Public Works Department for approval? It is sent on to the Roads Department.

3612. I mean is there reciprocity;—do the Mines when they receive an application for a watering place send

- send it on to your Department for approval? I am not aware that they do. I think that they obtain reports from their stock inspectors; but whether they act upon these reports or not, I cannot say.
3613. Then your report having gone to the Mines Department is returned to the Works Office? Yes.
3614. What next? It is returned with their instructions upon it, either approving of the site or recommending otherwise. I am speaking now of what I understand of the custom of the head office, so far as I am aware of it.
3615. Then in any instance do you ever commence the excavation of a tank without having received the approval of the Mines Department? I do not know that all are referred to the Mines Department. For instance, the tank at Broken Hill—that was not referred to the Mines Department.
3616. *Major Penrose.*] But that was a tank for a town? Yes; but I notice that Mr. Low sent in a report upon it.
3617. *Chairman.*] Was that a complaint? No; merely with regard to the cost of the work and the dimensions of the tank.
3618. And yet it is a matter with which that Department had nothing whatever to do? Nothing whatever.
3619. Then let us distinctly know who it is that fixed the exact site of the works;—is it your Department? Yes, in most cases. The Mines Department indicate the general position, and we chose the exact site.
3620. Then the usual course is followed? Yes; tenders are invited and the work is undertaken. I supervise it as the work advances.
3621. *Major Penrose.*] What do you do when you receive an order to put down a tank? I fix the site, draw out specifications as a rule, and invite tenders.
3622. You draw out a design of the tank? Sometimes it is done in the head office, and sometimes I do it myself.
3623. But the general design is liable to modification by the officer on the spot to suit the circumstances of each particular case? Yes; some of the tanks are square, like these on the plan produced, but there are very few of them in my district.
3624. You have a considerable amount of latitude allowed you as regards depth? Yes; and if I deem such alterations necessary, I report to the head office; but any little alteration, such as surface dimensions, I do not.
3625. *Chairman.*] Who fixes the capacity and size of the tank which may be required, or are they all on one plan? It is all according to the importance of the road.
3626. But who decides that? It is decided in the head office. I generally recommend what I consider would be a proper size; but a decision is arrived at in the head office by the Works or Mines Department.
3627. But which Department does this? The Mines Department, knowing more about the stock routes, might be the best to say what the size of the tanks should be? No; I cannot say which Department decides as to the size of the tank.
3628. *Major Penrose.*] I suppose you can modify the disposition of the embankments, if necessary? Yes.
3629. And generally you can modify this design to a considerable extent? Yes; I have only one tank that is exactly like the plan produced. The slopes are nearly all 3 to 1, on account of the looseness of the soil. The tank at Broken Hill is 2 to 1, because it is sunk in exceptionally good ground; and it being for a town supply, it would never be necessary under any circumstances to allow the stock to go into it. 80 × 60 and 90 × 60 are about the average surface dimensions.
3630. Can you state what tanks are 3 to 1 in your district? Yes; I will give you a list of the tanks that have 3 to 1 batters. I have only three tanks in the whole district, namely, the 12, 35, and 48-Mile, on the Booligal road, that have a batter of 1½ to 1. The next steepest-sloped tank in my district is the 26-Mile tank, which has a batter of 2 to 1.
3631. Can you tell us the names of some of those which have 3 to 1 batters? Waratta, Maxwell's or Murlippa, Tarella, Peak, Dry Lake, Cobham, Rathole, and Thackaringa. That is all I will say just now. I believe the Silverton, Day Dream, and Purnamuta tanks have also 3 to 1 batters.
3632. *Chairman.*] You or some other officer in your Department occasionally pay visits to these tanks, measure up work, and pass vouchers? Yes; I try to get round the district about once a month.
3633. Then, when the work is completed, you attend, as soon as possible, to make final measurements? Yes; and if there is a large balance owing to the contractor, I pay him 50 per cent. in advance, that is, when I get back to head-quarters. The balance is then sent on to the head office for payment, and is paid in about three weeks.
3634. That is the plan now adopted? Yes, and has been adopted ever since I have been in the district.
3635. And such delays as we have heard of—delays of months and months—before the final payment is made, never occurred to your knowledge? No, not to my knowledge. In some cases payment is delayed, but it is simply a case where the contractor has left something undone, or has disregarded instructions, or refused to do certain things which I considered necessary.
3636. So that in the event of any long delay occurring, the blame rests with the contractor himself? Yes; but final payments are sometimes delayed for various causes. These, being small, cannot cause much inconvenience.
3637. *Major Penrose.*] Do you ever make any other progress payments? Yes, every time I go round. On some works I have made as many as thirteen advances while the work was in progress.
3638. *Chairman.*] Now, when the work is finally measured up, what guide have you to prevent any swindling on the part of the contractor? On nearly all new works that were started under me, I took the levels at each corner of the tank. If the ground is irregular, I take the levels in two or three other places, and connect these levels with the bench marks. I produce my field-books for 1885-6-7. [*The books referred to were then examined by the Commission.*]
3639. Is it possible for a contractor to so disguise the levels that in the final measuring up he will be able to get paid for more excavation than he has really performed—of course it is possible to pull up the pegs? Yes; it is possible to pull up the pegs, but they cannot shift the bench marks.
3640. But is it not possible, by manipulating the ground, to cheat the Government in this way? It is quite impossible for a contractor to make an alteration of half an inch if you had a bench mark. I never require the surface levels after they have been taken the first time. I can fix the pegs within a quarter of an inch of where they were originally.
3641. *Major Penrose.*] How long have you used this method? Ever since I have been in the district.
3642. *Chairman.*] Are you aware that your predecessors have always taken the same precautions that you state

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W. J. Hanna. state you have adopted? I cannot say that. There may be some cases where these precautions are unnecessary, such as places where the ground is perfectly level—where you have a plain to deal with. The contractor cannot alter the ground in that case without being detected, as you can get the average surface inside the tank by going a chain or two from the embankments.

23 Mar., 1888. 3643. *Major Penrose.*] Did you follow this method in consequence of the circular which had been issued from the head office? I believe there was a circular sent out to this effect, but I did not receive it nor did I act in consequence of it.

3644. Then these precautions that you took were only ordinary precautions? Yes; I found it so much more satisfactory. It avoids all possibilities of having any disputes with contractors. It is a thing that you go into Court and swear to, whereas with the ordinary surface marks it is not so easy to say. As I have said, there may be cases where I have not had an opportunity to take these levels, and where they are not, as on plain country or level surface, absolutely necessary. In such a district as the western you cannot always be carrying instruments around, and sometimes I have had to start work without being able to take these levels; but these are exceptional cases, where the natural surface of the ground is a sufficient guide.

3645. *Chairman.*] Then you think that with an ordinarily sharp man, imposition by contractors is not possible? No; not to any extent. I followed this practice as much to avoid troubles and disputes with contractors as for any other reason, because I do not see that a contractor can get any advantage when I adopt that plan.

3646. Another way in which it has been said the Government has been cheated, is that they have to get a contractor or one of his men to help the road superintendent in the final measurement of the work. The general custom is said to be, if the man happens to be below to gather some of the tape in his hand, and if he is above to give an improper site to the levels—in either case the Government being cheated? Well, I use a levelling-staff, so that they cannot take anything off the end of the staff. Besides I doubt if a contractor would care to risk that, although it may have been attempted in some instances.

3647. Some of them seem to take a pride in doing it? Yes; but there is always the danger of being found out, and I think anything like that would be very soon found out.

3648. Having measured up the tank I suppose it is then handed over to the Mines Department? Yes; after the appliances are erected.

3649. Then, after this have you any control over these tanks? No; but in going over my ordinary rounds I continue to visit the tanks, and report to the head office how the works are, the quantity of water in the tank, and the general appearance of the works.

3650. Then, in the event of negligence being apparent in the management of the works, what would you do? I report to the Engineer-in-Chief for Roads.

3651. Not to the Inspector of Public Watering Places? Oh, no; I have nothing to do with them officially.

3652. Is it by instructions that you report to the head of your Department? Yes.

3653. Do you not think it would be desirable when you see negligence exhibited by the caretaker, that you should report to the caretaker's superior, and let him attend to the matter—would that not involve less red-tapeism? Yes, it would. But if these instructions were not attended to I might be blamed by the head office for not reporting, and justly so.

3654. Then, in the event of any serious repairs necessary from the heavy rains having to be made in the embankment, what do you do—do you find out for yourself or is it reported to you? I generally find it out myself first. After heavy falls of rain I make inquiries in any way I can as regards the state of the works, and if serious damage is reported to any watering place I go there and inspect and see for myself as soon as possible. Having done that I report to the head office.

3655. Then, in the event of a minor repair only being required, what do you do? I follow the same course whether the repair required be a light or heavy one.

3656. Are you aware that the Mines Departments retain the power of repairing small damages without reference to the Works Department? Yes; I believe they have the power to do any repairs up to a certain sum.

3657. How comes it, then, that you also apparently interfere with the works under their charge, and report these trivial matters to the head office—supposing the repair cost only a few pounds? I do not wish to interfere. The fact of my reporting to the head of my Department, does not interfere with their taking any action that they may desire. I simply report if anything has gone wrong, and further action rests with the Engineer-in-Chief or with the Mines Department. My action does not interfere with their doing anything they consider urgent or needful.

3658. But do you not think that all this tends to produce friction and charges, and countercharges between the two Departments? Yes; it does.

3659. Then, in the event of some heavy work having to be performed, you go through the same course? Yes; I report the matter, and if there is anything very urgent, and where a delay of necessary repairs would cause further damage, I take action myself on my own responsibility and telegraph what I have done to the head office.

3660. Then, in going round to inspect any damage that may be done to the tank—if you see repairs going on under an Inspector of Public Watering Places you take no action? Well, in reporting the quantity of water in a tank, &c., I would very likely refer to the matter and say that the repairs were in hand and progressing satisfactorily.

3661. Do you also report to the head office when the silt-tank is filled up and nothing is done—is it your duty to report that fact? Yes, it is my duty to report anything that is defective about the works or any negligence.

3662. Although all this is properly within the sphere of the caretaker and a part of his duty? Yes.

3663. *Major Penrose.*] Did you ever have any complaints from contractors about delays in payments in your district? If the contractors were kept a day behind their time they would, and do complain, but I have never had anything that I would regard as a serious complaint.

3664. The progress payments would be quite enough, you think, to enable them to carry on the works, the final payment being a very small one? Yes, as a rule very small. In making progress payments I pay 50 per cent. in advance, and the balance is paid in about three weeks. Suppose a man has £200 worth of work done. I deduct 20 per cent. leaving a balance of £160. Of this, £80 is paid in advance as soon as

I reach my headquarters, and placed to the contractor's credit in the bank. The remaining £80 is sent on for payment, and is paid in the usual way in about two or three weeks. I will instance one case—the case of the Menamurtee well. There the total amount of the contract was £566 8s. 8d. The advances paid were £75, £77, £143, £145, and £110, leaving the balance as the sixth and final payment of £16 8s. 8d. 3665. What were the intervals between these several payments? I cannot say here. They extended over about a year I suppose. It will be fully that. I can give you instances where there have been thirteen payments on one work.

3666. *Chairman.*] Have you ever known an instance where a man was forced into the Insolvency Court by delays in getting the balance of his money? No; such a case should not occur under the arrangements made by the Department.

3667. If you find that the caretakers are not competent men to take charge of the works do you allow them to retain charge, or do you caution them? Caretakers are employed by the Mines Department, and are solely under their control.

3668. You have never given such an order as "You must not touch that pump?" No, I have never given such an order as that, but I have explained several things to the caretakers in a friendly way, telling them, of course, at the same time, that if they were not satisfied with my instructions they had no need to pay any attention to them. Some of them did follow my instructions, but very few; others ignored them, and I gave up trying to help them.

3669. It has been stated here that very improper sites for tanks and wells have been chosen—some of them in your district are sunk in the bed of a lake, and are now submerged? I presume you are referring to Dry Lake and Cobham.

3670. Yes, and to other cases where it is said very much better sites might have been chosen in the immediate vicinity? Well, I prefer a tank site in a place where the water is likely to accumulate. I think it has been said with regard to Cobham that we constructed a tank in the lake. Well, it is quite true that it is submerged, but it is not in the lake, and the fact of its being submerged is not, I think, a sound argument against the site.

3671. *Mr. Woore.*] You say it is not in the lake? No, not in the lake proper. Here is a report of mine on the subject.

Cobham Tank.

Silt tank is completed, but will not hold; bottom is in fine white sand; when at Cobham on the 4th there was a heavy thunderstorm, which, judging from what I saw, and the marks on watercourse, should have put at least 3 feet of water in silt-tank.

The greatest depth was 9 inches, and when leaving on the 6th, this was almost gone.

Samson states on a previous occasion when the excavation was down 5 feet, the tank was filled to overflowing, and dry a fortnight afterwards.

On the way to Tibbooburra I asked Samson to get a shaft put down in centre of main tank to be ready for inspection on return.

Section is forwarded herewith showing the thickness of the various strata passed through. From 6 to 13 feet puddling would be required. The watershed is of such a sandy nature that a long time would elapse, and consequently great loss of water, before any benefit could be expected from edposition.

I had a second shaft put down nearer the lake, and found that after passing the surface drift (about 1 foot thick) the sinking was through tough white and red clay up to 16 feet 4 inches. At 17 feet a stratum of sand was struck from which the salt water rose 4 feet in two days. This I believe is the same stratum passed through as the one at 25 feet when boring. (See sketch).

I do not think there would be much difficulty in sinking to full depth (18 feet); the working in the tank would I believe be sufficient to puddle the sides and prevent the salt water coming in in such quantities as to interfere with the progress of work, and probably stop the soakage altogether.

I would, however, prefer sinking only to a depth of 16 feet, and having only three embankments, there would be no necessity for piping. When full the water would be about 3 feet above surface.

As three banks instead of four will be a disadvantage to contractor, I would not recommend any reduction in price, owing to the depth being altered.

Samson informed me that he is now ready to proceed with the work.

On last visit I marked out the site referred to, so that no time would be lost in case the Commissioner approved.

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Mr. Hanna telegraphed to to arrange for tank as he proposes, but to utilize the lake if possible.—A.P.W., 22/10/83.

3672. Is it not within the banks of the lake? Yes, but not within the lake proper. There is a sand ridge between the tank and the lake. I am responsible for that site, and I am prepared to meet any objections that may be raised against it.

3673. Is not the tank below the high-water mark of the lake when the lake is full? Yes, but Cobham Lake has no outlet. The tank is below the high water level, I admit.

3674. *Chairman.*] With regard to Cobham Lake the objection has been raised that in the event of the lake drying up, and the water becoming more and more salty, eventually the water left in the tank would become unfit for use? Water in the tank would have no connection with salt water in the lake, because the bed of the lake is several feet lower than the surface of the tank, and the tank is not fed entirely from the lake, but from outside sources. I altered that site from the one that was originally selected, but only a few yards. I would like to read you my report, and my reasons for having done this:—

Cobham Tank.

(14/11/83.)

Work has been commenced on the site.

Herewith I forward sketch plan showing position of tank as regards the lake, and also section from edge of lake to silt-tank on former site.

The ground above the sand ridge I have chosen for the following reasons: The sandy stratum in which the salt water is found was struck at a depth of 24 feet in centre of main tank as originally laid out, and at nearly 17 feet in shaft put down on present site.

At the opposite side of the lake the same stratum is found in several shafts to be only 8 feet below the surface. I did not sink at edge of lake near the tank, but conclude from the above tests, and levels taken, that the stratum of sand yielding salt-water lies about 8 feet below bed of the lake, and in a parallel position.

If, therefore, we put down the tank on edge of lake the salt-water would be struck at the above depth, which might interfere with further sinking, and at this height from bottom of tank would probably affect the quality of the water.

I find also that the rain which would put 1 inch of water in the lake would be sufficient to fill the tank several times from the present catchment.

For instance, during the last heavy rain, although Evelyn Creek (flowing into Cobham Lake) was for a short time running bank high at Milparinka, washing away a portion of the dam, at that place the Coalley waterhole (half way to Cobham) was not filled. Then about a mile north-west from Cobham there is another lake 3 or 4 miles in area, which receives
about

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W. J. Hanna. about 2 feet of water before overflowing into Cobham Lake. My informants in reference to the state of the creek at Milparinka were two residents who may have slightly exaggerated; but making every allowance, there is ample proof that a supply from the lake into the tank could only be obtained when not wanted.

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If a site could have been chosen on edge of tank without cutting the salt-water stratum and without incurring the expense of fluming (over the sand ridge), that of course would have been preferable; but under the circumstances, the position as now set out and shown on sketch, I think is better.

Samson claims payment (£30) for some clearing done on the former site. As the alteration has caused no extra clearing, save one small dead tree, I hardly think his claim is a just one.

W. J. HANNA, 14/11/83.

The Commissioner and Engineer for Roads.

I agree with Mr. Hanna that Samson is not entitled to extra payment.—A.P.W., 20/11/83.
Samson will be informed accordingly.—W.J.H., 26/11/83.

My reason for altering the site was that I found the ground near the silt-tank was too porous, and that the catchment was of such a sandy nature that it would be a long time before the tank would be anything like retentive by the deposition of silt.

3675. *Mr. Woore.*] You say still that the tank is not in the lake. I know this place pretty well myself; and if it be within the sand hills around the lake it must be within the lake? The bed of the lake proper is a layer of black clay about 8 feet thick and almost level, but on the outside there is sandy clay ground.

3676. *Major Penrose.*] Was Cobham tank filled by rain-water before the filling of the lake? I really cannot say.

3677. *Mr. Woore.*] At any rate that tank was placed there not on account of any advantage from the flood-waters of the lake, but rather to fill independently of the lake? Yes; if we had put the tank on the bed of the lake proper—on the black soil—we would only have sunk 8 or 9 feet before striking the salt stratum. But by adopting the present position on the south side of the sandy ridge we would get down 16 feet 4 inches before reaching the salt-water stratum.

3678. Do you think that the catchment there is preferable to the catchment of about 4 miles southerly from the lake where there are clay pans? I think I know the place referred to by Mr. Tully, but I have made no examination of it. I do know that the catchment of Cobham Lake is ample for all requirements.

3679. *Major Penrose.*] Is the tank in the place where it is required for stock? Yes; I only shifted the tank a few yards away from the site where it was placed originally.

3680. *Chairman.*] Had you anything to do with the choosing of the site of the tank at Dry Lake? No; I had nothing to do with any of the original sites of tanks on the Mount Brown road.

3681. *Major Penrose.*] Will you be able to erect the watering appliances at Cobham Lake so that in the case of another flood they will not be submerged? The appliances would be erected on the shore line of the lake on the high water level.

3682. *Mr. Woore.*] What depth of water was there above the embankment of the tank at Cobham when the lake filled this time? Well I really cannot say; I never tested it. I should say about 10 feet; that is from the natural surface of the ground.

3683. The embankments were completely submerged? Yes.

3684. You do not know how high the water was above the embankments? I should say about 4 feet.

3685. But still you would be able to keep your watering appliances dry? Yes; the ground rises very quickly.

3686. Even then, I suppose, it is only a question of a greater flood coming to increase the depth of the water in the lake? Yes, a still greater flood. There is no outlet.

3687. And there is no doubt that the water has been very much higher than when this tank was submerged? I was under the impression that that was the highest flood we had had up there.

3688. *Chairman.*] Can you tell us generally about the tank at Seaville's? I have heard that the tank was put there to benefit some particular individual, whereas it is 3 or 4 miles away from the public-house, and 12 miles away from Wilcannia instead of 9. Although I am not responsible for the selection of this site, still I think I can refute some of the statements that have been made concerning it.

3689. A number of these places are objected to on account of their being alongside permanent water. There is one place we have had a great deal of evidence about, the Peri Springs, where a tank was excavated within a short distance of what was thought to be permanent water, and your Department has been blamed for an expenditure of money, where it is said there is no occasion for it? I have not been past that place lately. If the springs would yield sufficient to meet all requirements, of course a tank might have been dispensed with. But whether the springs would be equal to the strain upon them or not I could not say. And then there is the right of the station owners to be considered.

3690. In dry times the lessee would have required the water for his own stock—would there then have been sufficient water for the travelling stock? I cannot say. I think it is doubtful. To try to improve these springs would mean running a risk of losing the supply from them altogether.

3691. *Mr. Woore.*] You were not there in the early days when this tank was put down? No, I was not. The Tarella and Menamurtee watering places are also said to be near permanent water, but I think it is questionable whether these waters can be considered as permanent in a severe drought. The Tarella dams are very much silted up, and the same thing may happen to any waterhole. Then the lessees in these early days constructed these works at great expense and inconvenience—at a time when labour was expensive; and is it fair then to deprive these individuals of their works when the Government are in a position to put down watering places along these routes? I do not see why the Government should take possession of these works, which have been put down at large expense by the early pioneers. I cannot see why the Government should continue to deprive the lessees of the use of the works. That is the view I have taken up to this. In the face of the minute made by a former Minister of Lands, I think it is questionable whether the Government can have any claim upon this water artificially conserved by the lessees. If they are monopolised by the Government the lessees are deprived of the use of them just at the time when they are most required, and when there is a great demand for water by travelling stock.

3692. *Chairman.*] Is there much traffic on the Mount Brown road? Yes, it was one of the most important roads in the colony. It is the main road from Queensland.

3693. And the same may be said of the Paroo? Yes.

3694. Can you give us any idea of the number of stock that would pass along one of these roads in one day? No, I cannot.

3695. What is the maximum demand that a caretaker would require to find water to meet, supposing one mob were going one way, and another mob another way? Mobs going both ways, a caretaker might have to provide for watering 20,000 sheep.

3696. Have you ever heard of one caretaker having to supply as many as that in one day? No, I have not. W. J. Hanna.
3697. Now, with regard to the injudicious sites of the Box Creek watering place, Youhill Plains, Kerrigundi—these are all said to be injudicious sites—were they made before your time? These are wells in which the water is said to be salt? I have no information about them; they are not in my district; there are no salty wells in my district that the Mines Department have taken exception to. 23 Mar., 1888.
3698. *Major Penrose.*] What about the Meenamurtee well? That is good water. I do not think that any objection, so far as I am aware, has ever been raised by the Tarella lessees to stock watering at their dams, but the question is whether their successors would be of the same mind. Besides, as I have said, these dams are fast silting up.
3699. Do you lay out drains yourself? Yes, and if necessary grade them.
3700. And what is the steepest slope that you have allowed with drains? Most that I have done I have laid out with the eye, having sloping country to deal with. When contouring hills I use levels, and allow a fall of one inch to the chain.
3701. *Mr. Woore.*] The less fall the better, I suppose? Yes; it is not desirable to have a great fall, because the water will then carry more silt along with it. I generally lay out the last 5 or 10 chains nearly level, so that the silt will not accumulate there. The heaviest silt is caught in the drains, and the caretakers can clean them out with a shovel after the water stops running.
3702. *Chairman.*] And what do the drains cost per chain in your district? I have had some done recently at 4s. 5d. That is the cheapest I have had done, I think.
3703. What are these—6 feet? Six feet broad and 9 inches deep.
3704. What is the highest sum that you have had to give per chain? I think I have paid as high as 7s.
3705. I suppose 12s. or 15s. per chain would be rather an excessive price? Yes; I think 12s. or 15s. per chain would be high, but prices vary very much according to the nature of the ground and the seasons. Some main drains I have made 12 feet wide and 9 inches deep, and they have cost about 9s. per chain.
3706. *Major Penrose.*] Have you ever found the design for fluming defective? No; I think the design is suitable in every way.
3707. It has been objected that the construction of the fluming, where it enters the embankment, is defective. Have you ever noticed any difficulty in this case? I have not experienced any difficulty. If I suspected a heavy rush of water into the tank after a heavy thunderstorm I would put on a cover of 2 feet of earth so as to prevent the water from flowing over the shoot, but it is very seldom that the water would come down so quickly as to overflow a 4 by 2 flume.
3708. Are all your tanks 18 feet deep? Most of them are; but some of them, on account of the nature of the ground, we cannot get down to 18 feet. I always try to get to that depth or as near it as I can.
3709. *Chairman.*] Would you make the batters steeper if the ground were sufficiently firm to stand it? Tanks would be all the better for steep batters for the purpose of conserving water, but it would add a little to the expense.
3710. Have you ever made a calculation as to the relative merits and expense of the two kind of batters? If you had very steep batters the expenditure would be greater, and you would have a greater depth of water in comparison with the amount of excavation. But if you have very much longer slopes the expenditure would be less and the surface exposed to evaporation would be greater. Now which is the best—to make the steep batters, which will conserve more water and pay the extra price, or have more gentle slopes with greater evaporation at a lessened expenditure? Well, 2 to 1 slopes are, no doubt, preferable; but in a district like the Western district bullocks cannot work on 2 to 1 slopes. There is no grass or natural feed for horses except salt bush, and for that reason I prefer 3 to 1 slopes, made with the usual ploughs and scoops which are used in the district.
3711. *Major Penrose.*] You say that in many parts of the country a 2 to 1 slope is practicable? Yes, and advisable; provided the difference in price between the two kinds is not too great.
3712. *Chairman.*] It has been said here that your Department have adopted too expensive forms of machinery for lifting water. Have you come to any conclusion on this matter, or have you made any calculation as to which is the most economical—steam, horse, or man power? Well, I am strongly in favour of steam, as being not only more economical but more efficient. It costs a little more at the beginning, but this extra cost is only very trifling.
3713. I suppose the machinery which is attached to the horse-gear brings up the expenditure nearly equal to the cost of the steam-pump? Yes; it makes the difference in price very little, and besides if you have steam-power, whatever kind of season you have, you are independent of horse-power.
3714. *Major Penrose.*] What form of hand-pump have you seen—what are you comparing it with? I say that steam is superior both to horse and man power.
3715. But you have no hand-pumps on your public watering places, and therefore you must be comparing it with the hand-pumps used on stations? Yes; I have seen the M'Comas lift on tanks. If the M'Comas lift is adopted, the difference between the expense of erecting it and the steam-pump would not be so much. The M'Comas lift I do not think could be erected under £20; cost and carriage added, about £27. At one of the tanks the steam-pump would cost about £90. But if the M'Comas lift is to be adopted who would work it? If the caretakers have not got time to do the little ordinary work that is required about a tank, how are they to make time to do the pumping? And in the event of a large mob of stock (cattle or sheep) travelling, a man would require to work very hard for a few days. The question is, will the caretakers do the work? Besides the supply from the M'Comas lift might fail at the time when it is most wanted.
3716. *Chairman.*] Would not the same thing apply to steam-pumps? I do not see that there is anything to support that idea. It has not been so in my experience. The Mines Department state that the steam-pumps require skilled men. Now I had a man working at the 26-Mile tank who never saw a steam-pump before, and that pump is working splendidly to this day. The man at the Peak tank on the Mount Brown road never worked a steam-pump before, yet he is now working one of these pumps without any trouble. And next month I am putting a man on to take charge of the Broken Hill tank and pump, and I do not think that he has ever seen a steam-pump working or has ever turned on steam in his life, and yet that watering place is by far the most important one in the Colony. If a man who has never seen a steam-pump and has never turned on steam in his life, can go and do the work after two or three hours' instruction, surely it is not correct to say that skilled labour is absolutely necessary in the working of these pumps. 3717.

- W. J. Hanna. 3717. *Mr. Woore.*] I think you said that the cost of erecting the M'Comas lift at a tank would be about £20? Yes; I was giving the total cost of erecting, but I was only speaking roughly.
- 23 Mar., 1888. 3718. Would you be surprised to hear that the cost is said to be very much more than that? It is quite possible. The cost of carriage is sometimes very excessive.
3719. *Chairman.*] Have you had much fencing done in your district? Yes; a considerable amount.
3720. Do you consider it unnecessarily expensive—would not a cheaper fence answer all purposes? A cheaper fence might answer the purpose, but it would not last the same length of time. I do not think the present class of fencing is much too strong.
3721. Would you erect the same style of fencing round the caretaker's paddock as round the tank? Well, if the tank is outside the tenant's lease it should have a stronger fence; but where it is enclosed I would put the same fence as is put round the land to be leased.
3722. *Major Penrose.*] Are the posts unnecessarily deep in the ground? No; I do not think that any-one would consider 2 feet as being too deep for posts.
3723. I think the specifications say that the posts shall be sunk 2 feet 6 inches, and that has been objected to as absurd? Mine are only 2 feet deep.
3724. Then you do not follow this specification? No; not strictly.
3725. *Chairman.*] Will you just describe the kind of fencing that you put up in your district? Round posts, 5 to 6 inches in diameter, according to the class of timber; split posts, 9 x 3, 6½ feet long, 10 feet apart, centre to centre, and 2 feet in the ground; straining posts, every fourteen panels sunk 2 feet 6; corner posts, 7 to 9 inches diameter, sunk 3 feet below the surface; strutted from top of posts to foot of fencing post on each side; seven wires.
3726. What does that cost per mile, and what is the gauge of the wire? The wire is 5 and 7 gauges. I have to make the gauge according to the wire I can obtain. We can only get wire by river from Melbourne. Very often I cannot get No. 4 or No. 5; but I can always get Nos. 6, 7, and 8. I ascertain what gauge of wire is procurable, and advertise accordingly.
3727. Of course the heavier gauge means a very much heavier fence, besides adding to the cost of carriage? Yes.
3728. And do you think that wire of Nos. 4 and 5 gauge makes altogether too heavy a fence? Well, I think No. 4 is rather heavy; but I believe the reason for adopting it is because we did not put up a top rail.
3729. *Mr. Woore.*] The Mines Department suggested a top rail? Yes.
3730. *Chairman.*] A larger wire makes a better baulk? Yes. In many places in the west you cannot get top rails.
3731. If you were to make a suggestion that lighter wire would be preferable, would that be entertained in your Department, so as to lessen the expense? I believe it would be considered.
3732. You never saw such heavy wire round the squatters' paddocks? No.
3733. *Mr. Woore.*] What is the cost per mile of such a fence as you generally put up? It would range from £64 to £100 per mile.
3734. *Chairman.*] In accordance with the locality and the scarcity of timber? Yes.
3735. *Major Penrose.*] Is not this one of your specifications? Yes; and we follow it as closely as we can. We are allowed some latitude, as a specification which would apply to one district might not be desirable in another. In some districts you can get timber easily; but in the west you might have to go 20 miles to get timber of the dimensions specified here.
3736. *Mr. Woore.*] So that these specifications need not be followed in their entirety. You have a great deal of latitude? Yes; it is impossible to draw out specifications that will suit all parts of the Colony.
3737. *Chairman.*] In your neighbourhood, where you pay £100 per mile, what will the squatter pay for his fencing? Well, I really do not know; but the fences in these districts are very weak; they are small short posts, about as thick as your arm.
3738. Are they not sufficient protection against cattle? No; bullocks would walk through them. Even with the fences we have there is sometimes difficulty in keeping them out.
3739. *Major Penrose.*] Then you think the top wire ought to be stronger than the others? Yes; for that purpose. Barbed-wire would be the best for the top, but it is too expensive.

[The Commission adjourned.]

THURSDAY, 12 APRIL, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R. E.

J. C. WOORE, Esq.

William John Hanna called in and further examined:—

- W. J. Hanna. 3740. *Chairman.*] You have some further evidence to offer, I believe, Mr. Hanna? Yes; in connection with the cost of works. I may explain the course that has been adopted for all works except those of a trifling or urgent nature. Tenders are invited in the local papers, and about two weeks allowed for receipt of tenders. Specifications are forwarded to some of the nearest Court-houses for inspection by those desirous of tendering. Contractors living or working in places too far removed from these centres can get any information they require on application, and if time permits, a copy of specification would be forwarded if necessary. I shall refer very briefly to the cost of fences, tanks, and caretaker's cottages. Here are schedules of the last tenders received. [*Schedules produced.*] Reference to these and other tenders will be sufficient to show that there has been in most cases no lack of competition, and considering the nature of the works, seasons, and distances from which timber had to be carted, the prices paid, I think, are only fair and reasonable. The Mines officers, when comparing the prices paid by stations with those paid by this Department, apparently forgot to take into consideration the difference between the two classes of fencing. All stations in my district, with perhaps a few exceptions, are sheep stations, and the fences are consequently of a description suitable to the requirements; but I would respectfully submit that, however good and secure such fences are for sheep paddocks, they would be totally inadequate for enclosing

enclosing small paddocks where stock of all kinds including horses and working bullocks would be occasionally depastured. The value of these paddocks will also in a great measure depend upon the security afforded by the fencing. Mr. Low states in his evidence that the fences at the 26-Mile, the 35-Mile, and the 48-Mile tanks cost £95 per mile, and that no timber was carted more than 5 miles at the 26-Mile and 48-Mile tanks, and not more than 4 miles at the 35-Mile tank; whereas the actual price paid was £94 per mile, and the distance which the posts had to be carted was greater than Mr. Low represents. The distance was 1 or 2 miles more. Then Mr. Low states that the drains at the 26-Mile tank were let at 4s. 6d. per chain, and that they were sublet at 3s. 6d. to the man who did the work. I am informed by the contractor that he paid Walters, the sub-contractor, the same price as he received himself, which, as I have said, was 4s. 6d. per chain.

W. J. Hanna.
12 April, 1888.

3741. *Mr. Woore.*] That is not evidence? Mr. Low's evidence is only hearsay also. If I had known sooner I could have had the correct price ascertained and sworn to. I would not have referred to this matter, only that I saw it in Mr. Low's report.

3742. *Chairman.*] That was put in evidence as a written report? In reading over these papers and reports I was strongly impressed with the evident intention of making everything appear in the worst possible light, and I have referred to these items chiefly on that account. I desire to hand in tenders for fencing received only a few days ago from several practical men who have a thorough knowledge of the work. [*Witness hands in tenders for fencing, the prices in the schedules ranging from £57 to £165 per mile for work in the Wilcannia and Mount Brown districts.*]

3743. *Mr. Woore.*] And public competition is invited in every possible way? Yes; and when tenders are considered too high fresh tenders are invited, as will be done in the case of the Day Dream and Purnamoota tanks. The estimated cost of fencing the Day Dream and Purnamoota tanks, according to the specifications, was £131 5s. per mile. It is our intention to invite fresh tenders and to further notify the specifications in these cases.

3744. *Chairman.*] Why was this excessive cost of £131 per mile necessary? Just state the reason for it fully? My reasons are on account of the distance that the timber had to be carted, and the scarcity of labour in the locality.

3745. *Mr. Woore.*] What was the distance that the timber had to be carted? Over 20 miles. There was also a difficulty in getting teams and men.

3746. On account of the place being in the vicinity of the mines? Yes.

3747. *Major Penrose.*] Do you think the design of the fence could be altered without prejudice to its character as to stability? Yes; to some extent.

3748. *Mr. Woore.*] Would the distance the wire had to be carted affect the question? No; it would not to any great extent. The wire would have to be carted 16 miles to the Day Dream tank, and about 20 or 25 miles to the Purnamoota tank.

3749. And in that country where there is a good deal of rock would not the sinking be pretty hard? Yes; the ground there is harder than usual. As the Day Dream tank there will be rock, and also at Purnamoota. Although the wire has only to be carted a comparatively short distance it has to come by rail from Adelaide.

3750. Adelaide is the nearest market to that place? Yes.

3751. *Major Penrose.*] Do you think that the design of this fence is unnecessarily expensive for that district? In this case it is. The specifications in this case will be further modified, and fresh tenders will be invited with a view to make a reduction in the cost of the fence.

3752. In what way will you modify the specification? By reducing the size of the posts and the wire.

3753. Not the distance apart? Yes; it will also be advisable to alter the distance from 10 to 12 feet, making the distance apart 12 feet instead of 10 and the straining posts 20 to 25 panels apart instead of 14.

3754. *Mr. Woore.*] What would you estimate the cost to be of this modified class of fencing that you now suggest? About 25 to 27s. per chain.

3755. But the cost per mile—what would that be? It would be from £100 to £110 per mile.

3756. *Chairman.*] Has your attention ever been directed to the fact that where timber is so scarce iron might be substituted with a good result? No; I do not think that iron fences would be suitable for enclosing the leased areas.

3757. *Mr. Woore.*] I suppose it is the labour that causes this fencing to be so expensive? Yes; and the distance for carting the timber. Labour in that district is not only high, but it is very much below the average.

3758. *Chairman.*] It has been stated here that the shifting of a fence, the expense of which was estimated at £3, actually cost £50, on account of what has been called red-tapeism? That work was not done, and no expense incurred in connection with it. As the shifting of the fences was not urgently required, I did not think that it was advisable to proceed with the work until the leased area was being fenced, when the alteration recommended by the Mines Department could be carried out at a cheaper rate, and without any additional trouble and expense as regards inspection. Here is a report having reference to the subject, which I wish to put in evidence:—

Goomboolara Tank.

Sir,

Tallywalka, 17th December, 1885.

Herewith I forward dimensioned sketch (distances paced) of fencing asked for in connection with instructions issued by Mines Department to have fences shifted.

In November, 1884, portion of the fencing (marked red on sketch) was removed back, and the remainder tightened up and put in order.

Had we known at that time, the same trouble and very little extra expense would have made the alterations required now. It will therefore be advisable to have the distances marked on sketch, so that we may know exactly what is wanted before taking action.

The existing fences are in good order and the embankment constructed last year (see report of 26/11/84) to block watercourses and turn the water into silt tank, I was glad to find uninjured by the unusually heavy flood which occurred in January last.

The inlet pipe is completely stopped at the outer end which may account for the water being about 3 feet below surface in main tank.

Station and travelling stock alike have free access to water, there being no person in charge. The latter remarks apply also to Warramurtie Tank, but the Department is no doubt aware of these facts as the tanks are under control of the pastoral lessees.

I have, &c.,

W. J. HANNA,

Road Superintendent.

The Engineer-in-Chief for Roads, Sydney.

Sketch should be sent to Mines with a request that they will mark the position of fencing required by their officers. Sketch sent 31/12/85.

3759.

W. J. Hanna. 3759. Then this expense was never incurred at all? No.

12 April, 1888. 3760. *Mr. Woore.*] Is this statement at page 19 of the *précis* made by the Mines Department not correct: "The proposed alteration would have cost exactly £3, for which sum the caretaker was fully prepared to do the work. Red-tape routine, however, and Sydney bureaucracy demanded an official inspection by an inspector; even one inspection was not sufficient and two had to be made. The travelling expenses of this inspector amounted to over £30, so what it really cost to supervise the outlay of this £3 is almost beyond calculation."? No expense whatever was incurred. The fence will be shifted when the leased area is being fenced in for which a tender has now been accepted. I do not think that the statement in the *précis* refers to the Warramurtie tank, but rather to the tank at Goomboolara.

3761. *Major Penrose.*] But how do you know that it is the Goomboolara tank—do the circumstances stated fit the case? I think that all the circumstances stated apply to that case. Goomboolara must be the tank referred to, because no correspondence has taken place with regard to the alterations of a fence at the Warramurtie tank.

3762. *Chairman.*] You must have noticed in the *précis* a letter from a Mr. Earngey, stating that the Works officers relied upon coachmen and publicans for their information in regard to the selection of sites, and that they took no trouble to view these sites for themselves. Now what have you to say to that? It has been said with reference to the selection of sites that we have been guided by information received from coachmen and interested parties, publicans, &c., and that we have fixed sites from the box of a coach. In reply to this charge I may state that I am not above receiving information from any one who can give it, whether he is a squatter, a publican, or a coach-driver; and from these men I have often received valuable information, from which, and my own observations, I arrive at a conclusion and act accordingly. If it could be shown to me, before it was too late, that the site for a watering place was in a position that would do an injury to any individual, and if another site equally good could be found, without unduly affecting the length of stage, I would consider it my duty to alter that site, and the same remarks apply in a similar way to the laying out of a new road or making deviations; but that I have ever pandered to the wishes of any man, to the detriment of the public interest, beyond what I have now stated, is, to use the mildest term, not true. Mr. Tully has also referred to this question in a similar way. For my own part I have to give his remarks also the same emphatic denial.

3763. *Major Penrose.*] I do not think that Mr. Tully meant all that. I will read you what he said:—

2487. In your opinion do the road superintendents out there take any trouble to obtain local information as to the best position to put down these tanks in? I have heard it frequently stated that they do not inquire sufficiently or get the advice of the older residents there.

2488. *Mr. Woore.*] You have only heard that? That is all. All I know is that they did not come to me for information. Had they done so I would have given them every information in my power.

2489. And are you aware of any local people in the neighbourhood having been asked their opinions? No; I am not aware of it.

2490. Are you aware that in the early days mistakes were made by the squatters in constructing excavations and in putting up dams that were washed away? Many mistakes were made in the early days. I know that some dams on Bunker Creek and other places were washed away.

2491. So that it could scarcely be expected that the Government officers should be infallible, as if other men made mistakes they were liable to do the same? Yes; mistakes were made all round.

3764. *Chairman.*] You have heard the allegations that have been made with respect to this Day Dream Tank;—what have you to say about the matter? I shall give you all the information I have on the subject, which is embodied in this report:—

THE faulty work referred to was in one of the suction pipe couplings, which I believe was rather small, and as there were none at hand the contractor, in order to complete his contract, beat down the thread and slipped each end of pipe into the coupling, making, or trying to make, the joint air-tight with red lead and hemp. I cannot say whether the officer in charge was or was not aware of this. It may have been done with his knowledge to avoid delay. I have acted similarly under similar circumstances. For instance: There was no reducing sockets sent with pump recently forwarded for Broken Hill tank. I could not get them to buy or borrow in Broken Hill, and was therefore obliged to lay the end of suction pipe against the flange and make the connection air-tight with white lead and hemp, otherwise a most serious delay would have taken place. And that joining, although a temporary one, has stood well. It has also been stated that the work was taken over from the contractor without being tested. That is correct, as I understand there was no water at the time in the excavation. I may further state that Mr. Crummer, who was then in charge, informed me that he arranged with Mr. Crommelin, the local officer, to go out on a certain day to inspect and take over the works; that Mr. Crommelin failed to keep the appointment, but gave this certificate (produced), to the effect that he had taken over the works in good order and condition. After Mr. Crommelin's next visit he informed Mr. Crummer that the pump would not work, and it was then arranged that the caretaker at Silvertown tank, who was employed by this Department, should go out and put it in order. Both officers were to blame, and if Mr. Crommelin, after finding that the pump would not act, had allowed Mr. Crummer to make the necessary alteration instead of reporting as he did, the matter would have been amicably settled without causing so much trouble to the Departments or ill-feeling between the officers.

3765. *Mr. Woore.*] How was it that the Works Department did not provide against such a contingency as the pipes not fitting? The Works Department were not to blame in this case. It was Tangye Bros., who omitted to send the reducing sockets. The trouble was caused by the fact that the connecting socket, that screws into the flange, did not come.

3766. Then it was caused by the want of some appliance which should have been on the ground, and which did not come? It was in the case of the Broken Hill tank that the sockets were not sent with the pump. It was through no fault of the Works Department. These things were all ordered by the Department; but not sent by Tangye Brothers.

3767. *Chairman.*] In the evidence given by Mr. Tully with regard to the Goomboolara tank, what have you to say to the allegation as to the unsuitable position in which it is excavated? Mr. Tully's objections to the site are, to use his own words, that "the tank is put on a neck of water running into the lagoon, which holds about 5 or 6 feet of water more than the site of the tank. The water to go into the lagoon must pass the tank. I have frequently seen the water going into the lagoon without filling the tank." There is a natural depression in the ground near the tank, which might hold about 5 feet of water, but as you will see from this sketch, there is a well defined water-course running direct into the silt tank, so that I cannot see how this depression or lagoon (being of limited capacity), can interfere to any great extent with the filling of the tank. When the quantity of water flowing in is greater than the inlet pipe can discharge, the surplus would find its way round the embankment into the lagoon, which, I believe, is included in the tenant's lease, and can therefore be used for watering stock. Mr. Tully, I think, must be

be mistaken, when he states that "the tank cannot fill unless the Paroo is running, and unless it runs pretty high, it will fill the lake, but will not fill the tank." The next question is: "Then, there is no local catchment," and Mr. Tully replies, "No; there might be local rains that would run the Paroo for some time." Well, if local rains put sufficient water into the Paroo channel to make it run for some time, surely there must be a local catchment. Mr. Tully has also stated that at certain places he would admit stock to the tanks, and thereby do away with the necessity for caretakers. In my opinion this would be a very serious mistake, as such places would soon become a camping ground for station-stock, drovers, and others. The water would not last long in a dry season, would become polluted, and the tank eventually get into a bad state. Wherever a watering place is considered necessary, some one should, I think, be placed in charge.

3768. The next complaint is with reference to the site of the Tarella tank? I do not understand what is meant by the inlet tank taking the stream out of its course, and the only explanation I can give concerning the opening, which, it is said, would run the water down instead of up, is that the contractor must have been under the impression that the creek ran in the opposite direction.

3769. The statement was, that, unless the Paroo ran, there was no chance of the tank filling? The Paroo might not run throughout its full length; but it runs frequently in places from local rains—a fact which Mr. Tully admits himself.

3770. The main channel of the Paroo might run a few inches deep for a long distance, but it would not run into the branches, unless there were a pretty good "fresh" in the river; and Mr. Tully states that when it ran high, it would spread out into these sub-branches;—are we to understand that this is correct, and that the tank could not be filled unless the Paroo was running? Well, it all depends upon what is understood by the Paroo running.

3771. It matters not if it only runs for a mile? The tank is in the bed of the Paroo channel, and depends upon that chiefly for the source of its supply; but there is also a local catchment.

3772. *Mr. Woore.*] In addition to that? Yes; and the Paroo channel, although flat, is a catchment in itself.

3773. *Major Penrose.*] Do you consider the site of the tank a good one? Yes; I think the site is very good.

3774. *Mr. Woore.*] And have you ever known this natural depression to be filled, and the tank left empty? No; I have not. Before any water from the water-course flows into this lagoon or depression it must go into the silt tank and then through the discharge pipe, which if not able to take off the water as quickly as it flows in, the water will flow into the depression.

3775. Was the object of placing the tank there—to intercept the water and prevent it from running into the depression which you speak of, where it would be more exposed to evaporation? Well, I cannot say. I had nothing to do with the selection of the site, and I could hardly say what the object was. I am only speaking of the question as it now stands.

3776. *Chairman.*] We are more anxious to hear you more directly on the charges which have been made against yourself. Was not the Rathole tank excavated under your directions? It was.

3777. It has been stated here by Mr. Low that the embankments showed signs of water-wash within 3 inches of the top? Yes; but before that tank was completed we had a chance of getting it filled. The water was let in, and the contractor was to finish up the embankments afterwards. There was also some trimming to do to the slopes, and the same contractor had another contract for excavating a tank at Thackaringa, and this work he was unable to complete, owing to the drought. The contract, therefore, had to be cancelled, and the sureties called upon to finish the work. The embankments at the Rathole tank were, therefore, not finished, and I kept about £100 back, pending the completion of the embankment. That money the contractor had to forfeit, as I did not think the trimming of these embankments of sufficient importance to warrant further expenditure, as I thought that the caretaker could easily do all that was necessary to put these embankments into fair order.

3778. *Mr. Woore.*] But these embankments you say were not completed? No; because we had to let the water in.

3779. But would it be the duty of the caretaker to complete the embankments;—is it not their duty to keep things in repair and not to construct? Well, all that was necessary for perfect safety could be done in four hours with a wheel-barrow. The embankment is safe as it is if the caretaker simply allows the water to follow its natural course when the tank is full.

3780. Has this embankment been completed up to the present time? No; I am not aware that it has. I have pointed out to the caretaker what should be done.

3781. Has any damage been done because of its not having been completed? No; a little damage was done by a heavy flood some time ago, but no damage of any consequence; in any case the damage did not occur through the embankment not being completed. I have had the tank full almost to the top of the embankment, or within 3 inches of the top; and even then I considered it quite safe.

3782. Did you not consider that allowing the water within 3 inches of the top was rather dangerous? No; not when a caretaker is on the ground. I would like to read you a report sent in in December, 1886, which may help you to understand this matter:—

Sir,

Mount Brown Road, 23 December, 1886.

In pursuance of your instructions I have inspected the Rathole tank, referred to in telegram attached, and submit herewith the following report, with sketch.

The rainfall causing the alleged damage occurred on the *ultimo*, when 160 points were registered; fall extending over about 18 hours.

This fall, although heavy, was not in any way calculated to endanger the safety of earthworks, and was less than a former record, when, as in this instance, the tank remained uninjured. I am therefore at a loss to know where the "400 feet temporary embankment" was that is said to have been "washed away." No temporary embankment, that I am aware of, was ever constructed, and no embankment has been washed away.

Referring to the accompanying sketch, it will be seen that two drains have been cut, to intercept the water coming down the numerous water-courses from the hills distant about 60 chains. The main drain, running N.E., also serves the purpose of draining from the creek when required. For instance, in dry seasons, rain, as a rule, falls in brief heavy showers or thunderstorms, and these, generally speaking, are very patchy. At such times it is necessary to draw from every available source, and when tank is full, nothing could be more simple than cutting off the supply at the places marked on sketch, by cutting through the drain-bank and allowing the water to follow its natural course.

In connection with this matter, I think the caretaker is very much to blame. Noticing on previous visit that he was either neglecting this duty, or not aware of it, I pointed out to him how to act; but no attempt whatever was made to carry out these instructions; consequently, when tank was full, the water broke through drain close to embankment, forming a bywash, which, if allowed to continue, will eventually form into a creek, and become a source of trouble and expense, besides endangering the work.

There

W. J. Hanna.
12 April, 1888.

W. J. Hanna.

12 April, 1888.

There is another matter in connection with the embankments to which I would draw attention. These were not properly completed, and for this omission a deduction of £100 was made.

The lower end of the embankment is too low, and when speaking to caretaker *re* drains, told him to throw up sufficient material to raise the embankment 18 inches or 2 feet. These instructions have also been ignored. The embankment at present will impound from 23 to 24 feet, and by raising as suggested and keeping up banks of drains another foot could be added, and the work would provide healthy exercise for caretaker.

After drains ceased running, about 18 inches of water was unfortunately allowed to flow out that could have been retained with perfect safety.

I have, &c.,

W. J. HANNA,

Road Superintendent.

The Engineer-in-Chief for Roads, Sydney.

How much passed away altogether. The man in charge in this case should, I think, be dismissed, the neglect to take steps to prevent waste of water is the best evidence of his unfitness.—W.C.B., 5/1/87.

These were the telegrams upon which I acted in making my report:—

Telegram from Sydney, addressed to W. J. Hanna, Road Superintendent, December 7th, 1887:—Mines officer reported as follows:—Rathole tank in precarious state from damage by late heavy rains; 400 feet temporary embankment washed away; flood water rose to within 6 inches of top of embankment at lower end of main bank; it would have carried away but for timely cessation of rain; shall I employ men repair at once; urgent.

P. FLYNN

(For Commissioner of Roads).

Telegram from Sydney, addressed to W. J. Hanna, Road Superintendent:—Local Mines officer reports that Rathole tank very much damaged by late rains, and in "precarious" state. Please wire Crummer if he knows of it, and report at once what grounds there are for such a statement. If true, steps must at once be taken to repair damage and prevent recurrence.

A. P. WOOD,

Assistant Engineer.

11/11/86.

I wish also to state, in justice to Mr. Low, that this caretaker—in fact all the caretakers in the Silverton district except one—were dismissed. This was done on his last visit. Now here is the telegram which I addressed to the Commissioner for Roads on the 9th July last:—

Rathole Tank.

Water 3 feet below top of lower embankment; over 2 feet of water lost that should have been impounded; surplus water still allowed to flow past south embankment, also underneath service tank and portion of troughing; south fence seriously damaged; water-course is being formed that will eventually, if allowed to continue, render tank useless. All danger easily averted by cutting off supply at places referred to in previous reports. Such negligence should not be allowed in connection with an important work like this.

W. J. HANNA,

Road Superintendent.

3783. *Mr. Woore.*] But you do not know the reason? No; I only know that the men either resigned or were dismissed.

3784. *Major Penrose.*] In Mr. Low's evidence he says:—"Embankments have in no case I have seen been erected with a view to conserving water inside and by them, as is usually done with amphitheatre tanks, not one of them being finished with the slightest pretension to being level on top. In fact, any that I have levelled are lowest on the low ground, where they were filled with water and the great weight would be; consequently in most danger of breaking away?" There are no tanks in my district where any of the embankments are too low for the purpose of impounding water above surface except the Rathole Tank, and I question very much whether the embankments of that tank can be considered as being too low. From 5 to 6 feet can be safely stored above surface.

3785. *Chairman.*] Have you ever had any trouble, other than that which you have mentioned, with the caretakers? Well, I have found the caretakers repeatedly neglecting their duties at the Thackaringa, Day Dream, and Purnamuta tanks, as well as at the Rathole tank.

3786. To whom did you complain about these matters? To the Engineer-in-Chief for Roads, the head of my Department.

3787. Did you ever tell the caretaker he was neglecting his duty, and that he ought not to continue to do so? Yes; I have told them sometimes what they should do, but they paid so little attention to what I have said that I seldom interfere with them now unless there is something requiring immediate attention.

3788. Would it not have been advisable, when you found that the caretakers did not attend to their instruction, to apply to their masters (the overseers), or the inspectors of public watering places, telling them about the neglect, rather than reporting it to the head office of your own Department? Well, it would have been advisable if matters were so arranged that I could do so.

3789. Of course, you see that it is undesirable that these caretakers should have two masters? Yes; and I think it is equally undesirable that the tanks should have two superintendents or two officers in charge of them. I have never given any of these caretakers to understand that they were in any way responsible to me.

3790. *Mr. Woore.*] Because they are actually not responsible to you? No; I have never led them to believe any such thing.

3791. In case of gross neglect, such as that at the Rathole tank, do you make a report to the Engineer-in-Chief for Roads? Yes; I always do. There are several telegrams about the Rathole tank, as well as others.

3792. *Major Penrose.*] Did you make any representations to the officers of the Mines Department in that district as to the urgency of this matter? Well, I believe I have done so, but I cannot say positively.

3793. *Chairman.*] I understand from your reply to a previous question that it seems a red-tape or round-about way of doing things; you do not apply to the person in charge to remedy the thing; now, would it not be better and more advisable to write to the overseer in charge and draw his attention to the fact, instead of reporting to the head of your Department, who can only refer it to the Mines Department? Yes; it might be better if so arranged. If I received instructions to report in that way I should do so; but at the same time the overseer could tell me to mind my own business, because he would not be responsible to me in any way.

3794. When you have seen this culpable neglect of public works by the caretakers generally, do you not think that the overseer in charge or the Inspector of Public Watering Places, as the case may be, should have taken action in the matter, as he must have seen it as well as you? Yes; I think he should.

3795. Can you recollect any instance where you drew the attention of the inspector or overseer to any culpable negligence on the part of the caretaker, and where your action was ignored? I do not at present remember an instance.

3796.

3796. You have general instructions to see that all these works which have passed through your hands, and which are now out of your control, are properly maintained—you have general instructions if anything goes wrong with them to report to the head of your Department? Yes.
3797. *Major Penrose.*] What was it that caused you to visit the Rathole Tank after it had been handed over to another Department? To report on the state of the works and the depth of water.
3798. Then after the tanks are handed over to the Mines Department you still go and visit them? Yes; but not specially unless some serious damage takes place. On my ordinary rounds I pass the watering places, and in doing so see how the works are, the state of the drains, and report as to the condition in which I find them.
3799. You naturally take an interest in the works? Yes; having constructed them, I do most decidedly.
3800. Have you had much to do with the hutting for caretakers? I have just put up one cottage at the 26-Mile tank on the Booligal road, 46 miles from Wilcannia. I had it put up by the caretaker. I supplied the material, and the caretaker put up the cottage himself.
3801. How long since? About five or six months ago.
3802. But had not the whole control of this matter of caretakers' cottages been handed over to the Mines Department? I am aware that the Mines Department have erected a number of cottages for caretakers in the Silverton district; but whether the work was taken over altogether or not, I cannot say.
3803. If that were the case I should like to know how you came to erect this particular hut? This caretaker is a first-class man, and I suggested that he should be supplied with material and allowed to put up the building himself.
3804. *Mr. Woore.*] I presume to save expense? Yes, that was the object; the caretaker has put up the house and attended to other duties as well. He has kept his earthworks, pump, service tank, and troughing in first-class order at the same time.
3805. *Chairman.*] At the time you were not aware that the matter of hutting had been handed over to the Mines Department? I was not. It was a considerable time ago since this hut was sanctioned, because I had to get the timber ($\frac{3}{4}$ -inch weather-boards) from Echuca.
3806. What was the cost of the hut? I think that the material and carriage would cost about £50.
3807. What accommodation was provided? Three rooms and an outer or verandah-room.
3808. What kind of huts have been erected by the Mines Department in the Silverton district for the caretakers? Have you seen any of them? Yes; I have seen them all, and have been inside one of them. They are made of deal, with uprights $3\frac{1}{2}$ by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The corner studs are, I think, 3 by 3. The uprights seem to be very wide apart.
3809. *Mr. Woore.*] The building has a frame made of deal? Yes; and covered outside with corrugated iron.
3810. Is there a ground plate on blocks? Yes; the cottages rest upon blocks about 4 inches in diameter. There is a light deal flooring and one partition which goes up to the level of the wall plates. They have iron chimneys and iron doors, as far as I can remember.
3811. *Chairman.*] What would you estimate would be the cost of a building like that? From £40 to £50, I should think.
3812. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you think that these huts erected by the Mines Department are suitable for caretakers? No; I do not.
3813. *Chairman.*] Are these caretakers single men? Some of them are single and some of them are married.
3814. And huts like these would be unsuitable for married men? Yes; they are unsuitable, but they have to live in them, notwithstanding.
3815. *Mr. Woore.*] Is the iron covered with any refrigerating mixture? No; the iron is left bare. There is no painting whatever, no lining inside, no spouting, and no tanks to conserve water from roof.
3816. *Major Penrose.*] I suppose a house like that would make it hard to get good men as caretakers—would it not increase the difficulty of getting decent men as caretakers? It would to a certain extent.
3817. But a better cottage would induce a better man to apply for the position? Yes; although a man might at first be glad to accept the situation and then improve things afterwards.
3818. *Chairman.*] Is there any other evidence you would like to give? No; I cannot say that there is anything else in my district that I have anything to say about.

[The Commission adjourned until the afternoon when the siting was resumed.]

Alexander Adam called in and examined:—

3819. *Chairman.*] You are a road superintendent in the Cobar district? Yes.
3820. How many years have you been located there? I think I have been about seven years in the district.
3821. Have you had the management of a large number of tanks in your district during that time? Yes.
3822. Are the tanks that you have had constructed under your supervision carried out under the same specifications as those tanks which you found constructed when you arrived in that district? An alteration was made in the slopes from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 to 2 to 1. These more recently constructed were 2 to 1.
3823. Upon whose recommendation was the change made? There were plans supplied from the head office with the alterations in them. I had recommended it twice myself previous to this.
3824. Have you found that the steep batters were liable to be fretted away by the action of the water? No; I did not find that. I thought that the other slope might hold better. They did not give way in any case; but still I thought that the flatter slope would be preferable.
3825. For what reason? Well, I thought that the tanks with these batters would hold better.
3826. *Major Penrose.*] You mean that the silt would more certainly settle on the batters? Yes.
3827. *Chairman.*] Who chooses the sites for these tanks? In a number of instances Mr. A. P. Wood, the assistant engineer, chose them. The others I chose myself.
3828. What assistance had you in making choice of the sites you selected yourself? My own judgment principally. I made inquiries from all parties who were likely to have knowledge on the matter; but it is a very simple matter, to anyone who has had any experience, to find the best sites.

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- A. Adam. 3829. Do you generally consult the officers of the Mines Department in the construction of these works? The only instructions we received from the Department was to fence the tenant's lease. They had nothing to do with anything else.
- 12 April, 1888. 3830. *Major Penrose.*] How many tanks have you constructed since you took charge of this district? On the Cobar to Hillston road there are seven tanks and one well—one tank at Mount Hope. There are seven tanks on the Cobar-Nyngan-Condobolin road, one called Keighran's tank, between Nyngan and Priory; and there are four tanks now under construction (three of which are nearly completed) on the Cobar to Wilcannia road.
3831. *Mr. Woore.*] Are these being constructed under your supervision? Yes.
3832. *Chairman.*] Were there many tanks constructed previously to your taking charge of the district? Yes; there were about four. That is all in my district proper; but recently there have been three others handed over to my charge.
3833. I presume you are instructed to provide watering places at so many miles apart for the convenience of travelling stock? Yes; every 15 miles.
3834. And you chose the exact locality, as nearly as possible, in order to meet the requirements of travelling stock? Yes.
3835. Have you any discretion allowed you with regard to alterations in the specifications? In the case of some of the tanks I had to alter the slope from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 to 2 to 1.
3836. Did you ever undertake to modify the depth of a tank? The depths were nearly always put down according to my recommendations.
3837. You had previously put down trial shafts? Yes; and I recommended depths in accordance with what I discovered from these trial shafts. The specifications are sent from the head office with some blanks left in them. I frequently altered the banks so as to make dams by running out wings to the higher ground on either side.
3838. In the Cobar district the tanks are generally made in valleys, it being a different style of country to the open interior? Yes.
3839. I suppose you have had circular instructions showing distinctly what your duties were under the Department? Yes.
3840. And certain discretionary powers were placed in your hands? Yes.
3841. So that you were not compelled to stick to any hard and fast rule with regard to the construction of these works? Well, we had a general plan supplied, and any alterations had to be sent to the head office for approval.
3842. But still you had discretionary powers? Yes; but I never did anything without getting the sanction of the head office to my suggestions.
3843. Have any complaints been made of the selection of improper sites for tanks in your district? No; not in any case.
3844. Was any complaint ever made that one of the tanks—the Mulya tank—had a very bad catchment area, and that there was little or no water in it? Yes, in that case; but that tank was not in my district. It is only recently that it was handed over to me. I did not choose the site.
3845. But do you think that the site was ill-chosen? It was a very difficult matter to get a good site at that distance.
3846. Was it as good a site as could have been obtained in that neighbourhood? It is possible that it might be improved a little; but, as I have said, it was a very difficult matter to get a good site in that locality.
3847. *Mr. Woore.*] And in your opinion it is the best site that could have been obtained about there? I am not sufficiently acquainted with that part of the country to be able to give any definite opinion. As far as I could see there were really no good sites in the locality at all. This Mulya tank is also called the 64-Mile tank, and is on the Louth to Cobar road.
3848. *Major Penrose.*] Did these specifications go down to you with everything filled in? The specifications came down to us to fill in the measurements as to what the dimensions of the tank were to be.
3849. Then you had discretion to say what should be the cubic capacity of the tanks? Yes. There were general directions that so many tanks were to be put down with a certain capacity.
3850. *Chairman.*] We have had handed to us by Mr. Bennett a printed circular headed "Supplementary General Instructions re Tanks and Wells," dated 19th January, 1882, and in accordance with this printed form we find that the road superintendents are given a good deal of discretionary power;—have you not received such instructions? I do not remember just now ever having received a copy of that circular. The sites of most of the tanks were approximately fixed by Mr. Wood, who drove round with me first of all. He gave me directions to take levels, and the sites of most of the tanks in my district were selected in that way.
3851. I see that the first clause of that circular states that the sites of the proposed works are to be fixed by the officers of the Mines Department. Now I want to know from you whether any one was joined with you in fixing the positions of these sites, and you said distinctly not—that you formed your own decision irrespective of the Mines Department? I believe there are communications beforehand between the Mines Department and the Works office—before these sites are chosen. After that I had to fix the exact position.
3852. I want you to be very careful in this matter, because it appears to be one of those things which have led to a good deal of friction. It has been said that the Mines Department's choice of sites was ignored; and if it has been laid down by instructions that you are to be guided by them, is it any wonder that a certain amount of friction takes place? I think that the sites were usually chosen by Mr. Wood in connection with some officer of the Mines Department. I had nothing to do with the matter except to carry out the instruction of my superior officer.
3853. And were you always told to take levels, and to find the best sites? I was told approximately where to put the tanks by Mr. Wood, and I took levels in order to get the best positions.
3854. And you took the best means of finding out the best places by taking levels? Yes; within 2 miles of the place.
3855. You have heard of no complaints made by the officers of the Mines Department with regard to any sites selected by you in the Cobar district? No, none whatever.
3856. *Mr. Woore.*] Has anyone made any complaint that you are aware of, about the sites of the tanks now under your charge? No; all the tanks in my district have been filled over and over again every year.
- 3857.

3857. Have you heard any complaint made about this Mulya tank? Yes; one of the officers of the Mines Department (Mr. Cotton) has spoken about it. That is the only complaint I have heard of. A. Adam.
3858. Do you know if this tank has been filled? I was told by the caretaker that there were 12 feet of water in it at one time. 12 April, 1888.
3859. Has any water run into this tank since you took charge of it? No; it is only within the last six or eight months that I had charge of it, and there has been no heavy rain since.
3860. *Major Penrose.*] Could the catchment area of this tank be easily improved? I laid out about a mile or so of drains which will, I think, bring in a good body of water.
3861. *Mr. Woore.*] So that the tank is not at all a useless work? No; I think that the tank is right enough. It will readily fill with ordinary rain by making the proper drains.
3862. *Chairman.*] The whole of the tanks in your district are fitted up with machinery for lifting the water? Yes; we have now no open tanks.
3863. The machinery you use is chiefly the Tangye steam-pumps? Yes; the Tangye steam-pump and the Amos and Smith.
3864. Do you know whether any difficulty has been found in keeping these pumps in proper order? I know that there has been very little difficulty.
3865. Do you not think that they are the best pumps that could be supplied under the circumstances? Yes.
3866. You consider them the most effective and the cheapest—of course I do not mean as to first cost? Yes; I consider them to be the cheapest in the long run.
3867. And any charges that have been made that this machinery is enormously expensive is, you think, without foundation? Yes, I do.
3868. Do you think that the M'Comas pump, which is worked by hand, would be cheaper than these pumps, or less liable to get out of order? It would certainly be cheaper, but I do not think it would be nearly so effective.
3869. By cheapness, I mean not only the cost of the pump, but also of the fixings. Does it not cost a good deal to put these lifts into position? I have no M'Comas pumps in my district at all.
3870. *Major Penrose.*] But you think that the tanks which you have constructed are larger than they need be, considering the requirements of the district? I think they might be smaller.
3871. They all have good catchments? Yes.
3872. Are you of opinion that a smaller tank would answer all purposes? They are none the worse for being large, but I think 15,000 cubic yard tanks would do in any district.
3873. *Chairman.*] What is the capacity of those now constructed in your district? Eighteen thousand yards. I think the fact of their being large, if it is a fault, is one on the right side.
3874. *Mr. Woore.*] It is better to have them too large than too small? Yes.
3875. *Chairman.*] Have you ever lived on the open plain country where the rainfall is very small? No; but I may state that the rainfall in the Cobar district one year was only 7 inches—as low a rainfall, I think, as anywhere else—and yet there remained plenty of water in our tanks all through.
3876. Have you had to do much with fencing in your district? Yes; I fenced in all the tanks.
3877. What has been the average cost of this fencing per mile? It has varied from £58 15s. to £71 per mile.
3878. Do you think the present specifications for fencing call for the erection of a too costly fence? I do not think so.
3879. Do you not think that the wire might be a lighter gauge? Well, I think it is a fair thing as it is; it might be altered, but the fence would not then be so good as the present style of fences.
3880. *Mr. Woore.*] What size of wire do you use? No. 4 gauge as a top wire, and No. 7 (modified in some cases to No. 8) for the lower wires.
3881. *Chairman.*] Why do you use a No. 4 wire? In cases of cattle attempting to jump over. It is a very strong wire, and will hold a bullock on top of it if he attempted to jump it.
3882. What sort of posts are used for the fences in your district? Split posts generally.
3883. Is not timber fairly plentiful in the Cobar district, when compared with the plains beyond? Yes.
3884. Now, do you really think it is necessary to have this expensive fence—expensive as compared with those put up by squatters? Of course we understand that a fence should be a strong one round the tank, but is the same substantial kind of fence necessary round the caretaker's paddock? I have said that the fence round the caretaker's paddock is different to that round the tank. There is a top rail and five No. 4 wires round the tank itself—that is, close round the embankment of the tank.
3885. Why is No. 4 wire placed there when you have a top rail? That was done according to the instructions which we received.
3886. Did you find it necessary—do you not think that a very much smaller wire would be sufficient? Well, wire of a less gauge might possibly do.
3887. *Mr. Woore.*] Are all these tanks of yours fenced in that way—with a No. 4 wire? Yes; I think so.
3888. *Chairman.*] Have you ever made any recommendations to the head of your Department that the specifications for fencing called for wire which was unnecessarily heavy? Yes; I did this in the case of the tenant's lease. The same specification was given to me for the tank as for the tenant's lease, and I wrote down to the head office about it at once. I told them that I thought it would be an unnecessarily heavy fence, and the specification was altered.
3889. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you mean to say that you were instructed to put up a top rail and five No. 4 wires round the tenant's lease? Well, I only received one specification, and I wrote down to Sydney to say that I thought it would result in unnecessary expense, and I got the specification back with this alteration—that the top wire was to be No. 6 and the others No. 7, without any top rail at all.
3890. *Major Penrose.*] Is that the specification dated 1887 that you now allude to? Yes; this is the most recent specification.
3891. You see that there is some difference between the two specifications? Yes.
3892. Is the practice you are now following in your district in accordance with the latest form of specification? Yes.
3893. Have you put up any fences under this specification round the tenant's lease? It has only come recently to me. At most of the straining-posts in the fences put up by me the wires were spliced in the usual way.
3894. And you have not left out straining-posts in any instance yet? No.

- A. Adam. 3895. Do you think it is desirable to do so? I do not think it makes much difference. I think the fence will answer just as well.
- 12 April, 1888. 3896. Why do you think so—because the posts are so well secured to the ground? Yes.
3897. *Chairman.*] Do you not think that the depth which the posts are sunk in the ground is unnecessarily great? Well, I think that 2 feet ought to be sufficient.
3898. Have you ever had any difficulty with the caretakers, or have you ever been obliged to find fault with them for carelessness? Yes; several times.
3899. Then state generally what their negligence consisted in? They would not keep the drains clean, and generally would not attend to the tanks. The pumping gear is sometimes left in a very dirty condition. It is not kept as it should be.
3900. When you have had reason to find fault with a caretaker, to whom do you send your complaints about him? I spoke to the caretakers themselves several times, and if the matter that I complained of was not attended to I brought it under the notice of the head of my Department.
3901. The caretakers are placed in their positions by the Mines Department? Yes; but a good many of them were placed there by myself and then taken over by the Mines Department.
3902. When they were placed there by your authority I suppose you took good care that they carried out your instructions? Yes.
3903. And since they came under the Mines Department they have been in the habit of disregarding your instructions? Yes.
3904. Have they ever told you as much as that they would not comply with your instructions? Yes; two or three of them did so.
3905. *Major Penrose.*] But had they any very detailed instructions from the overseer of watering places what to do to take care of the tanks? Yes; I believe they are acting under instructions.
3906. Have you seen these instructions? No; I do not think that I have.
3907. *Chairman.*] Have you instructions to occasionally report on these works after they have passed out of your hands? Yes; I am instructed to report every month. I generally go round once every month, and when I do I am supposed to report on them.
3908. Do you think that this tends to promote friction between your Department and the Department of Mines? Well, in two or three instances I believe it has done so. But since Mr. Cotton came to the district I have had no difficulty. Several other overseers are in my district, and there was a slight disagreement with one of them.
3909. Did you ever complain of the negligence of the caretakers to the overseers? I do not think I did, so far as I can remember. I wrote to the head of our Department, and he communicated with the Mines Department on the matter.
3910. *Major Penrose.*] Do you ever go round with Mr. Cotton? No; it is not my practice, but sometimes when we were going in the same direction we went together.
3911. And would you go to the tanks together? Yes; in several instances it occurred.
3912. And Mr. Cotton would report on the tank to his Department and you to your Department? Yes, he would report to his Department and I to mine.
3913. And you might inadvertently recommend something that would be at variance with what Mr. Cotton would recommend? It might happen, but I do not think it would often be the case.
3914. *Chairman.*] We have had a contractor here who gave evidence before us, named Budd, and he stated that he felt quite sure favoritism was shown in certain matters? I will read a copy of what I wrote to the head of my Department in reference to this statement of Mr. Budd's:—
- “Mr. Budd states that contractors for Barnato tank had to cart the water the whole of the time the main tank was being excavated, and that the supply tank had been filled time after time. It is true contractors had to do this, but it was owing to the very dry weather in the vicinity of this tank, which has lasted some seven or eight months. As a matter of fact, the supply tank has not been filled once during the whole of that time. About 1 foot of water only was put into tank by a shower on one occasion, but it has been empty most of the time. Contractor Budd also states that tenders should be opened before a Board, and not before one man in the country. He also states that he believes there is collusion between Government officers and contractors. This, and a number of other statements made in regard to partiality shown to other contractors, are entirely without foundation. It is of no consequence to me who the contractors are, provided they do their work properly. Tenders are not opened before one man—myself, as stated by Budd—but before the Police Magistrate along with myself, and we both initial them. Budd also states that I told him he need not tender for the tanks on Wilcannia road, as I thought there were plenty tendering without him. I may state in reply, that this conversation never took place. I had no objection to Budd personally, or as a contractor, and I cannot understand him making such a statement, except that he was a fool in the hands of a certain storekeeper, who wishes to injure me, and to whom Budd owes a large sum of money. I have, on more than one occasion, gone out of my way to oblige Budd. I inspected his contracts every month, as I did with all contractors in the district, and if he or any other contractor asked for an advance on the work, I measured the work and forwarded vouchers at once—provided, of course, that they had done a fair amount of work since previous advance to entitle them to another. In regard to tanks let to Couts and Holly on the Wilcannia road, I may state that they were the lowest tenderers for two of the tanks, both of which were officially approved of in Sydney. It was only after their tenders were officially accepted that contractors informed me that they could not do both at the same time, or within time allowed, and asked me if I had any objection to their transferring one of the tanks to Budd or Hendry. I replied that I had no objection to either of these men, and they could arrange the matter between themselves, but as their tender had been officially accepted for both tanks, bonds for both tanks would better be made out in their names to avoid delay and complication. This they were quite willing to do. Budd also asked me if I had any objection to his getting one of the tanks from Couts and Holly. I replied that I had none whatever.”
3915. Then Mr. Budd also states that the contractors were in the habit of “taking in” the officers of the Works Department in the matter of measuring up the works, and that it was a very simple matter to deceive them, and thus get paid for more work than they really performed? Well, that charge was made against Mr. Budd himself by another contractor, so I carefully measured up the tank referred to and found that it was all right. I had heard that he had raised the berm of the embankment inside by 1 foot.
3916. *Mr Woore.*] Did you not check and test it? Yes; I had no bench mark, but in this case the natural surface of the ground scarcely varied at all. I ran the levels across it, and found that there was only a difference of an inch or so.
3917. Is it possible for a contractor to deceive an officer in measuring these works by gathering up one end of the tape? No; I do not think it could be done.
3918. Do you measure by rod or by tape? I use the tapes and the levelling staff. You cannot use a levelling staff all the time.
3919. *Major Penrose.*] Do you take your own man with you when going to measure these tanks? Yes, very frequently; but in some cases I have measured with the assistance of the contractors. But very often I bring my man with me. 3920.

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3920. Have they ever tried to deceive you in this way? No; I have never found any one of them try to do so. I watched very carefully to see; but found nothing.
3921. Do you keep a field-book showing the measurements of the tanks? Yes.
3922. And sight plan levels in corners? Well, not of levels; I merely take an average of all of them, and then take the mean. I take four corners and the centre.
3923. Then you refer the levels of these corners to the bench mark? Yes; but the ground is generally so level that there is no difference between the points.
3924. Is it necessary in every case? No.
3925. *Chairman.*] Have you had anything to do with the construction of wells in your district? I have only put down one well.
3926. Has that been a success or otherwise? It has been a success. The water is good. The well is 162 feet deep, and there is about $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet of water in it, which comes up so quickly that you cannot lower the depth. The water has never gone down more than an inch or 2 inches at the outside.
3927. What machinery do you use? I use a whim. There is a supply tank 55 feet long, 15 feet wide, and 5 feet deep.
3928. *Major Penrose.*] What is the name of this well? The Roto north.
3929. Did you lay the well out yourself and choose the site? Yes; but I was told approximately where a well was wanted.
3930. What steps did you take before this well was sunk? I first called for tenders for putting down a trial shaft, and it was put down. The contractor then stated before the shaft was put down that rock ought to be struck there; and when we put down the shaft no rock at all was struck.
3931. Did you test the water before you sunk the well? No; we did not. We estimated from what we had seen of other wells that water would be got at a certain depth.
3932. What was the cost of that well, do you remember? I cannot say just now. I think the cost was somewhere about £1,000.
3933. But what was the cost per foot? I think it was about £2 15s. per foot, as far as I remember.
3934. *Chairman.*] Is that a reasonable price when compared with the wells sunk by squatters in the neighbourhood, or is it much in excess? I think the price is a reasonable one. The work is very much more substantial than that done by squatters.
3935. In what way? Well, the slabbing is much better.
3936. *Mr. Woore.*] Does the price you have mentioned include everything about the well? No; only the timbering and shaft.
3937. *Chairman.*] Allegations have been made that the cost of all these works carried out by the Government are greatly in excess of the cost of similar works to private individuals—now, we would like to know what has been the usual cost in your locality of tanks per cubic yard? Well a great number of them were sunk in the worst days of the drought, and at that time a good many of them cost 1s. 9d. per cubic yard for excavation. There was then no grass, and water and feed had to be carted. Chaff was then some £60 per ton, corn 27s. per bushel, and other things proportionately high.
3938. *Major Penrose.*] And I suppose the contractors had in many instances to go long distances for water? Yes.
3939. Some contractors have said that it would cheapen the cost of works enormously—about 3d. per cubic yard—if the silt-tank were constructed first and the tenant's lease fenced in beforehand, because then they would have plenty of grass and water? Well, it would make a difference; but in these bad seasons grass will grow nowhere, no matter whether the ground is fenced in or not.
3940. You attribute the heavy expense to the bad seasons? Yes.
3941. Squatters would not think of doing work in such seasons? They might do it in some cases of urgency, but it would not be done generally. There was not a blade of grass all over the country when I went there first.
3942. Have you had anything to do with the putting up of huts for caretakers in your district? Yes; I called for tenders for some, but I only put up one.
3943. What sort of hut was that—what was the accommodation and the cost? I think the cost went from £90 to £100. I called for tenders for all the different routes, and I had tenders ranging from £78 to £85—that is, taking a number of the cottages together. Where a contractor takes a number of the cottages they can be done much cheaper. I notice that the Mines Department state that they could put up these cottages in my district at £50, and that the average hitherto had been £82 10s.; but they do not arrange for any painting at all, while we put on three coats of paint. Besides there is not the same accommodation in their cottages as in ours; they have no guttering or piping, and no tank.
3944. Mr. Allison, who is a large squatter in your district, complained to me that he had lost some hundreds of sheep through the defective construction of the troughing at Nullamut tank? That is a tank on the road to Bourke. It only lately came under my care, and I cannot say much about it. It is one of the old tanks that was put down there afterwards—within the last few years. The railing was altered before I took charge of the tank.
3945. Have you heard at all that sheep have died from want of water; and that, owing to this railing, they have refused to drink? I have heard of that occurring to “weaners” several times. They were not accustomed to the troughs, and did not know how to get to them.
3946. But, in spite of that, you do not think it advisable to allow the sheep to water directly at the tanks, and without the aid of troughing? No; and I think it would be a most objectionable thing to allow them to do so. I saw a number of sheep dead at one of these open tanks, and the stench was so great that one could not go within a mile of the place. I see that Mr. Budd states in his evidence that he had tendered for work on the Wilcannia road, and had increased the prices as the depths vary, and as the ground became harder. He said also that he was prepared to submit a tender at a very much reduced price if a concession were made that the slopes should be 6 to 1. The tender he puts in is for the excavation of a tank 14 feet deep for 1s. $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per cubic yard; for a 16-foot tank, 1s. 3d. per cubic yard; and for an 18-foot tank, 1s. $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. per cubic yard. Now, the Springfield tank excavated by him, with batters of 2 to 1, was actually excavated for less per yard than the prices quoted by him. The prices for the Springfield tank were: 14 feet, 1s. $0\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 16 feet, 1s. $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 18 feet, 1s. $2\frac{3}{4}$ d. That is a saving of 1d. on 14 feet, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 16 feet, and $2\frac{3}{4}$ d. on the 18 feet.

3947.

- A. Adam. 3947. But Mr. Budd's remarks may not have reference to the same tank? [No answer.]
 12 April, 1888. 3948. *Mr. Woore.*] Can you give us any explanation about this horse-walk at the Muriel tank? Yes; the horse-walk is not run into the main excavation at all. It touches the outer edge of the roadway.
 3949. Is it between the large excavation and the main embankment? Yes.
 3950. And did any earth thrown in to make this horse-walk go into the excavation of the tank? I do not see that it could.
 3951. But I am asking you whether it did or not? No; I do not think that any of the earth to form the horse-walk fell into the excavation of the tank.
 3952. So that, if it has been represented here that a very large quantity of this earth fell into the excavation and partly filled it up, the statement is not correct? No; most of the people who see it call the area covered by the water the excavation.
 3953. Did this earth, being thrown into the position that you state, any way damage the tank, or decrease its capacity for holding water? No; the area covered by the water is a few acres, and the water is 4 or 5 feet above the excavation.
 3954. *Major Penrose.*] Why was the horse-walk not made on the main embankment or outside it, away from the water? In the previous pump which I put down I was instructed to place the pump 60 feet from the edge of the excavation, and I understood that the same thing applied to this pump as to the previous ones.
 3955. *Mr. Woore.*] And you believed that these instructions applied to the Muriel tank? Yes; it was the same kind of pump, and I thought the same thing applied.
 3956. You admit that the earthwork for the roadway would have been better if it had been put outside the embankment? Yes.
 3957. What was the result of placing it in its present position;—is it any disadvantage? No; it is no disadvantage; but I think it would have been preferable if it were put in the other way.
 3958. Was it an extra expense? It was an extra expense to put it where it is; because, had it been put on the other side, there would not have been so much work to do, as the main embankment could have been utilized.
 3959. Then you are prepared to admit that unnecessary expense has been incurred in this case? Yes.
 3960. And that this was the result of a misunderstanding? Yes.
 3961. *Major Penrose.*] Why did you think that you ought not to exceed the limit of 60 feet from the water? Well, I did not know, unless it were to reduce the amount of friction through a long length of piping.
 3962. *Mr. Woore.*] Is there anything else you would wish taken down? I wish to say, with regard to the sites of the tanks, that the objections made by the officers of the Mines Department to the sites are sufficiently answered when I state that all the tanks have been filled over and over again.
 3963. That is, all the tanks under your charge? Yes; I think this is a sufficient answer—that the tanks have filled, and that a quantity of water went to waste many times—enough to fill two or three tanks. Then, in regard to the cost of the tanks, I notice that in some evidence given by the Mines officers, it is stated that we should have conserved more water above the natural surface of the ground. This would have involved extra expense, because it would have required several hundred feet of fluming and additional pumping apparatus. Most of these tanks are 18 feet deep, and hold quite sufficient water for all requirements without storing it above the excavation.
 3964. *Major Penrose.*] Had you many of these tanks constructed before the long drought? No; it was before I went up that the drought was bad.
 3965. Did not the drought continue up to 1885? No; the long drought was in 1881 to 1884. That was when I went up there first. I drove from Dubbo to Cobar and did not see a blade of grass on the whole trip.
 3966. And some of the tanks were put down at that time? Yes; a number of them. Most of the tanks under my charge were put down since I went up there.
 3967. Have any of the tanks at any time given out? Yes; the Hermitage tank gave out in the drought.
 3968. Is that a large tank? It was 12,000 yards, I think; but I am not sure as to the cubic contents. One thing about this was that the drains were defective—there were not sufficient drains put down. I increased the size, and put down 2 miles of fresh drains, and the tank has improved since then.

[The Commission adjourned.]

FRIDAY, 13 APRIL, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 o'clock.

Present:

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R.E. | J. C. WOORE, Esq.

John Coleman called in and examined:—

- J. Coleman. 3969. *Chairman.*] You are Superintendent of Roads and Bridges? Yes.
 13 April, 1888. 3970. What is your district? The district of Bourke.
 3971. How many years have you been stationed in that district? Six years—between five and a-half and six years.
 3972. Have you had construction of or management of any tanks in your district? Yes; I have to look after twelve or thirteen tanks altogether.
 3973. Who chose the sites and situations of those tanks? Some of these sites were chosen before I took charge of the district; as to others I received instructions from the head office to put tanks at particular sites, or as near as possible to the sites mentioned.
 3974. But by whom were these sites chosen? The latter sites were chosen by our Department, I think, with the approval of the Mines Department.
 3975. Have any complaints been made with regard to the situation of these tanks? Yes; in several cases. The Mulya tank is one of those that have been complained of.
 3976. Where is that tank? It is 14 miles from Louth, on the Louth to Cobar road.

3977.

3977. What is the allegation in regard to that tank? That it is not a good site; but it is almost impossible in that country to get a good catchment. J. Coleman.
3978. But is the tank placed in the best position to be found in that locality? Yes; the best position that we could find. In fact, when we chose the site, that was the only place where water was lying on the ground, and that was why we chose the site. 13 April, 1888.
3979. How long has that tank been finished. Nearly two years, I think.
3980. And has since been filled? Yes; it has had 12 feet of water in it, so far as my memory serves me.
3981. Steps have been taken, I believe, to extend the catchment area so as to increase the water supply? Yes; originally the drains were not sufficiently long, but since then they have been increased.
3982. You think now that the increased catching drains should be ample in a moderate season to fill the tank? I do. Since then, as I have said, the drains to the tank have been increased in length, and now the thing is all right.
3983. *Major Penrose.*] Is it true that the drains are so constructed that the water runs back instead of into the tank? No; the drains have been levelled; every chain of the ground has been levelled.
3984. It has been said that the site of this Mulya tank was bad holding ground; that it would never hold water? It is good holding ground from about 1 foot 6 inches below the surface; but my experience of the country is that a tank, after being filled several times, will hold water to the top. Of course it is very difficult in that country to get good holding ground right throughout. It must be remembered that we are confined to certain distances in putting down these tanks.
3985. I presume a tank will always hold better after it has been filled two or three times? Yes.
3986. What are the slopes to that tank? $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1.
3987. Is that a sufficiently gentle batter, in your opinion? Well, not in all cases.
3988. But for this particular tank? Yes; I think it is sufficiently gentle in this case.
3989. *Chairman.*] It was said, with regard to this tank that a mistake was made in the levelling of the drains, so that the water could only get into the tank by being backed up for a certain distance? The drains were properly levelled by myself, and this was done when the tank was under construction. The whole of the drains, except those recently made, were levelled by me.
3990. Then this statement of Mr. Mackenzie's (the inspector of public watering places) is not correct? No.
3991. The only thing is that you have increased the drains, so as to increase the catchment area. Yes. I did not interfere in any way with the levels of the existing drains.
3992. Now, with regard to this Booroondarra tank? That tank has an excellent catchment.
3993. We have had a charge, too, about the Ford's Bridge tank—that it was not properly situated? It is certainly not good holding-ground, but it is improving every year.
3994. *Mr. Woore.*] And is it well situated as to catchment, &c.? Yes; it is well situated.
3995. *Chairman.* It is said that this tank might have been placed where there is a good hard clay pan catchment? It is on the edge of the clay pans.
3996. So that it means this: that the tank is put on the edge of the clay pans, so that the least shower will send the water to the tank? Yes; the fact of the matter is that we took the water from the clay pan itself on one occasion; but we thought the present catchment from the hills was quite sufficient to fill it.
3997. *Mr. Woore.*] Is this the best catchment to be found in the vicinity? Yes, and well situated.
3998. Has the tank ever filled? Sometimes it has done so, but it depends upon the quantity of the rain. In an ordinary rainfall it would fill.
3999. *Chairman.*] What is the present usual slope of the batters? About 2 to 1. It has been altered from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 to 2 to 1.
4000. Did you find any tanks excavated under your supervision in which it would have been desirable to increase the batter from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 to 2 to 1? Yes; in loose country. The object of making tanks with a batter of 1 to 1 was to get in as large a volume of water as possible, and do away with the evaporation.
4001. Have you had any discretionary power to alter the batter? It was never necessary for me to do so.
4002. You found the batter of 2 to 1 ample? Yes; I think so.
4003. One of the chief complaints made about the steepness of the batters is that it increases the cost of construction so materially that the men cannot use ploughs and bullocks on these steep sides? They do use them, and in this way—by leaving a roadway, which they cut out afterwards. I should say that it does increase the cost a little; but this is not the only reason why our works cost more than the works of squatters. There are other reasons still.
4004. Will you just state them briefly? One of the principal reasons is that the contractor doing work for the stations has many facilities afforded him. He gets his rations at nominal prices almost, and in many cases the station owners have carted water for their contractor. Whereas, if one of our contractors starts to put a tank down upon a run, which is, to a certain extent, directly opposed to the interests of the squatter, he charges him larger prices for his rations and his sheep, and very often charges him for water. In fact, they put many obstacles in the way of the contractor putting down a Government tank. This, however, does not apply in all cases.
4005. Why do these station owners regard these public watering places as being inimical to their interests? Because wherever we put down a tank on a run we reserve or take away a certain amount of their country from them.
4006. So that it is not the putting down of a tank they object to so much as to a slice of their country being taken away from them? Yes; and the travelling stock are then forced through the run.
4007. Is it a fact also that there is considerable delay in the payment to contractors by the Government? No; not in my district. Until quite recently I have paid 50 per cent. right off, and as soon as the work has been measured up I pay 20 per cent. more, in the usual course of affairs. But, of course, there are delays sometimes when questions are raised in regard to certain things in the voucher.
4008. *Major Penrose.*] But this is only in respect to the balance, which amounts to only a small sum? Yes; in very few cases indeed have there been any delays in the making of payments in my district.
4009. Have any regulations been made with respect to payments, other than those which existed when you took charge? Not that I am aware of. We only paid for work first in the usual course of affairs; but certain arrangements were made afterwards, about four years ago, and the contractors were paid on the measurement of the work, 50 per cent., and the remaining 25 per cent. was paid on the usual vouchers being forwarded to Sydney.
- 4010.

- J. Coleman.
13 April, 1888.
4010. I suppose the contractor has sometimes to wait for his money, owing to the Inspector being engaged in other parts of the district? Yes; that occasionally occurs. They have to make complaints if the works are not properly completed.
4011. But I am speaking now of progress payments? We now pay 75 per cent.; and in extreme cases, if the contractor is really actually in want of money, we give it to him, as before stated.
4012. *Mr. Woore.*] But several weeks may intervene, owing to the absence of the Inspector in another part of his district, before the final payment is made? Yes.
4013. What is the longest delay you have known to occur from the fact of an inspector being unable to inspect? I cannot say just now. It might be three or four weeks—sometimes more. We are only supposed to measure up once a month.
4014. *Chairman.*] Now another statement has been made by these contractors;—that the Roads Department are too particular with regard to the dressing of the banks, &c. It has been said that they must make the bottom quite level, and that even if the excavation is of the required depth, and there are small holes in the bottom, these must be filled up, in order to make it smooth? Such a thing as that has never occurred under my supervision. Of course the Mines Department are very particular when taking over the works to have the embankments all square and level throughout. They insist, when the works are being handed over to them, that there shall be this extreme nicety and finish in the work.
4015. After it has been passed by the Inspector? Yes.
4016. *Mr. Woore.*] Can you mention any particular case where this has occurred? Yes; it occurred in connection with the Mulga No. 5 tank, on the road from Byrock to Brewarrina. This particular tank had been completed, but had not been taken over from the contractor by the Works Department. Previous to our visit with Mr. Mackenzie, an overseer of public watering places, the rain-storm occurred, and scoured the embankments; also causing a settlement on the top, and Mr. Mackenzie would not take the work over, although I promised to make everything good. This was some six months ago, and the tank remains on our hands now.
4017. Did this scouring that you mentioned seriously affect the tank in any way, or did it merely affect its appearance? It merely affected its appearance. The tank itself was in no way affected by it.
4018. *Major Penrose.*] I notice that Mr. Waddell mentions this tank as having been completed for some time, but that it was not in order. Is that the explanation? Yes. While we were there my engineer broke the feed-pipe of the boiler. Everything else was in proper order. We guaranteed to fix up everything if they would take the work over, but they would not do so. The consequence of all this is that the Mines Department have lost over six months' revenue from this tank. I went over to this tank to effect a double transfer. I approved of the works as carried out by the contractor, but after this the Mines officer refused to take it over.
4019. Then in your opinion this slight damage to the feed-pipe would not have affected the tank as a public watering place? No; besides we guaranteed to put everything in working order. In fact we would have had to do so.
4020. *Mr. Woore.*] And why has this delay of six months been caused? The Mines officer has never visited the place since.
4021. Have you reported the tank as complete and ready to be handed over to the Mines Department? Yes; several times.
4022. And have you had any intimation from the Mines Department, or from your own, that they declined to take over this tank? No; and I do not know what reason they may have now for not taking it over. I had a memorandum the other day from the Mines Department asking when the tank would be ready to be handed over, and I replied that it was ready six months ago.
4023. How long is it since you sent that reply? About a fortnight ago; and to my knowledge nothing has since been done towards taking the work over.
4024. It is alleged that the Works Department adopt a certain form of tank without reference to the formation or nature of the soil;—what have you to say about that? Well, it remains within the discretion of the officer to a certain extent. The officers have discretion and give reports as to the shape or make of a certain tank. They are not actually bound to hard-and-fast rules. If I had a tank to make where the ground was not suitable for a square tank I would report to the Department, and make recommendations to the Engineer-in-Chief.
4025. As to the batters, do you use your discretion without reference to the Department in regard to them? Yes.
4026. *Major Penrose.*] And as to the form of the embankment? Yes; I would run it out, if thought necessary.
4027. *Mr. Woore.*] In making the slope of the batters do you take into consideration the nature of the soil that you have to work in? Yes; we do.
4028. *Major Penrose.*] Have you ever found it necessary to recommend a batter of more than 2 to 1? No; I think 2 to 1 is quite sufficient for any soil in my district. There may be an odd case where it is not so, but I think, taking it right throughout, as a rule the batter mentioned is sufficient. Of course the steeper the batter is the better it must be for the conservation of water in a warm climate.
4029. Provided, of course, that the sides keep tight? Yes.
4030. And, therefore, you make the sides as steep as you can? Yes; we want to keep the water in as small a surface area as possible.
4031. Have you ever found any sides giving way on account of the batters being too steep? No; except through wind action on the water. The sides will give way in most soils from that cause. The surging action of the water causes the earth-works to drop in, but that would happen in any case, though not to such a great extent.
4032. And, of course, in those where there is a steep batter more than where there is a sloping one? Yes.
4033. A good deal has been made of this wave action;—do you think it has any practical disadvantage? No; it simply alters the appearance of the work—that is all. It might cause a small quantity of earth to fall in, but not the amount supposed; and it would not reduce the capacity of the tank except to a small extent.
4034. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you think that the embankments made round these public tanks shelter the water from the wind? Yes; and prevent the action of the water on the tank. This is the object of putting earthworks round. I may mention in reference to the price paid for our tanks that, as a rule, contractors for.

for squatters are allowed to deposit their earth wherever they please, whereas we put our earth uniformly round the excavation to prevent this wave action, and in this way we economize a lot of water. J. Coleman.

4035. But the formation of these embankments in this shapely manner increases the expense? Yes, 13 April, 1888.

slightly; that is one of the reasons for the larger cost.

4036. But you think this is quite compensated for by the shelter afforded to the water? Yes; I do.

4037. To put the matter in plain words, you think what is gained is worth the price paid for it? Yes; I think it is worth the extra expense.

4038. *Major Penrose.*] It has been said that the inlet from the silt tank to the main tank is in many instances defective in design and in construction? It is not so; not to my knowledge.

4039. You will see in the evidence that Mr. Mackenzie says in his report, "In conclusion, I wish to bring under your notice the state of inlet from silt to main at some of the tanks in my district, which in many cases is a narrow cutting through the earthwork of embankments, which, in time of flood, keeps cutting away and filling in, and, consequently, all loose earth is carried into main tank; this could be remedied by having the sides of embankments logged or stoned, to prevent cutting the tanks. Where this is most required is at Helman's tank, Booroondarra and Mulga No. 5"? A great deal of that depends upon the caretaker or lessee. In many cases this shoot is impeded considerably after rain. When once you get rain, scouring takes place, and unless it is properly attended to at once the thing will continue. In other cases the caretakers put stones in to prevent this scouring—they do this in their spare time. A little care on the part of the caretaker would prevent any danger whatever, and would keep the shoot in proper order.

4040. You do not consider it necessary to "pitch" the drains or "log" the embankments? No; but loose stones are sometimes put in to prevent the action of the water. It is one of the instructions to the caretakers that they are to pay particular attention to this shoot.

4041. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you think it necessary, in the first instance, to protect the shoot in any way? This that I now speak of would be a protection.

4042. But you say that this is not done by the Works Department, but only by the caretakers? In some cases the ground is too hard to scour away. It is the duty of the caretakers to keep it in repair.

4043. In cases where the ground is liable to scour away much, do not the Works Department protect it in some way? Yes; we cut out the drain and board it over, after making provision to prevent scouring in the inlet shoot. What Mr. Mackenzie means here is actual scouring of open drains, and I think in these cases it is necessary to put in stones.

4044. Should not this be done before handing the works over to the Mines Department? No; I do not think so, because it would not give them much trouble to do it.

4045. It is also alleged that in many cases there has been great carelessness shown in laying out drains running into these tanks? No; I know of no such cases in my district.

4046. Now as to the excessive cost of construction of drains? I have no information on that subject.

4047. *Major Penrose.*] What price do you pay for construction of drains? From 14s. to 15s. per chain. The cost averages from 10s. to 15s. per chain.

4048. What are the sections? From 12 to 15 feet wide and 9 inches deep.

4049. And is that the usual price for these drains? Yes; that is the usual price.

4050. *Mr. Woore.*] How much of that kind of drain could a man do in a day in ordinary soil? Well, I cannot say, I am sure. They plough and scoop it out, but then they have to trim it out afterwards with shovels.

4051. It has also been alleged that the forms of machinery for lifting water at some of the watering places are too expensive and necessitate great cost for maintenance? I do not see that the cost of maintenance is any greater than it would be with other forms of machinery. There would have to be a caretaker there to look after the place just the same as if there were no pump there.

4052. What sort of pumps is used? Tangye's steam and horse pumps, and the Amos & Smith's steam and horse pumps.

4053. Do you think that these are the most economical kinds of pumps that could have been adopted for the purpose? I do.

4054. And not liable with ordinary care to get out of order? The machines which I recommended are the Amos & Smith's horse-pumps and the Tangye steam pump. Any man of ordinary intelligence could after a little experience work them, protect, and keep them in order. I think any ordinary workman should be able to do it.

4055. It has been said that the M'Comas pump is very much cheaper and very much better than the others? Well, it might be for small station work, but not for work of such importance as we do.

4056. Have you seen any of these M'Comas pumps in use? Yes; on stations, but never at any of the public watering places.

4057. Do they not lift a sufficient quantity of water? Yes; but it takes too long to lift the water. One man cannot possibly lift sufficient water with a M'Comas pump to water the stock that go along a road.

4058. *Major Penrose.*] Have you any idea how many sheep or cattle have been watered at any tank in your district in one day? Well I cannot say for a certainty, but about 20,000, I should think.

4059. *Chairman.*] What amount of water would they require? Well, at least 20,000 or 30,000 gallons—that is, including what would necessarily go to waste. Of course the pump would have to be kept going while the stock were drinking in order to keep up the supply.

4060. *Major Penrose.*] Do you think that the public watering places in your district will be much more largely used in future? No; I do not think so to any great extent; on the Queensland road they will. On the Barrington and Hungerford tracks, I think that more stock will come down than have come down within the last two or three years. I think that as soon as the Wanaaring track is opened up, a great amount of stock will come through there.

4061. Some tanks, then, will have more pressure put upon them than now exists? To a great extent this will divide the traffic, but with a considerable increase. I do not think there will be any more pressure upon any particular tank.

4062. I suppose that most of the public tanks constructed in your time have had no real pressure put upon them? No.

4063. *Mr. Woore.*] Is there not another form of pump being used—the Amos & Smith steam pump? Is that a complicated pump? No; not at all complicated, but those that I have mentioned are more simple, and are not so liable to get out of order.

- J. Coleman. 4064. *Major Penrose.*] Have you ever employed any maintenance men to keep these pumps in repair? Yes; I send one round occasionally, but I do not keep him constantly employed; he is not wholly employed at that work.
- 13 April, 1888. 4065. *Mr. Woore.*] If these pumps could be kept in order by caretakers of ordinary intelligence, what necessity is there to retain a travelling mechanic to keep them in order? Well, sometimes things go wrong and repairs are required which a caretaker cannot do. This man goes round occasionally and tutors the caretakers in the working of the engines.
4066. Have you had much to do with fencing in your district? Yes.
4067. Do you consider the specifications for fencing call for a fence of too expensive a character for your district? No; I do not.
4068. You are aware that the Government pays a great deal more for fences than the squatters do? Yes; and for the simple reason that a contractor will charge more in proportion for a small amount of fencing than he will for a large contract. Besides on a station he gets every facility for doing his work, which, as in the case of excavations, he does not get when erecting a fence for the Government.
4069. It has been said here that although a strong and expensive fence might be necessary round a tank, there is no necessity to put an equally strong fence round the caretaker's paddock? I do not think that the fences are at all too expensive. If the whole lease is fenced in, it is never more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and of course a contractor will do 30 or 40 miles of fencing much cheaper in proportion than he will fence $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles.
4070. Do you think that the gauge of the wire used is unnecessarily heavy? No; we put five No. 6 wires and one No. 4.
4071. If this very strong wire (No. 4 gauge) were on top, you would not require such strong wire underneath? Well, No. 6 is not a particularly strong wire; certainly not as strong as No. 4.
4072. *Chairman.*] I believe that horses are sometimes placed in the caretaker's paddocks? Yes; the lessee has the right to agist 40 head of stock, according to the terms of his lease. The object of the Mines Department in doing this is to lease as many of the tanks as they can, and so do away with the necessity of having caretakers. I think the privileges of the caretaker extend to having cattle and horses for himself and for the working of the pump, or something of that sort?
4073. *Mr. Woore.*] Notwithstanding the great strength of these fences round the caretakers' paddocks, have you ever known any of them to be broken down by stock? I have seen them broken, but I do not know how they were broken. I have never seen it done. I have noticed, also, the wires broken on several occasions round the special leases.
4074. Have you ever seen a No. 4 wire broken? No, I do not say that. It might be, but I am certain I have seen the others broken.
4075. Do you think that it is necessary to sink the posts to such a great depth? No, not in all cases. In loose, red, sandy country I should say that it would be necessary.
4076. Why should it be so even, then, if there are good straining-posts in the fence? On account of the driving wind, which takes the wind away from the post.
4077. An extra 6 inches of sinking adds considerably to the cost, does it not? No; not very much per post.
4078. But I mean that the sinking of a post an extra 6 inches in the ground makes a difference? Yes.
4079. Do you think that the specifications as printed might be modified without detriment to the stability of the fences, and lessening of the expense? Yes.
4080. *Chairman.*] I believe that timber is fairly plentiful in your district? In some cases; as compared with the plains, it is plentiful.
4081. What is the highest price you have ever paid for fencing in your district? I think it is £88 per mile; that is, for fences round the special leases.
4082. What is it that goes to make up this cost? We have six wires; posts 10 feet apart, sunk 2 feet 6 inches in the ground; straining-posts every 12 panels, sunk also 2 feet 6 inches in the ground, with a post 9 inches in diameter.
4083. Were the other posts round stuff? They were split posts 9 x 3. The timber was of various sorts—hardwood, ironwood, &c. We have no pine in this particular part of the country. We have gidya, but not in this particular fence.
4084. Can a substantial fence be put up round these tenants' leases for £45 per mile—the same sum as the squatters' fences are put up for? It could be put up, but it would not be the same sort of fence that we erect.
4085. But supposing that the squatters' fences last for fifteen years, and yours for thirty years—would the difference in durability be equal to the increased cost? I may say that most of this work was done in the middle of the drought, and of course we would do it cheaper now if we had it to do. The carriage of the material then cost a great deal of money.
4086. While admitting that the Government work should always be strong, yet it is considered that in many instances too much money is spent on it. We want your opinion? Well, I think the design might be modified to some extent.
4087. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you think that these strong fences that you are asked about are worth the money, or do you think that too much has been paid for them? No, I think not; considering that the most of the work done was done in the middle of the drought when everything was very dear indeed.
4088. Have you ever had to call for fresh tenders? Yes; and I think the fact that there has been so much competition proves that we have had our work done in the cheapest market.
4089. *Chairman.*] Have you ever known any contracts to be sublet at very much reduced rates? No; I have not. Men may have sublet the providing and the putting in of the posts, but I do not think any great profit was made. In no case of tank excavation have I ever known of the subletting of work.
4090. *Major Penrose.*] You always estimate the cost of a fence yourself? Yes.
4091. And as a rule some of the tenders are higher and some lower than your estimate? Yes.
4092. Do you generally accept the lowest tender? Invariably.
4093. Although it may seem to you to be an absurdly low price? Yes; I accept the tender, but occasionally they refuse to carry out the work; but I always recommend that the lowest tender be accepted. In a few instances contractors have declined to go on with the work.
4094. *Chairman.*] What kind of gates have you put up at these paddocks? Five-barred gates 12 feet long.

4095. What is the cost? They vary in price from £10 to £15. The latter figure is, I think, the maximum.
4096. Do you think it necessary to have such costly gates? Well, it is necessary that the gates should be substantial. And they seem to last very well.
4097. Have you ever seen gates made of battens and bolted together with bolts and nuts, without any mortices? No, I have not seen anything of that kind.
4098. *Major Penrose.*] Are not these gates let with the fences? No; they are a separate item. The contractor gives a special price for the gates.
4099. *Mr. Woore.*] In speaking of the cost of the fences, do you include the gates? No; a special price is always given for the gates.
4100. *Chairman.*] Now have you ever had any trouble with the caretakers employed by the Mines Department? No; not directly. I have had no actual interference with them. I have often had to instruct them to do certain things, and, as a rule, they did what they were told.
4101. Are these the caretakers who are under the Mines Department? Yes.
4102. By what right, then, did you give them instructions? I had actually no right to give them instructions; but if I saw anything going wrong, I thought it was my duty to do so.
4103. Was this resented in any way? No; not by the caretakers.
4104. And when you have had occasion to find fault, has any caretaker ever resented it or told you that you had no business interfering with him? No.
4105. Then they generally complied with your directions? Yes; but it was after some time. However, what I asked was generally done in the end.
4106. And if the work is in any way neglected you report to the head of your Department? Yes.
4107. Do you ever report the matter to the overseer of public watering places? Yes; in my experience the only actual trouble I have had with the Mines Department is in the handing over of works to that Department.
4108. *Major Penrose.*] Have you ever found repairs were carried out by the Mines Department which you considered were unnecessary or detrimental? The only repair that I noticed was this alteration to the troughing, &c.
4109. That, I understand, has to be carried out by the Mines? Yes. On the Tindarey tank they have altered the rail by placing it down the centre.
4110. And the Works Department are carrying that out now? Yes; it was done as an experiment by the Mines Department.
4111. Have you ever had any trivial matters referred to you that ought to have been done by the caretakers? No.
4112. *Chairman.*] Have any wells been sunk in your district? No.
4113. Have you had anything to do with hutting? No.
4114. Now, then, as to the troughing—which seems to be a vexed question in the adjoining district of Cobar—a great many complaints have been made about these troughs, and it was said that it was impossible for sheep to water at them, in consequence of which a great many died? There have been complaints of the old system of troughing, but these complaints did not include anything about the loss of sheep. I think that occurred years ago, in the open tanks.
4115. Have drovers never made any complaints to you that sheep would not drink at the troughs? Yes; they did under the old principle of troughing; but I think they are now perfectly satisfied with what we are doing.
4116. We were told that the guards, while allowing the larger sheep to drink, effectually shut out the smaller sheep from the water? Yes. The difficulty under the old system was that large cattle could drink, but smaller ones could not; but I think that the rail down the centre and the iron troughing is very much more perfect, and have remedied any difficulty which existed.
4117. You would never, I presume, recommend a return to the old system of watering stock from open tanks? Certainly not. It caused a great waste of water.
4118. Now, in the event of a contingency such as this arising, that a large number of travelling stock came up to the water and there were no means of watering them, what would you do? We should in that case have to let them into the tank.
4119. But they could scarcely drink owing to the steep batters that you make to the tanks? That would be the only way to do.
4120. Do you think that it would be desirable to have one side of the tank made with a gentler batter to meet such a contingency as this? I do not see that any danger is likely to occur if we have steady men to work these pumps.
4121. Have you ever felt any inconvenience or trouble from the present control over the tanks and wells—one Department having the construction and the other the management? I certainly think it would be very much better for everybody if the whole were under one head; and especially so for one reason, the delay in taking over the works from one Department to another, causing a very large loss to the public revenue.
4122. And then to do larger repairs when necessary? This is one of the principal arguments in favour of taking the whole thing under one common head. In the case of this Mullga No. 5 tank I guaranteed if the Mines officer took it over, to do anything which was required to put the work in good order.
4123. Are you occasionally called upon to make good damage done by heavy rains? In some few cases I have done so. I have put on horses and carts occasionally to assist the caretakers.
4124. I presume the silt tanks occasionally fill up? Yes; and I have occasionally had them cleaned out.
4125. Is not that still the duty of the caretaker? Well, it should be. The inspectors of public watering places have permission to spend up to £10 in making repairs, and they could do it.
4126. Will you now tell us when you lay out the site for a tank what course do you adopt? I test the lay of the country as to the catchment, and then I take general opinion on it; but I use my own judgment, combined with general opinion. The people who have travelled the country for years ought to know the chief catchments. I then peg out what I consider is a reasonable site of a catchment to fill the excavation. One cannot well take a long time in getting information, but I get what information I can from outside and use it with my own.
4127. Do you put down trial shafts? Yes; we do that first in order to test the nature of the ground.
4128. *Major Penrose.*] How many trial shafts do you put down? We put down two or three in different places. Of course occasionally we have to shift our tank sites if we get into bad ground.

- J. Coleman. 4129. *Chairman.*] And having tested the nature of the ground you draw up specifications and call for tenders? Yes.
- 13 April, 1888. 4130. To whom are these tenders sent? To the head office in Sydney, together with my recommendations.
4131. But are they not opened by the local officer? Yes; in the presence of the Clerk of Petty Sessions, who checks and countersigns them, and then signs the schedules of tender.
4132. Is it at all possible that any favoritism can be shown to any tenderer? Not the slightest. The lowest tender is in every case recommended for acceptance.
4133. In the event of the work then being carried on under your supervision, could you, if you found it necessary, modify the specifications in any particular? So far as the capacity of the tank is concerned we could make the tank either larger or smaller. There is a clause in the specifications allowing for that.
4134. Can you alter the batter or the depth? Yes; I would recommend it to the Department if I thought anything of that sort necessary.
4135. Have you ever found out any attempt on the part of the contractors to deceive you in the measurements? In very few cases. The only difficulty I found was in getting the slopes properly made; sometimes they rounded the slopes.
4136. In the event of a rock being come upon which had not been discovered by the trial shaft, do you think the contractor should have compensation? No; because I think the shaft generally shows them what they have to do. In fact, no claim has yet been made for any such compensation. I generally put down trial shafts first and then every contractor is at liberty to test the ground further if he likes.
4137. *Mr. Woore.*] But he is not allowed any compensation if he comes upon rock which was not shown in the trial shafts? No; he has every opportunity to test the ground.
4138. *Chairman.*] We have had it in evidence here that one contractor came upon rock and that he lost money by the contract. It was stated that had this work been done for a squatter the squatter would have made some allowance? As I have said, the contractor has every opportunity to test the ground. If we were to compensate the contractors for this we should have to compensate them also for every kind of loss imaginable. Frequently the contractors put in prices for rock, and if they do not protect themselves in this matter it is simply their own fault. It has occurred in one case that a contractor came to rock and was paid for it, as it was known to exist, his tender containing a price for such work; but there have been other cases where contractors came to rock or conglomerate and were not paid for it.
4139. *Mr. Woore.*] Have you ever known men to lose by their contracts? Well, possibly they might have done so. Certainly this sort of ground would not pay them so well as ordinary alluvial sinking.
4140. *Major Penrose.*] Was that cement which you have spoken of found in any of the trial shafts that were put down? Yes; the contractors knew of it. I would like to draw your attention to the evidence given here by Mr. Mackenzie:—
1671. *Mr. Woore.*] Has there been any carelessness shown in not taking advantage of the formation of the ground and utilizing catchment area so as to avoid collection of silt? This is what I have mentioned before. There is the Kerrigundi tank, which is placed in a depression of undulating country, and the drains go into it from a very steep slope; consequently everything is washed down into it from the hills. It is most difficult to keep the silt tank clean, and at the present time I believe the water is only 3 feet deep.
- I want to say now that there are no drains at all to this tank. There are drains to carry the surface water clear of the troughing, but that is all. The site of this tank is one of the best on the road.
4141. Was the site of this tank chosen by you? No; by my predecessor in the district.
4142. Do you think that the objections to the sites are uncalled for? Yes; I do think so. I always expend a great deal of care in the selection of sites. The only tank in my district, the site of which is said to be badly chosen is Mulya. I do not know the other districts at all. In some cases an uneducated man may be a very efficient man as a caretaker, but at the same time he is not capable of keeping the set of books that are required of him. So that very often a good working man is sacrificed to a man who can merely keep a set of books.
4143. *Chairman.*] Supposing a scheme were devised making it compulsory on the drovers to pay for the watering of their stock at the time of getting their permit to travel, would such a scheme be a good one, in your opinion? It always has been my opinion that such a scheme would be a good one. It would do away with the necessity of keeping books by caretakers. I think it is very desirable also for the reason that it will bring in a greater amount of revenue to the country. We will suppose that a drover starts from Barrington with 25,000 head of sheep and is travelling towards Hillston, on the Lachlan. When he obtains his permit he should have to pay for every tank on the road between these two places. The Stock Inspector would say to him, "You have so many public watering places to water at and we will charge you 10s. per 1000 of your stock for each one of these watering places." He is compelled to pay this amount, whereas under present circumstances if there is water to be had elsewhere on the road he gets it and passes by the public watering place. Now I hold that as these public watering places were constructed for the use of travelling stock, the travelling stock should be made to pay for every one of them. This is the only way I can see of dealing with the matter. By not having to attend to this book-keeping the caretaker could be made less responsible, and it would give him more time to attend to his work.
4144. Do you think it desirable to fence off these travelling stock routes, excepting those which have any frontages to water? It would be a very good thing for the squatter.
4145. But it would not be a very good thing for the travelling public? No; not in all cases. In some cases stock have to go by other roads.
4146. But they do it at their peril? Yes.
4147. But if the road were fenced off the squatter could not eat off the grass as he does sometimes now? I think if there could be some arrangement devised by which the Government would pay one-half and the squatter the other half, it would be a good arrangement. It would be a good thing for the travelling public. The squatter now has to pay for his run, which contains the travelling stock route, and of course has a right to eat off the grass.
4148. *Mr. Woore.*] Would not this fencing mean a tremendous expense to the country? Yes.
4149. And even if the squatters paid one-half the cost of the fencing it would still be a great expense to the country? Yes; and I hardly think the expense would be justifiable.
4150. *Chairman.*] Are there any other suggestions that you would like to offer to this Commission? Not that I can think of just now.

4151. Now do you think it would be advisable to place these works in the hands of local bodies? I think the Local Government Bill will deal with that. But as for the control of stock, that would be a different matter. Different bodies would want to collect portions of the money. Local bodies would of course take charge of the tanks and make a revenue out of them. The present system is not at all desirable, the works being under two Departments. J. Coleman.
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4152. *Major Penrose.*] Do you think it will ever be possible to get rid of caretakers? No; I think it will always be necessary to get somebody to look after the machinery. It would, I think, be very advisable to hand these works over to lessees, if you could have it done. But, under the arrangement that we were speaking of, caretakers would still be necessary.

[The Commission adjourned.]

WEDNESDAY, 18 APRIL, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R.E.

J. C. WOORE, Esq.

Edward George Cronin called in and examined:—

E. G. Cronin.

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4153. *Chairman.*] What are you? I am Road Superintendent for the Deniliquin district.

4154. How long have you been in that district? A little over six years.

4155. Have any tanks been constructed under your supervision during that time? One only.

4156. What tank is that? Black Swamp tank.

4157. When you were selecting the site for that tank were you only responsible, or did the Mines Department give you any assistance? I think the selection of the site emanated from a conference between Mr. Gilliat and Mr. Wood.

4158. Did the Mines Department fix the site, or merely select the locality? Well, I would not be certain about that. A conference took place, I think, and I got a memorandum from Mr. Wood to sink trial shafts to try for water. The exact place was left to my discretion. Instructions were first given to sink for a well, but as we could not get good water, I was instructed to sink a tank.

4159. Has any fault since been found with the site by the Mines Department? None whatever; and I do not think it was possible to have found fault with it. In fact Mr. Gilliat specially praised the work when he came to take it over.

4160. What batter did you give the sides for the tank? $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1.

4161. Is that the usual batter, or is it an excessive one? I would not consider it so in my district.

4162. Is that batter sufficient for the nature of the soil? Quite sufficient.

4163. Have you travelled much outside your district? Yes; previous to having charge of the Deniliquin district I had the Hay district under my supervision.

4164. And are there many tanks in that district? There are.

4165. From what you know of that district you think that the sites there are well chosen? Yes; so far as my experience goes with regard to that district, they are well selected.

4166. And having due regard to the necessity of putting them a certain distance apart? Yes.

4167. Have you ever noticed much wash-away in these tanks owing to the steep batters? Of course it would be attributed to the batters; but it is merely a frittering away of the top soil on account of the water getting between the soil and the clay at a lower level than the natural surface of the ground. This slides to the bottom and the tank forms its own batter.

4168. Do you not think that in any instance like this it would be desirable to make a greater slope? I think that no matter what the slope was the tank would still fritter away at the berm, owing to the wind—that is, in friable soil.

4169. You are aware that making these steep batters necessitates increased expense in excavation? Yes.

4170. Then, taking so much for granted, is it desirable to go into this extra expense when the tank will eventually slip in and form its own slopes? I would simply like to repeat, in answer to that question, that in any case there would still be the frittering away at the berm.

4171. But if it was a very gentle batter it could not slip in? The earth must go somewhere, and the action of the wind will carry it back. There are many things to consider in connection with these tanks, and the principal one is as to the permanency of the water at the public watering places. By the construction of the steep batters we reduce the evaporation.

4172. Just state the reasons which actuated the Department in making these steep batters, and reply in your own way, if you wish it, to the arguments of those who are in favour of gentle slopes? The main object of these steep slopes was to conserve water with as little superficial exposure as possible. Now, with regard to the adverse opinion as to the slopes of tanks, I can only look upon our works in most instances as being carried out to the true intent and purpose of the end in view; and that with any easier slopes to such tanks it would be necessary that the tank should be deepened in order to give the same cubical contents of water.

4173. And this deepening of the tanks would, of course, increase the cost of excavation? Yes; it would bring up the cost to a similar amount, at least, to what is now paid.

4174. *Major Penrose.*] But you might get the same cubical contents by taking a larger superficial area and a lesser depth? Of course.

4175. *Mr. Woore.*] In order to reduce the expense it would be necessary that the batters should be such as would allow bullocks to draw scoops up? Yes; and that would be a batter of about 4 to 1. It would be necessary to have a larger extent of the surface of the ground opened up or go to a greater depth, and I do not think it would be advisable to expose the water to greater exposure than at present.

4176. You were talking about this frittering action on the banks—has it ever extended, in your experience, far enough to endanger the embankment? No.

4177.

E. G. Cronin. 4177. *Major Penrose.*] And what do you consider it has ever reduced your batter to? Very probably to about 2 to 1—about 3 feet back. The actual amount would depend upon the depth of the tank. I would say the average would be 9 feet back. It has not extended to the drain between the berm and the embankment.

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4178. *Chairman.*] Then comes the point, would it not be much better to make a gentler slope originally than to have the banks slipping in afterwards? No; because the bank would still go somewhere.

4179. Now, do you not think it would be desirable to have gentler slopes on one side in order to enable the contractor to get the stuff out? No; I think the benefit the contractor would derive from this would not be such as to justify the upsetting of the professional opinion already given why the slopes should be steep.

4180. Then let us look at it from another point of view. In the event of the pump getting out of order would it not be desirable to have one slope to the tank more gentle than the others, in order to allow travelling stock to water at the tank direct until the necessary repairs had been effected? Well, in the first place I can hardly admit that with proper care the pumps will get out of order. In fact, a Chinaman could understand and work the pumps we provide at these tanks and wells; and I think it is hardly worth while providing for a contingency that may never occur.

4181. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you not think that making one of these slopes with a less batter than the others would be dangerous, inasmuch as drovers would sometimes take advantage of it? Yes; I am of that opinion. It would lead caretakers to be very reckless, and in order to save themselves from pumping they would very likely allow stock to go into the tanks. I think, too, it would lead to dishonest practices between the drovers and the caretakers.

4182. *Major Penrose.*] With regard to this washing-down of the batters, is it not the duty of the caretaker to keep the batters up, if he can? Most undoubtedly it should be.

4183. And can he prevent by proper care and attention any undue washing-away of the batters? Yes; it has been done at Black Swamp. The system of facine work has been carried out by the caretaker to protect part of the bank with ordinary lignum bushes and sticks.

4184. That is, to adopt a similar plan to that adopted in every large embankment on which pitching is put? Yes. This facine work merely acts against the force of the waves. Wherever the bank has started to wash this has been found to be a practical plan to prevent it.

4185. Does this washing-away take place at every tank? No; I think not; only at those tanks where the top of the surface is of a friable nature, and where the banks are acted upon by strong prevailing winds.

4186. *Mr. Woore.*] When the bank frets away would not this rivetting with lignum bushes be apt to wash into the water and foul it? No; I do not think so. The stakes are driven into the clay.

4187. *Major Penrose.*] Does this washing-away seriously interfere with the efficiency, as regards depth or otherwise, of any tank that you know of? So far as my experience goes I know of no such case.

4188. *Mr. Woore.*] Has any tank that you have protected with lignum in the way that you describe been afterwards filled to the berm? Yes.

4189. And what was the effect when the water went down? The facine work was wholly intact. Black Swamp tank is the only tank I have had constructed.

4190. *Chairman.*] What forms of machinery are used in the Deniliquin district for lifting water? The Tange pump and some horse-gear pumps.

4191. And are these very effective? Yes, very effective.

4192. Which do you consider most desirable—horse or steam pumps? Of course we must be guided by the circumstances of the case.

4193. You would not have steam machinery where you could not get wood, but where you could get it you would advise steam rather than horse power;—have you ever gone into the question at all? Well, not very seriously. A good deal depends upon the class of caretakers and upon the surrounding circumstances. We adapted our works and our lifting appliances in each case to suit the surrounding circumstances.

4194. Presuming that the caretakers' wages are increased from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per day on account of supplying a horse, would you not in that case recommend the adoption of steam-power? It would even then depend upon the surrounding circumstances.

4195. I have been giving you the circumstances—the caretaker provides his own horse and has to pay for supplies for the horse as well as for himself? Yes; but on the other hand we have to pay for the timber for the steam-engine, and if we are obliged to cart it a long distance the cost would be very great. In some cases it might be advocated. Of course it is a difficult thing to give an answer to such an all-round question as that.

4196. What kind of machinery would you order yourself—steam or horse-power—presuming that you had the surroundings enabling you to make a choice between them? I certainly should prefer to order motive-power by steam in preference to horse-power, where the surrounding circumstances would admit of it.

4197. *Mr. Woore.*] Are you of opinion that any hard and fast rule should be laid down, either for the construction of tanks or for the adoption of water-lifting machinery; or in each case would you not be guided by the local circumstances? I am of opinion that it is very necessary in the first instance to refer to the type designs, and if these designs apply to the tank or well about to be constructed, then they should be adopted. But it is within the power of the constructing officer to make those alterations which the case demands.

4198. *Major Penrose.*] You mean, to suggest alterations? Yes; we have discretionary powers, and whatever we recommend is invariably carried out.

4199. *Chairman.*] Then you do not think it is desirable to have a cheaper mode of lifting water—say by a hand-pump? Certainly not.

4200. Why? Because we have proved, in a practical manner, that hand-power is not equal to the demands made upon it.

4201. *Major Penrose.*] How did you prove it—by testing it? I cannot give the exact particulars; but the thing is almost self-evident.

4202. *Chairman.*] It has been said that one man, with a M'Comas lift, can water 10,000 sheep in a day? [No answer.]

4203. Do you think that is possible; and, if so, would it be sufficient? No. My opinion of this matter is more or less theoretical; but still it is borne out by the owners of stations, who, at the present time, are using the same class of lifting appliances as ours. E. G. Cronin.
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4204. *Mr. Woore.*] Similar to those used at public watering places? Yes; similar to those that we are using. I know of instances where the Tangye steam-pumps are applied in my district on stations to the lifting of water.

4205. *Major Penrose.*] Is the M'Comas lift much used by station owners in your district? I do not know of any stations where they are used; and, in fact, it was only recently that I spoke to a majority of the squatters in my district, as to whether they would purchase the M'Comas water-lift at Box Creek, for which we had no use. They condemned the M'Comas lift, and said they would not have anything to do with it. They said that they would not have it at any price.

4206. *Chairman.*] I believe the expense of fitting up a M'Comas lift would be very great? Yes; there is a great deal of gear in connection with it.

4207. *Mr. Woore.*] Have you seen any of the M'Comas lifts put up? Yes; I have seen them after being erected. I should think that our pumping gear should be of the simplest kind, and we have adopted that idea now. I think the machinery for lifting water should be of the simplest nature compatible with the cost of erection and after maintenance.

4208. And could anything be more simple than the forms of machinery now adopted by the Department? No; nothing more simple.

4209. It has been alleged that some of the fences round the lessees' paddocks are faulty in construction and excessive in cost. What have you to say to that? With regard to faulty construction, I think the charge is not justified. As to the excessive cost, I can only say that no matter what the works cost, they can be done for less. But work done at less expense would not be of the national description that all works under the hands of Government should be.

4210. Do you think that these fences have cost more than they are worth? No.

4211. You think that the prices paid for them was a fair price for that class of work? Yes; a fair price for the class of work, so far as my experience goes.

4212. Now, what is the class of work in these fences? Well, I can only speak of my own district. I have had the posts which are erected, split 9 by 3 and 8 by 4 respectively; they are split posts. They are 2 feet 6 inches in the ground, 9 to 10 feet apart, the top wire being No. 4, to take the place of a rail; the rest of the wires were Nos. 7 and 8 gauge. Of course if we start with No. 8 we use it right through.

4213. And how many straining-posts? A straining-post every twenty-second post of round timber, 9 to 12 inches in diameter. They are put 3 feet in the ground.

4214. Are the fences which you describe round the caretakers' paddocks, or round the tank itself? This fence is round the caretaker's paddock.

4215. Do you think that 2 feet 6 inches is an unnecessary depth for posts to be in the ground? No; I should not think so, in view of the object.

4216. I suppose you admit that if the posts were only 2 feet in the ground, it would mean a considerable lessening in the cost of construction? Yes.

4217. What is the difference in cost between sinking holes 2 feet and 2 feet 6 inches in the ground? I think the difference would be about £3 per mile.

4218. Would not that depend upon the kind of ground? Yes.

4219. Are the posts put down 2 feet 6 inches in the ground, irrespective of the kind of soil? Yes; the soil does not differ much below the surface.

4220. And do you not think it is unnecessary to do that? No; our fences require stability, and we want them as a protection against horned cattle as well as sheep.

4221. Now, with regard to the No. 4 wire, do you not think that it would be as effective if No. 6 were used, and considerably less expensive? Well, it stands to reason that No. 4 is stronger and more expensive than No. 6.

4222. But is there not an objection to it on this ground, that one man cannot strain it properly? I know of no instance in my district where it cannot be done.

4223. You think that, taking them altogether, these fences are of a good class for what they are intended for? I consider that we have studied economy in the erection of these fences, and in fixing on No. 4 gauge wire instead of a top rail. The object of fencing is not only to keep sheep but also horned cattle from breaking into the paddock. The Mines Department recently erected a fence at the Colombo dam. It has six wires above the ground, and the top wire is only 3 feet 6 inches high. It is a sheep fence. I am informed that the contractor's price was £44 per mile for it, in fact the contractor told me so himself.

4224. Was that a good fence? It was a pine fence, but not suitable for the purpose.

4225. What should be the cost of this fence as you describe it? It would depend upon the carriage of the timber. In some instances we have had to cart timber 60 miles.

4226. As you have had some fencing done yourself, can you give us some instances as to what are the highest prices you have known to have been paid for fencing? The highest price ever paid for our fencing in the Deniliquin district was 25s. per chain.

4227. But I want to know the cost per mile? It would be £100 per mile. But in this instance the timber had to be carted 63 miles.

4228. What is the lowest price that you have known to be paid for fencing? The lowest price paid for fencing in the Deniliquin district of the class described is £74 per mile; that is, for fences round the caretakers' paddocks.

4229. Have you ever seen such a fence as you describe as having been put up by the Works Department, erected on any station;—have you ever seen these fences so substantial and costly? No; I have not. It would never pay a station owner to erect a fence of that description; neither are such fences required on stations.

4230. *Major Penrose.*] Have you seen the specifications, for fencing, issued in 1887? Yes; I have seen them.

4231. You see that there are no straining-posts stipulated for there? Yes. I think it certainly would be better to strain to one post; but I have had no experience in that class of work—fencing without such strainers. I find that all wires can be expeditiously strained by adopting one straining-post.

E. G. Cronin. 4232. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you think that straining-posts are indispensable in the making of good fences? I would not say that.

18 April, 1888. 4233. *Major Penrose.*] What is the type of fence round the tanks in your district? Post and top rail, split and morticed, with four or five wires.

4234. *Mr. Woore.*] In the evidence of some of the Mines witnesses it is said that gates of a very expensive character, and altogether too good for the purpose, are put up in the caretakers' paddocks? With regard to the charge of the Mines Department that the gates are too costly, I think the onus rests to a certain extent with the Mines officers themselves; because when Mr. Gilliat accompanied Mr. Wood to Black Swamp tank in 1883 for the express purpose of taking delivery of the works which were completed, Mr. Gilliat spoke in the most favourable manner of the works at Black Swamp tank, and he made a special request that a gate similar to the one already constructed at the north-west corner of the works should be fixed at another corner of the paddock.

4235. And was it erected accordingly? It was.

4236. Now will you describe the construction of these gates and what they are made of? This particular gate in question—and this particular class of gate, which I believe is one of the gates complained of—is constructed of soft wood, 12 feet wide, 4 feet high, morticed and bolted. It has three cross bars and uprights, hinged to a post apart from the fence. The gates are also painted white.

4237. What do they cost each? From £10 to £12.

4238. And how many gates are there in the caretaker's paddock? One is quite sufficient.

4239. But as a rule how many are there? There is usually one, but in some cases there are two.

4240. *Major Penrose.*] Altogether at a watering place there are only two gates? That is all.

4241. *Mr. Woore.*] Apart from Mr. Gilliat's request about this gate that you spoke of, do you not think that a much less expensive gate would have answered the purpose? A gate might be constructed cheaper, but I venture to say that the cost of our gates is caused by the strength of their construction.

4242. I suppose you put up a gate in accordance with the fence;—if you have a first-class fence you put up a first-class gate? Yes; we put up a gate in keeping with the fence.

4243. It has been alleged here that great interference has taken place by the officers of the Works Department with the caretakers and overseers of the Mines? I have merely heard that such has taken place; I do not know anything of my own personal knowledge. That may be accounted for by the fact that I have sensible overseers in my district. When anything has been required in the district of which I have charge, the overseer invariably asked me for my opinion in writing, accompanied by plans of any proposal that the Mines wished to adopt.

4244. Then nothing has come under your notice in any way tending to show that there has been interference with the caretakers by the Roads officers? No; everything went on very smoothly in my district.

4245. And there has been no friction between you and the caretakers? No; we had instructions to assist them in every way we could, and we did so.

4246. *Major Penrose.*] You stated just now that the Mines Department had erected a fence at a dam;—were fences at that time being constructed by the Works Department? I think so. I must say that this dam was constructed by the homestead lessee. The water flows out of the Yanko into the Colombo Creek, and at a point on a branch of the creek the dam was made. The Mines Department took it over, used it, and made a public watering place of a big water-hole at the back of it.

4247. Can you explain why it was that the Mines Department fenced this place when the Works Department fenced all the others? I can only account for it in a certain light. They were laying charges of extravagance against the Roads officers, though at the same time their own Department had been guilty of paying a caretaker about 8s. a day for over two years at this watering place, when the revenue from it was only a few pounds per year. And they did this while there were people in the locality who were only too anxious to give a decent rental for it.

4248. All I wanted to know was why the Mines Department fenced this one watering place when you fenced all the others? Well, the reason for that I really do not know. But, as I have said, a caretaker was placed at this dam by the Mines Department, and kept there for two years, at 8s. per day when the place could have easily been let. To my own knowledge people were anxious to get a lease of it. I know that similar things have occurred at Pretty Pine well, near Deniliquin, and at the Wanganella well, 30 miles north of Deniliquin.

4249. You say that all these places might have been leased at a fair rental? Yes; and in support of this statement I wish to hand in a letter from Mr. H. J. Poynter, of Wanganella, showing that the Government could have derived a revenue from this well by leasing it:—

Dear Sir,

Yours to hand *re* Mr. Laing. He was appointed caretaker, Government well, Wanganella, in September, 1886, at a salary of 8s. per day. I tendered for the well on the 11th May, 1886. *Re* charge by Mr. Laing for stock; he used to charge 1s. per head per night. What he used to charge by the week I do not know—2s. 6d. per head, I believe, but am not certain. I could not say what number of stock he used to have. I would be willing to give 2s. per acre per annum for the paddock, and to keep a man there as well to keep everything in good repair.

Wanganella, 13 February, 1888.

I am, &c.,
H. J. POYNTER,
Wanganella.

Edward Cronin, Esq.

4250. Was the tenant's lease fenced off at that time? Yes; it was being fenced.

4251. Were tenders called for by the Mines Department? Yes; and about £70 was the highest bid.

4252. How, then, do you account for the watering place not having been let? The highest bidder was the manager of a station, who afterwards refused to take it up, having himself found water close by; but I believe there were other tenders a few pounds under his. The Mines Department could easily have obtained a revenue of about £40 a year for it.

4253. Has this Wanganella well been leased since? No; the caretaker is still there, and it has not been leased at all.

4254. Then if this tender had been accepted in May, 1886, how much would the country have gained from it since? Well, supposing £10 was taken in fees for 1887, there would have been a clear gain to the country of £280 on this watering place alone—that is, if it had been let in May, 1886, at £40 a year, the rent offered by Poynter.

4255. Do you know of any other instances? Yes; there are two or three cases, but I have no definite knowledge.

4256. Do you know any other instances of loss to the country by the Mines Department failing to let these watering places? I have been told about it, but I have no knowledge of my own. E. G. Cronin.
4257. Are these three places that could have been leased still attended by caretakers? No; only Wanganella has a caretaker; all the others have been leased. 18 April, 1888.
4258. *Chairman.*] Do you think it desirable that tanks and wells should be leased rather than that caretakers should be placed in charge? Yes.
4259. Are the public watering places as well looked after by the lessees as by caretakers? Yes; just as well. A lessee can be bound down and made to look after the works. In fact they always do it.
4260. Are you instructed to visit the tanks and wells in your district occasionally? I am instructed to report upon them every time I pass round or that I see them. I report to the head office, to the Commissioner for Roads.
4261. Have you ever had reason to find fault with the caretakers during your visits? No; everything has gone on smoothly in my district.
4262. Have you had anything to do with the construction of wells? Yes; I have constructed four wells.
4263. *Mr. Woore.*] If this system of keeping caretakers at public watering places is to be universally adopted, is there any necessity for having these large and expensive paddocks fenced off? None whatever. If caretakers are to be kept there money is being wasted.
4264. These paddocks were fenced off with the idea of leasing the works? Yes; in order that a revenue might be derived from them.
4265. *Chairman.*] Coming to the wells which you have sunk, can you tell us where these wells are situated? The Pretty Pine well is near Deniliquin, the Wanganella well is 30 miles north of Deniliquin, the Murray Hut well is 15 miles north of Tocumwal, and the Berrigan well is 10½ miles south of Jerilderie.
4266. Why was the usual plan of tank sinking not adopted in these instances—why was it thought more desirable to sink wells? By way of economy, to commence with. A tank was recommended by the Mines Department at Murray Hut, but after testing the ground, the Roads Department found that suitable water could be obtained from a well, showing that a great saving could be effected thereby.
4267. What would be the difference in cost between sinking a tank and sinking a well? Roughly speaking, about £500 less than a 15,000 cubic-yard tank. A well would cost about £700 less than a 20,000 cubic-yard tank.
4268. And one would be absolutely permanent while the other would not be so? Yes.
4269. Then wells have been adopted in this locality, because it is known that good water can be had? Yes; there is very good water along that road.
4270. Is it the intention of your Department to continue the sinking of wells wherever water is now required in the district? I would certainly advise trial shafts.
4271. On whose recommendation were these wells sunk instead of tanks? I think on the recommendation of Mr. Wood of our Department.
4272. What did the officers of the Mines Department say about them—did they agree? I believe so—at least I heard nothing from them against the wells. I heard no complaints as to their wishes not being carried out; though they had recommended a tank at Murray Hut.
4273. Who selected the sites of these wells? I did. Mr. Gilliat selected the site for a tank at the same place. I saw a big stick stuck in the ground, and heard that Mr. Gilliat had been there.
4274. You have since found no reason to change your opinion as to the desirability of having wells instead of tanks? No; not at Murray Hut, and I might say that the same remark applies to the other three.
4275. Have all quite fulfilled your expectations? Yes.
4276. *Major Penrose.*] Have these wells had to withstand any sudden demand? Yes.
4277. *Chairman.*] What machinery is used at these wells for lifting water? A whim and buckets.
4278. Are they satisfactory? They are.
4279. What is the cost of one of these whims with all appliances? Taking the average cost I should say it would be about £200.
4280. And this, of course, necessitates keeping a horse? Yes.
4281. In times of great demand for water, would one horse be quite sufficient? Yes; and there would be no need of relays.
4282. *Major Penrose.*] Do you think that these whims are unnecessarily expensive in design? No; I do not.
4283. It has been stated here that a perfectly good whim can be put up for £50? Well, I daresay a Chinaman could put up one for £30. There is no doubt a station owner can put up one cheaper than the Government. But I do not think that the expense of our whims could be lessened with advantage, as the work required of them is such as to necessitate a very strong and permanent structure; and of a different class to those in use on stations. In most instances squared timber is cheaper on account of the long distance which it had to be carted. Mr. Gilliat specially approved of the Berrigan and Murray Hut wells, referring particularly to the top works.
4284. How long have you known these Government whims to remain at work—how many years have you known one to be erected? About four years, I think.
4285. Have they been costly in repairing? No; the fact is there have been no repairs to speak of, except the screwing up of the bolts.
4286. And you think that that is due to the exigencies of construction in the first instance? Yes.
4287. *Chairman.*] If you could have used your own discretion, would you have had horse-whims or steam-power at these wells? Of course circumstances alter cases.
4288. I am speaking now with regard to the wells in your district. If you had been able to use your own discretion would you have used steam-power instead of horse-whims, the latter necessitating, of course, the use of a horse and paddock for him? Well, with regard to Murray Hut and Berrigan wells, I would have preferred whims.
4289. Why would you have preferred whims in these two instances to horse-power? Because at the Murray Hut well the water is slightly brackish, and the other well at Berrigan, was constructed at a time when there was an exceptional demand for water along the road; and is not of much value at other times; consequently it would be difficult to lease.
4290. Now, with regard to the other two? As to the Pretty Pine well I should prefer steam-power, on account of the abundance of timber for firewood close by, and the fact of a reliable man being always stationed in the locality who would lease the work, and would not abuse it.

- E. G. Cronin. 4291. And what about Wanganella? Well, with regard to that, I think it would come under the same category as Murray Hut and Berrigan, there being a long cartage for the timber.
- 18 April, 1888. 4292. What objection have you to brackish water in connection with steam-power? I understand that it tends to shorten the life of the boiler. There are minerals in the water which would destroy the boiler.
4293. You never attempted to sink wells in this locality before you found that there was water underneath? No; not in any case.
4294. Now, about the hutting for caretakers. It has been stated here that the Works Department were about to construct caretakers' huts at an excessive price which the Mines Department objected to, and the huts have since been erected by the Mines at about half the price which the Works Department would have paid? Well, that is not borne out by any work which they have done in my district. In fact, I think, the hut erected at Wanganella well carries with it a great waste of money.
4295. What did it cost? I can only go by what I have heard—that this hut cost about £48 5s. It is built of two rooms, with galvanized iron roof, covered in with weather-boards. The hut is altogether, and in every way, inferior to the huts that we have erected in the Deniliquin district.
4296. And has it less accommodation? Yes. Tenders were invited by the Works Department for a hut in this locality. It was to have three rooms, and be of greater strength, with water-tank, spouting, and painting similar to the type design produced, and the lowest tender was £69. Comparing the design adopted by the Works Department with the design carried out by the Mines, I should say that the hut put up by the Works Department is certainly worth double the other. The amount stated by the Mines Department for the erection of this hut might, I think, have added to it the value of the caretaker's time and the cost of the bricks, which were obtained gratis. And yet the building is of a rickety nature; for if you put your hand against it with force, you would knock almost everything off the shelves; and it is hardly able to withstand the force of the wind.
4297. Have you any huts in your district that are built wholly of iron? No.
4298. And you think this Wanganella hut is a fair sample of those in other parts of the country? That I cannot say. This is the first one the Mines Department have erected in my district, and they may have been taught a lesson by it.
4299. Are you aware that complaints were made about defective construction of troughing? Yes.
4300. And your Department has seen to it that a much better system has been adopted since? Yes. The Mines Department had no reason to bring that matter up at all, because we made the alterations before the friction commenced. We exhibited no slowness or delay in adopting this.
4301. Now with regard to the necessity for caretakers. Is it not desirable that lessees should be substituted for caretakers, and that the latter should be done away with in the management of the works? Where the works can be leased they should be leased without delay. And where they could not be leased the fact could be very easily found out by advertising before the enclosed paddocks were made, stipulating the area to be enclosed within a certain time. Then, I think, the area enclosed might be very much reduced. And where these watering places have steam appliances for lifting water under caretakers, there is hardly any necessity for fencing the paddock off.
4302. *Mr. Woore.*] And does it not follow that there would be a very great saving? Most undoubtedly.
4303. *Chairman.*] At present the caretakers must be men of some education, because they have to keep accounts; but there has been a method mooted by which this could be done away with. This is to compel the drovers before they leave, and when obtaining their permits, to pay a certain sum for using the water in the districts through which they have to pass, whether they used the water or not? Yes; I believe that idea originated with Mr. A. P. Wood, and that he mentioned it to Mr. Gilliat when at Black Swamp.
4304. From your knowledge of the country do you think this desirable? It is undoubtedly the best course to adopt.
4305. These works are erected for the express purpose of supplying water to travelling stock;—do you think that the owners of travelling stock should pay for the water whether they use it or not? Yes; it is a very good idea.
4306. Do you think it would be desirable to have the travelling stock routes fenced off from the squatter's lease, excepting those portions having water frontages? I think so; on main roads.
4307. Why do you think this desirable? Well, the Works Department have for years past been carrying out works for the watering of stock in order that in seasons of extreme drought—when necessarily there is very little grass—stock will be able to move from the perishing country to places where there is more grass. And I may be allowed to add that the preservation of grass for such traffic is equally necessary as providing water.
4308. *Major Penrose.*] And that object would be gained, you think, by fencing off the stock route? Yes.
4309. *Chairman.*] Of course you know that the squatter pays rent for these stock routes; and naturally he takes care that there shall be no grass left on them? Yes; I have had great experience of that, more so in the Hay than in the Deniliquin district.
4310. Do you think it would be desirable to put all these watering places under the control of local bodies? Yes; evidently they must come under local bodies when the Local Government Bill is brought forward.
4311. But, pending the passing of this measure, do you think it is desirable to continue the present system of dual control? Certainly not. Pending the Local Government Bill being passed into law, the public watering places should be placed in the hands of one Department.
4312. *Major Penrose.*] Why should not the present arrangement continue until something better takes its place? Well, I cannot give any better reason than that stated to the Commission. There is a double sense to start with in the matter of supervision.
4313. Is the Mines Department ready to take over the construction of the works, and on the other hand is the Works Department ready to take over the maintenance? I think our Department could construct the works and attend to the maintenance as well. But of course this is a matter which should be left to others to decide.

[The Commission adjourned until the afternoon, when the sitting was resumed.]

Edmund Caswell Bowyer-Smijth was called in and examined :—

4314. *Mr. Woore.*] What are you? I am a civil engineer and road superintendent for the Albury district.

4315. How long have you been in the public service? About five years in this Colony, and four years in the Government service in South Australia.

4316. How long have you been in charge of the Albury district? About four years.

4317. How many public watering places are there in the district of which you have charge? Seven.

4318. What are they—tanks or wells? All tanks—six tanks and a dam.

4319. Were any of these works constructed under your supervision? Yes; Brocklesby, Lowesdale, Daysdale, and Carson's Swamp.

4320. Have you read the evidence of the Mines officers? I have had extracts from it sent down to Albury, and have no doubt read the portion you wish me to speak of.

4321. It is alleged that there are faults of judgment in the selection of sites for tanks;—now, have any complaints been made with regard to this of tanks in your district? Do you mean by the Mines Department or by the outside public?

4322. By anybody? Well, I cannot say that there have been.

4323. It is said that the sites are unsuitable; that there is a want of proper catchment, &c.? The only thing I remember is that the Mines Department were under the impression that the tank at Walla Walla is bigger than it need be. But, so far as I know, there has been no complaints about sites. I think, most decidedly, that the sites are very good, and suitable for the purpose.

4324. It has also been alleged that there are defects in design, and faults in the construction of some of these works—not particularly in regard to works in your district; but generally. Have any complaints of this kind come to your knowledge? No; I had the building of four out of seven in my district, and if there had been anything wrong with the construction of them I should have reported the matter, and had it altered. So far as I have seen there is no fault. They have stood the test, and now they are full I think they were honestly and well designed.

4325. It has been said that the batters are too steep? Well, one of my tanks, which is made in very hard ground, has a batter of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1. This is Brocklesby. The remainder of my tanks are all 2 to 1. The ground is very hard, and capable of standing; the batters also have stood admirably.

4326. Have the batters of any of your tanks become damaged by their being too steep? Not that I know of. Of course I cannot answer for Jindera, because it is full.

4327. And there is no batter steeper than the one you have mentioned? I believe Jindera is 1 to 1; but it has been full since I have been in the district.

4328. And you are of opinion that it is a good thing to have the batters as steep as possible? Yes; as steep as the ground will allow, conserving the water more effectively from evaporation.

4329. Now, in these tanks that you have had constructed under your supervision, have you been tied down to any particular form of tank by a hard-and-fast rule? I have not been tied down to a certain type. I can use my own judgment in altering the batters or anything else to suit the nature of the ground. Of course I would consult the head office first and make suggestions. Certain dimensions were given to me; but, if necessity arose, I should have represented the matter, so as to have the dimensions altered.

4330. It is said also that there is something wrong in the flumes and inlet pipes, and in the laying out of drains? I have heard of no complaints in regard to that.

4331. You know the Walla Walla tank? Yes; there is no trouble with the fluming there, nor with the fluming at any of the tanks in my district.

4332. Was this Walla Walla tank constructed before you took charge of the Albury district? Yes.

4333. What is your opinion with regard to the capacity of the tank;—do you think it is altogether too large for the purpose for which it was intended? I do not think it is. There is no use in putting down a tank unless you put down one of a respectable size. The only water within 3 miles of this tank is the Billabong Creek, and that gives out sometimes. It is a great godsend to people in the neighbourhood, and there is a small township close by. This is the only water that is permanent, and when the creek dries up there is simply no water in the neighbourhood, and the inhabitants are entirely dependent upon it. Therefore, I do not think the tank is in any way too large. There is a large swamp near the tank, which has been filled this season for the first time in many years. There is now no more than 4 feet of water in it, and in summer the depth would not be more than 6 inches.

4334. *Major Penrose.*] I notice in Mr. Boulton's report it is said :—“The tank is almost surrounded by water; the creek which flows down to the tank is now running a strong wide stream (30 feet) down the byewash into the Walla swamp, in which the water is now backed up within a few feet of the end of the troughs. In view of the fact that the takings for stock-watering here since the tank was made are almost nil, and that the water in the swamp will, in my opinion, last for two years or more, it is, I think, a matter for consideration whether any additional expense should be incurred at this place in carrying into effect Mr. Low's recommendation that a wing embankment should be made to protect the troughs, or that the byewash should be made into an overshot dam, or that the railing at the troughs should be altered, or new shoots fixed to embankments. In the event of it being decided to carry them out, considerable time must elapse before anything, owing to the boggy state of the place, can be done.” You do not agree with what is said there? No; I do not. There is only 4 feet of water in the place, and that would not last through a dry summer. The evaporation would be half an inch daily at least, besides the soakage.

4335. Both Mr. Low and Mr. Boulton complain of the state of the embankments to this tank? The embankments are supposed to be looked after by the Crown lessee; and, as a matter of fact, Mr. Douglas, of Walla Walla, has had a summons served on him to repair the banks. Some repairs were wanted; but it was for the Mines Department, which is the responsible body, to look after that.

4336. Then this statement is made by Mr. Low :—“I do not think that the Government are justified in spending a large sum of money in such a place as this Walla Walla tank is constructed in, where, at the time of my inspection, there was natural water enough to last for two years”? With reference to this, my answer is the same. Now, with respect to the statement made in Mr. Low's letter of the 26th July, and in his report, that has only connection with water running round the tank after there had been a rainfall of three inches in about twenty-four hours, which occurred about eighteen months ago. The cause of this was the bursting of five dams on Petrie's Creek above the site of the tank—a thing which could not have been foreseen.

E. C. B.
Smijth.

18 April, 1888.

4337. *Mr. Woore.*] Was there much damage done? No; the only thing was that there remained traces of heavy streams of water.

4338. Now, with reference to Hovell's dam, it has been said that there has been a great waste of public money here by cutting a byewash through the rock when the natural byewash would have sufficed? Well, there was a certain amount of material required to form an embankment, and I saw no reason why we should not take it from the hill, and by making this byewash through the solid rock, get it there rather than elsewhere—possibly some distance away. We thereby made a much safer byewash than by letting the water run round the other way. And for this reason: that, supposing the natural byewash had scoured out, as would most certainly be the case, the level of water in the dam would be lowered to a corresponding extent. Supposing that the creek were to come down and scour out 3 or 4 feet deep, that would lower the water to a corresponding extent.

4339. Do you think, then, that the dam cost no more by taking the material to construct it with from this byewash than it would have cost had you obtained the material any where else? I cannot say that without going into the quantity, but I think the difference would be very slight; and the advantage of having the byewash where it is more than outweighs the difference in cost.

4340. If the surplus water, instead of going through the rocky byewash, were allowed to escape round the other end of the dam, is the fall such as would cause a considerable scour in the ground? I think it is most probable it would. On referring to the plan of Hovell's dam, I see that the fall is set down as 6 feet in 20 chains, and that is quite sufficient, in my opinion, to cause a very considerable scour; and probably would if the amount of water were large. Getting small bodies of water it would not scour, but the velocity of a large body of water would be enormous.

4341. *Major Penrose.*] It has also been stated about this, that it is an expensive byewash, and that none of the excavated material was used in the embankment, but was allowed to lie about there? The dam was built, I believe, 12 years ago, and so I cannot tell. I was under the impression that the stuff was used in the embankment—in fact, I never had the smallest doubt on the subject. The embankment always appeared to me to have been formed from the stuff that was taken out of the cutting, and so far as I know it has been taken all round the embankment. Besides, boulders may have washed down the embankments.

4342. Is it your opinion that there has been no waste of public money in the construction of this work, and that it is well and properly constructed? Yes; that is my opinion.

4343. It was far preferable to make a byewash where it was made than round the other way? Yes.

4344. It is also said in the latter part of this report: "The existing byewash is excavated through the spur spoken of, from 1 to 15 feet deep through solid rock, almost as wide as a railway cutting, about 70 yards long"? I do not think it is solid rock; I should call it shale.

4345. Both Mr. Low and Mr. Boulton said that the end of the embankment here on the flat ground should have been protected by "logging" if there were any fear of the abutment of the embankment washing away? Well, it appears to me that it would have to be logged right down to where the water runs out. If this byewash had been chosen, it could have been protected; but what it would have cost is another matter. This, however, would not have prevented the ground from scouring away.

4346. *Chairman.*] The next matter we want to inquire about is the expensive forms of machinery used in raising water. Do you think that the machinery used is too expensive for the work to be done? No; I do not.

4347. Your machinery consists of Tangye's steam and horse pumps? Yes.

4348. Would not hand-power pumps have been suitable for your purpose? I do not think so. I have never seen one at work at these places.

4349. Which kind of pumps do you prefer—steam or horse pumps? I have had no experience of steam; mine are all horse pumps, and I cannot give any opinion.

4350. Do you not think that where firewood is to be obtained readily, steam would be more economical than horse-power? You see that the use of a horse entails paddocks, fences, and other things, which mean money, and then it seems that the caretaker, who has a horse, gets extra wages for the use of horse;—under these circumstances, which do you think would be most desirable—horse or steam-power, supposing firewood was obtainable? That question opens up rather a wide field. With steam you must have a man who can attend to an engine.

4351. We have had it in evidence here that men who attend to engines get less wages than men who have horses of their own? Yes.

4352. *Mr. Woore.*] It appears also that these Tangye pumps are so simple that any man of ordinary intelligence, after being shown once or twice, knows all about them? Well, I have had no experience with engines; but personally I should prefer to have a Holman horse-pump. The feed of the horse costs nothing.

4353. *Chairman.*] But the fencing does? Yes; that is true.

4354. *Mr. Woore.*] Where you employ caretakers, would it not be more economical to have steam-power than to incur this extra cost of fencing? In my district all the works are leased, or will be leased, and it is this special lease area that induces people to come forward and lease the works.

4355. But I am speaking of places where the works cannot be leased? I do not know. I have 20 men in my employment who are working at 8s. 6d. per day, and who feed their own horses.

4356. These are caretakers? No; they are maintenance men on the roads. They get 8s. 6d. per day, and the billets are sought after.

4357. *Chairman.*] Have you had anything to do with fencing in your district? Yes.

4358. It has been alleged that the cost of fences put up by the Government is excessive; that the specifications are unnecessarily strict, and that the cost of the work has been altogether out of reason. Now, do you know what the fences that surround the tanks and caretakers' paddocks in your district have cost? Well, I think I am right in speaking from memory in saying that the cost would be about £80 per mile.

4359. And what does fencing cost the Crown lessees—what do the squatters pay? I should not like to say; but I think about £65 to £70 per mile. That, however, is only my opinion. It depends to a great extent on how far you have to cart the timber. Good fencing timber is very scarce in these districts, and in fencing these special lease areas a man will split 100 posts, out of which I will condemn 30. He may get rid of the rest by selling them to the selectors and others. But when the Government puts up a fence it puts up a good one.

4360. And you think the fences are well worth the money that they cost? Yes; of course the fence is a far better one than the squatter will put up. But it is money well spent, for the fence will last as long again.

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4361. Do you not think that the gauge of the wire used in these fences put up by the Government is unnecessarily large? No; I do not think so.

4362. What gauge is used by the Government in fencing in the Albury district? No. 7 wire.

4363. And for a top wire? I have got a barbed wire for that. The squatter generally uses No. 8; but that is only one size smaller.

4364. Then the ordinary specification for fencing does not apply to your district? Yes; we use five No. 7 wires to run through each post. The specification which I see here does not apply. I have a special specification. This specification is for No. 4 wire; but that is only round the tank itself. The special lease area is fenced in with No. 7 wire, and a barbed wire on top.

4365. *Major Penrose.*] You think a very strong fence is necessary round the tank itself? I think it is advisable, because I can understand a mob of wild bullocks trying to rush a tank. I think if you totted up the difference in cost between a small wire and a large one, it would be found to be very small.

4366. *Chairman.*] Have you ever had any difference with the officers of the Mines Department? No; we have always worked harmoniously together.

4367. And it is your duty, although you have given up the works which you have constructed, to look after them as you pass along? Yes; I am always supposed to look at a tank in passing.

4368. Has that led to any unpleasantness? No; but if I saw anything wrong I would mention it to the local overseer of public watering places. But, as a matter of fact, none of the works have been damaged since I handed them over.

4369. *Major Penrose.*] I believe that the Carson Swamp tank is one of those from which the stock drink direct? Yes; it has a roadway on the side.

4370. Why was that made different from the other tanks? I think it was done more on the score of economy than for any other reason; because there are not many travelling stock, and the inhabitants round there would be likely to use it, though this would be sufficient for all their wants. There is not much traffic there.

4371. Is this roadway pitched? Yes; but not the whole width.

4372. I see that as soon as the Mines Department got this tank into their care they wanted to alter the fence? Yes; they wanted to take the wires out so that sheep could go down, and the top rail would keep out the bullocks. If the bullocks went in in wet weather they would sink and get bogged, but it would not matter to the sheep. That, I think, was the idea of the local inspector of stock.

4373. And this has been carried out? Yes.

4374. *Mr. Woore.*] How does this form of tank seem to answer—an open tank for stock to go into? I should say that is a question which depends on the number of stock that went into it. If the number was small it would answer well, but if there were many travelling stock it would not answer.

4375. You think that no stock should be allowed into the water along the main stock routes? Yes; because stock going in foul the water most terribly.

4376. It has been suggested by some witnesses to have one of the slopes of the tanks made with a gentler batter, so that stock might be allowed to water direct in case of necessity—in case of the pump or appliance breaking down? Well, that is purely a matter of opinion, and very hard to say.

4377. Do you not think it would involve the danger of undue advantage being taken by the drovers, and possibly collusion between them and the caretakers? Yes; and there is no doubt that the evaporation on one of these long flat slopes would be very great.

4378. Are there no wells in your district? No; none.

4379. Have you had anything to do with erecting huts for caretakers? No.

4380. Are there many travelling stock in your district usually? Yes; a good deal.

4381. Is there any difficulty with regard to the travelling stock routes—I mean in connection with the rights of the lessees through whose runs these travelling stock routes pass? In what way do you mean?

4382. You are aware, probably, that the lessee leases and pays rent for the run through which these travelling stock routes pass—have you found any dissatisfaction or ill effects from that cause? Well, that is not a matter I can say much about. I only know a travelling stock route from seeing it.

4383. Have you any complaints made to you by drovers? No; they would not make them to me but to the inspector of stock, who is also an inspector of public watering places.

4384. Are you aware that there is a considerable amount of friction between the Works and the Mines Departments with regard to the dual control over these works? Yes; I have heard of it.

4385. Have you any personal knowledge as to the origin of this friction? I think it is always the way when two sets of people have to look after the same work. I do not think dual control will ever answer.

4386. And you think it undesirable that it should continue? Yes; because it is bound to lead to friction.

4387. What would you suggest to stop the present state of unpleasantness? I should say to leave the construction and maintenance entirely in the hands of the Works Department. We had to construct the works, and I see no reason why we should not continue to look after them; for, as it is, if anything was seriously wrong we have to put it right, and there is always something unsatisfactory in doing another man's work.

4388. Is it possible that the damage may have been caused by neglect on the part of the officers of the Mines Department? Yes; and if the tank is handed over in good condition it must necessarily be so—under ordinary circumstances it must be so.

4389. And if that caretaker was under your supervision you would see to it that he did his duty? Yes; and I should hold myself responsible if anything went wrong.

4390. *Major Penrose.*] Can you tell what the cost of excavation has been in your district? The cost of excavation at Carson's Swamp tank was 1s. 1d. per cubic yard; at Brocklesby's, 1s. 3d.; and at Drysdale, about 1s. 3d.—it was a lump sum sent in.

4391. Are these prices largely in excess of what the squatters pay—when you take into account what the Government tanks are and what the squatters' tanks are? Not largely in excess when you take into account what the Government tanks are and what the squatters' tanks are. There is an extra depth in the Government tanks, and the price given is not too much for the work.

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4392. What other reasons are there for the extra cost? One is the extra depth, another is the form of the embankments round the tank. To do that at any time increases the depth, and several feet of water are gained by pumping over the embankments. Another is that in the case of a squatter's tank a contractor is given every convenience in the shape of water and feed; and then, in addition, there is the question of the slopes.

4393. *Mr. Woore.*] And the squatter chooses his own time? He chooses a good season for the work? Yes; and the Government have to go on whether there is a drought on or not.

4394. *Major Penrose.*] Now, as regards the slopes, how do they affect the case? They make an immense difference. The squatter's tank is generally made with a slope of 6 to 1 at each end, which allows the bullocks to go out without turning. Now, a contractor cannot use a scoop in the same way in a Government tank, and the stuff that comes out has to be taken out in a dray.

4395. But do not the squatters try to make their water as permanent as the water in the Government tanks? Yes; but I do not believe there is a tank in the district, except the Government tanks, that would stand a four years' drought.

4396. *Mr. Woore.*] Even in the largest squatters' tanks that you know, would they ever have the demand made upon them in the dry season which would fall on the Government tanks? Not at all. The Albury district is thickly populated, and in the event of a dry season coming the selectors' tanks would all dry up and the whole population would have to depend on these Government tanks.

4397. *Chairman.*] Is it said that in Albury, where you have an ample rainfall, you use no discretion, but go and construct enormous tanks at great expense? Yes; but where you get an ample rainfall you get a large population. I know that about three years ago there was a severe drought in the Albury district, and many people had to drive their stock down 15 miles to the Murray for water. They left with them one day and returned the next. This occurred to the west of Walla Walla—more in the direction of Carson Swamp.

4398. So that you do not think the Works Department is open to the charge of recklessness which has been alleged here? No; I do not think so.

4399. *Major Penrose.*] Now, in laying out these tanks it has been alleged in many instances the work has been carelessly done and that contractors have defrauded the Government by piling up earth inside the berm, and have not gone down the full 18 feet below the natural surface? I do not think they got over me in that way. I always levelled with corner pegs and bench marks outside the tanks.

4400. *Chairman.*] There may be other matters of which you wish to give evidence. If so, we shall be glad to receive it? I know of no tanks outside my district, and could give no opinion beyond it.

[The Commission adjourned.]

THURSDAY, 19 APRIL, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R.E. | J. C. WOORE, Esq.

Arthur William Stilwell called in and examined:—

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4401. *Chairman.*] You are Assistant Engineer and Road Superintendent in the Hay district? Yes.

4402. How many years have you been in this district? About three years and a quarter.

4403. Have many tanks been excavated under your supervision during that time? Yes; as nearly as I can remember, seven tanks have been excavated.

4404. Who chose the sites of these tanks? I chose the sites of several of them myself, and others were chosen before I went to the district by Mr. Gordon, in conjunction, I think, with Mr. Wood.

4405. In saying you chose the sites of several of these tanks yourself, I presume you mean that you were acting under certain instructions—that you had a place pointed out to you? Yes; we were instructed to excavate these tanks within a certain distance—the exact sites I chose myself.

4406. I presume the officers of the Mines Department regulated the distances apart? Yes; they fixed the sites approximately. They stated they wanted a tank at a certain place, and we put it there as nearly as possible.

4407. Have any tank sites selected by you been objected to by the Mines Department as unsuitable? No; there has been no objection made directly to me, but I see in the evidence that Mr. Low stated that Dowdigan's was not a good site.

4408. Why was the site of this tank alleged to be a faulty one? The objection was to the catchment—that was not sufficient, in his opinion. I think it was Mr. Low or Mr. Boulton who said that.

4409. Is that a fact? No, it is not. In my opinion the site is a very good one; and I may say that it was approved of by Mr. Cronin, who gave evidence here yesterday.

4410. *Mr. Woore.*] Is it the best site to be had, all things considered? Yes; it is at the junction of the stock routes, and it is the best site we could obtain there. Certainly a better one might have been obtained further on; but it is the best site, and satisfied all requirements.

4411. *Chairman.*] Will you state what tanks were excavated under your supervision? Yes; the Ivanhoe Clare, Carowra Swamp, Hulong, Mount Elliott, and Pulletop, and there are two others in course of construction at Harmon's and Waterman's.

4412. We will take the Ivanhoe tank first. Strong complaints have been made with respect to Ivanhoe tank—complaints which I presume you have heard of, or read in the evidence? Yes.

4413. Now perhaps the better way for you would be to reply to this evidence in your own way, and without our asking questions;—you might give a history of the matter in your own words? I may state first concerning this Ivanhoe tank that another site was first chosen (about 1½ miles away from the township) by Mr. Wood, in conjunction with Mr. Gordon. The land on which that site was situated was selected by the squatter who took it up as a conditional purchase. On this account we were prevented from proceeding with the works. Another site had consequently to be chosen, and that in the township was adopted as the best alternative site after the other had been taken.

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4414. *Mr. Woore.*] Was the township a surveyed township at that time? It was. At the time there was no objection on the part of the people. I spoke to Mr. Williamson and others, and they concurred that it was a suitable site, and would be advantageous.

4415. Was that the general opinion of the people in the locality? Yes; so far as I could ascertain, it was. I heard nothing to the contrary until some time after the work had been in progress. The site in the township was the only one available without going below and getting the drainage from the town. At present we have no drainage from the town at all.

4416. *Major Penrose.*] Is this site on Mr. George Williamson's land? No; it is on the surveyed village site.

4417. I see that Mr. Gilliat says here:—"I am in correspondence with Mr. George Williamson, of Ivanhoe, upon whose land the only available site for a tank in the neighbourhood is found, which I shall have the honor to submit to you, if it terminates in a reasonable proposal, with a recommendation for the construction of a tank at this place"? So far as I remember Mr. Williamson wanted compensation, and the site being below the town, I thought it was unsuitable. At that place we would have got the drainage from the township; I, therefore, chose this site as being the most suitable, taking everything into consideration. It is on the stock route, at the junction of the roads from Hay to Wilcannia, and from Balranald to Ivanhoe. It is also in a position where it affords a suitable supply for the township. In selecting the site I drove round and examined all the suitable places and conferred with most of the residents. So far as I could ascertain, all the residents concurred that it was the best site available. When the work was in progress I heard indirectly that the townspeople were raising objections to the tank on account of the obstruction it would cause in bringing stock through the township, and also because it occupied an area which might at some time have been sold for business purposes. One of the drains to the tank was afterwards modified so that the allotments in the township might be sold if necessary. I think there was no further complaint after that except that as to driving stock through, and it was said that this was an objection which could not be very well got over.

4418. *Chairman.*] Is it a fact that the road crosses these drains at a number of places? It crosses the drains to the south once, but that is some half-mile from the tank.

4419. Is it true that the drainage from Cobb & Co.'s stables will flow into this tank? No; the stables are below the drain. A piggery, too, has been spoken of, but that is also below the drain. There are no residences or buildings of any kind above the drain; I am positive of this.

4420. And with the exception that it is somewhat inconvenient for travelling stock there is no other objection which can be taken to the site? Not that I know of.

4421. Have you heard any complaint about the Clare tank? I see in the evidence a statement by Mr. Low that the tank has been placed in a swamp, or something of that sort. As far as I can ascertain the objection is that the tank is situated too low on the swamp. Of course it is put there on account of catchment—to get as large a catchment area as possible. It is a fact that the tank was surrounded by water, as stated by Mr. Low. The rainfall was very exceptional during that season; and we had tapped another swamp by cutting a drain through, which increased the flow into the swamp. If it were at any time found desirable to reduce the flow it could easily be done by intercepting this drain. A man could have done this in half an hour.

4422. Is this swamp in hard or in soft ground? It is in lignum ground; it is soft, but still very good holding ground.

4423. Then the only objection that could strike anyone would be that the ground surrounding might become boggy? I have pointed out that that could be prevented by obstructing the drain from the upper swamp. This tank is necessarily put on a low level to obtain a catchment by gravitation.

4424. Was there any hard clay-pan there? No; not in the catchment. The site is the best one in the locality. It was not chosen by me but my predecessor, Mr. Gordon; but still I agreed with him that it was the best available site, so that I am quite responsible for it.

4425. *Major Penrose.*] You say that by the management of these drains from the upper swamp the supply of water round the tank could be regulated? Yes; with a little management on the part of the caretaker that could be prevented in future.

4426. *Chairman.*] Is it the case that in this black soil it takes a very heavy rainfall to make the water run? Yes; generally it is the case.

4427. *Mr. Woore.*] But with regard to this particular case? Yes; but the drainage there was quite adequate, as was proved by the tank being filled. I may state that if it had not been for the water, which was not retained in the tank, the water in the swamp would have evaporated much more quickly. But owing to the valve being left open the water escaped into the swamp. The erosion of the tank by the lapping of the water is very trifling indeed, and will not go any further.

4428. *Major Penrose.*] What about the foundations? They are perfectly secure, because the water has been all round them, and nothing has been disturbed.

4429. *Chairman.*] When you last visited this Clare tank you found that the sluice had not been closed, that the water had escaped into the swamp and had evaporated? Yes; that is so.

4430. And when you complained to the caretaker for not having attended to this, what did he say? He told me that he left the sluice open by Mr. Low's instructions, as he considered the embankments were in danger. But they were not in the slightest danger, being then 10 feet high above the water level.

4431. *Major Penrose.*] How much water could you have conserved over the natural surface? About a foot had escaped then. If the valve had been shut we could have saved a foot more.

4432. And this would mean a great deal of water? Yes; about 280 feet square.

4433. *Chairman.*] What about Tom's Lake tank? It is in my district, but it was not constructed by me.

4434. I believe Pulletop is one of yours;—complaint has been made about that tank that there is too rapid a fall into the tank by the drains thereby causing silt to get in? The fall is somewhat steep, and more or less silt is carried down by the drain; rather more than the usual quantity of silt. But the silt tank is quite adequate to meet all requirements if properly attended to.

4435. *Mr. Woore.*] Could the steepness of these drains have been avoided? Not very well in this case.

4436. But Mr. Low said that it could? I took everything into consideration. If the drains had been taken at right angles to the flow, the soil being hard, the water would have broken over the drains. There is a high range above, and as the rainfall is exceptionally heavy we should have lost a lot of water if we had had gentler slopes. The drains now keep clear at the expense of the silt tank, but there are ample opportunities

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opportunities of clearing that occasionally. The drains must have been put in obliquely, otherwise a heavy fall of water would run across the drains instead of flowing into the silt tank—that is, if the drains had been put at right angles to the flow.

4437. *Chairman.*] Now, it is said here with regard to the same tank that the water-lifting appliances are placed in the most unsuitable site, &c.? The water-lifting appliances are not on the lowest ground, but on one side of the tank, and there is no danger whatever of the water flowing under or around them so as to create a scour. There have been heavy rains since; but there has been no damage done to speak of. The drains were cut, and the water diverted round, by the caretaker sending it down under the service tank and troughs, creating a slight scour round the service tank piers. The caretaker should not have done this.

4438. I see a complaint that this byewash is not excavated? No; this is not a dam, and we do not excavate byewashes round tanks. There would be no use in it; and if at any time the tank was full, and we found it necessary to prevent a further inflow, the water could be taken down the channel in the creek, which would be, to all intents and purposes, a byewash.

4439. Another complaint is about these embankments, it being said that “they have been erected with no regard to being level; in fact, at the corner opposite water-lifting appliances, lowest being 2 feet 7 inches lower than middle of the embankments, thus further endangering water-lifting appliances. It seems that the embankments are said to be not level, and that they are lower when they ought to be higher? They are not quite level; but I do not think it is at all the case that they are lower where they ought to be higher. There are inequalities along them, here and there, and the maximum would be 2 feet at the highest and lowest points. The work was not abandoned by the contractor. He left the embankment in an improper shape, and I had the matter rectified at his expense; but the embankments were not made thoroughly level on top. There is now no defect, except as regards appearance.

4440. The contractor was mulct in expenses through his neglect? Yes; the cost of the rectification of the embankments was deducted from his payment.

4441. *Mr. Woore.*] Why were they not levelled up in the usual way? Well, I thought it would be putting the contractor to an unnecessarily heavy expense; we are generally taxed with being too strict with these embankments.

4442. *Chairman.*] It has been said that one reason why the contractors are chary of taking contracts from Government, is because the road superintendents insist upon the strict letter of the specifications being carried out? Well, I should have passed this, although the embankments were not quite level in accordance with the specifications. We do not insist on the strict letter, although we are no doubt more strict than the squatters with regard to details. There is a slight increase in the cost of works owing to this, but it is not material.

4443. *Mr. Woore.*] If the contractor had gone on and finished the work as it is now, would you have passed it? Yes; I would.

4444. *Chairman.*] Now, with regard to the Mount Elliott tank drains, it is said that “These have been constructed evidently with little or no idea of what is required of a drain. These drains have been excavated down face of hill, and, although my inspection was immediately after heavy rains, I could discover no trace of water having run into these nor waterwash. Had one of these drains been extended about half a mile it would have caught the water in a good natural watercourse, which, in any ordinary season, would be quite equal to filling this tank, thereby saving the outlay incurred for what is and will remain useless?” These drains have proved useful. They were cut in an oblique direction on the line of flow to prevent the interception of the water. The ground is very flat, and a lot of water is lost in slight depressions in the ground. The tank has been filled repeatedly; otherwise the drain spoken of would have been extended; but I found it unnecessary to do so. The tank is filled now, and has been since its construction; therefore a further extension of that drain would have been an unnecessary expense.

4445. Now with respect to the Hulong tank drain, Mr. Low says:—“One is here so constructed as to run water from instead of to main tank. This showed plainly at the time of my inspection, owing to the water lying in different parts of the drain, which had been banked up to prevent water running from main tank. Were this drain opened up and main tank full, I feel confident it would run quite 1 foot of water out.” This means that the Hulong tank drains would run the water out of the tank instead of into it, to the extent of 1 foot? The only reply I can give to that statement is to flatly contradict it. It is not the case at all. I took the levels for these drains myself. The swamp consists of gilgai holes. The drains are cut through the hummocks and embanked across the holes. The water remains in these depressions, and owing to the negligence of the caretaker the embankments at times break away and the water escapes into the swamp that should have run into the tank, and would have done so in the ordinary course of things.

4446. *Mr. Woore.*] Is that owing to the negligence of the caretakers? Yes—that the embankments give way is.

4447. *Chairman.*] The next case mentioned is Tom’s Lake tank, of which it is said: “Is here excavated in a rotten boggy swamp, a place which was well known to all travellers on that road as a spot to be avoided after rain, owing to its boggy nature. Had this tank been excavated about three quarters of a mile northerly of its present site, it would have been on much better holding ground, and on ground naturally less liable to cut up, which in fact is an old natural watercourse, into swamp, which has cut up little if any. Mr. Overseer Keighran, of Hay, has for many years known this place, and fully bears me out in my remarks”? The site of this tank was not fixed by me, but it was only at this low level that a catchment was obtainable. Now as to the ground not being good holding ground, it has been proved to be quite the reverse, and exceptionally good holding ground indeed. As to the boggy swamp, that is behind and away from the tank and from the line of access to the troughing. The swamp that Mr. Low speaks about is a mile further on, and we have obtained a catchment from that by cutting an intercepting drain with an embankment across the other flow.

4448. Then this tank is not in the swamp, but on the edge of it? Yes; it is in the swamp—necessarily so to obtain a catchment.

4449. How did you arrange that the troughing was not in the swamp? The troughs are on the edge of the swamp and clear of the bad ground, and stock going down to the troughing go down on sound ground.

4450. Consequently if the troughing can be got at, you think it is immaterial where the tank is placed? Yes. It is good holding ground, and the tank keeps full.

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4451. *Mr. Woore.*] Mr. Low says there is a better place than this about three quarters of a mile north of it? Yes; but we have obtained the water from that place. In any case I do not think it would have been a better site, and we commanded a greater catchment area by having the tank where it is than if one had been put at any other place.

4452. *Chairman.*] This is what is said of the drains to this tank:—"These are badly constructed, especially one alongside of road which for some distance from its commencement runs water from instead of to main tank. This drain crosses main road almost in front of main tank, having a direct and sudden fall without the waters as is usual passing through a silt-tank. Owing to no silt-tank being here, and the drain being much cut up both by traffic and nature of ground, much silt must have been carried into main tank, which I feel confident is quite half silted up. This drain could easily and practically have been led to opposite end of tank when water could have run through swamp and silt-tank, thus allowing silt to settle and not be carried into main tank."? That statement is directly at variance with the facts. There is a silt-tank on this side of the tank, through which all the flow must pass into the tank. Then the drain referred to is the intercepting drain from the swamp that I spoke of. It has been much neglected by the lessee under the Mines Department. It is silted up and obstructed by vegetation and all flow prevented. In consequence of this the embankment across the swamp, to divert the water into the drain, has been partially destroyed. The tank is also fed from the swamp side through another inlet, and goes through another silt-tank from that side. But if the water were allowed to escape from this main drain into the swamp before going into the tank, as Mr. Low suggests, we could conserve no water above the berm level. As it is, the water is conducted in on the eastern side, and we can conserve 2 or 3 feet of water above the berm level, which is an immense augmentation of the supply.

4453. Is much silt deposited in the main tank owing to the carelessness of the caretaker? I cannot say positively, but I think it is an exaggeration to say that the tank is half filled with silt. I do not think it is anything like half filled. I feel confident that it is not half filled.

4454. Is the Gunaramby tank in your district? Yes.

4455. This is what is said of the tank in the report:—"This has been excavated in rotten copai ground, which owing to steepness of batters, has fallen in to a very large extent. A good site for a tank could easily have been secured near to this"? This site is very similar to that at Tom's Lake. We obtain a flow from both sides of the tank up to the berm level, and above that level from the higher catchment on one side; but in this case as the catchment above the tank is small in area, the water is taken round the berm into the inlet on the lower side. It was objected by the Mines Department that this was dangerous and would lead to the cutting away of the berm and the destruction of the batters of the tank. But it has been proved not to be the case, and the tank has been several times filled by heavy rains.

4456. Why do you depart from the usual course in bringing the water round in this way? To save what I consider would be an unnecessary expenditure. It would cost £100 to put down another inlet shoot. The catchment was small in area above the tank, and by diverting the water round the tank to the inlet on the lower side we obviated the necessity of another inlet shoot. And it has proved to be quite safe to do so.

4457. *Major Penrose.*] Does this tank conserve over the natural surface of the ground? Yes; it is a similar tank to Tom's Lake tank. It has embankments on three sides and wings. We might conserve 6 feet of water there.

4458. *Mr. Woore.*] How could that affect the drains round the tank? They would not be materially affected except by being silted up by sediment, which could easily be cleaned out when the water subsided.

4459. *Chairman.*] The next case mentioned is the Box Creek tank and dam. Are these in your district? Yes.

4460. This is what is said:—"One embankment here forming a dam would have been quite sufficient for requirements instead of the large outlay for tank and dam. In this opinion I am borne out by Mr. Lindsay, manager, Til Til station"? There is no dam here at all. The tank is constructed in the shallow bed of Box Creek. It has embankments round on four sides. The embankments have had the effect of damming the creek.

4461. Is it desirable to have tanks put in the beds of creeks? No; but in this case the country is very flat. The water flows down from the Lachlan by billabongs and deposits all the sediment on the way. It flows something like 100 miles, and it is upwards of a month in reaching this tank after it leaves the Lachlan.

4462. Then it is said further about the same matter:—"The embankments around excavation are of no practical use and must have increased cost of tank considerably. The site would have been a more favourable one, and more water conserved had a simple dam been constructed down creek about three-quarters of a mile near to 'Thompson's Hotel';" I believe you have already explained about the embankments—that they conserved water above the level surface? Yes; the water is thus conserved above the natural surface if the valves are closed—when the tank is at its fullest—and the water not allowed to go back again. These embankments also serve to protect the water from wind action.

4463. What is the depth of this billabong? From a guess I should say from about 8 to 10 feet, and that would not be nearly sufficient.

4464. So that a mere dam in this creek would not have been permanent? No; certainly not. It would not have provided permanent water.

4465. Had it been selected three-quarters of a mile down, would that have made a permanent dam? I think the depth of the creek is the same all along. I think it would be about the same.

4466. Then the report deals with the new works 16 miles from Balranald:—

Main tank.—This excavation at my inspection was almost completed. The site is certainly not a good one; a much better one could have been procured within half a mile. The present excavation will require a large outlay for drains if even by these it can be filled with a fair rain.

Drains.—There were 50 chains 6 feet x 9 inches excavated here, although there had been heavy rains shortly before my visit. These had run no water into silt-tank, in fact they never will, as both drains in some places were full of water, but quite dry near to tank, thus showing that they would run water from instead of to main tank. Contractor informed me that he was getting 6s. 6d. per chain for these drains, which is quite 2s. per chain more than the work is worth, when he was, from rain, unable to work in tank and not as if he were losing time going to and from a small job.

—? I think I have stated that the site is the best that could have been obtained with regard to the convenience of watering stock from both stock routes.

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4467. Then about the drains? Well, I hardly like to say it, but in my opinion the statement is at direct variance with the facts. At the time I visited this place I could not measure the silt tank, because it was full to overflowing, and the ground surrounding it was submerged by water brought down by these very drains. I think this was in November last. The drains showed scour, but there was no water standing in them, proving that the levels were correct.

4468. How much water is now in the tank? The inlet shoot has just been completed. The work itself is not yet completed, and consequently there is no water in the tank at present.

4469. *Major Penrose.*] You say there is plenty of water at the silt tank and near the main tank now? Yes; and it had to be dammed out of the main tank owing to the construction not being completed.

4470. *Chairman.*] Then it was quite unnecessary for Mr. Low to have made any remarks about this tank, until the works were handed over by you to the Mines Department? I think so. The same remark would apply to the fences, which have not been handed over to them yet.

4471. Have you read the evidence? Yes; but not with particular attention, and not at all with respect to anything outside my own district.

4472. Well, we have had a great deal of testimony here tending to show that there had been faulty design and faulty construction with respect to these tanks, thus enormously increasing their cost to the country? If I understand aright that applies to the ratio of the batters to the tanks.

4473. Yes, and in many other ways. In the first place it is said that the batters are too steep, preventing the contractors from constructing the works at a reasonable cost, as compared with the tanks constructed by the squatters;—just state what are the batters to your tanks? $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 is the maximum batter in my district, but the average is 2 to 1. The steepness of the batters does doubtless increase the cost, but we made them advisedly steep, considering that the increased cost was warranted. It would give less area to be exposed to evaporation for one thing, and comparison of our tanks with the tanks of the squatters would be altogether unfair, because the conditions are altogether different. Our tanks are constructed for practically an unlimited number of stock, but squatters know exactly the number of stock they want to feed. We do not know how many travelling stock may come along the road. We have to allow a margin on the safe side. I still submit that the conditions are altogether different, and therefore no comparison can fairly be instituted between our works and the works of the squatters.

4474. It has been stated that if you had one of these slopes made gentler it would decrease the cost of the work? Well, it would decrease the cost very slightly. The scoops could not turn round, and if they could not turn you might as well use drays.

4475. Have you any discretion in the construction of these works—to alter the batter in accordance with the friableness or stability of the ground? Yes, certainly. There is a specified batter, but we can depart from it. In the new specifications I think a blank is left for the batter. In the old specifications the batter of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 is specified.

4476. *Major Penrose.*] But even that did not bind you down to anything? No; we had discretion. If we considered that any ground necessitated it we could recommend an alteration in the ratio of the batters, and the alteration would be approved of by the head of the Department.

4477. Then the Government tanks are really much cheaper than the squatters' tanks, considering the depth and other things? Yes; the depth of our tanks is 18 feet, and I think the maximum depth of the squatters' tanks is from 14 to 16 feet, so far as I know.

4478. Then the extra 2 feet would naturally increase the cost? Yes; I think so.

4479. And the increased cost would, in your opinion, be fairly compensated for by the more certain permanency of the water? We considered so.

4480. It has been stated that the banks round these tanks, not having been utilized in many cases, have been built at an altogether unnecessary expense? Well, we considered that their construction was warranted by the protection which they gave from evaporation; and they are constructed with that intention only in some places.

4481. *Mr. Woore.*] And could they have been utilized in any instance to conserve more water? Where they could be so utilized we tried to do so; but in many cases they could not be utilized to any appreciable extent.

4482. *Chairman.*] Did you ever find that these $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 batters were liable to fall in by the action of the water? No; not to any appreciable extent. No matter what the batter might be there is always bound to be a slight erosion from the wave action at the surface of the water. That occurs at different levels all down the tank as the water falls.

4483. *Mr. Woore.*] But is not that erosion considerably decreased in old tanks? Yes; when the banks become hardened. It is only in the new works that this takes place, and not then to any appreciable extent. If I had to construct these tanks again, knowing what I know now, I would put in the same batters.

4484. *Chairman.*] Can you give any other reason why the Government have paid more money for these works than the squatters? Yes, there are many other reasons. A contractor for a squatter has many advantages given him which we cannot offer. As a rule, the squatter's contractor has grass and water free; but in our case it is quite the reverse. Their contractors occasionally—in fact, almost invariably—have the use of the bullocks belonging to the station-owner, who is anxious to get them broken in by the contractors. The squatter's contractor has also every facility offered to him for obtaining supplies at a low rate.

4485. Is that the case with the Government tanks? Where we can do so we select a good season, but, as a rule, we cannot do so. As a rule we have little discretion as regards that, because when a tank is ordered to be made it has to be made.

4486. Is it a fact that the persistence with which officers of your Department insist upon the literal wording of the specifications being carried out tends to increase the cost, and necessitates the contractors tendering at a higher rate, owing to this extreme nicety shown in the finishing work? It may, to a slight extent, increase the cost, but in our case we must adhere to some type of construction. There can be with us no loose methods of constructing works. For instance, a work is let according to a certain plan and specification publicly tendered for; and if afterwards the plan and specification is departed from and any laxity allowed, the unsuccessful tenderers would soon hear of it, and would have good grounds of complaint, and would not be slow in making these complaints heard through the Member for the district.

4487. A contractor whom we examined has stated that he has known a case where a tank has been sunk 18 feet; that some holes were left in the bottom, and that the constructing officer insisted on these holes being filled up? Well, I can only speak for work which I have supervised myself; but I think this is a very improbable story. I would not have done so had it been my case, and I hardly think anyone else was so foolish as to insist upon such a ridiculous thing being done.

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4488. It has also been stated that in one or two instances the road superintendent has insisted on the embankments being dressed down, as if it were a matter of great importance? I think this is an exaggeration; we do certainly insist upon a certain amount of neatness and uniformity, and we are bound to it by the plans and specifications, as I said before.

4489. It has been said also that you insist that the earth shall be taken a great distance away from the embankment? The distance is about 30 feet, and I do not consider it too far. I think the distance the squatters take their spoil is in some cases even greater.

4490. Is it a fact that contractors have to wait occasionally long periods for their money? Not to my knowledge; not a very long time. A special regulation was made with regard to that in payment for works at tanks and wells.

4491. But, although there is now a new arrangement, it is said that many men have been ruined by this delay? It is not a new arrangement. The regulation was made in 1883, and provided for the payment of an advance of 50 per cent.

4492. *Major Penrose.*] Is it since 1883 that most of the tanks were made? Yes.

4493. *Chairman.*] So that the practice could not force a man to go into the Insolvent Court now? I cannot conceive such a thing occurring. Of course there is always an unavoidable delay in Government payments as compared with the making of payments by a private individual. A certain routine must be gone through; but we have tried to lessen the delay as much as possible.

4494. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you think that this delay is worth taking into account by the contractors? I think not. I think that to a man of means it does not stand in the way at all.

4495. *Major Penrose.*] The delay now is only with respect to the final payments? That is all. There are progress payments also. The payment of 50 per cent. of the value of the work done is a progress payment; otherwise a progress payment has to be certified by me, and checked in the head office. It entails a delay of a fortnight or three weeks, between the date of my certificate and the date of payment. I have to travel over 200 miles square of country, and I cannot be in every place at the same time. I try to arrange to travel so as to meet the requirements of the contractors. We obviate any difficulty by giving them 50 per cent. of the money on the spot.

4496. *Chairman.*] We notice that as much as 1s. 9d. per cubic yard has been given for a number of tanks;—do you think that, under the circumstances, this price is an excessive one? I do not know of 1s. 9d. having been given, speaking from my own knowledge. The highest price given in my district was 1s. 7½d. This was for the Carowra Swamp tank, which was constructed in a bad season. The contract was let in a very dry season, and the rain came before it was completed.

4497. I suppose that this was a season when a squatter would not have undertaken such a work? Yes; and we were compelled to do it by the necessities of the case.

4498. Is it a fact that these works have been taken by contractors and let to sub-contractors, at a rate very much lower than the original rate? I do not know of any tank work having been sublet; all was carried out by the contractors themselves.

4499. Are you aware whether, as a rule, the contractors have made money out of their contracts? Well, that is more a matter of inference than anything else. I know that several of them have become insolvent, and most of them are, apparently, poor men.

4500. So that these so-called excessive prices have not, at all events, enriched the contractors? I do not see how excessive prices can be obtained for works which are submitted to public competition.

4501. Reverting again to the Ivanhoe tank, it has been said that the drains leading into this tank are very faulty in construction, as well as being excessively costly. I notice here at page 187 of the Mines blue book:—

The drains here have evidently been constructed with no respect as to what a drain is for. One drain for a good half-mile running water from tank; another is brought along road to Mossiel, and cut up very badly by both stock and teams. The water from this drain overflows silt-tank, which is very small, and partly upon main road, and runs into Elliot's tank on opposite side of road, which water Elliot afterwards sells to the public. Another long drain runs through township allotments, which have been sold, and are now being blocked up.

—? Now, as to the defective level—this applies to the northern drain. This drain had to be constructed about 30 chains, and the scrub cleared. It was then found that an advantageous extension might be made, by making the cutting about 3 feet deep through a slight rise for 15 chains. Before the tank was handed over, I set the caretaker to make this cutting, and when the tank was handed over the Mines officers discontinued this work; consequently that end or portion of the drain is ineffective. It was Mr. Yeo who did this. I think the next statement is that the drains run along the Mossiel road. It crosses the road obliquely, but at the crossing point a stone causeway has been put in, so it is not cut up. The drain is still in use. Now, as to the drain running through the township, we were asked that this drain might be altered, owing to the allotments in the town being required for sale, and a portion of one of the drains was abolished for that purpose. I do not know that the allotments were since sold.

4502. Another statement is that the water overflows the silt-tank and runs into Elliot's tank? Well, I visited the place shortly after that statement was made, and I found that the loss of water was occasioned by the neglect of the upper drains. The water had overflowed them, and consequently overflowed the lower drains and had escaped altogether. If proper attention had been given to the upper drains this could not have occurred.

4503. You heard what the Minister said about this:—"I cannot help saying, after having seen this tank, that, in my opinion, a very improper situation was selected, and the work, in my estimation, is badly done?" No specific charge is made, so I cannot well answer that.

4504. I suppose when this tank was excavated it was done to serve the town as well as to serve the travelling stock? Yes, and the townspeople have largely availed themselves of it ever since.

4505. And you think that no other site would have been so convenient for the townspeople and for travelling stock combined? No; and any other site would not have been so good from an engineering point of view, for the supply would have been contaminated by the township; but this is above it.

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4506. *Mr. Woore.*] We have been given to understand that the whole drainage of the township goes into this tank? The statement is quite contrary to fact.

4507. *Major Penrose.*] If care is taken not to build above the catchment will this tank continue to give pure water to the town? Yes; I made application to have this portion of the village area revoked and proclaimed a public reserve.

4508. *Chairman.*] Now, we have had some very heavy charges made of the extreme and exorbitant prices paid for the drains to this tank. Here is what is said by Mr. Yeo:—"The drains at the Ivanhoe Tank were made by Messrs. Farrell and Gallagher, who received 15s. per chain, which was an exorbitant price, as stations in the district were only giving 3s. 6d. to 5s. per chain, and I might mention that a reliable person informed me at the time the contract was let that one of the contractors, while consulting his partner as to what price they should do the work for, said they should ask 7s. 6d. per chain, which, he said, would pay them well, but his partner said, 'As it's Government work let us ask 15s. per chain,' which they did, and got. I might also mention that the drain running from the north-east corner of the main tank, from a point about half a mile from the main tank should not have been passed by the road superintendent, as it was never graded properly, and the water runs in the opposite direction to the tank. No tenders were called for the cutting of these drains?" I am not quite sure that the price paid was 15s., but I know that an excessive price was paid for the drains. It is true that tenders were not publicly invited in the press, but on several occasions I endeavoured to obtain tenders locally. The newspaper published nearest to the place is 140 miles distant, at Hay. I notified the matter at the post office at Ivanhoe, and made it public as well as I could otherwise. I also endeavoured to obtain a tender from the contractor for the tank, and the lowest I could obtain from anyone was from this man Gallagher. Lower prices probably might have been obtained by waiting, but in that case we should have lost the first rainfall into the tank; and rather than entail the risk of this it was considered advisable to let the drains. Of course, I cannot say anything as to what was said about the contractors first arranging to ask only 7s. 6d. I left word with everybody in the town, with the postmaster and others, that I wanted tenders for the drains.

4509. What was the size of these drains? The drains were 6 feet wide by 1 foot deep. I think the figures are given in my papers. In this case the drains are not included in the tank contract, and the price demanded by the tank contractor was largely in excess of the price of this man Gallagher.

4510. *Mr. Woore.*] It is not possible to include the drains in the contract for the tank, as when that is let, it may not be known what is the exact extent of the drainage? We can specify the drains without stating the amount.

4511. Would the cost of the work be cheaper if it were all given in the one contract? Yes; I think so; but this contract for the tank was let before I went to the district.

4512. In dividing your work up in this way you are simply placing yourself in the hands of the Philistines? Yes; I agree with you that it would be better. But I am not in any way responsible for the fact that the drains were not let with the tank.

4513. Who is the officer responsible for that? The contract was let under Mr. Gordon, my predecessor.

4514. *Chairman.*] Have you stated what is the size of these drains at Ivanhoe tank? I cannot say positively, but I think they are 6 feet wide and 1 foot deep.

4515. Do you not think that 15s. per chain is an exorbitant price to give for this work? Yes; and I considered it so at the time; but rather than allow the tank to remain without being filled I gave it. If, on the other hand, I had not let the drains even at that price, I would have lost the water from the tank in consequence of not obtaining the first flow, and it would have been looked on as a very false economy; and, in fact, would have been so.

4516. *Mr. Woore.*] Would you probably have had to wait an indefinite time to get the work done cheaper? Yes. No doubt they could have been done cheaper if I had waited, but I did not know how long I might have had to wait. Of course, for my own credit's sake, I would let the drains as cheaply as I could; but it was a matter of great urgency to have the drains constructed then. I think the man Farrell, one of the contractors, is now employed as a caretaker by the Mines Department. He is one of the men who, according to Mr. Yeo, conspired to get these exorbitant prices from the Government. He is employed at Mossgiel, I think.

4517. *Chairman.*] At page 184 of the Mines blue book in connection with Tom's Lake tank, I notice the following statement:—"With reference to the main drain and the broken dam, the drain is, I should say, considerably over a mile long, from 12 to 14 feet wide, and from 3 to 5 feet deep"? I daresay it is of these dimensions.

4518. "It starts from a watercourse, and a wide low dam across this forces the water into the drain. The water will have, I think, to rise 3 feet in this dam before it enters the drain. From appearances the water has been within an inch of flowing over the dam; the break, which is a cutting in the solid earth about 20 yards wide, evidently saving the dam, the bottom level of the drain being in places too high to carry the amount of water"? That is owing to the drain being obstructed.

4519. "If this cutting or bye-wash is to be repaired, I think the whole dam should be raised 2 feet for safety. The water will then flow down the drain to the place where the water has escaped into the swamp, and where, I think, the ground surface is lower than at the tank. The earth excavated from the drain is placed in irregular heaps each side without making a continuous bank, and it is between these heaps the water has made its way and cut down. The drain continues, and ends abruptly about a chain from and parallel to the tank. A small dam throws the water by a small drain into the tank. I was informed the drain was originally of uniform size, but owing to the obstruction of the traffic was filled in. The main road, I must mention, passes between the drain and tank, and follows the drain the whole way; and, I am told, that when the water came through to the tank, the space here was a perfect bog-hole. The original intention was, I suppose, to bring sufficient water down to fill up the embankments, and to do this I think it will be necessary to raise the dam and bank the earth along the low portion of the main drain in a form that can be utilized as a roadway, and to construct a culvert, and open up the drain again. I found the drain scoured and cut, which, owing to the friable nature of the soil, is inevitable, but not so much silted. The caretaker informs me that he and a man were at work in the water endeavouring to arrest the flow of water from the drain into the swamp, but were unsuccessful. The dam and drain also, I believe, are off the public watering place, and the amount of water lodging in the dam militates against the tank, since the lessee cannot charge for water from it." Are these statements correct? I did not take the levels for the drains myself, but to the best of my belief, the defect in the

the drain is not due to any fault of construction, but to the want of proper maintenance. The drain is obstructed and silted up by vegetation.

4520. Is not the drainage sufficient without going to another creek to supplement the supply? Not having constructed the tank, and not having had the original design to deal with, I have not gone into the question fully. I do not know the drainage area to be dealt with, but I think I should have made this drain myself; had I the work to do, to obtain a supplementary supply.

4521. *Major Penrose.*] Do you know that water has ever come down by this drain? Yes, it has come down; but I cannot say that it has come all the way from the swamp, because the drain has always been more or less obstructed since I have been there.

4522. *Chairman.*] In reading the evidence are there any other matters you would like to refer to in connection with the drains? I think not.

4523. The next matter that we have to go into is the expensive forms of machinery for lifting water. It has been stated that you have used appliances which necessitated a greater cost for maintenance. What water-lifting machinery have you in your district? We have the special Tangye steam-pump, the Holman horse-gear pump, and the Amos & Smith horse-gear pump.

4524. Have these different forms of machinery been erected in accordance with the requirements of the localities; have they been put up with regard to the surrounding circumstances? Yes, and in no case has steam-power been used where fuel is not obtainable within a short distance. In the other cases there are paddocks provided for the caretakers' horses, but I should prefer steam-power in all cases if fuel were available. But it is not so.

4525. But does not the use of steam-power necessitate a greater expense? No, I think not; because the cost of erection is less than the other.

4526. But how about the cost of maintenance? Well, I think the caretakers who look after steam-pumps are paid less than the caretakers who keep horses for the horse pumps.

4527. And I believe there is another matter to be taken into consideration—that there is no need for paddocks to be fenced off if steam-pumps be erected? Yes; but we have nothing to do with the fencing; We fence simply in accordance with the instructions of the Mines Department.

4528. But there would be no necessity for paddocks in case steam pumps were used, as horses would not be required? Certainly not.

4529. Do you think that the use of hand-power pumps would be desirable, or would lessen the expense in any way? I think the reverse would be the case. I believe that hand-power pumps would be ineffectual and would not meet requirements.

4530. And I suppose the cost of erecting and fitting them up would be so great as to bring up the total cost to more than that of the steam-pumps? Yes; the cost of erecting the M'Comas lift would be much larger than the cost of putting up our present appliances. A M'Comas lift would entail the use of a great deal of timber, and as that country is untimbered it would mean the incurring of great expense.

4531. *Major Penrose.*] How do the squatters in the district lift water from their tanks? I think they use the M'Comas lift. They have only a small quantity of water to lift, and they can take their own time to do it. They know also exactly what they want.

4532. And with respect to the putting up of these lifts? It is simply a hand-gear lift, rigged on staging over the tank. So far as I know, where squatters do raise water they use the M'Comas lift.

4533. *Chairman.*] Is it a fact that the Tangye steam-pumps require very little skill in their management and working? Yes; any man of ordinary intelligence could learn all about them in twenty-four hours.

4534. Then they are not at all liable to get out of order? No; quite the reverse.

4535. *Major Penrose.*] Are windmills used at all? I have only one in my district—at the Lignum Hut well. Of course I only know of my own district, but there may be others in use. I do not know of any case where the squatters use windmills to raise water for their stock.

4536. What is your opinion with regard to that form of lifting water for stock? It would entail the use of a large service tank, as you cannot rely upon always getting wind to run the machinery.

4537. *Chairman.*] The next matter we wish to inquire about is the alleged excessive cost of the fencing. Some of the most expensive fences that have been erected under your Department are said to have been put up in your district, and I think you are to a large extent held responsible for it. We have had it in evidence that fences have been erected at the extreme cost of £116 per mile;—will you give the Commission some information with regard to these allegations? I think £112 per mile was the highest price paid for fencing—that is, on the road between Booligal and Mount Manara. Tenders were called for publicly in the local newspaper three times, and the lowest tender was eventually accepted.

4538. Do you think that the specification for this fencing entails unnecessary expense on the Government? No; because I think that the fences required for these watering places should be more substantial than those used on stations. Our fences are virtually road fences, and the greater part of them are put up between the stock route and the paddock, and are meant to keep out large stock as well as sheep.

4539. It may be said that expensive and very substantial fences are necessary round tanks, but would that apply also to the fences round the caretakers' paddocks? Not to the same extent, certainly; but it would apply with certain exceptions. For instance, the fences round the paddocks require to be of a much more substantial character than station fences, because the fence round the paddock is practically a road fence.

4540. But only on one side? But very often there are large stock in the paddocks—cattle as well as sheep. Three sides of the paddock are on the stock route, and the other-side is leasehold land.

4541. What are the specifications of the fences put up by you—do they include a top rail? No; I will give full particulars if necessary. The posts are 9 inches by 3 inches, sunk 30 inches in the ground, 5 feet out; the panels are 10 feet long, with five No. 6 wires and a top wire of No. 4 gauge. There are straining posts at intervals of 12 panels, and they are put 3 feet in the ground.

4542. Do you not think it is quite unnecessary to have these posts 30 inches in the ground, and that it increases the cost? I have had very little experience with fencing until I went down to that district, and I should say, judging from what I saw, I did no more than what was necessary for public requirements.

4543. Are you aware whether squatters put the posts of their fences so deep in the ground on roadsides? No; I do not think they do.

4544. And do you not think they would do so if they thought it was necessary? Well, that would be merely an inference.

4545. But if the squatters found that a less depth was sufficient, why should the Government go to the extra expense? As substantial fences to retain stock and to exclude stock on stock routes, I do not think the fences are excessive with regard to the depths of the posts or to anything else. 4546.

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4546. Do you ever depart from the specification which you have just mentioned? No; I have seen no cause to depart from the specification except in the case of straining posts.
4547. Why did you do it in this case? It was done at the suggestion of Mr. Wood, made during one of his visits of inspection. It was done to avoid splicing the wires. We used a No. 4 and a No. 6.
4548. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you think that No. 4 wire could be strained by one man to its full length? The straining has been done without straining posts, and the wire has been fairly strained. The weight is supported every 10 feet by the posts.
4549. *Chairman.*] Then there is another objection to this—where you strain to split posts, has it not the tendency to split the post in two? Yes; I think that is objectionable.
4550. *Mr. Woore.*] Is that plan of doing without straining posts to be continued? No; on account of the objection raised by the Mines Department we went back to the other style of fencing.
4551. *Major Penrose.*] When did you last see the Ivanhoe fence? In November last.
4552. Had it then been long completed? Yes; several months. A portion of it had been completed a long time.
4553. Was it in a good condition? Yes. Apparently there was no tendency of the posts to split, or to go sideways.
4554. Was this omission of straining posts a concession to the contractor, or was it done by way of experiment? It was done as an experiment.
4555. Has it tended to cheapen the cost of the work? In this case the contractor had straining posts provided, so that there was no alteration in the cost.
4556. But it might tend to cheapen the cost? Yes.
4557. *Mr. Woore.*] And was it with the object of reducing the cost of the fence that this experiment was tried? Yes, and of doing away with the splicing of the wire, to avoid the danger of breaking at the splices.
4558. *Chairman.*] You have not told us why you paid £112 per mile for fencing—did you not think at the time the tender was received that the price was an excessive one? Yes; but tenders had been repeatedly invited, and we saw no prospect of our being able to get a lower tender, and the construction of the work was urged by the Mines Department; therefore we saw no alternative but to accept.
4559. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you think that the price was too high for such a fence? I think it could have been done cheaper, had the season been a good one.
4560. But do you think that the fence is a good one? Well, the contractor had great difficulty in getting his timber. In the case of the Holy Box and Lignum hut wells the timber had to be drawn 25 miles. When this work was let the weather was bad. For the works at Tom's Lake and the Jumping Sand Hills the contractor had to go for timber some 60 miles. This is, of course, merely the contractor's statement, and not the result of my observations.
4561. *Chairman.*] What sort of posts were those that were used? Some of them were round. In one or two cases, up near Mount Manara, I had used belar.
4562. *Mr. Woore.*] From your knowledge of the country, do you believe the contractor's statements as to the distance which he had to draw the timber? Well, not in all cases; but in these cases I do. Certainly the contractor in one case might have got timber close at hand, had he not been prevented by the lessee of the run. I mention this to show the conditions under which our fencing is done as compared with station fences.
4563. *Chairman.*] Do you not think that some discretion should be allowed to the officer-in-charge to allow other timber to be used than pine? I do not insist on pine being used; but I got it because it was more easily obtainable. I think that pine is the easiest obtainable timber in that part of the country, and not mulga, gidya, or belar. It was for this reason that I used it. Here is a letter from a contractor now fencing the Box Creek and Youhll Plains tanks:—

Mr. Stilwell, Engineer of Roads Department, Hay.

Sir,

Balarald, 27 March, 1888.

I have to state that having cut all the timber for Box Creek tank, on Magenta pastoral holding, I have, under great difficulty, obtained and now on the tank ground, (700)* The manager of Magenta refuses to allow me to cart, so I have to get through to cut one fence, as there is no water on the main road; and if the manager of Magenta would allow me Mr. M'Intyre's D block, [but he] point blank refuses to do so. I have taken three 400-gallon tanks and have made troughing to water the bullocks, but the water is positively refused. I must ask that I be allowed time on contract until rain falls, as, even if I abandon the timber cut on Magenta, I am in the same, or even worse, position for water on Sunbury [?] holding. I wired to you to-day as to the legality of my action; but Mr. Cronin, who is at Balarald to-day, has just told me I am in the wrong, and cannot cut the fence or take the water. I trust you will give the advance asked, and ease my position, and the time also, as it is not, humanly speaking, possible to get the timber until fully 1 inch rain falls; then a month will see the matter out.

I have, &c.,
W. J. MEREDITH,
Contractor, Balarald.

In some places where I am doing fencing, perhaps the lessee will have all the timber cut and stacked for his own use. That timber would come in for station fences, the price of which is quoted against us, while we have correspondingly longer distances to go for the timber.

4564. Now, in this particular place, Ivanhoe, can the round timber be used without going to this enormous cost? I do not refuse to take round posts if they give me good scantling. I would not stick to a hard and fast rule of 9 by 3 timber; and, in many cases, round posts are put in.

4565. There is a statement here, made by one of the witnesses, which I would like to call attention to:—

Fencing.—This was originally let to one Bevan, I am informed by Mr. George Williamson, J.P., Ivanhoe, and Mr. Brougham, Ticehurst, at £116 or £120 per mile, who sublet to Elliot, who afterwards sublet to Anderson (my informant) at the following:—30s. per 100 posts splitting; 100s. per 100 posts carting; £18 per mile erecting and wiring. The panels are supposed to be 10 feet, which would allow of the following:—

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-----|----|---|
| 530 posts, splitting, at 30s. | £ | 7 | 19 | 0 |
| 530 posts, carting, at 100s. | | 26 | 10 | 0 |
| Erecting, per mile | | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| Wire | | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| | | £82 | 9 | 0 |

The allowance for wire is ample, thus leaving a profit from first contract price of at least £33 11s. per mile.

—? [No answer].

4566.

* Several words undecipherable.

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4566. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you think the contractors made such a profit as that? Well, I doubt it very much. I know nothing about this sub-letting, and I doubt very much that it is done. No doubt a good deal of the work is done by piece, and that is what I presume they call sub-letting.

4567. Then he goes on to say:—"This description of fencing is new to me, and I unhesitatingly condemn same. In this opinion I am borne out by Messrs. Webb (Kilfera), Brougham (Ticehurst), and Laird (Mosgiel), all of whom have had much experience in fencing and fencing timber in this particular district, and neither of whom would erect a fence without straining-posts?" Well, I am not responsible for this, and, as the work has not been handed over, they are criticising work which has not yet come into their hands.

4568. *Major Penrose.*] Have you any idea or knowledge as to whether these contractors who did the fencing by piece made a profit out of it? I cannot say; but one contractor told me that he had got nothing out of it. He said also that he would not do similar fencing under similar conditions at the same price again.

4569. *Mr. Woore.*] But you admit and have stated that the price was excessive? Yes; at the time of letting. We called for tenders repeatedly, and we had no alternative but to let the work.

4570. *Major Penrose.*] What was the amount of the highest-priced tender you received? I cannot remember just now, but I know that we accepted the lowest tender. These works are open to the same men that construct the squatters' tanks; and if so much more money were to be made out of Government works, then why do not these men tender for our works? Of course, our's is better work, but even so, there are proportionately higher rates paid for it.

4571. *Chairman.*] Do you think it is necessary to have this large gauge of wire—No. 4 on top, and No. 6 wire under? Yes.

4572. Why?—you must know it entails extra expense? Because cattle often break the lighter wire by thrusting themselves against it. I have seen working bullocks do this repeatedly in their endeavour to get into the paddocks if there is no feed on the road. The top wire takes the great strain that is made on the fence under such circumstances.

4573. Why insist on a No. 6 wire when the squatters are satisfied with a lesser gauge? Well, heavy wire will last longer than light wire; and I think the extra expense is justified by the extra durability.

4574. Why, a fence is useful only so long as the posts will last? Yes.

4575. Is it, then, desirable to use this extra strong wire, which will last longer than the posts? I cannot say. I have not had sufficient experience to say definitely. My experience is not sufficiently lengthy to enable me to say whether the wire will outlast the posts or not.

4576. Statements have been made here by officers of the Mines Department to the effect that they would put up a sufficiently good fence for from £50 to £55 per mile, intending, no doubt, to show that the expenditure by the Works Department was excessive? I think these are merely unsupported statements. Mr. Low put it to the test once by calling for tenders, but he got no reply, except one to do the work at £90 per mile.

4577. A statement has been made by one of the witnesses that the fence round Mount Manara paddock cost £120 per mile? It cost the same as the Ivanhoe fence, which was £112 per mile. I know the work was delayed for months owing to the contractor being unable to get any timber at all. He could not get permission, either, to cross the paddock or get water from the station tank, and the work was suspended on account of this.

4578. It was said here by Mr. Low that at the Mount Manara paddock the fence cost £120 per mile, and that the timber had not to be carted more than 5 miles. Can you give us any information why this enormous price was charged for the fence? It was included in the same contract as the other, for which we called for tenders three times. As to the distance from timber, I cannot contradict the statement positively, but I know that the contractor had very great trouble in getting the timber.

4579. *Mr. Woore.*] At any rate was this the lowest price that you could possibly get the work done for after calling for tenders? Yes. With regard to the fence at Ivanhoe, and the diverting of the stock through the township, which has been complained of, the plan was submitted to the Mines overseer, Mr. Yeo, before the work was undertaken, and it was approved of by him verbally, not in writing.

4580. *Chairman.*] Another matter is the very expensive gates that you are alleged to have had erected at these paddocks? There are no separate prices for these gates. The contract is let in bulk sum, and gates are included in the price submitted. They may be specified in the contractor's schedule, and in some cases we have omitted gates, at the prices stated.

4581. Do you think that these gates, which cost £15, are necessary? No, I think the gates are not unnecessarily expensive. A general fault with the ordinary gates is that they are more or less dilapidated and in a state of disrepair.

4582. Have you seen any squatters' gates made wholly of battens without morticing—why not adopt these? There is nothing very elaborate about our gates. They are a little costlier than the others, but very little. They are made in the town and sent out, and there is very little extra cost in putting them together in the way we do. In our case, if the bars break they can be taken out with very little trouble.

4583. You are concerned to some extent in these charges of interference with caretakers and overseers? I have a good deal to say about that. This is the cause of the friction between the two Departments.

4584. Just state the facts with regard to the care, or want of care, shown to the works under your control? I cannot say that I have ever interfered with men under the Mines Department at all. I have given no instructions to them, and have been very careful not to do so. Charges to this effect have been brought against me, notably in connection with the Pulletop tank, where the lessee excused himself from neglect by stating that I had countermanded the overseer's instructions, but the statement is utterly false.

4585. Can you say anything about the other case, where you had been called on to remedy the most trivial matter, which could have been undertaken by the caretaker, and who, it is said, showed utter ignorance of and want of attention to his duties? Well, I want to read a report in reference to this case of the Box Creek tank. There has been no co-operation whatever between the two Departments; and instead of co-operation we have had only conflict and collision. We have been trying to maintain the efficiency of the works in the interests of the public, but the Mines overseers and caretakers appear to be doing the reverse. That is my opinion, and the inference which I draw from their actions. A joint control is, perhaps, in any case undesirable; but if there had been any co-operation on the part of the Mines officers,

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officers, a *modus vivendi* might have been discovered which would have allowed the works to be carried on to the public satisfaction. The object of these men appeared to me to be to bring the works into disrepute in order to get them taken out of our hands, and they have demoralized the contractors and many of the men by telling them that they would have the sole control of the works shortly. I would like to put in these documents in evidence :—

Box Creek Tank.—Balranald to Ivanhoe Road.

The Commissioner for Roads,—
Sir,

Hay, 16 November, 1887.

On visiting this tank on the 9th instant it was found to be full to berm level. The service tank, iron on concrete piers, was in good repair, but contained little water. The pump, a Smith & Amos' horse-power, was not in working order, and had been in this state upwards of two months; the caretaker not knowing what was the matter with it, and Inspector Low, who had visited in the interim, not being able to instruct him. No water had consequently been pumped, and the pump was publicly reported as broken down—a failure, in fact. The Mines overseer at Euston had, some time previous to my visit, reported to me that the pump would not act, and requested me to send the travelling mechanic to repair it. As the mechanic was then employed at the other end of the district, some 200 miles away, I replied that he could not then go, but suggested that the caretaker be instructed to pack the pistons. On opening the cylinders I found that the pistons were working loosely in them, failing to produce a vacuum, and consequently, of course, no water could be raised. I cleaned the cylinders and packed the pistons, and in half an hour from the time of my arrival the pump was working in a perfectly satisfactory manner. There was no defect whatever in the pump, the failure in action being solely owing to want of attention in packing the pistons, the caretaker not knowing that this is occasionally necessary, as is the renewal of bucket leathers in other types of pumps.

The troughing at this tank is to be renewed, and the steel troughing with timber for bearers, rail, &c., is on the ground, and its erection by the travelling mechanic will shortly be in hand.

The fencing of tenant's lease—640 acres—is let, the wire is on the ground, and the posts cut in the bush; hauling in is to be started immediately.

With regard to what is stated above as to the pump, the case may, I think, be cited as fairly typical—not by any means as specially strong or exceptional, as showing the character of the supervision by the Mines officers. If the renewal of a bucket leather or the packing of a piston is not the duty of a caretaker, what is? This man was willing enough to do it. I believe he was anxious to put his pump in working order. He assisted me with alacrity in doing so, but he did not know how to, and his overseers could not tell him. First I am requested by the overseer to send my mechanic to do it, which would have been virtually wasting his time and the £6 or £8 his trip would have cost. Next, the tank is visited by one of the newly-appointed inspectors, supposed to represent the sum of the theoretical and practical knowledge of his Department, who looks at the pump presumably as wisely as he can, shakes his head over it, much as a doctor does when he fails to diagnose a case, and means the reverse to be inferred, says something indefinite as to the foot-valve, and departs, leaving his unfortunate caretaker as wise and as helpless as before. Lastly, on visiting the work, I have myself to do what an instructed caretaker would have done two months before in 15 minutes without any defect being heard of.

The Mines Department, at length apparently recognizing what has long been patent to everyone, viz., that their overseers or stock inspectors were incompetent, have latterly amended their supervision by the appointment of inspectors—officers, I believe, of a higher grade, and inferentially possessed of superior qualifications. It was one of these gentlemen who visited this tank, as stated above, and who has acquitted himself in a similar manner in other instances. It was another of them, now, I believe stationed at Narrandera, who, a few months ago, went through the district in the happy confidence of youth and inexperience, with little or nothing in the shape of knowledge, either theoretical or practical, to give him pause—criticising, amending, condemning. Among other suggestions he made, I remember a sapient one respecting the suction joint of this very Box Creek pump, but who failed apparently to discover, what was very obvious to most others, that it would have been conducive to better results had his novitiate been passed previous to entering upon these duties—that, at least, a little rudimentary knowledge, which would have been acquired by say a six-months' apprenticeship as caretaker, would have been a desirable preliminary.

I have, &c.,

A. W. STILWELL.

Ivanhoe Tank.

The Commissioner for Roads,—
Sir,

Hay, 1st December, 1887.

On the 12th ultimo there was 11 feet 2 inches of water in this tank; there had been no rain to replenish it for fully two months. The rate of subsidence is now 4 inches a week, or '57 inch daily.

The embankment was in good repair, as also the drains and silt-tank.

The service tank, iron on concrete piers, in good repair, but contained little water.

The pump, Tangye's special steam, needed cleaning, and had not been worked for upwards of a month, the foot-valve having been taken off and sent away to Sydney for a new spring by the Mines overseer. The suction joint was elevated out of the water.

This was quite a needless stoppage of this pump. The renewing of the spring is a very simple matter, or, indeed, the pump could be kept at work without it. Stock in the interim had to go elsewhere for water.

The troughing, except for the alteration in dwarf-rail previously reported, was in good repair.

The fencing in of 640 acres, tenant's paddocks, H. Bevan, contractor, was finished.

I have, &c.,

A. W. STILWELL.

4586. *Major Penrose.*] When these works were handed over, did the Mines officers get any description of them? They had every information they asked for given them, and a receipt in full for all the articles handed over was taken. If they wanted information they and their caretakers, too, could always have it.

4587. *Chairman.*] Does not this tend to cause friction between the Department, that you have the privilege of making large repairs, while the Mines Department are allowed to make only small repairs? Yes; I think it does; but if there was any hearty co-operation it need not do so. But their object, so far as I could see, was diametrically opposed to ours.

4588. The principal friction appears to have arisen in your district, and in connection with yourself? Well, I can only speak for myself. I may at times have been a little put out by the gross neglect of these men, but I remember using no hasty words to them. I was always very careful not to give them any instructions, and carefully avoided at any time giving them orders. I see that most of the friction is attributed to me, but the complaints in my reports are attributable to the negligence of their men.

4589. An instance was mentioned in which a caretaker was ordered to clean out a silt-tank, and it is said that you came along and directed him to stop, saying that you would get it done for him? I do not think such a thing occurred in my district. I do not remember anything about it.

4590. The facts are referred to at page 57 of the Mines blue book :—

It is, of course, very probable, owing to the wet season, that the caretaker has been obliged to wait until the tank is dry enough to clean it, but it will be observed on 87-4,648, that the contractor engaged by the Works Department is compelled to do the same. But the main point which does not appear to occur to the officers of the Works Department, is that any proven neglect on the part of the caretaker can hardly be regarded as a justification for expending public money on a contract to do work that should properly be performed by a public servant, and that a due regard for the public service would have led them to show to this Department that the caretaker's duties were neglected?

—? In this case the contract was let for enlarging the silt-tank and for making an alteration in the intake of of the shoot. I told the caretaker that the contractor would be there in a few days to enlarge the silt-tank, and that his cleaning it out would be needless. That was done, and the contractor went out and enlarged the tank.

4591.

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4591. *Major Penrose.*] Had the silt-tank in this case silted up through the carelessness of the caretaker? No. The silt-tank had only recently been constructed. It needed cleaning out, but not urgently, and there was nothing to complain of with regard to the caretaker.

4592. *Chairman.*] Now, with regard to the tank at Merri Merriwa:—"I think this should go on to the Mines. We report bad men. A good man should have the benefit of the favourable report, as far as it may weigh with the authorities at the Mines.—W.C.B., 14/8/86. Under Secretary, for transmission to Mines." He apparently makes a very grave charge—that public money has been spent in doing what ought to have been done by the caretaker. That applies to your case, too, although it is not yours? Of course divided control leads to many things of that sort, but it need not have done so had there been co-operation and singleness of purpose on the part of those concerned.

4593. *Mr. Woore.*] What have you to say with reference to the charges in Mr. Boulton's letter, referring to Hulong tank, dated 21st December, 1886, referred to at page 42 of the Mines blue book:—

Referring to my instructions to visit the Hulong tank, I have now the honor to inform you that I did so, and found that Mr. Road Superintendent Stilwell, after Mr. Overseer Elworthy had instructed the caretaker to coal-tar the boiler, &c., in accordance with your circular, 3rd September last, had issued fresh orders to the caretaker to paint it red and to apply to Mr. Elworthy for paint. Mr. Elworthy instructed the caretaker to prepare the newly-dished top of the embankment for the reception of a shoot for carrying off the storm-water and material, for which Mr. Elworthy was supplying. These instructions were also countermanded and a length of India-rubber hose, 2½ inches in diameter, was supplied by Mr. Stilwell to carry off all the storm-water from the four embankments. I need hardly say how totally inadequate this is, and must, at the same time, protest against such a useless waste of money and such a childish innovation, that in the eyes of the travelling public so reflects upon the public watering places officer.

—? I deny that I ever interfered with the instructions of the overseer.

4594. What did you do? I took out the rubber hose forming the syphon and gave it to the caretaker and instructed him how to use it; but as he told me that he had instructions from his overseer to put in the shoot I did not countermand these instructions, but took the hose away again.

4595. *Major Penrose.*] Did you find this rubber hose effectual in that case? I tried it at Mount Elliott, and found it effectual there.

4596. I believe there is a very small drainage area on the top of the embankments? Yes; and you can conduct the drainage to one or two points, as the top of the embankments are concave.

4597. Do you think it necessary to have four shoots, one foot across, to carry off the water from the top of the embankment? No.

4598. *Mr. Woore.*] What is the width usually of the top of these embankments? About 10 feet.

4599. Does the syphon serve to drain off the water and prevent it from scouring down the sides? Yes; this syphon that I used was quite sufficient for the purpose on a similar embankment.

4600. And when the Mines officers complained about it you took it away? I did not interfere with the caretaker at all. The only inference that I can draw from the actions of the Mines officials with regard to neglect and their reports as to works being insufficient, is that they wish to bring the works into disrepute with the object of wresting control from the Works Department. This is the most simple explanation, and it is only a fair inference, though a very hard thing to say, perhaps.

4601. Have you endeavoured to conciliate the officers of the Mines Department and to show them that you would meet them half way? Well, I have never met either Mr. Boulton or Mr. Low, and there cannot be anything personal between us. I met some of the subordinate officers of the Mines Department, but no friction took place between us. I know Mr. Keighran, at Hay, and get on very well with him.

4602. So that this friction principally appears in the correspondence? Yes, and refers principally to the action taken by Messrs. Boulton and Low.

4603. *Major Penrose.*] It appears that you suddenly found your works were subjected to elaborate criticism, when before you never heard anything against them? Yes.

4604. *Mr. Woore.*] And has this criticism been confined to the officers of the Mines Department, or have you had any complaints from the general public? No; I have heard no complaints from the general public, except such as were based on reports which seemed to be circulated by the Mines officials. I certainly did hear some complaints about troughing. It was said that the railing formed an obstruction to the watering of stock. But that is the only thing which I can call to mind.

4605. You know what the charges are with respect to the Dolmoreve well; and, if so, what have you to say to them? Yes; I know them. I had a man there named Flynn. A bucket was lost in the well on the 10th July. I cannot say whether the bucket was recovered then or not, but on the 8th August I reported that the travelling mechanic had stated that the well rope was broken, and that the centering below the water level was forced out by the fall of the bucket. There was great difficulty, with the assistance of a man and horse, in lowering the water, effecting the repairs, and recovering the bucket. A new rope and bucket had been sent out. The breakage of the rope had apparently been occasioned by the end near the bucket being injured by the action of the water in the well in which the bucket had been left suspended during intervals of baling. The bucket should have been raised out of the water. The mechanic also reported that on his first going to the well on this occasion he could obtain no assistance from the caretaker owing to his absence at an inn 7 miles away, where he was drinking. The caretaker finally returned in a state of intoxication. The bucket had fallen full of water from the top of the well down to the bottom. The water in this well is pretty brackish, and the rope corroded. I told the caretaker this, and asked him to keep the bucket suspended out of the water.

4606. Mr. Low stated here that he would not trust himself on a wire rope? Yes; but I think the wire ropes are the best that can be used.

4607. *Major Penrose.*] What kind of rope was this? Galvanized steel ropes, and I think they are 1½ inches in circumference. The breaking strain of such a rope is absurdly beyond anything that we ever put on them. As to a man stating that he would not trust himself on such a rope it only shows his ignorance of the whole question.

4608. Is there anything else you would like to add with respect to these statements about interference? Not that I can think of.

4609. You think there was no unnecessary delay in effecting those repairs? Well, I cannot remember—that all refers to the one case. If so, there was delay; but that might be accounted for by the fact that the country was all under water at the time and there was no necessity for the work. No water was then required from tanks and wells, because the country was flooded; and there being no urgency, the matter was allowed to stand. I had a new rope and bucket sent out as soon as possible. The caretaker might have done what my man did,—get the rope and bucket up with assistance. 4610.

- A. W. Stilwell.
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4610. Are the caretakers put on these watering places by the Mines Department capable men, as a rule? No; capable men are the exception, not the rule.
4611. Are many of the watering places in your district leased? Very few.
4612. And you think that many of the caretakers, if kept up to the mark, would effect these repairs themselves? Yes; and might save unnecessary though trifling expense. There could be nothing more clear than that case at Box Creek.
4613. *Mr. Woore.*] Then it is in consequence of the incapacity of many of these caretakers that friction has arisen? There is no doubt about it—the incompetence of the caretakers and of the Mines officials, who go away and leave things as they find them.
4614. You wish us to infer, then, that some of the Mines officers are scarcely capable of putting things in proper order? Yes, that is the only inference I can draw.

[The Commission adjourned.]

FRIDAY, 20 APRIL, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R. E., | J. C. WOORE, Esq.

Arthur William Stilwell recalled and further examined:—

- A. W. Stilwell.
20 April, 1888.
4615. *Witness.*] Before going further I would like to read a report, sent in answer to a circular received from Mr. A. P. Wood, with reference to the appointment of the Commission, which will be found at page 9 of the Mines blue book:—
(Copy, Tanks 87-869).

As to Construction, Effectiveness, and Maintenance of Tank and Well Works in Hay District.

The Commissioner and Engineer for Roads,—
Sir,

Mossgiel, 12 November, 1887.

With reference to your memo. of 3rd instant, attached:—

1. No works have been sub-let by contractors, but piece work has in some instances been let by them. For instance, the sinking of Dolmoreve and Willandra wells was let by the contractor, at per foot, to gangs of men, he putting all material and appliances on the ground. Piece work is similarly let in fencing contracts. The getting of the posts, haulage, and the erection of the fence, are generally let separately, the contractor finding the wire and tools, frequently working himself. No tank works have been sub-let. The construction of appurtenances may probably have been sub-let as piece work.

2. Any information obtained by me respecting contractors' profits is to the effect that they have been the reverse of excessive, and they are declining these works for that reason. For the last works let there was the greatest difficulty in obtaining tenders, although every possible publicity was given. The contractor who has just completed one of these works (tank at Dowdigans) says he could not take another at the same price; that although he remained constantly with his men, and worked hard himself, he has made next to nothing; that he has always done better at station contract work, and will either go back to that or sell his plant. Squatters on whose runs Government tanks, &c., have been constructed have in several instances told me that from what has come to their knowledge the contractors could not have cleared anything out of their work. Business people with whom the contractors have had financial or other dealings have reported the same. Several of the contractors have got into financial difficulties. Few of them tender for tank work more than once.

3. No works have been let except by public competition. Extensions of contracts have been made by task, and these have principally been caused in fencing contracts by the method of setting out the areas by the Mines officers.

4. As to the maintenance of these works by the Mines Department, it is a fiction, a pretence. There has been no maintenance in the proper sense of the term; rather the reverse. I take it that the occasion demands plain speaking, whatever reluctance there may be to breaking through the reticence usually observed respecting the operations of another Department; and so, as to this so-called maintenance, the most gross ignorance, the most utter negligence and indifference as to the welfare of the works or the public benefit do not explain or adequately describe it; because it has, in addition to these negative qualities, the positive one of endeavouring to bring the works into disrepute—to depreciate them, to bring discredit upon them. The only capacity or ingenuity displayed in this "maintenance" has been in this direction. Unfortunately, the public in Riverina, Victorian in proclivities and alien to the Government of this Colony and all its doings, has lent itself only too readily to this; and it is to a superficial public opinion, thus educated, that the late misrepresentations of the Press reporters who travelled through the district with the Minister, are partly due. With few exceptions the men employed as caretakers are totally unfit for the post—ignorant of everything except the situation, and only alive to magnifying and advertising defects which, when they are not imaginary, are nearly always due to their own incompetence or negligence. Disreputable people have been put in charge who, when such a small matter as the necessity for tightening the fence wires around a tank is pointed out, have said they were not sent from Sydney to work but merely to take charge; who for a great part of the time have been absent, drinking at the nearest inn, and from whom nothing but the most unblushing falsehoods could be elicited. I have frequently found caretakers absent rabbiting. The man at Lignum Hut well, in addition to shamefully neglecting the windmill and pump, thereby causing disrepair and breakage, keeps the mill idle to save the necessity of attending to it, allowing the service tank of embanked earth to be damaged by becoming empty and contracting. A travelling mechanic has to be employed by this Department to effect repairs, &c., that should properly devolve upon these caretakers. He has sometimes to be sent as much as 100 miles merely to renew a pump bucket leather or some such trifling matter. I have had to send my assistant 50 miles, when the road was almost impassable, merely to put in a pin connecting the horse-works with the pump-rod, which took, I suppose, two minutes to do, but which the caretaker would not touch. I have frequently, on my rounds, to stop and take a pump apart and clean it myself, the caretaker perhaps assisting, perhaps merely looking on and making depreciatory or sarcastic remarks. Mr. Wood has had similar experiences. I have known a pump to be partly taken apart and left so, lying about the horse-walk for six weeks by the instruction of the Mines overseer, who gave out, as did also the caretaker, that the pump was defective; and I heard it so spoken of by the public 50 miles away, and have myself put it to rights so that it worked perfectly, in half an hour.

Wells are frequently left without baling for weeks, causing the bore to become choked, when it is reported by the Mines officials that the supply has failed. Pumps have repeatedly been reported by overseers and caretakers ineffective, that they would not throw enough water to fill the service tank in less than two days, when a test has always shown that they would do so in from six to eight hours if fairly worked. Holy Box well was abandoned by the Mines officials because, as they gave out, the water was unfit for stock. I found the appliances being destroyed by the public. Put a man in charge, and made him draw water daily. When fairly tested the quality proved to be excellent, but the Mines overseer at Ivanhoe still kept reporting that it was bad, preventing the public from using it; and it was only after some persistence that this opposition was overcome and they were induced to take charge of it. It is now one of the best wells in the district.

At Boonoon tank, some months ago, the Mines overseer had the valve opened and some 3 or 4 feet of water let out of the tank, because he said he thought the embankment was endangered; and two days ago I found a similarly absurd waste of water, by direction of Inspector Low, at Clare tank, where the valve was left open so that the water might escape into the swamp. About 2 feet had been lost.

At

A. W.
Stilwell.

20 April, 1888.

At Mount Manara tank the overseer ordered all the water to be run to waste out of the service tank because a few of the foundation piers had the outer casing of cement slightly scaled off at the edges. This was apparently done to substantiate a report that the foundations of the tank had failed, and that it would have to be taken down, which I heard repeated all along the road. There was found to be no defect in the strength of the piers, and their appearance has been restored by the mechanic—about half a day's work. A few days ago, at Box Creek tank, the caretaker told me he could not make the pump act, that it had been so nearly three months, during which time he had not been able to raise any water, and his service tank was thus nearly empty; that Inspector Low had been there, but could not say what was wrong beyond some absurdity as to the foot valve being out of position. I found the pump very dirty and neglected. Cleaned it and packed the pistons with hemp that the caretaker had in his possession, and in less than an hour had the pump working well. Now, there was nothing here that the most ordinary care or intelligence could not have accomplished, and yet, in spite of the visit of the Mines inspector, this pump was lying disabled—as far as the public were aware hopelessly so—and would have remained so indefinitely, so far as action of the Mines officials was concerned. At Ivanhoe tank, this morning, I found the pump also disabled, Inspector Low being, I was informed, there at the time, although I did not see him. The foot valve of this pump had been sent quite needlessly to Sydney about a month ago. The pump, the caretaker said, worked well enough before, and it had during that time been idle; and stock, instead of watering at the tank, had been taken to private tanks in the township. Now, all that was required was a piece of ordinary fencing wire bent spirally for a spring for the valve. Anyone could have put it in, or for that matter the pump will act without the foot-valve at all; and yet it is kept idle and publicly reported broken down. I heard so miles away down the Balranald road, while stock have to go for water elsewhere; and this occurs where, in addition to the caretaker, there are stationed an overseer and an inspector of the Mines Department. I also found yesterday, at Gunaramby tank, the pump had been for some time worked with a dry bearing, and with one of the clamp bolts of the brasses on the horse-works loose, damaging the bearing; and here both Inspector Low and the overseer had visited a day or two before. Numerous similar instances to the above might be cited without exhausting the list, or of adequately conveying the utter futility of the system.

5. There has been little actual clashing with the Mines officers, because my function, after construction of the works, is restricted to looking on, effecting repairs with my own hands, or sending a man of my own to do them. I can give no instructions to the Mines caretakers. The Mines officers stopped the coating of the service tanks and troughing by this Department with composition for their preservation, alleging that it polluted the water. The overseer at Ivanhoe objected to the inlets at Gunaramby tank, and wished to insist upon an additional one. As this was not done he gave out that the first heavy rain would burst over and destroy the tank batters. This has not proved to be the case. The overseer at Euston objected to the inlet at Youhll Plains tank, and reported that an additional one was required. His caretaker was induced to pay a little attention to his drains, and the inlet asked for, which would have cost at least £100, was proved quite unnecessary.

The shape of lease areas, as set out by the Mines Department, is quite at variance with the suggestions of this Department, and has enormously, and without any corresponding benefit, increased the cost of enclosing them. Inspector Low has interfered with a contractor under this Department and ridiculed his work—fencing of lease areas, Whitton to Enabalong. The same gentleman has recently ordered my travelling mechanic to repair the service tank and well runners at Holy Box. On visiting them to-day I find the tank holding well and the runners in good repair. It appears the caretaker let a bucket down lower than usual, below the point to which the runners extend, and it caught but was soon freed again. As the mechanic reported, Mr. Low had sent him word that the runners had given way; I at once sent up from Hay, timber for new runners and a canvas bucket to lower the water, by coach—as it turns out, an unnecessary expense. The embankment at Pulletop tank was allowed to remain much out of repair for months by the Mines officers, on the plea that their lessee had said I directed him not to touch it; and founded on this falsehood, Mr. Gilliat made an elaborate complaint of my interference with the functions of his officers.

6. So far I have only obtained the attached opinion in writing—from Mr. J. Waugh, of Clare station—as to the relative advantages of the tank and trough systems of watering stock, but on my return to Hay in a day or two, I expect to receive several others which will be then forwarded. Mr. Parsons, of Mossiel station, and Mr. J. Evans, of Conoble station, are both of opinion that our system is the only one practicable for travelling stock; while Mr. Parsons says, even on his run, he waters all his sheep from troughing.

7. As to prices paid by squatters for excavation in bad seasons, it will be noted what Mr. Waugh says in his letter, and I will obtain and forward other statements. Mr. Parsons says he paid 1s. 1d. a cubic yard for 15 feet deep, 4 to 1 slopes, and gave all advantages, such as free grass and water, &c., to his contractors.

8. As to our appurtenances, the conditions to be met differ materially from those obtaining on the runs where a very limited and known number of stock is to be provided for at each tank or well. On the stock routes all contingencies must be provided against, and in addition to larger reservoirs, more extensive and perfect appliances have to be afforded. To meet these conditions our appurtenances are, I believe, the best so far devised. The iron service tanks and the new type of steel troughing, for simplicity of construction, durability, and effectiveness, cannot be excelled. This opinion I have heard generally expressed even by some who, not fully realizing the conditions or requirements, demur at the cost. As to the water-lifting appliances, the M'Comas lifters have been discarded in favour of pumps, because of the amount of timber (a serious item of cost in this timberless district) required in connection with them for well and staging, and also because of the greater amount of other perishable material, leather, &c., in belting and buckets of which they are composed, as compared with the pumps.

9. The pumps in use in this district are the Holman, and Amos & Smith's horse power, and the Tangye special 3-horse power steam. All of them are of the utmost simplicity of construction. In connection with the steam-pumps there is practically no machinery, the power being applied direct from the steam to the pump cylinder, and the pistons working in both are attached to the same rod. Any man of ordinary intelligence can learn all about them in an hour.

About the horse-pumps, there is nothing more complicated than the horse-works, which are the same as required for a M'Comas lift; attachment is made to a plunger or piston rod, and the rest is simply a piston working in a cylinder. The only repairs required are occasional renewal of bucket leathers, also required with the M'Comas lift, a little packing and tightening of bolts, occasional cleaning and oiling. I should think a blackfellow could learn how to keep them in repair in less than a day. They are incomparably easier and less expensive to erect than the M'Comas lift. The horse-pumps will throw from 3,000 to 4,000 gallons an hour without distressing the horse. The steam-pumps will throw from 5,000 to 7,000 gallons an hour. I consider that they are thoroughly effective and perfectly adapted for the purposes to be served. As to their maintenance by the Mines officials, need more be said?—when a pump is worked with dry bearings, when steam-pumps are allowed to become so foul and rusty that they cannot be started, when pumps are reported disabled and left unworked for months because a bucket leather requires renewing, or because a piece of wire is required in a valve, the only question is as to whether it would be worse or better if there were no "maintenance" at all.

I have, &c.,

A. W. STILWELL.

Hay, 16th November, 1887.

The Commissioner for Roads,—

MEMO.—Attached are letters from Messrs. A. M'Farland, J. Russell, and D. Grant forwarded in conjunction with my report of 12th, with which a letter from Mr. J. Waugh. All of these gentlemen are squatters in this district, and it will be observed that they all favour the trough system of watering for travelling stock. I expect to receive further letters in the course of the next few days, which will be duly forwarded.

Mr. Webb, of Bladen Park station, whom I met at Mossiel, told me he considers our system the only one suitable. He much admires the buckled plate tanks and steel troughing. He gives the cost of excavation on his station at 1s. a cubic yard for 15 feet deep and 4 to 1 slopes. At this price the contractor had not to feed his horses, having station grass. He considers our dry season prices, when contractors had to feed, not at all excessive.

A. W. STILWELL.

A. W. Stilwell, Esq., Hay,—

Dear Sir,

Clare, 11 November, 1887.

In reply to yours of the 5th instant, I beg to state that I have tried both systems, and find watering by troughs preferable to allowing stock free access to an open tank, for which my reasons are that cattle cut the slopes of the tank away, and weak sheep coming to water after them cannot drink, and if they try to do so invariably get bogged. Also watering at troughing keeps the tank water far cleaner, as no impurity can find its way into the excavation. I am adding troughing to my tanks yearly, so convinced am I of its superiority to letting stock at the main body of water.

A. W.
Stilwell.
20 April, 1888.

In seasons such as 1884 and 1885, 1s. 6d. per cubic yard for tanks (say) 16, and not over 20, feet deep is the lowest I can do them at. The side slopes to be not less than 2 to 1 in the best soil, and in some soils $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 to 1 of a slope, and this is for tanks to which stock have no access; and, if stock are to have access to the water, the slopes should be from 3 to 4 to 1. The price, 1s. 6d., may seem high to some, but when it is considered that horse feed has to be carted, and water also in some cases, from 5 to 10 miles, the figure will not be so very much out of the way.

I have, &c.

JOHN WAUGH.

A. W. Stilwell, Esq., Assistant Engineer, Hay,—
Dear Sir,

Thelangerin, Hay, New South Wales, 12 November, 1887.

Yours of the 5th instant to hand, *re* watering stock at tanks.
I have several years experience of both the methods you mention, viz., that of allowing the stock free access to the tank or reservoir, and the other of pumping the water into receiving tanks, and allowing it to flow from these into troughs by means of self-acting valves, so that a supply of water is always in the troughs. I unhesitatingly give my opinion in favour of the latter method, as being by far the most economical way of using the water and preserving the tanks from silting up.

When stock are allowed to run in the tanks in dry weather they pulverise the embankments into fine dust, which is blown into the excavation; and they waste large quantities of water by carrying it out in the fleece (I am speaking, of course, of sheep) to be licked up by the sun. In fact, I tried the experiment, about three years ago, with two tanks of about 7,000 cubic yards each. The water from one was pumped up for the sheep, and the other the sheep had free access to. The result was that the latter was dry in about six months, and the former lasted well into the following season. I forgot to say that each had 6,000 sheep watering at them of a similar description, and quite similar country; by the way, we had to reduce the number of sheep on the tank they had free access to, when they had been on it about three months, in order to eke out the supply of water.

With regard to cost of excavations in dry seasons, when the contractors had to buy and cart feed for the horses, I paid 14d. and 15d. per cubic yard; depth of excavations, 12 to 14 feet, with slopes of 3 feet in 1 foot.

Yours, &c.,

A. McFARLAND.

A. W. Stilwell, Esq., Assistant Engineer,—
Dear Sir,

Eli Elwah, Hay, New South Wales, 15 November, 1887.

In reply to yours of the 5th November, I am of opinion that the better plan is to fence off the tank and pump the water into troughs, as stock will get a cleaner drink and there will be less waste.

With regard to excavating tanks:—Ten years ago I used to give 12d. a yard; latterly I found a man half the bullocks and scoops, and he did the job for 6d. a yard. Of course he got the grass. Our tanks are no great size, running from 3,000 to 4,000 cubic yards. They are rather shallow, being 10 feet at the deepest, and are made 1 in 3 at the sides, 1 in 6 at the ends. All are open to stock, as in droughts we have to depend on the wells. I believe with large tanks a windmill would be found to work well. About Mannambool, all stock are watered from shallow wells and windmills. Regretting I am unable to give you any more information,

I am, &c.,

JAMES RUSSELL.

A. W. Stilwell, Esq., Roads Office, Hay,—
Dear Sir,

Illillawa, 14 November, 1887.

In reply to your letter of the 5th instant, asking an opinion as to "The relative merits of allowing stock free access to the water in tanks and dams, and of preventing access and elevating the water and supplying it in troughs."

On stations in this district where the ground is fairly retentive and catchment areas good, the stock is generally allowed free access to the water, preference being given to a larger first outlay in the number and quantity of tank supply, to the other method of merely excavating for a certain necessary supply only, which to prevent waste must be doled out economically in a trough, thereby no doubt effecting a saving in providing the water, but committing one to the cost of elevating machinery which is more or less troublesome to maintain, and to labour too costly for the work to be obtained.

For the above reasons it seems to me the free access system prevails on all sheep stations here.

But in the case of tanks on travelling stock routes, with which I presume you are mostly concerned, I fear free access could not be allowed. Were it for sheep alone, with the sites well chosen on hard red ground and slopes 5 or 6 to 1, and the supply brought in carefully through a water tight box or drain, a great deal of trouble and expense could be avoided by leaving them open. But as travelling cattle—in large mobs—and also horses must be supplied, they will cut up any slopes on this clayey country, so that before the water receded half way down, a boggy ridge would present itself around the water-line, which would make it destructive for sheep to approach, and dangerous for large stock also, together with greatly hastening the process of silting up the tank.

Therefore with regard to the public tanks on the stock routes; for the supply of cattle, horses, and sheep, the most satisfactory way presenting itself to my mind is the use of the simplest possible kind of elevating machinery and good troughs.

And now as to the cost of tanks and the best slopes. We could have got any quantity excavated in the seasons of 1884 and 1885 at the following rates per cubic yard, viz.:—For tanks under 8,000 yards, 14 feet deep, 10d.; for tanks from 8,000 to 15,000 yards, 15 feet deep, 1s.; for tanks from 15,000 to 20,000 yards, 20 feet, 1s. 3d.; and the stuff carefully embanked (say) 20 yards away from the excavation. Of course our slopes would be 5 or 6 to 1, enabling ploughs and scoops to work freely; these being generally accepted as the best slopes, where free access is allowed, although it increases evaporation.

But for tanks from which it is intended to raise the water 3 to 1 slopes should be sufficient, on two sides at least, and say longer slopes on two sides or ends, for the sake of cheapness in construction.

In giving you the prices at which we could get the work performed, I must say out of fairness to contractors that in private contracts, there is no delay to the honest workman in getting his work completed, and taken off his hands with immediate payment, while I understand the opposite is generally the case in Government works. Trusting you will not consider the foregoing rather a digression from the subject of your letter.

I am, &c.,

DON GRANT.

Ivanhoe Tank.

Extract from Mr. Stilwell's report No. 87-918.

The pump—Tangye's special steam—needed cleaning, and had not been worked for upwards of a month, the foot valve having been taken off and sent away to Sydney for a new spring by the Mines overseer; the suction joint was elevated out of the water.

This was quite a needless stoppage of this pump; the renewing of the spring is a very simple matter, or indeed the pump could be kept at work without it.

Stock in the interim had to go elsewhere for water.

1/12/87.

A. W. STILWELL,

Clare Tank.

The Commissioner for Roads,—
Sir.

Hay, 1 December, 1887.

On the 11th ultimo, I found this tank full to 9 inches above berm level. There had been nearly 2 feet more water in, but the valve had been left open, the caretaker said, by order of the Mines Inspector, and it had escaped.

In addition to this being a most absurd waste of water, it tended to prevent the drying of the ground at the service tank and troughing, both of which were surrounded by about 9 inches of water. The service tank was empty, the water having been run off as a precautionary measure during the flooding of ground around the foundations. The inside of the tank was much rusted, showing the want of the composition with which it was intended to coat all the tanks and troughing, but which was prevented by the objection of the Mines. The tank and foundations were otherwise in good repair.

The embankment was eroded at foot by wave action. The pump, Smith and Amos' horse-gear, very dirty and neglected.

The accumulation of water round this tank is owing to a drain having been cut through a sand rise to a swamp at a slightly higher level. To augment the supply this has proved most effectual, while if it is at any time found desirable to curtail

curtail the supply so as to prevent flooding of the service tank foundations and the troughing, it can readily be done by obstructing the drain, and so retaining the water in the other swamp, but if the water had not been allowed to escape from the tank, the water outside would have disappeared before.

The fencing in of 640 acres—tenant's lease—H. Bevan, contractor—is finished, except portion of the wiring, which should be done in a fortnight.

A. W.
Stilwell.

20 April, 1888.

I have, &c.,

A. W. STILWELL.

4616. *Chairman.*] You state in that letter that you never gave any work except by contract and by public tender? Yes.

4617. But is it not a fact that you gave the fencing of the tank at Ivanhoe without calling for tenders? No; that work was given as an extension of an existing contract on which there had been other extensions, necessitated by the alterations of the survey made by the Mines Department.

4618. Is it a fact that you ever told the caretaker of the Mines Department never to touch the pump, as he did not understand it? No; certainly not.

4619. Were you in the habit of giving orders to the caretakers? No, not orders. I have pointed out omissions and neglect on their part, and have offered them suggestions; but I never gave them what they could take as orders or definite instructions to do any work.

4620. You said that the overseer had demanded another inlet to the tank at Youhll Plains? Yes.

4621. Which would necessitate a cost of something like £100? Yes; that at the least.

4622. Has that ever been done? No.

4623. And has the tank ever been filled? Yes; it is full now, and has been full two or three times since then.

4624. Then the carrying out of the request of this overseer would have entailed unnecessary expense? Yes; the same thing occurred at the Gunaramby tank; but before referring to that, I would like to make a further explanation as to this friction. In most instances, friction arises in this way: It is one of my duties to occasionally inspect these tanks and well works, and report the result to my chief. In the course of these inspections I find that, owing to the incapacity and misrepresentations of the Mines officials, and owing to the gross negligence and incompetence of their caretakers, there is an absence of any efficient maintenance on these works, and consequently that the works are wantonly brought into public disrepute. I send in reports in accordance with my instructions, giving details. How could I do otherwise? Am I to condone or suppress these facts, hush things up, and smooth matters over in order to avoid friction with the Mines officers at the expense of the works which I naturally take a great interest in—to the prejudice of my Department and my own reputation? These reports are objected to by the officers of the Mines, and hence the friction. But I would submit that, if in the execution of my plain duty in endeavouring to protect the works and to promote their efficiency in the interests of the public and my Department, this friction as regards the Mines officials is the result, then so much the worse for the result and for the causes produced by the other side which lead to that result. So much the worse, also, for the divided control, but not so much the worse for the works or the public. Had it been otherwise, had the supervision exercised by the Mines officers been effective, and had they evinced a desire to promote the efficiency and good repute of the works, had their goal been the same as ours, there might still have remained a feeling of rivalry or emulation; but, as I said yesterday, a *modus vivendi* would have been possible, as has been pointed out by Mr. Bennett, and some good might have resulted from this divided control. But as it is, I cannot charge myself with any desire to needlessly cause friction. I cherish no personal animus towards the Mines officers, but I cannot retract or withdraw anything that I have advanced. I cannot even say that under the circumstances I regret that this friction occurred. It has been the inevitable outcome of the system of divided control and responsibility, and of the Mines officers taking the view they did of their share of the work. Had they been solely responsible for these works—had they felt, as the Works officers necessarily did, that their interests and the interests of the works were one and the same, and that in promoting the one they were promoting the other, their conduct would, I think, have been very different.

4625. *Major Penrose.*] Have you ever given the Mines officials or caretakers advice or instructions not to interfere with the machinery internally? To the best of my recollection, no.

4626. *Mr. Woore.*] Are you aware of any reason why the works connected with any public watering place should be handed over from the Works Department to another Department for maintenance any more than any other public works? No; certainly not.

4627. So far as you know, are any other public works of this character handed over from the Department constructing them to another Department for maintenance? No; and I think that this action with regard to tanks and wells is quite exceptional. I would like to hand in this report in reply to the charge of Mr. Elworthy in connection with Pulletop tank:—

The Commissioner and Engineer for Roads,—

Sir,

Hay, 9 February, 1887.

Referring to the attached papers, it is to be observed that Mr. Elworthy does not state that I countermanded his instructions to the tenant (O'Neill), but that the tenant informed him so. An obvious preliminary on Mr. Elworthy's part would have been to ascertain whether such were the facts. For your information I may state that it is about the reverse of the fact; but, as this was not elicited by Mr. Elworthy, it may perhaps be neglected as irrelevant; and now, apparently, the points to be considered are that this man's unsupported statement is taken by his overseer (as he intended it should be) as an excuse for gross neglect, for some two months, of a most obvious and urgent duty; and then his hand is unwittingly played further to by Mr. Elworthy's report and Mr. Gilliat's consequent minute being based upon it.

It would really appear that up to the present Mr. O'Neill has been master of the situation. I do not see how any responsibility regarding it rests with this Department. In fact, the matter should be one, as Mr. Gilliat somewhat elaborates in his minute, so obviously and solely between the Mines officer and their tenant, and unless it had been forced upon me I should have had some delicacy or reluctance in dealing with it at all.

I can, however, heartily concur in what Mr. Gilliat says respecting the interference of officers with the men under another Department, the more especially as this has been at times somewhat realized for me by actions of his overseers at works still under my jurisdiction; but I confess that I have failed to draw from it the somewhat anomalous conclusion that it is impossible an officer can successfully accomplish his work if his orders are countermanded by an officer of another Department possessed of no authority to interfere.

On the contrary, I have found little difficulty in maintaining my authority, and little harm has resulted; and I have taken it all in good part, as evincing only mistaken zeal on the part of his officers.

I have, &c.,

A. W. STILWELL.

4628. Do you think it is a good or bad principle to hand over works constructed by your Department to another Department for maintenance? Well, if the other Department were made solely responsible after the handing over, but little harm or prejudice to the works might result.

4629.

A. W.
Stilwell.
20 April, 1888.

4629. But do you think the principle is a good one or a bad one? I decidedly think it is a bad one; more especially in this case, where the responsibility rests with us.

4630. Do you think it would be advisable for the Department which now has the maintenance to have also the construction of these works; or would that not create another Works Department, and entail more expense? I should say that the work of construction had better remain with the Department whose officers are competent to construct as well as to maintain. It is very doubtful whether the Mines Department have officers competent to construct the works.

4631. But even supposing that they have, would it not create another Department of Works, and entail a great deal of expense on the country? As regards field work it might, but it would not as regards office work. The preparation of the plans and specifications is all now in our hands.

4632. It would mean a separate and special Department of Works? Yes.

4633. Is there any reason why the Department of Works should not have the sole responsibility of maintaining, as well as constructing, these public watering places? No reason at all that I know of; rather the reverse. It would lessen the expense. We must necessarily have men in these districts to do the road works, and these officers could attend to the works attaching to public watering places. If this work were taken away from me I should still have to remain in the Hay district.

4634. Would it be a saving to the country for the Works Department to have in its hands the sole maintenance of these watering places? It would be a saving in this respect—that the roads officers are necessarily in the district, and, therefore, their supervision over tank and well works does not entail any additional outlay in regard to the salaries of officers, and so on. On the other hand, if the works were taken from our Department our officers would still necessarily be employed in the districts where they are at present, and the supervision of the tank and well works by other officers would, therefore, be an additional and unnecessary expense.

4635. But the Works Department, having the sole construction and maintenance of these works, would render the employment of the officers under the Mines Department, who are now charged with the control and maintenance, unnecessary? Most decidedly it would.

4636. And this would be a great saving to the country? Yes; a saving in men and salaries. This refers to the inspectors of public watering places, and not to the inspectors of stock, who would still be required. The only saving there would be in regard to them is so far as their travelling expenses were concerned.

4637. Do you think that in the event of the maintenance being handed over to the Works Department it would be advisable for the Stock Branch of the Mines Department to suggest localities where public watering places are required;—do you think they should have that much to say in the matter? Yes; the Stock Branch are more particularly acquainted with the requirements of the routes. I think that would be a good arrangement, and that is as far as they should be allowed to go.

4638. That would make them responsible for showing where a necessity existed for a public watering place? Yes. We do not pretend to know much about stock.

4639. *Major Penrose.*] But then, on the other hand, why charge the Department of Works with the construction and maintenance of these watering places, which are mainly for stock;—why charge that to a Department that knows nothing about stock? We know nothing about stock as to the requirements of the stock on the stock routes for water, but as to the actual construction of the works we do know a good deal. It is the business of the stock officers to know the movements of travelling stock. Most of these stock officers themselves will tell you that it is an utter absurdity that they should have anything to do with the construction or maintenance of these works; that they know nothing about them, and would rather not have the responsibility of looking after them.

4640. *Chairman.*] Are there any wells in your district? Yes. I have had the supervision of the completion of some of them, but I did not select any sites.

4641. It is said that the Willandra well, which is only 102 feet deep, has cost £1,050? That applies not only to the well, but to the appliances at it. I cannot say whether the amount stated there is correct or not.

4642. Can you tell us what is the usual price for sinking and timbering wells? The prices paid in the Hay district for sinking and timbering have ranged from 22s. 6d. to 42s. 6d. per foot.

4643. What is the cost of the headworks? A wooden service tank, iron-lined, ranges according to localities from £200 to £400. The troughing (300 feet) ranges from 20s. to 30s. per foot. Then there is the whim and head-frame over the well—they would cost, I should say, from £50 to £60.

4644. Then all these added together would about make up the cost stated here? Yes; but I cannot give you the exact amount paid for this well.

4645. Would the same remark apply to Holy Box well? Yes; but that was done many years ago.

4646. In any instance that you are aware of, have wells been sunk without your first knowing whether water was below or not, or whether the water was of any value for watering stock? No. My knowledge and experience tends to the reverse—that trial-shafts have always been previously sunk. In one case I sunk a trial-shaft in my district, and the result, not being satisfactory, we substituted a tank. This was at Hulong.

4647. *Major Penrose.*] The sinking of a well would cost about half that of a tank? Yes.

4648. *Chairman.* What about the Wooloodool well? This well was finished before I went to the district. The complaints made in this case, and in the case of the Dry Lake well, are utterly without foundation. There was no necessity for a floor and piping, which would have entailed expense, without any benefit at all, as far as I can see.

4649. *Major Penrose.*] I think you said that this choking was due to neglect of baling on the part of the caretaker? Yes; and this is the case with all the wells. If they are left unbaled the silt gets hard in the bore.

4650. *Chairman.*] Have you had anything to do with the erection of huts for caretakers? Nothing more than the calling for tenders. I have obtained tenders and submitted them. No huts were erected under my supervision, but I have since seen some of those erected by the Mines officers.

4651. Have you had anything to do with artesian boring? No; I have bored to ascertain what supply could be obtained by sinking a well. I have given the matter some consideration.

4652. You are aware that in some instances very successful results have been obtained? I have heard it so reported, but I do not know it of my own knowledge.

4653. Do you know anything of geology as it bears on the character of this artesian supply? I have a general knowledge of geology, but nothing special.

4654.

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4654. You are aware that when you get to a certain formation an abundance of good water may be anticipated, even though the formation is below the place where the salt water has been obtained? Yes; I think that has been proved.
4655. And do you not think that in future in this country artesian boring should be carried on? In that country, but in that country only; which I think is only of very limited area as compared with the whole of Riverina.
4656. *Mr. Woore.*] At anywhere south of the Darling in any of the wells known to you, whether public or private wells, has this cretaceous formation been touched in which artesian water is found? No; there are no such wells to my knowledge.
4657. What is the deepest well that you know of south of the Darling? Speaking from memory, I should say that there are none over 150 feet deep.
4658. How, then, do you arrive at the conclusion that the area is very limited in which cretaceous formation may be found? In this way—that the area of elevation from which this artesian supply must come is very small relatively to the extent of the country; that is, to the depressed area or flat country. Therefore an adequate supply cannot be expected.
4659. Is not that a geological question which is as yet involved in doubt? I think it is rather a matter of common sense.
4660. *Chairman.*] At present I believe the stock routes are all defined, although not fenced in? Yes.
4661. From your knowledge of that country do you not think that it would be desirable to have these routes fenced in, and wholly, instead of partly set apart for the use of travelling stock? Most decidedly, I think that the stock routes should be withdrawn from lease.
4662. Now, I would like to have your reasons for thinking so? Well, it is simply because the lessee paying rent for the travelling stock route, feeds the grass off it first before availing himself of the grass on the rest of his run. After rain the travelling stock route is fed off first and left bare; so that when the route is most wanted to save stock in dry seasons it is very often that stock are prevented from travelling from there being no feed left on the road, thus rendering the route almost useless. I know of my own knowledge that during the last drought sheep died round our tanks in thousands from want of feed, though there was plenty of water.
4663. Of course it would not do to fence off the river frontages? No; I did not mean that, either.
4664. Do you think it would be desirable to hand over these public watering places eventually to public bodies, who would have a more intimate knowledge of the requirements of stock than the present authorities? In some respects it would; in others, decidedly not.
4665. Why? Well, from what I have seen and heard, many abuses obtain with these local bodies. Take the case of road trustees, for instance. Road works are let where they most benefit individuals or townships or are let in a manner to benefit individuals, and in some cases the friends of the people having control. I think there would be for some time quite as much abuse under that system as under the system of centralization, but that remark applies more to road work than tanks and wells.
4666. *Mr. Woore.*] In the event of the passing of a Local Government Bill the construction and control of public watering places would be under local authority? Yes.
4667. Do you think that would be a public benefit eventually? Yes. No doubt it would result in a better system being established.
4668. You are aware that a similar system prevails in Queensland? Yes; but I do not think that the road boards there answer the purpose well. The same system exists in Victoria with regard to water supply and other requirements. I have heard it stated about Queensland that these local bodies are made up partly from townspeople and partly from residents in the country. The townspeople are always on the spot, and attend all the meetings, and carry matters their own way, causing works to be done to suit their own people, and not the people in the country.
4669. *Chairman.*] You know that under the present system the country is involved in heavy cost by these public watering places, from which a very small income is derived? Yes.
4670. Do you not think that it would be a fair thing to make those people, for whom the watering places were made, pay for the maintenance? Yes, I do.
4671. It has been suggested that all drovers of travelling stock should, at the time of getting their permit to travel, pay for watering at all the tanks they may pass getting to their destination, whether they use the water or not. Of course in good seasons they do not go to the tanks, although the country has been to the expense of making them on their account. Now do you not think it would be fair to make every drover who travels these routes contribute towards the expense of maintenance? Yes; most decidedly so. Something of that sort would be a very desirable arrangement, and far preferable to the existing arrangement in every respect.
4672. At present the caretakers have to keep books? Yes.
4673. Although they may be very illiterate men? Yes. There is virtually no check, or very little, so far as I can see. In large items there may be, but in small ones there cannot.
4674. But under this arrangement there would be no necessity for these men keeping the books? No; as a rule the educated men are the worst caretakers.
4675. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you think it is absolutely necessary to have some person in charge of each of these public watering places—either a lessee or a caretaker? I have thought of that subject frequently. It would be very desirable if men could be done without at these places. Still I do not see that it can be avoided, but where possible they should be lessees.
4676. *Major Penrose.*] Do you think that all the works possible in your district have been leased? Certainly not; quite the reverse.
4677. And can you give any reason why they are not leased? No. I know that in one case two tanks were let, but some mistake was made in drawing up the lease, and the thing fell through, and they now remain unlet. There are only two or three works in the whole district that are let.
4678. Have you ever known a case where a man, anxious to lease these works, was unable to get them? I cannot say that.
4679. *Mr. Woore.*] Would it not be advisable on the less frequented stock routes to have tanks so constructed that stock could water direct at them, and so save the expense of caretakers;—are there no such routes in your district? No; and I do not think it would be advisable to adopt that arrangement.
4680. Will you explain the reasons? The same reason would apply in this case as apply generally. When the water would be most required it would be polluted and wasted. There might be a saving effected in this way:

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way: to have only a pump and troughing, and no service tank, and where the traffic is very slight, and the movements of the stock known beforehand, men could be sent ahead to pump. But still it would be necessary to keep a man there for the protection of the works. Any stock route is liable to great increases of traffic, more especially in bad seasons, when the more frequented routes are bare, and when circuitous routes are adopted for the sake of the feed that is upon them. Or sometimes rain may have fallen in that particular locality and have not fallen somewhere else. A little rain falling on one of these slightly-frequented routes would bring a lot of stock that way, and if appliances were not at the watering places, the water would be unavailable.

John Henry Adams called in and examined:—

J. H. Adams.
20 April, 1888.

4681. *Chairman.*] You are a road superintendent? Yes.
4682. For what district? For the Walgett district.
4683. How long have you been stationed there? About eight years.
4684. Have you had the supervision of many tanks and wells in that district? Yes; of all the tanks that are there.
4685. How many are there? Four.
4686. What are their names? Bunghill, Boro, Lightning Ridge, and Glendon tanks.
4687. What about Galathera and Boggy Creek tanks? They are not in my district.
4688. You have heard what was written by Mr. Doyle, in January, 1883, about the Boro tank—that it was damaged by heavy rains,—was this due to any fault in construction? I made the final measurement of the tank in 1882, and the tank was almost immediately afterwards filled with water; and so it would be difficult—indeed impossible—to describe the damage mentioned by Mr. Doyle. The tank was full of water, and the communication pipe could not be seen.
4689. Was the damage which this tank sustained attributable to want of care and attention or to faulty construction, or was it something beyond the control of the Department? It was quite impossible to say whether any damage occurred at all or not. I could not, indeed.
4690. And yet this occurred five years ago? There never has been a failure in consequence, and stock is watering there now.
4691. But it is stated here that the water would not run into the tank? It must do so.
4692. Now, here again Mr. William Regan, the caretaker, writes:—

I beg to call your earliest attention to the present condition of the tank at this place. There has no water come through the suction-pipe from supply tank during the past four months. The water in drinking tank is 3 feet less than the supply tank. The stones all round the drinking tank are dropping down, having no foundation. Every morning for the past week I have pulled out from the drinking tank bogged and dead sheep.

—? The proof is that the water is there, or the sheep could not have drunk. The matter of the stone pitching getting loose also proves that it has been used by stock, and that the water must have been there. I have had to report Regan several times, and the man was subsequently dismissed. He was quite old and useless.

4693. *Major Penrose.*] You think that he ought to have done these things himself? Yes.
4694. *Chairman.*] Has your Department discontinued the making of tanks of this character now? Yes.
4695. Then the complaints are really attributable to the want of care and attention on the part of the caretaker? I should say so.
4696. Now about the Bunghill tank, Mr. Doyle, on the 1st March, 1884, writes:—

I found this tank contains 12 feet of water, taking the depth from the end of the platform, as shown in the accompanying sketch; the water is 3 feet below the top of the tank, and, allowing the tank to have been 18 feet deep, this shows a silting up of about 3 feet. I fancy the silt has accumulated more at the mouth of the roadway. This tank sustained a considerable amount of damage at the first rush of water after its completion; it carried away part of the brake between the silt tank and the main tank, shown in the sketch. The water is sweet and wholesome; but the supply-pipe from the main tank to the drinking tank acts very feebly, doubtless on account of the silt in the drinking tank choking up the mouth of the pipe. In consequence of the steepness of the batter in the main tank the ripple of the water has undermined a considerable quantity of earth at the edges, and caused it to cave into the tank. The drinking tank cannot be said to be in good order; the rough paving-stones that were placed on the sloping surface of the sides and end have become very much displaced, and a great number of them have slipped in towards the bottom of the tank; it would, in my opinion, be advisable to have the stones broken into ordinary sized metal, so as it would mix with the earth and form a more solid foundation for stock. The silt tank into which the drains empty is filled up to within 2 feet of the top with silt. This should be cleaned out, and, in my opinion, instead of allowing the water to enter the main tank as it does at present, it should be conveyed from the silt tank by means of a wooden flume sufficiently long enough to carry the water clear of the bottom of the batters. This would prevent a very large quantity of silt from finding its way into the main tank. I have inspected several large private tanks in the neighbourhood, and find that they are all supplied by this means, and I am told they all answer well. The fence round the main tank is in good order. I would strongly recommend that the drinking tank be also fenced and fitted with gates for the entrance and exit of stock, as half the caretaker's time is taken up in endeavouring to prevent stock, the property of lessees and others, from using the tank; but it is impossible for him to do so, for, though driven away in the day time, they return at night. It would also be desirable to erect a suitable hut for the caretaker, as it is a matter of great difficulty to get competent and trustworthy men as caretakers, unless provided with a weather-proof hut to live in.

It seems that this place was not in a very satisfactory condition at the time? I would like to deal with the fencing. Immediately after the survey was made by the Mines Department tenders were invited for the fencing, and as regards the inlet, which is a stone-pitched apron leading from the silt tank, a very heavy storm occurred there, and 3 inches of rain fell in about two hours and scoured the drain, sending the stone pitching down some distance. That I repaired by putting sheet piling in and then pitching behind, which, so far, made everything all right. As to the piping getting feeble that may or may not be so; I cannot say. At all events the piping needed no repairs to keep up a constant supply. The best proof of this is that the stock water there now, and without any further repairs on my part. That was seven years ago, and that is a very fair trial for a tank, which has never failed during that time.

4697. I see you made two reports explaining all these matters fully? Yes; but I have not seen them for years. I had to reply to Mr. Doyle, and did it very reluctantly.
4698. *Major Penrose.*] Has this supply piping never choked up during these seven years? The supply is just the same now to my knowledge as when it started. You will find water in the drinking tank now.
4699. *Chairman.*] You recommended that pumps and troughing should be substituted? Yes; that was done, and I have got all the material for troughing ready to be put up at the tanks. I invited tenders at once for the erection of them, but they were all too high. Then the floods set in, filling all the natural water holes, so that there has been no use for the tanks, practically, since.

4700. So that the tanks, as originally erected, were a sort of experiment? Yes; and not being found satisfactory, I have recommended that pumps and troughing be substituted. J. H. Adams.
4701. What is the nature of the soil? A light red soil. At Boro and Bunghill the soil is black. 20 April, 1888.
4702. On whose recommendation was this open drinking tank made? That I cannot say; but I was called on to give my opinion as to the relative merits of troughing and open drinking tanks, and I recommended in the first instance pumps and troughing.
4703. In fact it would be foolish to make an open tank in this black soil? I said if the drinking slopes would act they were simple and very much to be recommended; but I thought the only proper way to water stock was by pumping gear and troughing.
4704. Are these tanks now open to any reasonable complaint? I do not think so. The public do not not complain, and the works answer all purposes and have always done so. I may say that I was deeply interested in the works, as I had designed and constructed them; and it was my care that they should not fail. If I saw the slightest danger, I would have looked to it.
4705. Have any complaints been made with regard to the other tanks? No; I do not think so.
4706. Are the Baloola and Normanstone wells in your district? No.
4707. You have just finished a new work? Yes; at Glendon, No. 116. It was handed over to the Mines Department and filled at once.
4708. Has any complaint been made with regard to the sites on which your tanks are constructed? No; not to my knowledge.
4709. What was the pump which you put up at this Narn or Glendon tank? It was the type pump of the Department. It is a horse-gear pump of the Holman make.
4710. A great deal of fault has been found with your having made the batters of your tanks too steep. Do you consider the batters in the specifications too steep? They are $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 and 2 to 1. The Glendon tank is $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1. It is in tough red soil—good stable ground; and, in my opinion, sufficient for that class of work.
4711. Do you think that a sufficient batter? For unprotected earth work in country like that, the more you lessen the surface area the better it will be, and the less wash there will be. Except for the matter of depositing silt, I do not see that there is any advantage at all in having gentler-sloped tanks.
4712. If you had found that the specification of the batter was too steep for the soil you were excavating it in, would you have any discretion to alter it? Yes; certainly. I always sink a trial shaft first. I generally put down four shafts within the site of the tank. The less top surface you have the less force the waves will have on the banks.
4713. Will you now state anything in connection with your duties which you think it desirable the Commission should know, particularly with regard to the friction between the two Departments? The only friction likely to arise is that which has been before referred to, by the caretakers neglecting their work, and so on.
4714. I suppose that these caretakers, being officers of the Mines Department, you have no control over them? No.
4715. And in the event of works under your supervision becoming deteriorated for want of care, all you can do is to send down a complaint to your chief? Yes; but I always reported it to Mr. Doyle, the inspector of stock; and I must say we always worked harmoniously together.
4716. Did he ever resent your interference? No; he always attended to anything that I reported. He discharged Regan and another caretaker whom I saw drunk, when I mentioned it to him.
4717. Has there been any hutting erected in your district? None. I only invited tenders for huts.
4718. Why were not the huts erected in accordance with the tenders? I never heard the reason.
4719. Were the tenders considered to be too high? I cannot say. £90 was the lowest tender.
4720. For what accommodation? Three rooms.
4721. Weatherboard? Yes, and iron roof and tank, piping and guttering, &c.
4722. You thought that very reasonable? Yes, and could not be done now for that money in my district.
4723. What kind of huts have been erected for your caretakers? Simple bark huts. The one at Boro is such as a carpenter could put up for himself. There is a bark hut at Lightning Ridge, and a very bad one indeed. The rest of them were made by the caretakers, and I believe something allowed for the construction by the Mines Department.
4724. If good huts were put up better men as caretakers might be more easily obtained? Yes; I think so.
4725. You cannot expect a good man to remain in a hut which is not fit for a man to live in? Quite so; and it is not right to ask people to live in such places.
4726. *Major Penrose.*] Do you consider the huts designed by the Works Department, for which you called tenders, were too good for the class of men? No.
4727. *Chairman.*] Are there many stock travelling through your district? Yes; a great deal.
4728. Is there any trouble occasionally with this stock on the roads through the action of the lessees? Sometimes. The 60-mile track between Collarendibri and Angledool, near the Queensland border, requires watering.
4729. Do the lessees of runs in any way lessen the usefulness of stock routes? Yes.
4730. In what way? By making the stock route a paddock. I speak advisedly, because I have seen that done myself.
4731. They cause the grass to be eaten off and so render the route useless? Yes.
4732. How could this best be remedied? By impounding the sheep, I think.
4733. But the lessees pay rent for these travelling stock routes, and it would not be just? Yes; I see it is a difficult matter.
4734. You think these travelling stock routes should be withdrawn from lease? Yes; decidedly so.
4735. Then you cannot prevent the lessee's stock from running over them without fencing them in? No.
4736. Do you think that it would be desirable to fence them off? Yes; the business of a squatter cannot be carried on unless facilities are given him to get his stock to market. I would like to see a broad drift-way right through the country for this purpose, where grass would have a chance to grow. In the block reserves drovers do not know where they are, as the routes are not fenced off. Besides, the grass is all eaten down by local stock. The reserves should be devoted entirely to their proper use and fenced off, and a penalty inflicted for any trespass.
4737. *Mr. Woore.*] Do you think that in the present financial condition of the country such an enormous expenditure would be justifiable as would be necessary for the fencing of stock routes? No; I do not think

J. H. Adams. think so, if we were empowered to impound any sheep found on the routes. I think if the penalty was inflicted, even without the fencing, it would serve a very useful purpose.
 20 April, 1888. 4738. *Chairman.*] Of course, where travelling stock routes touch water frontages fencing would be impossible, because it would deprive the lessee of the use of water? Just so; in my district, most of the squatters have fenced off and others send their men along to conduct the travelling stock through.
 4739. Fencing saves them a large amount of trouble, because they have to send a boundary rider to bring the stock through the run? Yes.

John Thomas Prichard Bassett called in and examined:—

J. T. F. Bassett.
 20 April, 1888. 4740. *Chairman.*] What are you? I am a civil engineer, residing at Narrabri.
 4741. We understand that you can give us some particulars as to the construction of tanks and wells in your district to guide us in considering the allegations that have been made against your Department? I have only been in charge of the Narrabri district for about 17 months, and know only the Galathera and Boggy Creek tanks. They are under the Mines Department; but I have looked at them all to see that everything was going on in a satisfactory way, and they appear to be in fair order. One or two little things require looking to, but they are not worth mentioning—merely maintenance work which I had done. I have had nothing to do with the sinking of Government tanks before. My knowledge of the subject is really very small.
 4742. *Major Penrose.*] Do you know the Baloola and Normanstone wells? No.
 4743. Is the old drinking tank still in use at Boggy Creek? Yes; and it is used occasionally.

William Christopher Bennett called in and further examined:—

W.C. Bennett.
 20 April, 1888. 4744. *Witness.*] I beg to present to the Board these papers to be attached to papers belonging to this Department, sent to supplement the Blue Book prepared for Parliament by the Mines officers, and to which Mr. Gilliat refers in his memo. I have already protested against this book as an *ex parte* statement presenting the Mines view of the matter, and calculated, whether designedly or not, to prejudice this Department before the Parliament, the Commission, and the public; but even that compilation will not bear out Mr. Gilliat's statement, that whatever the faults of the Mines Department, discourtesy is not one of them. The present papers afford strong evidence to the contrary. Mr. Gilliat, on the strength of a statement in a newspaper paragraph which is entirely baseless, takes occasion to express his opinion, that under judicious management, with properly constituted works, stock should not be allowed to go past unwatered, even if lifting appliances are incomplete. I pointed out that such reference is uncalled for and not calculated to diminish friction. Mr. Gilliat then writes memo. dated 26th March, in which he refers to the completed Blue Book as described, and states that his words express "a tenable general proposition that if, while in the hands of this Department works were judiciously managed and properly constructed, there would be no reason for stock going unwatered." He then goes on to say that the works have been in progress four years, the two latter of which have been the most favourable ever known in the Colony; the press and the public are justified in assuming that they were transferred, and that the duty devolved on Mr. Gilliat to correctly inform the Secretary for Mines. As it happens, the information given in this instance is incorrect. The delay in completion of these works is, first owing to the unprecedented drought the excavations were obliged to be suspended for want of feed and water. The iron tanks obtained from England were used elsewhere, and those ordered to replace them were delayed in construction and in transit from England, and in erection, by the exorbitant demands of contractors. Had we yielded to these demands and pushed on the work regardless of cost, the converse accusation of extravagance would have been made. I submit this correspondence to the Commission as a sample of the treatment which has been given to this Department by the Mines. There is nothing whatever to justify Mr. Gilliat's foregone conclusion, or as he calls it, "tenable general proposition," that the management of the Department was injudicious or the construction improper.
 4745. *Chairman.*] Are there any documents which apparently have been suppressed and which should have been put in the Blue Book presented to Parliament that might have thrown a somewhat different complexion on the case as it appears here? I cannot say that anything in the possession of the Mines Department has been suppressed, but there are letters and documents from the Roads Department which would throw more light on the subject, and such letters and documents I have given to the Secretary to the Commission. Some of the papers which I have given to the Secretary were in the possession of the Minister for Works and were only returned to me recently.
 4746. You think that this is an *ex parte* statement, and that rebutting papers might have been included in the book, and were at the command of the Mines Department? I cannot say what was or was not at their command.
 4747. But could not they have asked for the documents? Yes; and it is usual for one Department to ask another for any papers that are required by Parliament; and we received no such request.
 4748. Consequently this public statement is incomplete and might have borne a somewhat different complexion if these papers had been put with the others? Precisely.
 4749. Since your examination before the Commission have you read over the evidence, and do you wish to make any further statement to the Commission? I had undertaken to prepare a short statement on the evidence. I have not been able, owing to many causes, to complete that statement; but I will be able to do so if I can obtain an extension of time.
 4750. The Commission will not meet again until the 10th May? Then I will have it ready by that time.

[The Commission adjourned.]

THURSDAY, 14 JUNE, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R.E.

J. C. WOORE, Esq.

William Christopher Bennett called in and further examined:—

4751. *Chairman.*] Did you receive a letter from the Commission forwarding to you a statement made by W.C. Bennett the Mines Department of the 14th May, 1888, that in your evidence a certain statement appears to the following effect: "It is usual for one Department to ask another for any papers that are required by Parliament, and we received no such request." To this statement the Mines Department have taken exception, and to bear this out they enclose a letter dated 10th November, 1887, showing that a letter had been written to the Works Department requesting certain papers which were specified in that letter. And we have it here that as far as the request contained in that letter is concerned, it has been complied with by your giving all the papers in your possession? Yes. I would like to read this letter:—

Department of Public Works, Sydney, 28 May, 1888.

In reference to the papers from Mines forwarded to me by the Tanks and Wells Commission, asking an explanation of the evidence given by me,—That this Department was not asked for papers.

To comply with order that copies of all papers, minutes and reports, and all other correspondence between Works and Mines should be laid upon the table of the House.

The Mines letter herewith is not to that effect, but asks for certain specific papers, the Mines numbers of which apparently have been only given, as no such numbers could be found in the registers of this office; and as will be seen herewith a reply was sent forwarding such papers as could incidentally be traced, stating that if some idea of the subject matter of the others was intimated every endeavour would be made to trace them. No reply was received. Such an application giving the numbers of certain specific papers was never thought to refer to compliance with order (that all papers should be sent) and was regarded in this office as a request for papers in connection with some of the many annual or other Parliamentary returns made out by the Mines.

I send herewith an example from the Lands of usual form asking for papers;—no such paper was sent from the Mines.

The letter from the Mines of the 30th November, on the face of it, bears out the inference that even if the papers were required for this return the Mines only wanted such papers as supported their view of the case, or they would have asked for all papers of the character defined in order of the House, and not for specific numbers.

I still maintain that the usual application was not sent, or I would have seen that the papers referred to in my evidence were forwarded. I since gave them to the Secretary of the Commission. They were in the possession of the Minister for Works until date stamped in blue.

I now refer the Commission to those papers, and more particularly to Mr. Stilwell's report, which sums up a number of cases the original papers of which can be produced, and which I do not forward as only adding to the immense mass of documents already submitted.

I forward a copy of a memo. of mine, dated 8th February, protesting against the publication of the Blue Book in the way in which it was done, and in which I state that the compilation was without reference to this office. I think the original was sent to the Commission.

WILLIAM C. BENNETT.

To the Chairman, Tanks and Wells Commission.

8 February, 1888.

Order to lay Tanks and Wells papers on the table of the House.

YESTERDAY Mr. Mahon, Secretary of the Tanks and Wells Commission, handed me a copy of a printed document purporting to be copies of papers passing between the Departments. This included the case against this Department as stated by the officers of the Mines; also a most incoherent and untruthful letter of Mr. Earngey, a discharged officer of this Department; omitting several most important papers, amongst others my reply to the charges of the Mines office, and several papers by Mr. A. P. Wood—in defence of the Department. I think it is unnecessary for me to point out to the Hon. Secretary for Public Works that papers compiled in this way, introducing letters foreign to the subject of order and omitting important documents which tell against the Mines, should not be sent forth to the public as officially correct.

The papers were compiled by the Mines officers without any reference to this Department, and I think a request should be sent to the Speaker to have the papers withdrawn until corrected by this office, and the missing papers added.—W. C. BENNETT. Submitted, 8/2/88.

As these papers have been printed and commented on by the press, I do not think it advisable to take any steps for having them withdrawn as suggested, but if Mr. Bennett will furnish copies of the papers he refers to as omitted, I will lay them on the table of the House as a supplement to those prepared by the Mines Department.—J.S., 8/2/88. Mr. Bennett, B.C., 8/2/88.

I will, as soon as possible, collect the missing papers, but I would record my opinion that putting an *ex parte* statement of this sort before the public is unjust. With reference to the sweeping statements made by Mr. Earngey, I forward papers in his case, attached to which is a pamphlet by that gentleman which I have to apologise for submitting as an official paper, and only do so as it is the best evidence as to the state of his mind, as stated in my minute.—W.C.B., 9/2/88. Under Secretary.

4752. Then you think the exception taken with regard to your evidence has not been borne out by the letters sent in by the Mines Department? Certainly not. I should give the same evidence now.

4753. And you still assert that, to a certain extent, this Blue Book was *ex parte* and unfair to your Department? Yes; and I will quote one remarkable instance. In the case of Mr. Earngey, a discharged officer of the Roads Department, a letter was written by him and published in these papers, full of grave accusations. That letter was never submitted to me for report, but was published at once in these papers. I have since forwarded a mass of papers to the Commission proving how totally unreliable is any statement of Mr. Earngey's for any purpose. I never thought that any letters of this sort could have been required by the Mines, because they were matters of every day intercourse between the Departments—asking for certain papers.

4754. If you had known that these papers were about being published and you had papers in your possession that could have thrown some light on the allegations, would you have sent them in? It was my duty to know that the papers were about being published and that Parliament had called for them. But it was not for me to volunteer these papers, and I was awaiting the usual formal letter asking for them. I wish to hand in certain papers marked "Department of Roads and Bridges, consideration list," and I declare that the statements made in them are true to the best of my belief.

[The Commission adjourned.]

TUESDAY, 21 AUGUST, 1888.

The Commission met at the Holy Box Well.

Present:

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R.E.

Thomas Pollard called in and examined:—

- T. Pollard. 4755. *Chairman.*] Please state who you are, and how this watering place has been used by travelling stock during the time you have been caretaker? I have been caretaker at this watering place for three years. When I first took charge, travellers would not bring stock to water through the well bearing a bad name. It is very rare for a mob to pass now without watering when there is no natural water about. I induced one or two drovers to try the water, and they proved it to be excellent stock water. Now, I have plenty of custom. There is a tank close by belonging to Mossiel station, where many drovers and teamsters get water at night time for nothing. This is done without the consent of the lessee, otherwise I should have more custom. In April, 1886, rains began, so that the well was not required. In October, 1887, stock began again to water in fair numbers, and the demand for the water has been pretty regular since, except when there was water on the road. My takings were:—October, £8 6s. 2d.; November, 5s. 4d.; December, £4 8s. 8d. January, 1888 (rain fell). February, £16 9s. 8d.; March, —; April, £4 1s. 4d.; May — (rain in May); June —; July, £2 19s. 8d.; August 1-20, £5 1s. 6d. I am also watering 5,000 sheep from Canoble Station, since 14th August, which I understand pay 30s. per thousand per month.
4756. Has the water improved since you came? I am sure of it—through continued baling. I bale three or four times a week. If it remains stagnant in the tank it gets bad, both in smell and taste.
4757. Do you find incrustations of salt in the troughing? Not since the baling has been regular.
4758. Have you ever had any complaint of the water from drovers? No, not when they brought their stock to drink.
4759. What is the greatest number of stock you have watered at one time? 24,500, in two days. The well was only just-capable of giving the necessary supply in the time—although the service tank was full when they came—owing to a runner being displaced at bottom of well 25 feet under water 5 feet from bottom. If the runner was right I could water all the sheep in the country, but now I dare not let the buckets nearer than 10 feet from the bottom where the spring of water is.
4760. How much do you find sheep drink of this water? 12,000 odd sheep drank all the water in my service tank in one day.

[The Commission adjourned.]

THURSDAY, 23 AUGUST, 1888.

The Commission met at Clare Station.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R.E.

John Waugh called in and examined:—

- J. Waugh. 4761. *Chairman.*] You are one of the lessees of Clare station. Yes. I have had considerable experience in pastoral matters.
- 23 Aug., 1888. 4762. Clare station is dry country? Yes; we have had to go to great expense in making, first wells and then tanks, because we found the wells unsuitable for profitably keeping sheep to grow wool. I think tanks are better than wells in this part where the well water is brackish.
4763. Do you think the Government expenditure on the Ivanhoe-Balranald road, in connection with public watering places, has been judiciously spent? Yes, as regards the tanks. I have not seen enough of the wells to speak positively, but whether it is the fault of the caretaker not baling sufficiently or not, it is certain that the Dolmoreve well is not good stock water as supplied to the public. I think it probable that if baled regularly and the service tank and troughing are kept cleaned out often, it will keep it purer. I am a great advocate for constant baling and cleaning out of tanks and troughs in this country.
4764. Do you think the Government were fairly chargeable with extravagance in the construction of the tanks near here? I do not think that the tanks made near here—Clare and Gunaramby—could be executed under the conditions they were, under 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d., the conditions were so unfavourable as regards grass and water. The contractors for Clare had to cart water from my tank, 7 miles for fresh water, and 6 miles for water for horses, and they had to cart their horse-feed from Hay and Balranald, 135 miles and 125 miles respectively. I also think the buckle-plate service tanks are admirable.
4765. Do you find any fault with the sites of Clare and Gunaramby? I think Gunaramby might have been a couple of miles further north, but I talked it over with Mr. Gordon, the engineer, when he was choosing the site, and pointed out the site referred to; but he objected that it would not divide the distance properly. I preferred this other site simply because I considered it had a better catchment. I think the Clare site is a very good one.
4766. Do you consider that one public watering place would be enough between Clare and Ivanhoe? No; I asked for three on this line. I think, if suitable sites can be obtained, watering places should be every 12 miles on main travelling stock routes; and I also think that in future the tanks should be made double, *i.e.*, with a bar in the centre, so that when the tank gets low the water can be pumped from one

one into the other to allow of the silt being cleaned out. I am adopting this principle on this run with John Waugh. great success. The water can be run back, half of it with a syphon. I use a centrifugal steam-pump to travel about for this purpose, and also for the purpose of pumping water from the swamps into the tanks. 23 Aug., 1888.

4767. Can you give any suggestions with regard to the management of the tanks? In the first place, I think that the caretakers' paddocks and tanks should be made rabbit-proof, if only to test the system, and also because it will be no use our wiring in our tanks so as to trap them if the Government tanks are left open. Also, the tanks should be leased. If not leased, the caretaker should be allowed to take in working stock in agistment, which would help to defray expenses.

4768. Do you think it desirable that every one using the stock routes should have to pay a watering rate when getting his permit? Yes, if the rates were reasonable, and about half of the present rates. I also think that all these matters could be far better managed by local boards, such as the Stock Boards.

4769. Do you think it advisable to have the travelling stock route fenced off from the leases? I do not think it would be advisable, except on short lines near railways such as Booligal to Hay, and Hillston to Carrathool, where large amounts of travelling stock congregate.

[The Commission adjourned.]

WEDNESDAY, 29 AUGUST, 1888.

The Commission met at Hay.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R.E.

John George Carew-Gibson called in and examined.

4770. *Chairman.*] What is your occupation? Roads overseer in the Hay district.

4771. Have you lately visited Tom's Lake tank? Yes; on the 9th of May.

4772. Did you take soundings of the tank? Yes; from south to north near the middle of the tank. I produce a diagram showing section of the tank as sounded by me. 29 Aug., 1888.

4773. What depth of water did you find? 14 feet 6 inches in the centre.

4774. How far was the water behind berm level? About 2 feet 6 inches. If the tank had been sunk 18 feet this would show one foot of silt.

4775. Did you examine the drains at Tom's Lake tank? Yes; on the 17th March.

4776. What state were they in? The east main drains wanted clearing badly. Apparently the east main drain had no connection with the tank; the drain was dammed up.

4777. *Major Penrose.*] Do you think that drain would bring water to the tank if allowed to? Yes; I think it would bring a large quantity. I have often noticed water standing in the drain.

4778. *Chairman.*] In what condition was the silt tank on the eastern side? It was full of silt and no water in it.

4779. Do you think it possible that all that silt could have been brought in to that tank unless this drain had run water into it at some time or other? I think it is very unlikely.

4780. *Major Penrose.*] Is there any other drain in connection with this silt tank? I think there is one in a south-east direction, but am not quite certain.

A. W. Stilwell called in and further examined.

4781. *Chairman.*] Has the flume at Hulong tank been lowered? Yes.

4782. How much? About 1 foot.

4783. Was this done after delivery to Mines Department? I think so.

4784. Why was this flume lowered? It was put in defectively by the contractor as regards level and jointing of the pipes. 29 Aug., 1888.

4785. Was the contractor paid for this work? No. The work was never passed as given over by the original contractor.

4786. What steps did you take as regards the finishing of the work as left by the first contractor? We re-let the completion of the excavation to another contractor, and the other incomplete works were finished by day labour—such as the drains and embankments.

4787. Was the work completed by day labour considered satisfactory? Yes; except in regard to the drains. These were left in a very bad state by the contractor; not properly graded through the uneven swamp ground. I purposed getting these gradually put right by a man I had in charge there. This man was so employed when the Mines took the work over.

4788. Were the Mines informed of the incomplete state of the works? I rather think they were with regard to the drains, but not as regards the inlet shoot, which I knew I should have to do myself by day labour.

4789. Did the Mines Department make any demur at taking the work over in its incomplete state? Not so far as I remember.

4790. Did the Mines clearly understand that the flume would require alteration? I do not think so. It was desirable to alter flume, otherwise we should have lost a lot of water in the swamp before it would have run into the main tank.

4791. By whom was the flume eventually lowered? By men working under me.

4792. How long after being handed over to Mines? About a month. The work was not quite completed at time of handing over. I handed over on 13th July, 1886, and the fluming alteration was completed on 17th August, 1886.

4793. Is it usual for the Mines to take over work incomplete? No; not usual, but sometimes done.

4794. *Major Penrose.*] Do the Mines Department in taking over make any tests as to the levels of drains, &c.? No, not to my knowledge.

4795. Then they practically acknowledge to receiving the work in good order? They give a receipt in which everything is specified in detail, stating that everything is in good order and condition. If any detail is still incomplete it is noted in this receipt. 4796.

J. G. O.
Gibson.

29 Aug., 1888.

A. W.
Stilwell.

29 Aug., 1888.

A. W.
Stilwell.
29 Aug., 1888.

4796. Then it is open to the Mines Department to make any examination they think proper as to levels of flumes, silt tank, drains, &c., and to make objections under these heads at the time? I should think it was their duty to do so.

4797. What water is there now in Hulong tank? On the 27th July, 15½ feet of water.

4798. Is this drain through the centre of swamp now effective? No.

4799. Could it easily be made so? Yes, at no great cost. I think there is a misapprehension in regard to that drain on the part of the Mines Department officials. It was not intended to take water from the swamp, but as an aqueduct through the swamp conveying water from the higher ground the other side of the swamp. Also, the drains can never actually fill the tank to berm level until the swamp becomes full, when the valve can be closed and the water retained.

4800. *Chairman.*] Is not this an admission that the tank is placed on an injudicious site? No; the tank was properly placed on the edge of the swamp to obtain sound ground for the appliances and apparatus to them.

4801. *Major Penrose.*] To what level will the drains fill the tank without the swamp getting filled? Speaking roughly, to about a foot below berm level.

4802. *Chairman.*] It was not because you saw water lying in the drains that you altered the level of the flume? No, it was one of the defects left by the original contractor which had to be made good at his cost.

4803. *Major Penrose.*] Did you extend the drains after handing over, and why? Yes; the drains cut at first were not to the full extent intended. I always intended to extend them to their present extent.

4804. When was this done? On the 12th August, 1886, I set out 130 chains extension of then existing drains.

4805. *Chairman.*] Are you aware of the reason why the contractor threw up his original contract? He sent me word that his excavation was finished. On inspection I found it was not done according to specification, and of course refused to pass the work. I pointed out the defects, the chief of which was that the tank was not excavated to the full depth of 18 feet. He, having his roadways taken out then, said that he could not take out the remainder, and in fact elected to be dealt with as a defaulter rather than finish the work. On a subsequent visit, shortly after, I found that he had removed his plant, and as soon as possible afterwards the completion of the work was re-let to another man.

4806. Did you also point out to him the faulty setting of the flumes? Yes; and also the defective construction of the embankments and drains. When all was measured up and passed the retention money was more than sufficient to pay for the completion of the work.

4807. Having visited a number of public watering places in your district, we wish to ask you a few questions in regard to them. What is the cause of the water breaking out a new channel through the northern end of the embankment conducting the water into north drain at Tom's Lake tank? In my opinion it is owing to the drain being obstructed by the silt and vegetation—I have seen dead sheep in it amongst other things—preventing the flow, and causing the water to rise higher in the swamp or creek than was originally anticipated or provided for.

4808. Are you aware that at present there is no drain leading into the upper silt tank? Yes.

4809. Why does this drain not lead water into this silt tank? The drain has been dammed and the bank cut through, and the water led into the swamp instead of into upper silt tank.

4810. At whose instance was this done? I cannot say positively. It certainly was not at mine.

4811. No use can now be made of the embankments of tanks to conserve water above the berm to any great extent? No; not more than a foot or two if the swamp is full. Fully 6 feet could be conserved over the berm if the northern drain had been left and maintained as originally constructed.

4812. *Major Penrose.*] Did this damage to the upper drain occur while the tank was in charge of the Mines Department? Yes; most decidedly.

4813. Have you ever known water to run down this drain to the upper silt tank? I have not known water to flow right through from the creek or swamp, but there is a small catchment above the drain from which water has flowed into the silt tank during my supervision; but the drain has not acted for the purpose for which it was intended since I have known it, and that is owing to its being obstructed.

4814. Would this small catchment you speak of run water before the creek or swamp? Yes.

4815. *Chairman.*] We noticed an imperfect inlet flume at Box Creek tank whereby the water is allowed to run back again as the creek falls, owing to the valve being out of repair—whose business is it to repair it? The Mines Department profess to do small repairs of this nature. I think the caretaker should be competent to do what is wanted there.

4816. We also noticed a quantity of iron pipes and a screw-down valve lying there unused. What was this for? I presume it was intended for an inlet flume, but cannot state positively, as it was there many years before I came.

4817. *Major Penrose.*] The tank has had 19 feet 6 inches of water in it. The gauge now reads 12 feet 6 inches, and the water is 1 foot 6 inches below flume, so that it is 14 feet depth from bottom of flume. Owing, therefore, to this defective valve, 5 feet 6 inches of water has been lost owing to the fall of the creek outside. Do you not think, therefore, that a more perfect inlet with a better form of valve should be provided? Yes; if that step is necessary to prevent a similar loss of water in future.

4818. Is it your duty to initiate such a repair, or that of the Mines Department, in whose charge the tank is? That is a question which has never been settled.

4819. *Chairman.*] We visited the Willandra well and found one shaft filled up, and a new shaft a few yards off incomplete and apparently abandoned, and no water for travelling stock, with head works all completed. What reason have you to give for this apparent extravagant outlay without any satisfactory result? The amount paid to contractor on account of this first shaft, whim, tank and troughing, &c., was £900. The contractor failed to penetrate the drift, and got the shaft out of plumb near the bottom, and it was found impracticable to rectify it. This shaft was therefore abandoned and a new one sunk—somewhere about £200 retention money being forfeited. The second contractor on the original shaft also failed, and received no payment whatever; the third contractor, who sank the existing shaft, also drew the timbering from the old shaft, removed the whim to its present site, and failing to carry the shaft down through the drift received only £52, so that the cost of the works up to the present time has been considerably less than that of the original contract, and I consider it still possible that the work may be completed and a supply obtained at a cost exceeding by very little, or any, that of the original contract.

4820.

4820. What are the intentions of the Works Department under the circumstances? To put a bore down from the bottom of the present shaft, to tap a supply lower than that at the bottom of the new shaft. We propose to stanch the bottom of the shaft with concrete; say, if we find a good supply at a lower level by boring, such as has been found I believe in the adjoining station of Kilfera.

4821. We observed a fine dam in the Willandra Creek, within a few yards, containing a large though shallow supply of water. Could not a tank in connection with a dam have been made at this spot to give a permanent supply? I do not consider that site suitable for a tank because the supply would have to be obtained from the flowing of the creek, which occurs at rare intervals. The dam there was dry for several years before the last wet season. There is not sufficient local catchment for a tank in my opinion at that site.

4822. Would not your remarks apply in the same way to the Box Creek tank and dam? No; because that creek runs more frequently, and there is also a local catchment.

4823. Then you think the Works Department was justified at the time in placing a well at Willandra? Yes; bearing in mind the fact that wells are so much cheaper, as a rule, than tanks.

4824. With regard to expenditure, we noticed that a drain at Ivanhoe tank had not been properly completed or constructed. Which Department should be charged with carrying out that work? The construction of the drains, of course, pertains to the Works Department, but in this case the grading of this length was being done by the man employed by me as caretaker previous to the work being transferred to the Mines. I pointed this out to the Mines overseer when the transfer was being made, and I understood that he would let the man complete the work. He made no objection to it at the time. The work, however, has not been completed, and that extension of the drain is accordingly ineffective.

4825. We found in some instances the caretakers or lessees cleaning out the silt tank; in another case the caretaker professed he did not know who had to do it, and in yet another case the lessee objected that the silt tank was full when he took the lease, and that there was an understanding that it should be cleared out for him, which has not been done. We should like to know whose business it is to attend to this important duty? The caretaker's, in my opinion. I cannot say about the lessees, as I do not know the terms of their leases.

4826. Again, under the heading of expenditure, we were given to understand that you provide new buckets at wells when required. This being a small matter, how is it that you still retain control over such matters? We have always supplied new ropes and buckets at wells when required, the Mines Department applying for them. I have a stock of ropes and buckets in store for the purpose.

4827. In the event of machinery breaking would you also make it good? We have always done so.

4828. Then if maintenance is only carried out by the Mines Department, how comes it that you have occasionally cleaned out a silt tank without reference to the Mines Department? There is no definite arrangement or understanding between the two departments on these matters. I, of course, cannot instruct the Mines caretakers to clean out a silt tank; and I do not know that it is even included in his specified duties.

[The Commission adjourned.]

THURSDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:—

HON. G. H. COX, M.L.C., CHAIRMAN.

MAJOR PENROSE, R.E.

J. C. WOORE, Esq.

William Christopher Bennett called in and further examined:—

4829. *Chairman.*] I believe there are certain papers you would like to put in evidence? Yes; I put certain vouchers in as a return of payments made in the office. (*See Appendix.*)

4830. I believe some other papers in your Department were too late for publication in the papers submitted to Parliament by the Mines Department? Yes.

4831. This is a statement of the cost of the tanks and wells and dams? This appears to be a copy prepared by the Mines Department. It may be a true copy from the original in my Department, but I cannot say. I will admit that it is correct.

4832. Then the return sent in from your Department, dated 3rd February, 1888, signed by John Rae, was a statement of the cost of tanks up to that period? Yes; up to that period. (*See Appendix.*)

4833. The return sent to the Commission on the 6th February requests us to compare the returns of 1888 with some previous returns of January, 1885, and that it would be seen there was a considerable discrepancy between the two returns; can you show how this occurred? That no doubt occurred in additions, alterations, maintenance, supplying machinery, fencing and carriage.

4834. Are these amounts likely to be increased by any future works? It is possible but not probable, because in February the works were much more complete than when the other returns were sent in.

4835. *Major Penrose.*] Then an account for particular works may remain open for some time? Yes; the carriage was one of the chief items. We could not get the accounts from the carrying firm and this caused a delay.

4836. *Chairman.*] Have you lately had to supplement the cost of any of your works by an expenditure for completing them? Yes; in Bevan's case for instance; but it can hardly be called supplementary cost, because it was a part of the original contract for fencing. The fencing had been ordered by the Mines Department long after the completion of the other works.

4837. *Major Penrose.*] Then in putting in a return of the cost of a work, this return would only show the actual cost up to the date and not the projected cost? No, not the projected cost. A great deal of additional expenditure has been incurred in works of maintenance. In my previous evidence I stated that the receipted vouchers showing the cost of excavation of certain watering places were available, but I now find that the vouchers are destroyed by the Audit Department at the end of seven years. I have our own copies of same with all the official brands on them. I will hand them in as the best evidence available as to the price paid; also the bonds. These are the final vouchers (duplicate copies) sent in to our office. (*See Appendix.*) I now put in the instructions referred to in my answer to question, which are

to

A. W.
Stilwell.

29 Aug., 1888.

W. C.
Bennett.

13 Sept., 1888.

W.C. Bennett. to the following effect:—"9. The tenders to be opened in the presence of the Police Magistrate or Clerk of Petty Sessions or of a Local Magistrate in their absence. All tenders to be numbered and initialled by the officers and the magistrates, and the schedule on the proper form to be filled in and signed by both. The officer will then without any reference to the magistrate, whose duty ceases with the opening of tenders, forward the tenders with recommendations, accompanied by plans and specifications, if any." I also put in a number of papers with regard to fencing. With reference to my statement at page 156 (*Question 3277*), I may say that Mr. Bruce's estimate for huts will be found at page 135 of the papers prepared for Parliament by the Mines Department. I also put in original bonds and agreements for the 12-Mile and 35-Mile tanks, the excavation of which was said to have cost 2s. 6d. per cubic yard. (*See Appendix*). I put in further some plans with respect to Hovell's dam.

David William Gregory called in and examined:—

D. W. Gregory. 4838. *Chairman.*] What is your position? I am inspector of accounts in the Department of Audit.
 13 Sept., 1888. 4839. What is done with vouchers received by you? They go to the examining branch if the rates and computation are checked. If a contract exists the contract rates would be checked.
 4840. What becomes of the vouchers ultimately? If there are any arrears, or any question arises, they are submitted to the Auditor General. The vouchers are then returned by the Department of Audit. I see the forms produced; similar vouchers may be in our office. Last year we destroyed all vouchers up to the end of 1879.
 4841. *Major Penrose.*] Can you produce the receipted vouchers corresponding to these? I do not think so, because they do not show the date of payment.
 4842. *Mr. Woore.*] Can you say that the receipted vouchers for the work shown therein have been destroyed? I cannot say; it depends on the date of payment whether they are destroyed or not. I can produce them if they are not destroyed.

(The witness was allowed possession of the vouchers in order to obtain the duplicates.)

Arthur Pepys Wood called in and further examined:—

A. P. Wood. 4843. *Mr. Woore.*] It was stated in evidence by Mr. Quin that there is a three or five chain road right
 13 Sept., 1888. down to the water at Menamurtee—was the road made there by your Department for the purpose of watering stock? I do not know of any such road.
 4844. When the site was determined on for the Ivanhoe tank, where you sunk the trial holes at the Box Swamps, were any steps taken to secure the land from selection? No.
 4845. Why not? It was an omission on our part, I presume.
 4846. *Chairman.*] Are not these tanks and wells sunk on the travelling stock routes? In this case the site was off the route, and we never dreamt of anyone selecting it; we adopted the usual practice, taking no exceptional steps. I produce a general type plan of tanks (marked A) detailed plan (marked B) showing appurtenances; and detailed plan (marked C).
 4847. Why was the Amos & Smith's substituted for the old Coleman pump? In the first place, the former gives a greater discharge; in the second place, it is self-contained on a rigid bed-plate, and there is not the same chance of extra friction arising from displacement of the parts. Besides it threw a greater volume of water and is more easily and more cheaply worked.

[The Commission adjourned.]

SATURDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER, 1888.

The Commission met at 10 a.m.

Present:—

MAJOR PENROSE, R.E. | J. C. WOORE, Esq.

In the absence of the President the Chair was taken by Mr. WOORE.

Arthur Pepys Wood called in and further examined:—

A. P. Wood 4818. *Witness.*] I now produce original minute by Mr. Abbott, of 3/7/84, referred to in my evidence of 16th
 15 Sept., 1888. March last, for the inspection of the Commission. I also produce for inspection original report *re* Roto well, dated 16/4/82, and Mr. Gilliat's minute thereon of 16/5/82, approving of the sites, and I now produce in reference to my evidence *re* Holy Box well, on 22nd March last, the original vouchers showing payments made on account of that work—showing that these payments, amounting to £1,088 18s. include cost of top works, in addition to sinking and slabbing—in fact everything in connection with the making of the well except the fencing of the special lease area.

[The Commission adjourned.]

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APPENDIX.

I.

RETURN showing cost of Tanks, Wells, and Dams; and Machinery for working same.

| Road. | Watering Place. | Earthwork, Shoot, Fencing, &c. | | S. tanks, Troughing, Machinery. | | Total. | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| | | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. |
| Deniliquin to Hay | Pretty Pine well | | | | | 1,672 | 0 5 |
| | Wangomilla well | | | | | | |
| | Pine Ridge tank | 2,155 | 9 1 | 515 | 7 4 | 2,670 | 16 5 |
| Tocumwall to Jerilderie | Black Swamp tank | 1,420 | 10 8 | 414 | 1 4 | 1,834 | 12 0 |
| | 16-Mile Gums tank | 1,186 | 7 8 | 571 | 1 4 | 1,757 | 9 0 |
| | Murray Hut well | | | | | 2,225 | 15 3 |
| Hay to Booligal | Berican Creek well | | | | | 1,756 | 5 7 |
| | Woolloondool well | | | | | 3,144 | 17 2 |
| Booligal to Wilcannia | One Tree tank | 2,398 | 14 10 | 746 | 2 4 | 2,381 | 12 3 |
| | Quandongs tank | 1,742 | 11 2 | 639 | 1 1 | 2,763 | 7 9 |
| | Tom's Lake tank | 2,149 | 6 1 | 614 | 1 8 | 1,124 | 12 1 |
| | Jumping Sandhill well | | | | | 1,211 | 1 10 |
| | Lignum Hut well | 613 | 5 3 | 597 | 16 7 | 2,540 | 14 5 |
| | Mossgiel tank | 1,764 | 13 7 | 776 | 0 10 | 1,064 | 9 9 |
| | Holy Box well | | | | | 2,711 | 3 5 |
| | Ivanhoe tank | 2,011 | 15 11 | 699 | 7 6 | | |
| | Boonoona tank | | | 587 | 4 2 | 2,050 | 12 6 |
| | Ward's tank | 1,413 | 11 9 | 637 | 0 9 | 3,333 | 4 3 |
| Mossgeil to Paddington | 12-Mile tank | | | | | 1,857 | 3 9 |
| | 26-Mile tank | 1,387 | 17 10 | 469 | 5 11 | 3,598 | 9 10 |
| | 35-Mile tank | 2,931 | 3 10 | 667 | 6 0 | 3,025 | 13 3 |
| | 48-Mile tank | 2,590 | 9 1 | 435 | 4 2 | 2,495 | 14 8 |
| | Carowra Swamp tank | 1,926 | 19 3 | 568 | 15 5 | 1,066 | 19 9 |
| | Box Creek tank | 1,866 | 19 2 | 623 | 16 4 | 2,490 | 15 6 |
| | Youhl Plains tank | 2,253 | 8 7 | 516 | 16 3 | 2,770 | 4 10 |
| | Til Til tank | 2,164 | 16 3 | 593 | 7 4 | 2,758 | 3 7 |
| Balranald to Ivanhoe | Dolmoreve well | 1,219 | 9 10 | | | 1,219 | 9 10 |
| | Clare tank | 2,019 | 4 10 | 630 | 9 6 | 2,649 | 14 4 |
| | Gunnaramby tank | 1,818 | 14 0 | 578 | 11 0 | 2,395 | 5 0 |
| | Willandra well | | | | | 1,087 | 5 8 |
| | Dry Lake well | | | | | 794 | 4 0 |
| | Gunbar well | | | | | 1,555 | 1 11 |
| | Crows' Nest | | | | | 1,130 | 7 2 |
| Whitton to Euabalong | 9-Mile or Ulong tank | 1,440 | 14 4 | 504 | 11 0 | 1,945 | 5 4 |
| | Mount Elliot tank | 1,185 | 5 3 | 515 | 17 2 | 1,701 | 2 5 |
| | Pullelop tank | 1,511 | 1 6 | 557 | 6 10 | 2,068 | 8 4 |
| | Waterman's tank | | | | | 40 | 16 4 |
| Narrandera to Grenfell | Harman's tank | | | | | 360 | 0 0 |
| | Roto well | | | | | 1,181 | 4 0 |
| Hillston to Cobar | North Roto well | | | | | 1,266 | 16 3 |
| | Merri Merriwa tank | 2,530 | 12 6 | 723 | 17 11 | 3,254 | 10 5 |
| | Wagga tank | 2,601 | 11 6 | 587 | 18 9 | 3,189 | 10 3 |
| | Rock Holes tank | 2,565 | 5 0 | 382 | 3 8 | 2,947 | 8 8 |
| | Sandy Creek tank | 2,240 | 16 6 | 565 | 9 3 | 2,806 | 5 9 |
| | Priory tank | 2,252 | 13 7 | 476 | 14 9 | 2,729 | 8 4 |
| | Shearlegs tank | 2,538 | 16 5 | 407 | 9 8 | 2,946 | 6 1 |
| | Gibbs' tank | 2,281 | 16 6 | 552 | 14 9 | 2,834 | 11 3 |
| | Mowabla tank | 2,061 | 6 11 | 550 | 19 3 | 2,612 | 6 2 |
| | Boona tank | 2,285 | 9 4 | 574 | 14 8 | 2,860 | 4 0 |
| | Tinda tank | 2,456 | 5 9 | 600 | 0 11 | 3,056 | 6 8 |
| | Mombil tank | 1,960 | 5 0 | 598 | 7 0 | 2,558 | 12 0 |
| | Wicklow tank | 2,221 | 11 8 | 527 | 2 6 | 2,748 | 14 2 |
| Nyngan to Cobar | Beloura tank | 2,290 | 0 9 | 539 | 2 1 | 2,829 | 2 10 |
| | Nymagee tank | 2,418 | 6 8 | 522 | 5 7 | 2,940 | 12 3 |
| | Keighran's tank | 2,498 | 0 0 | 567 | 15 2 | 3,065 | 15 2 |
| | Hermitage tank | 3,038 | 1 7 | 660 | 14 11 | 3,698 | 16 6 |
| | Muriel tank | 1,456 | 13 2 | 505 | 14 2 | 1,962 | 7 4 |
| Nyngan to Nymagee | Booroombugga tank | 979 | 4 3 | 481 | 12 0 | 1,460 | 16 3 |
| | Thorndale tank | 2,051 | 16 7 | 484 | 8 0 | 2,536 | 4 7 |
| | Gilgais tank | 1,514 | 19 6 | 495 | 19 4 | 2,010 | 18 10 |
| Cobar to Wilcannia | Balinda tank | 2,309 | 14 1 | 537 | 9 1 | 2,847 | 3 2 |
| | Leslie's tank | 1,674 | 1 3 | 512 | 11 11 | 2,186 | 13 2 |
| Cobar to Louth | Meadows tank | | | | | 958 | 11 7 |
| | Springfield tank | | | | | 1,206 | 3 4 |
| | Barnato tank | | | | | 786 | 12 11 |
| | Cuttygullyaroo tank | 1,200 | 9 11 | 598 | 3 3 | 1,798 | 13 2 |
| Cobar to Bourke | Booroondarra tank | 2,233 | 19 5 | 569 | 16 0 | 2,803 | 15 5 |
| | Kerrigundi tank | 2,202 | 15 0 | 725 | 8 7 | 2,928 | 3 7 |
| | Mulya tank | 1,222 | 0 3 | 584 | 10 0 | 1,806 | 10 3 |
| | Cobar (stock) tank | 880 | 5 5 | | | 880 | 5 5 |
| Cobar to Bourke | Cobar (town) 2nd tank | 8,743 | 16 3 | | | 8,743 | 16 3 |
| | Nullimut tank | 966 | 11 0 | 461 | 1 9 | 1,427 | 12 9 |
| | Tindarie tank | 977 | 8 8 | 472 | 4 3 | 1,449 | 12 11 |
| | Hillman's tank | 1,620 | 15 10 | 550 | 2 9 | 2,170 | 18 7 |
| | Curraweena tank | 1,118 | 14 1 | 463 | 0 8 | 1,581 | 14 9 |
| | Corilla tank | 1,803 | 12 0 | 520 | 12 4 | 1,824 | 4 4 |
| | Two Waterholes tank | 1,075 | 4 6 | 651 | 15 11 | 1,727 | 0 5 |

RETURN showing cost of Tanks, Wells, and Dams ; and Machinery for working same—*continued.*

| Road. | Watering Place. | Earthwork, Shoot, Fencing, &c. | S. tanks, Troughing, Machinery. | Total. |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| Bourke to Eringonia | The Lake tank | 2,129 15 5 | 437 17 4 | 2,567 12 9 |
| | Clay Pan Hollow tank..... | 2,083 16 3 | 470 17 1 | 2,554 13 4 |
| Eringonia to Brewarrina..... | 18-Mile tank | 1,599 13 9 | 582 13 2 | 2,182 6 11 |
| | Lednappa tank | 2,127 16 7 | 576 18 3 | 2,704 14 10 |
| Bourke to Hungerford..... | Ford's Bridge tank | 2,662 14 4 | 580 7 10 | 3,243 2 2 |
| | Yantabella tank | | | 756 10 10 |
| Bourke to Wanaaring | 18-Mile tank | | | |
| | Kulkine tank..... | Purchased for | | 850 0 0 |
| Byrock to Brewarrina | Mulga No. 5 tank..... | 1,586 15 1 | 488 12 9 | 2,075 7 10 |
| | Nellie's Paddock tank | 1,545 19 0 | 551 6 10 | 2,097 5 10 |
| Trangie to Dandaloo | Derribong | 2,212 11 6 | 442 1 2 | 2,654 12 8 |
| Nevertire to Coonamble | Nevertire..... | 1,872 15 10 | 510 12 5 | 2,383 8 3 |
| | Bullagreen | 1,281 14 2 | 813 7 10 | 2,095 2 0 |
| Dubbo District | Girilambone | 1,646 7 7 | 879 18 9 | 2,526 6 4 |
| | Tomingley | | | 837 11 0 |
| Wilcannia to Hungerford | Seaville's..... | 1,151 17 4 | | 1,151 17 4 |
| | Copago..... | 1,741 11 9 | | 1,741 11 9 |
| | Peri Springs | 1,549 7 6 | | 1,549 7 6 |
| | Yentabangee | | | |
| | Warramurtee | 1,536 8 0 | | 1,536 8 0 |
| | Goomboolara | | | 1,407 8 5 |
| Wilcannia to Tibbooburra | Mulga Valley well | | | 920 7 9 |
| | Dry Lake tank | | | 1,004 17 11 |
| | Beefwood well | | | 1,230 8 4 |
| | Menamurtie well | | | 967 3 1 |
| | Tarella tank | 1,101 13 4 | 378 9 10 | 1,480 3 2 |
| | The Peak tank | 1,635 11 10 | 377 7 9 | 2,012 19 7 |
| | Murlippa tank | 1,865 10 11 | 344 5 4 | 2,209 16 3 |
| | Cobham tank | 1,251 8 6 | | 1,251 8 6 |
| | Milparinka well..... | 1,185 9 11 | 341 8 9 | 1,526 18 8 |
| | Warratta tank | 1,587 17 8 | 414 12 6 | 2,002 10 2 |
| | Tibbooburra well | | | 1,238 17 6 |
| Silverton District..... | Silverton tank | | | |
| | Silverton well | | | 5,749 2 1 |
| | Rathole tank | | 510 7 5 | |
| | Thackaringa tank..... | 1,656 5 10 | 403 5 9 | 2,059 11 7 |
| | Purnamoota tank | 1,968 1 7 | 413 19 3 | 2,382 0 10 |
| | Wilson's dam | 1,533 19 9 | 387 15 6 | 1,921 15 3 |
| | Broken Hill tanks..... | | | 1,181 3 4 |
| Walgett to Bangate | Boro Waterholes tank | | | 2,379 18 6 |
| | Lightning Ridge tank | | | 2,729 7 10 |
| | Narran tank | 1,912 11 0 | 397 2 4 | 2,309 13 4 |
| Barwon to Narran | Cumborah tank..... | | | 2,518 3 1 |
| Narrabri to Moree | Galathera tank | 1,665 15 5 | 481 8 0 | 2,147 3 5 |
| | Boggy Creek tank..... | 2,058 9 0 | 570 17 7 | 2,629 6 7 |
| Gunnedah to Coonabarabran | Normanstone well | | | 1,090 15 3 |
| | Baloola well..... | | | 1,024 0 6 |
| | Mannum well..... | | | 828 8 6 |
| Coonabarabran to Pilliga | Baradine well | | | 1,001 16 1 |
| Albury District..... | Jindera tank | 1,023 2 0 | 379 18 4 | 1,403 0 4 |
| | Walla Walla tank..... | 1,336 2 3 | 239 7 10 | 1,575 10 1 |
| | Carson's Swamp tank | 819 11 6 | | 819 11 6 |
| | Brocklesby tank | 948 0 0 | 528 12 4 | 1,476 12 4 |
| | Lowesdale tank..... | 1,215 15 9 | 471 16 11 | 1,687 12 8 |
| | Daysdale tank | 1,305 12 1 | 271 18 6 | 1,577 10 7 |
| | Wallacetown dam | 609 15 0 | | 609 15 0 |
| | June dam | | | |
| | Hurley's dam..... | 511 4 6 | | 511 4 6 |
| | Major's waterhole..... | 1,219 15 2 | | 1,219 15 2 |
| Wagga District..... | Coolaman tank | 1,533 1 8 | 314 19 0 | 1,848 0 8 |
| Warialda to Inverell | Whiteoaks well..... | | | 620 1 11 |
| Mount Hope | Mount Hope tank..... | 1,845 2 0 | 486 4 4 | 2,331 6 4 |
| Parkes to Bogan | Brolgan tank | 1,283 2 10 | 567 5 9 | 1,850 8 7 |
| Bourke to Wanaaring..... | Goonery well | | | 450 8 7 |
| Wilcannia to Tibbooburra | J.K. Waterhole well | 1,095 6 0 | 390 0 0 | 1,485 6 0 |
| | Coally dam..... | 546 1 0 | | 546 1 0 |

II.

PUBLIC WATERING PLACES.

RETURN showing Wages paid and Revenue received for the Year 1886.*

| Name of Watering Places. | Wages paid to Caretakers in 1886. | Revenue received | | | Remarks. |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | Fees collected by Caretakers. | Rent received from Lessees. | Total Receipts | |
| Amphitheatre Tank..... | £ s. d. 111 17 6 | £ s. d. 11 18 9 | £ s. d. | £ s. d. 11 18 9 | |
| Babinda Tank | 127 15 0 | 30 6 10 | .. .. . | 30 6 10 | |
| Baradine Well | 54 15 0 | 9 5 0 | .. .. . | 9 5 0 | |
| Beloura Tank..... | 127 15 0 | 3 16 2 | .. .. . | 3 16 2 | |
| Berrigan Well ..... | .. .. . | .. .. . | 20 0 0 | 20 0 0 | |
| Black Swamp Tank | 49 1 6 | 84 14 10 | 16 13 4 | 101 8 2 | Leased, 1/9/86, £50 per ann. |
| Boggy Creek Tank ..... | .. .. . | .. .. . | 78 0 0 | 78 0 0 | |
| Boona Tank | 127 15 0 | 14 11 0 | .. .. . | 14 11 0 | |
| Boonoona Tank | 231 3 0 | 60 13 6 | .. .. . | 60 13 6 | |
| Booroomugga | 118 12 6 | 39 15 1 | .. .. . | 39 15 1 | |
| Booroodara Tank | 70 14 0 | 29 19 6 | 16 5 0 | 46 4 6 | Leased, 4/9/86, £50 per ann. |
| Booroorban Tank ..... | .. .. . | .. .. . | 85 0 0 | 85 0 0 | |
| Boro Tank | 109 10 0 | 9 10 4 | .. .. . | 9 10 4 | |
| Box Creek Tank | 132 0 0 | 24 0 2 | .. .. . | 24 0 2 | |
| Brocklesby Tank | 130 8 0 | 0 0 6 | .. .. . | 0 0 6 | |
| Brolgan Creek Tank | 86 9 0 | 1 4 0 | .. .. . | 1 4 0 | |
| Brura Creek Tank | 127 15 0 | 90 6 7 | .. .. . | 90 6 7 | |
| Bullagreen Tank | 28 2 6 | 0 6 0 | .. .. . | 0 6 0 | |
| Bunghill Tank | 118 12 6 | 1 10 8 | .. .. . | 1 10 8 | |
| Carson's Swamp Tank..... | 70 0 0 | .. .. . | .. .. . | .. .. . |  |
| Clare Tank | 153 0 0 | 5 0 4 | .. .. . | 5 0 4 | |
| Claypan (Grass Hut) Tank.. | .. .. . | .. .. . | 53 0 0 | 53 0 0 | |
| Cobar Stock Tank | 118 12 6 | 133 7 9 | .. .. . | 133 7 9 | |
| Colombo Dam | 135 1 0 | 5 0 5 | .. .. . | 5 0 5 | |
| Coolaman Tank..... | 84 6 0 | 0 6 2 | .. .. . | 0 6 2 | |
| Corilla Tank ..... | .. .. . | .. .. . | 40 0 0 | 40 0 0 | |
| Corowra Swamp Tank | 185 12 0 | 9 3 0 | .. .. . | 9 3 0 | |
| Crow's Nest Well | 9 10 0 | .. .. . | 40 0 0 | 40 0 0 | Leased, 1/12/85, £40 per ann. |
| Curraweena Tank | 146 0 0 | 54 7 0 | .. .. . | 54 7 0 | |
| Cuttygullyaroo Tank | 127 15 0 | 62 11 9 | .. .. . | 62 11 9 | |
| Daysdale Tank | 116 18 0 | 1 5 8 | .. .. . | 1 5 8 | |
| Dolmore Well | 76 10 0 | 4 6 6 | .. .. . | 4 6 6 | |
| Dry Lake Well | 103 12 0 | 26 6 10 | 11 13 4 | 38 0 2 | Leased, 1/9/86, £35 per ann. |
| Eighteen-mile Tank ..... | .. .. . | .. .. . | 36 8 7 | 36 8 7 | „ 1/9/86, £52 „ |
| Ford's Bridge Tank | 17 14 0 | .. .. . | 56 15 6 | 56 15 6 | „ 15/3/86, £80 „ |
| Forty-eight-mile Tank | 110 17 0 | 30 9 11 | 4 3 4 | 34 13 3 | „ 1/12/86, £50 „ |
| Galathera Tank ..... | .. .. . | .. .. . | 126 0 0 | 126 0 0 | |
| Gilgai Tank | 91 14 0 | 50 9 9 | 35 0 0 | 85 9 9 | „ 1/6 86, £60 |
| Girilambone Tank | 78 10 0 | 0 7 8 | .. .. . | 0 7 8 | |
| Goonery Artesian Well ..... | .. .. . | .. .. . | 60 0 0 | 60 0 0 | |
| Gunnaramby Tank | 71 18 0 | 0 4 4 | .. .. . | 0 4 4 | |
| Helman's Tank | 128 8 0 | 95 14 8 | .. .. . | 95 14 8 | |
| Hermitage Tank | 139 5 0 | 87 9 8 | .. .. . | 87 9 8 | |
| Holy Box Well | 170 6 0 | 39 8 0 | .. .. . | 39 8 0 | |
| Hovell's Dam | 75 8 0 | 11 5 9 | 7 10 0 | 18 15 9 | Leased, 1/10/86, £30 per ann. |
| Hulong Tank | 59 3 0 | 10 9 5 | .. .. . | 10 9 5 | |
| Ivanhoe Tank | 29 12 0 | 9 19 4 | .. .. . | 9 19 4 | |
| Jindera Tank | 130 8 0 | 5 2 10 | .. .. . | 5 2 10 | |
| Jumping Sand Hill Well | 101 0 4 | 41 1 8 | .. .. . | 41 1 8 | |
| Junee Dam | 104 18 9 | .. .. . | .. .. . | .. .. . | Stock water gratis. |
| Keighran's Tank | 71 8 0 | 11 7 0 | .. .. . | 11 7 0 | |
| Kerrigundi Tank | 70 0 0 | 27 1 6 | 16 7 10 | 43 9 4 | Leased, 3/9/86, £50 per ann. |
| Ledknapper Tank ..... | .. .. . | .. .. . | 78 1 4 | 78 1 4 | „ £110 „ |
| Lightning Ridge Tank | 118 12 6 | 16 1 8 | .. .. . | 16 1 8 | |
| Mannum Well | 45 3 0 | 4 1 0 | .. .. . | 4 1 0 | |
| Merri Merriwa Tank | 127 15 0 | 8 16 7 | .. .. . | 8 16 7 | |
| Mombil Tank | 127 15 0 | 18 15 10 | .. .. . | 18 15 10 | |
| Mossgiel Tank | 174 3 6 | 67 11 2 | .. .. . | 67 11 2 | |
| Mena Murtee Well .. | 12 8 0 | .. .. . | .. .. . | .. .. . |  |
| Mount Elliot Tank | 64 8 0 | 7 7 10 | .. .. . | 7 7 10 | |
| Mount Hope Tank | 127 15 0 | 7 11 4 | .. .. . | 7 11 4 | |
| Mount Manara Tank | 129 2 7 | 25 4 1 | .. .. . | 25 4 1 | |
| Mowabla Tank | 127 15 0 | 12 19 3 | .. .. . | 12 19 3 | |
| Muriel Tank | 61 4 0 | 82 6 2 | 32 1 8 | 114 7 10 | Leased, 1/6/86, £55per ann. |
| Murray Hut Well ..... | .. .. . | .. .. . | 20 0 0 | 20 0 0 | |
| North Roto Well .. | 110 10 0 | 4 6 5 | 14 0 0 | 18 6 5 | „ 1/5/86, £21 „ |
| Nullamut Tank | 54 6 0 | 72 19 8 | 30 12 6 | 103 12 2 | „ 1/6/86, £52 10s., |
| Nymagee Tank | 127 15 0 | 2 17 0 | .. .. . | 2 17 0 | |
| Old Gunbar Well | 146 0 0 | .. .. . | .. .. . | .. .. . | Water bad |
| One Tree Tank | 228 12 0 | 87 10 0 | .. .. . | 87 10 0 | |
| Polygonum Hut Well | 130 14 0 | 40 18 8 | .. .. . | 40 18 8 | |
| Pretty Pine Well | 135 0 0 | 15 8 7 | 23 6 8 | 38 15 3 | Leased, 1 6 86, £40 per ann. |
| Priory Tank | 93 16 0 | 33 12 9 | .. .. . | 33 12 9 | |
| Pulletop Tank | 85 15 0 | 13 3 8 | 15 0 0 | 28 3 8 | „ 1/10/86, £60 „ |
| Purnamoota Tank..... | 55 4 0 | .. .. . | .. .. . | .. .. . |  |
| Quandong Tank | 38 14 10 | 60 19 0 | .. .. . | 60 19 0 | |
| Rat Holes Tank | 76 16 0 | 50 10 1 | .. .. . | 50 10 1 | |
| Rock Holes Tank | 127 15 0 | 29 0 0 | .. .. . | 29 0 0 | |
| Roto Well | 126 10 0 | 0 0 4 | 15 6 8 | 15 7 0 | Leased, 1/5 86, £23 per ann |
| Sandy Creek Tank | 127 15 0 | 20 13 9 | .. .. . | 20 13 9 | |
| Shearleg's Tank ..... | .. .. . | .. .. . | 50 0 0 | 50 0 0 | |
| Silverton Tank | 93 12 0 | .. .. . | .. .. . | .. .. . |  |
| Silverton Well | 120 0 0 | 2 16 9 | .. .. . | 2 16 9 | |
| Sixteen mile Gums Tank | 146 0 0 | 73 15 0 | .. .. . | 73 15 0 | |
| Tambar Springs | 6 0 0 | .. .. . | .. .. . | .. .. . | No charge made or water. |
| Thackaringa Tank | 4 0 0 | .. .. . | .. .. . | .. .. . | Lately taken over. |
| The Lake Tank ..... | .. .. . | .. .. . | 50 0 0 | 50 0 0 | |

* Copied from Blue-book, prepared at the Mines Department, and laid on the table of the Legislative Assembly, 7 February, 1883.

RETURN showing Wages paid and Revenue received for the Year 1886—*continued.*

| Name of Watering Place. | Wages paid to Caretakers in 1886. | Revenue received. | | | Remarks. |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| | | Fees collected by Caretakers. | Rent received from Lessees. | Total Receipts. | |
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | |
| Thirty-five-mile Tank..... | 131 5 0 | 52 2 4 | ..... | 52 2 4 | |
| Thorndale Tank | 127 15 0 | 78 0 3 | ..... | 78 0 3 | |
| Till Till Tank | 109 10 0 | 4 13 8 | ..... | 4 13 8 | |
| Tinda Tank | 122 17 0 | 3 1 2 | ..... | 3 1 2 | |
| Tindarie Tank | 125 15 0 | 55 8 2 | ..... | 55 8 2 | |
| Tom's Lake Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 51 0 0 | 51 0 0 | |
| Twelve-mile Tank ..... | ..... | ..... | 57 0 0 | 57 0 0 | |
| Two Watchholes Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 52 0 0 | 52 0 0 | |
| Wagga Tank | 127 15 0 | 4 15 0 | ..... | 4 15 0 | |
| Walla Walla Tank | 106 0 0 | 2 1 4 | 12 10 0 | 14 11 4 | Leased, 1/10/86, £50 per ann. |
| Wagonella Well | 89 0 0 | 1 0 6 | ..... | 1 0 6 | |
| Wicklow Tank | 127 15 0 | 0 15 4 | ..... | 0 15 4 | |
| Wooloondool Well | 94 7 6 | 66 1 11 | 18 6 8 | 84 8 7 | „ 1/9/86, £55 „ |
| Yentabangee Tank ..... | ..... | ..... | 30 0 0 | 30 0 0 | |
| Youhl Plain Tank..... | 79 16 0 | 16 4 1 | 13 6 8 | 29 10 9 | „ 1/9/86, £40 „ |
| Totals | 3,922 4 0 | 2,177 16 2 | 1,265 9 1 | 3,443 5 3 | |

SUMMARY.

| | |
|---|------------|
| Total wages paid | £8,922 4 0 |
| Total Revenue | 3,443 5 3 |
| Number of tanks under lease in 1886 | 36 |
| Total rental per annum | 1,777 10 0 |
| Average rental per annum | 49 7 2 |

9 June, 1887.

J. S. RAMSAY.

Department of Mines, Public Watering Places, Sydney, 27 June, 1888.

At the request of the Commission *re* Tanks and Wells, the annexed return has been prepared.

In submitting it for the consideration of the Honorable the Secretary for Mines, I may add that my remarks accompanying a similar return for the year 1886, apply with equal force to the one for 1887, viz. :—

“1st. That the year was an exceptionally favourable one, and that during the greater part of it water could be obtained by travelling stock almost everywhere without having to fall back upon the public watering places.

“2nd. That when the Department is enabled to gazette the works as public watering places no further obstacle will exist to their being leased, and the majority of these works will be producing revenue.”

To this I may now add, that the altered arrangements in dealing with notifications of travelling stock and camp reserves, and with the surveys through the district surveyors directly, has resulted in expediting their preliminary notification under the Land Board, and consequently their gazettal as public watering places. This result is, I think, shown by the fact that there are now sixty-three watering places either under lease or for which tenders have been called, and I have fair reason to anticipate that by the end of the year the great majority of the completed works will be gazetted, and under lease.

I have felt that neither the Secretary for Mines nor myself desire to withhold any particle of information that would assist the Commission to the fullest and most impartial discharge of their duties, whether it is within the actual scope of the inquiry or not.

At the same time, I feel it my duty to point out the injustice that may arise by the Commissioners embodying in their report the subject of *maintenance* without having fully investigated it. This, perhaps, they could not do under their commission; it must, therefore, be apparent, that any attempt to deal with the subject without a full inquiry might, perhaps, lead from imperfect knowledge to incorrect conclusions.

HARRY GILLIAT,

Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places.

The Under Secretary for Mines.

PUBLIC WATERING PLACES.

RETURN showing Wages paid and Revenue received for the year 1887.

| Name of Watering Place. | Wages to Caretakers in 1887. | Revenue received. | | | Remarks. |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| | | Fees collected by Caretakers. | Rent received from Lessees. | Total receipts. | |
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | |
| Amphitheatre Tank..... | 147 7 6 | 6 8 1 | ..... | 6 8 1 | |
| Babinda Tank | 127 15 0 | 9 10 10 | ..... | 9 10 10 | |
| Baradine Well | 54 15 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |  |
| Beloura Tank..... | 127 15 0 | 1 2 4 | ..... | 1 2 4 | |
| Berrigan Well ..... | ..... | ..... | 20 0 0 | 20 0 0 | |
| Black Swamp Tank ..... | ..... | ..... | 50 2 6 | 50 2 6 | Lease cancelled, 16/1/88. |
| Boggy Creek Tank ..... | ..... | ..... | 78 0 0 | 78 0 0 | |
| Boona Tank | 127 15 0 | 16 4 | ..... | 16 4 | |
| Boonoona Tank..... | 146 0 0 | 62 2 4 | ..... | 62 2 4 | |
| Booroomugga Tank | 146 0 0 | 14 15 1 | ..... | 14 15 1 | |
| Booroondarra Tank ..... | ..... | ..... | 50 5 6 | 50 5 6 | |
| Booroorban Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 85 0 0 | 85 0 0 | |
| Boro Tank | 123 3 0 | 13 2 11 | ..... | 13 2 11 | |
| Box Creek Tank | 146 0 0 | 2 9 2 | ..... | 2 9 2 | |
| Brocklesby Tank | 146 0 0 | 4 9 11 | ..... | 4 9 11 | |
| Brolgan Creek Tank | 118 12 6 | 2 4 10 | ..... | 2 4 10 | |
| Brura Tank | 127 15 0 | 49 11 6 | ..... | 49 11 6 | |
| Bullagreen Tank | 137 17 6 | 1 18 6 | ..... | 1 18 6 | |
| Bunghill Tank | 118 12 6 | 2 17 8 | ..... | 2 17 8 | |
| Carson's Swamp Tank..... | 127 15 0 | 9 2 | ..... | 9 2 | |
| Clare Tank..... | 146 0 0 | 2 13 10 | ..... | 2 13 10 | |
| Cobar Stock Tank | 118 12 6 | 59 8 10 | ..... | 59 8 10 | |
| Colombo Dam | 118 12 6 | 0 7 0 | 4 3 4 | 4 10 4 | Leased, 1/12/87, £50 per ann. |
| Coolaman Tank..... | 109 10 0 | 1 6 1 | ..... | 1 6 1 | |
| Corilla Tank ..... | ..... | ..... | 40 8 5 | 40 8 5 | |
| Carowra Swamp Tank..... | 158 0 0 | 13 19 9 | ..... | 13 19 9 | |
| Crow's Nest Well..... | ..... | ..... | 40 0 0 | 40 0 0 | |
| Curraweena Tank..... | 146 0 0 | 11 12 1 | ..... | 11 12 1 | |
| Cuttygullyaroo Tank | 127 15 0 | 8 8 0 | ..... | 8 8 0 | |

Return showing Wages paid and Revenue received for year 1887.—*continued.*

| Name of Watering Place. | Wages paid to Caretakers in 1887. | Revenue received. | | | Remarks. |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | Fees collected by Caretakers. | Rent received from Lessees. | Total receipts. | |
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | |
| Day Dream Tank..... | 176 12 0 | 9 10 5 | ..... | 9 10 5 | |
| Daysdale Tank..... | 127 15 0 | 7 2 0 | ..... | 7 2 0 | |
| Derribong Tank..... | 73 4 0 | 4 0 | ..... | 4 0 | |
| Dolmoreve Well..... | 157 4 0 | 2 8 | ..... | 2 8 | |
| Dry Lake Well..... | ..... | ..... | 35 1 3 | 35 1 3 | |
| Eighteen-mile Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 52 0 0 | 52 0 0 | |
| Ford's Bridge Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 80 8 8 | 80 8 8 | |
| Forty-eight-mile Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 50 1 10 | 50 1 10 | |
| Galathera Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 126 0 0 | 126 0 0 | |
| Gilgaii Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 57 10 0 | 57 10 0 | |
| Girilambone Tank..... | 90 13 6 | ..... | 3 6 8 | 3 6 8 | Leased, 1/9/87, £10 per ann. |
| Glendon Tank..... | 146 0 0 | 1 7 4 | ..... | 1 7 4 | |
| Goonery Artesian Well..... | ..... | ..... | 60 0 0 | 60 0 0 | |
| Grass-hut Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 53 9 10 | 53 9 10 | |
| Gunaramby Tank..... | 146 0 0 | 5 18 7 | ..... | 5 18 7 | |
| Helman's Tank..... | 146 0 0 | 49 10 11 | ..... | 49 10 11 | |
| Hermitage Tank..... | 146 0 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |  |
| Holy Box Well..... | 146 0 0 | 20 17 2 | ..... | 20 17 2 | |
| Hovell's Dam..... | ..... | ..... | 30 0 0 | 30 0 0 | |
| Ivanhoe Tank..... | 146 0 0 | 4 12 0 | ..... | 4 12 0 | |
| Jindera Tank..... | 146 0 0 | 5 17 2 | ..... | 5 17 2 | |
| Jumping Sandhill Well..... | 144 8 0 | 34 18 4 | ..... | 34 18 4 | |
| June Dam..... | 113 0 9 | ..... | ..... | ..... | Stock water gratis. |
| Keighran's Tank..... | 127 15 0 | 12 1 6 | ..... | 12 1 6 | |
| Kerrigundi Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 50 5 6 | 50 5 6 | |
| Ledknappa Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 110 0 0 | 110 0 0 | |
| Lightning Ridge Tank..... | 118 12 6 | 5 17 11 | ..... | 5 17 11 | |
| Lowesdale Tank..... | 127 15 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |  |
| Mannum Well..... | 54 15 0 | 1 1 4 | ..... | 1 1 4 | |
| Menamurtie Well..... | 146 0 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |  |
| Merri Merriwa Tank..... | 127 15 0 | 2 13 4 | ..... | 2 13 4 | |
| Mossgiel Tank..... | 146 0 0 | 16 1 0 | ..... | 16 1 0 | |
| Mount Manara Tank..... | 127 15 0 | 118 3 11 | ..... | 118 3 11 | |
| Mount Hope Tank..... | 127 15 0 | 5 4 | ..... | 5 4 | |
| Mulya Tank..... | 6 6 0 | 1 4 10 | ..... | 1 4 10 | |
| Muriel Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 55 0 0 | 55 0 0 | |
| Mount Elliot Tank..... | 127 15 0 | 10 17 7 | ..... | 10 17 7 | |
| Mowabla Tank..... | 127 15 0 | 1 12 8 | ..... | 1 12 8 | |
| Mombil Tank..... | 127 15 0 | 1 0 4 | ..... | 1 0 4 | |
| Murray Hut Well..... | ..... | ..... | 20 5 0 | 20 5 0 | |
| North Roto Well..... | ..... | ..... | 21 2 8 | 21 2 8 | |
| Nullamut Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 52 15 4 | 52 15 4 | |
| Nevertire Tank..... | 10 1 6 | ..... | 10 0 0 | 10 0 0 | Leased, 1/11/87, £60 per ann. |
| Nymagee Tank..... | 127 15 0 | 16 15 11 | ..... | 16 15 11 | |
| One Tree Tank..... | 146 0 0 | 6 4 | ..... | 6 4 | |
| Old Gunbar Well..... | 146 0 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |  |
| Pretty Pine Well..... | ..... | ..... | 40 12 9 | 40 12 9 | |
| Polygonum Hut Well..... | 110 0 0 | 1 13 10 | ..... | 1 13 10 | |
| Priory Tank..... | 127 15 0 | 12 0 9 | ..... | 12 0 9 | |
| Purnamoota Tank..... | 176 12 0 | 7 0 7 | ..... | 7 0 7 | |
| Pulletop Tank..... | 21 7 0 | 0 1 4 | 50 0 0 | 50 1 4 | Lease cancelled, 31/10/87. |
| Quandong Tank..... | 144 8 0 | 14 17 2 | ..... | 14 17 2 | |
| Roto Well..... | ..... | ..... | 23 3 0 | 23 3 0 | |
| Rock Holes Tank..... | 127 15 0 | 8 17 4 | ..... | 8 17 4 | |
| Rat Hole Tank..... | 186 13 0 | 214 14 7 | ..... | 214 14 7 | |
| Sixteen-mile Gums Tank..... | 146 0 0 | 2 1 8 | ..... | 2 1 8 | |
| Sandy Creek Tank..... | 127 15 0 | 22 10 9 | ..... | 22 10 9 | |
| Shearleg's Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 50 0 0 | 50 0 0 | |
| Silverton Well..... | 176 12 0 | 87 19 9½ | ..... | 87 19 9½ | |
| Tom's Lake Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 51 1 10 | 51 1 10 | |
| Til Til Tank..... | 146 13 8 | 5 17 1 | ..... | 5 17 1 | |
| Tindarie Tank..... | 127 15 0 | 33 0 8 | ..... | 33 0 8 | |
| Two Waterholes Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 52 0 0 | 52 0 0 | |
| Thackaringa Tank..... | 176 7 0 | 48 14 11 | ..... | 48 14 11 | |
| Tambar Springs..... | 6 0 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... | No charge made for water. |
| The Lake Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 50 15 0 | 50 15 0 | |
| Thorndale Tank..... | 35 0 50 | 6 8 8 | 37 10 0 | 43 18 8 | Leased, 1/4/87, £50 per ann. |
| Tinda Tank..... | 127 15 0 | 1 18 6 | ..... | 1 18 6 | |
| Twelve-mile Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 57 2 1 | 57 2 1 | |
| Thirty-five-mile Tank..... | 146 0 0 | 47 10 1 | ..... | 47 10 1 | |
| Ulong Tank..... | 127 15 0 | 23 9 0 | ..... | 23 9 0 | |
| Walla Walla Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 50 3 11 | 50 3 11 | |
| Wangonilla Well..... | 149 8 6 | 4 16 4 | ..... | 4 16 4 | |
| Wooloondool Well..... | ..... | ..... | 55 0 0 | 55 0 0 | |
| Wagga Wagga Tank..... | 127 15 0 | 7 9 9 | ..... | 7 9 9 | |
| Wicklow Tank..... | 127 15 0 | 2 0 | ..... | 2 0 | |
| Youhl Plain Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 40 0 0 | 40 0 0 | |
| Yentabangee Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 30 0 0 | 30 0 0 | |
| otals | £9,319 1 5 | £1,149 1 7½ | £1,822 15 1 | £2,971 16 8½ | |

SUMMARY.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| * Total wages paid..... | £9,319 1 5 |
| Total revenue..... | 2,971 16 8½ |
| Number of tanks under lease in 1887..... | 38 |
| Total rental per annum..... | £1,863 0 0 |
| Average rental per annum..... | 49 0 6 |

23rd June, 1888.

S. A. MYRING

*The increase of wages in 1887 is due to five additional tanks taken over during that year.

PUBLIC WATERING PLACES.

RETURN showing Wages paid and Revenue received from 1st January to 31st October, 1888.

| Name of Watering Place. | Wages paid to Caretakers, 1 Jan. to 31 Oct., 1888. | Revenue. | | | Remarks. |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---|
| | | Fees collected by Caretakers. | Rent received from Lessees. | Total Receipts. | |
| Amphitheatre Tank..... | £ s. d. 114 7 6 | £ s. d. 14 10 1 | £ s. d. | £ s. d. 14 10 1 | Leased, 1/11/88, £41 per ann. |
| Babinda Tank..... | 79 9 0 | 28 19 4 | 8 11 9 | 37 11 1 | Leased, 14/8/88, £40 per ann. |
| Baradine Well..... | 45 15 0 | 2 1 5 | ..... | 2 1 5 | Leased, 1/12/88, £25 per ann. |
| Beloura Tank..... | 106 15 0 | 24 12 7½ | ..... | 24 12 7½ | |
| Berrigan Well..... | ..... | ..... | 16 13 4 | 16 13 4 | |
| Black Swamp Tank..... | 116 0 0 | 1 1 4 | 2 4 3 | 3 5 7 | Lease cancelled, 16/1/88. |
| Boggy Creek Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 65 0 0 | 65 0 0 | |
| Boona Tank..... | 106 15 0 | 5 19 10 | ..... | 5 19 10 | |
| Boonoonna Tank..... | 122 0 0 | 25 2 1 | ..... | 35 2 1 | |
| Booroomugga Tank..... | 85 4 0 | 25 10 11 | 20 0 0 | 45 10 11 | Leased, 1/5/88, £40 per ann. |
| Booroondarra Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 41 13 4 | 41 13 4 | |
| Booroorban Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 70 16 8 | 70 16 8 | |
| Boro Tank..... | 99 2 6 | 62 19 2 | ..... | 62 19 2 | |
| Box Creek Tank..... | 122 0 0 | 128 11 10 | ..... | 128 11 10 | |
| Brocklesby Tank..... | 122 0 0 | 14 4 0 | ..... | 14 4 0 | |
| Brolgan Creek Tank..... | 99 2 6 | 9 12 11 | ..... | 9 12 11 | |
| Brura Tank..... | 106 15 0 | 88 10 4 | ..... | 88 10 4 | Leased, 1/11/88, £50 per ann. |
| Bullagreen Tank..... | 114 7 6 | 38 8 10½ | ..... | 38 8 10½ | |
| Bunghill Tank..... | 99 2 6 | 33 2 5 | ..... | 33 2 5 | |
| Carson's Swamp Tank..... | 106 15 0 | 1 1 11 | ..... | 1 1 11 | |
| Clare Tank..... | 122 0 0 | 14 6 1 | ..... | 14 6 1 | |
| Cobar Stock Tank..... | 99 2 6 | 77 11 9 | ..... | 77 11 9 | |
| Colombo Dam..... | ..... | ..... | 41 13 4 | 41 13 4 | |
| Coolaman Tank..... | 91 10 0 | 26 4 3 | ..... | 26 4 3 | |
| Corilla Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 33 6 8 | 33 6 8 | |
| Carowra Swamp Tank..... | 122 0 0 | 16 17 9 | ..... | 16 17 9 | |
| Crow's Nest Well..... | ..... | ..... | 33 6 8 | 33 6 8 | |
| Curraweena Tank..... | 122 0 0 | 22 15 6 | ..... | 22 15 6 | Leased, 1/12/88, £20 per ann. |
| Cuttygullyaroo Tank..... | 106 15 0 | 65 17 5 | ..... | 65 17 5 | |
| Day Dream Tank..... | 137 15 0 | 162 1 2 | ..... | 162 1 2 | |
| Daysdale Tank..... | 106 15 0 | 3 4 2 | ..... | 3 4 2 | Leased, 1/11/88, £55 per ann. |
| Derribong Tank..... | 122 0 0 | 46 1 11 | ..... | 46 1 11 | Leased, £1/11/88, £40 per ann. |
| Dolmoreve Well..... | 122 0 0 | 7 8 2 | ..... | 7 8 2 | |
| Dry Lake Well..... | ..... | ..... | 29 3 4 | 29 3 4 | |
| Eighteen-mile Tank..... | 80 10 0 | 222 7 8 | 10 11 0 | 232 18 8 | Leased, up to 14/3/88. |
| Ford's Bridge Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 66 13 4 | 66 13 4 | |
| Forty-eight-mile Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 41 13 4 | 41 13 4 | |
| Galathera Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 105 0 0 | 105 0 0 | |
| Gilgaii Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 25 0 0 | 25 0 0 | |
| Girilambone Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 8 6 8 | 8 6 1 | |
| Glendon Tank..... | 122 0 0 | 4 11 0 | ..... | 4 11 0 | |
| Grass Hut Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 44 3 4 | 44 3 4 | |
| Gunaramby Tank..... | 122 0 0 | 7 9 7 | ..... | 7 9 7 | |
| Goonery Artesian Well..... | ..... | ..... | 50 0 0 | 50 0 0 | |
| Helman's Tank..... | 122 0 0 | 25 2 0 | ..... | 25 2 0 | Leased, 1/12/88, £32 per ann. |
| Hermitage Tank..... | 122 0 0 | 111 13 5 | ..... | 111 13 5 | Leased, 1/11/88, £50 per ann. |
| Holy Box Well..... | 122 0 0 | 72 13 11 | ..... | 72 13 11 | Leased, 1/11/88, £72 per ann. |
| Hovell's Dam..... | ..... | ..... | 25 0 0 | 25 0 0 | |
| Ivanhoe Tank..... | 122 0 0 | 46 17 3 | ..... | 46 17 3 | |
| Jindera Tank..... | 122 0 0 | 3 9 7 | ..... | 3 9 7 | Leased, 1/11/88, £25 per ann. |
| Jumping Sandhill Well..... | 122 0 0 | 69 17 7 | ..... | 69 17 7 | |
| June Dam..... | 122 0 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... | Stock water gratis. |
| Keighran's Tank..... | 106 15 0 | 34 2 11 | ..... | 34 2 11 | Leased, 1/11/88, £30 per ann. |
| Kerrigundi Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 41 13 4 | 41 13 4 | |
| Ledknappa Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 91 13 4 | 91 13 4 | |
| Lightning Ridge Tank..... | 99 2 6 | 62 6 6 | ..... | 62 6 6 | |
| Lovesdale Tank..... | 67 11 0 | 8 12 6 | 26 0 0 | 34 12 6 | Leased, 1/5/88, £52 per ann. |
| Mannum Well..... | 45 15 0 | 6 0 | ..... | 6 0 | |
| Menamurtie Well..... | 122 0 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |  |
| Merri Merriwa Tank..... | 106 15 0 | 29 18 6 | ..... | 29 18 6 | |
| Mossgiel Tank..... | 122 0 0 | 53 12 7 | ..... | 53 12 7 | |
| Mount Manara Tank..... | 106 15 0 | 67 0 7 | ..... | 67 0 7 | |
| Mount Hope Tank..... | 106 15 0 | 78 8 9 | ..... | 78 8 9 | |
| Mulya Tank..... | 106 15 0 | 62 19 3 | ..... | 62 19 3 | |
| Muriel Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 45 16 8 | 45 16 8 | |
| Mount Elliott Tank..... | 106 15 0 | 49 6 10 | ..... | 49 6 10 | Leased, 1/11/88, £26 per ann. |
| Mowabla Tank..... | 106 15 0 | 19 15 1 | ..... | 19 15 1 | |
| Moombil Tank..... | 106 15 0 | 42 7 4 | ..... | 42 7 4 | |
| Murray Hut Well..... | ..... | ..... | 16 13 4 | 16 13 4 | |
| Milparinka Well..... | 54 8 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... | Taken over, 18/6/88. |
| Murlipa Tank..... | 49 4 0 | 41 2 6 | ..... | 41 2 6 | Tank taken over, 1/7/88. |
| Mulga, No. 5 Tank..... | 21 7 0 | 9 17 6 | ..... | 9 17 6 | Tank taken over, 31/8/88 ; leased, 1/12/88, £60 per ann. |
| North Roto Well..... | ..... | ..... | 17 10 0 | 17 10 0 | |
| Nullamut Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 43 15 0 | 43 15 0 | |
| Nevertire Tank..... | ..... | ..... | 50 0 0 | 50 0 0 | |
| Nymagee Tank..... | 112 17 6 | 209 6 7 | ..... | 209 6 7 | |
| One-tree Tank..... | 76 16 0 | 12 14 3 | 23 7 6 | 36 1 9 | Leased, 11/7/88, £76 per ann. |
| Old Gunbar Well..... | 122 0 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... | Water bad. |
| Pretty Pine Well..... | ..... | ..... | 33 6 8 | 33 6 8 | |
| Polygonum Hut Well..... | 99 2 6 | 40 13 8 | ..... | 40 13 8 | |
| Priory Tank..... | 106 15 0 | 48 3 11 | ..... | 48 3 11 | Leased, 1/11/88, £25 per ann. |
| Purmamoota Tank..... | 150 19 0 | 174 9 1 | ..... | 174 9 1 | |
| Pulletop Tank..... | 77 7 0 | 5 7 4 | 10 0 0 | 15 7 4 | Leased, 1/8/88, £40 per ann. |
| Quandong Tank..... | 122 0 0 | 27 14 8 | ..... | 27 14 8 | |

RETURN showing Wages paid and Revenue from 1st January to 31st October, 1888.

| Name of Watering Place. | Wages paid to Caretakers from 1 Jan. to 31 Oct., 1888. | Revenue Received. | | | Remarks. |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--|
| | | Fees collected by Caretakers. | Rent Received from Lessees. | Total Receipts. | |
| Roto Well | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | |
| Rock Holes Tank | 106 15 0 | 33 8 3 | 19 3 4 | 19 3 4 | |
| Rat Hole Tank | 137 5 0 | 181 1 10 | ..... | 33 8 3 | |
| Sixteen-mile Gums Tank | 122 0 0 | 53 5 0 | ..... | 181 1 10 | |
| Sandy Creek Tank | 106 15 0 | 45 0 6 | ..... | 53 5 0 | |
| Shearleg's Tank ..... | ..... | ..... | 41 13 4 | 45 0 6 | |
| Silverton Well | 156 4 0 | 85 15 10 | ..... | 41 13 4 | |
| Seaville's Tank | 18 6 0 | 8 15 2 | ..... | 85 15 10 | Tank taken over, 1/9/88. |
| Tom's Lake Tank ..... | ..... | ..... | 42 10 0 | 8 15 2 | |
| Til Til Tank | 122 0 0 | 41 1 5 | ..... | 42 10 0 | |
| Tindarie Tank | 106 15 0 | 28 17 2 | ..... | 41 1 5 | Leased, 1/11/88, £27 per ann. |
| Two Waterholes Tank ..... | ..... | ..... | 43 6 8 | 28 17 2 | |
| Thackaringa Tank | 149 11 0 | 239 4 5 | ..... | 43 6 8 | |
| Tambar Springs | 5 0 0 | ..... | ..... | 239 4 5 | No charge made for water. |
| The Lake Tank ..... | ..... | ..... | 41 13 4 | ..... |  |
| Thorndale Tank ..... | ..... | ..... | 41 13 4 | 41 13 4 | |
| Tinda Tank | 106 15 0 | 30 15 1 | ..... | 30 15 1 | |
| Twelve-mile Tank ..... | ..... | ..... | 47 10 0 | 47 10 0 | |
| Twenty-six-mile Tank | 73 12 0 | 120 7 7 | ..... | 120 7 7 | |
| Thirty-five-mile Tank | 122 0 0 | 99 13 0 | ..... | 99 13 0 | |
| The Peak Tank | 71 4 0 | 64 0 3 | ..... | 64 0 3 | Tank taken over, 1/6/88, leased, 1/11/88, £52 per an. |
| Tarella Tank | 49 4 0 | 82 7 7 | ..... | 82 7 7 | Tank taken over, 1/7/88. |
| Ulong Tank | 74 11 0 | 20 3 9 | 10 0 0 | 30 3 9 | Leased, 1/8/88, £40 per ann |
| Walla Walla Tank ..... | ..... | ..... | 41 13 4 | 41 13 4 | |
| Wangonilla Well | 122 0 0 | 51 1 7 | ..... | 51 1 7 | |
| Wooloondool Well ..... | ..... | ..... | 45 16 8 | 45 16 8 | |
| Wagga Tank | 106 15 0 | 42 10 2 | ..... | 42 10 2 | |
| Wicklowl Tank | 106 15 0 | 15 4 1 | ..... | 15 4 1 | |
| Waratta Tank | 54 8 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... | Tank taken over, 18/6/88. |
| Youhl Plains Tank ..... | ..... | ..... | 33 6 8 | 33 6 8 | |
| Yentabangee Tank ..... | ..... | ..... | 25 0 0 | 25 0 0 | |
| Totals | £8,186 17 6 | £3,841 18 3 | £1,571 19 6 | £5,413 17 9 | |

SUMMARY.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Total wages paid, 1st January to 31st October, 1888 | £8,186 17 6 |
| Total Revenue received | 5,413 17 9 |
| Number of watering places leased during 1888 | 58 |
| Total rental per annum | £2,716 10 0 |
| Average rental per annum | 46 16 9 |

30 November, 1888.

S. A. MYRING.

III.

ABSTRACT showing Prices paid per cubic yard for Excavating Tanks.

My Dear Sutherland, Department of Mines, 18 May, 1887.
 May I request you to have a return prepared for the Cabinet, showing the amount paid per cubic yard for excavation of the several tanks that have been constructed by the Roads Department, and oblige,
 Yours truly,
 F. ABIGAIL.

Mr. Bennett for report.—J.S., 19/5/87.

I would point out that at one time Mr. Bruce had absolutely promised seven tanks to Sloane & Co., at 1s. 4d. per cubic yard for a much easier specification. Further information, however.—Mr. Wood. Urgent.—W.C.B., 19/5/87.
 The prices paid for excavating 18 feet deep and removing to bank, range from 10½d. to 1s. 9d., as in the case of the Jindera and Boona tanks. I may add that in the latter case 2s. 2d. was asked for steam scoop excavation, so strongly advocated by the Mines. The average cost of 18 feet deep excavation, with sixty of the tanks constructed in the dry districts in the drought, has been 1s. 5d. per cubic yard. If further details are required, the cost per cubic yard of each tank can be given, but as this paper is marked "urgent," I have confined myself to information ready to hand.—A.P.W., 19/5/87.

My Dear Sutherland, Department of Mines, 31 May, 1887.
 Will you be good enough to inform me if the returns of the cost per cubic yard of the excavation of the tanks constructed in connection with your Department, are ready, my reason for asking being that I wish the Cabinet to settle the matter early; and this information is very necessary for that matter.

Faithfully yours,
F. ABIGAIL.

Mr. Bennett to say—J.S., 1/6/87.

Lists herewith; but this list should not be dealt with without referring to my paper of this day, with Mr. Wood's, both referring to application for transfer of charge to the Mines.—W.C.B., 1/6/87.

ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT showing Prices paid per cubic yard for Excavating Tanks.

| Road. | Locality. | Price. | Road. | Locality. | Price. |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| | | s. d. | | | s. d. |
| Deniliquin to Hay | Black Swamp | 1 1½ | Albury District..... | Carson's Swamp ... | 1 1 |
| | Pine Ridge | 1 2 | | Jindera..... | 0 10½ |
| Booligal to Wilcannia | Tom's Lake | 1 1 | | Walla Walla..... | 1 3 |
| | Mossgiel | 1 4 | | Lowesdale..... | 1 5 |
| | Ivanhoe..... | 1 7 | | Daysdale | 1 4 |
| | Ward's | 1 6 | | Brocklesby | 1 0 |
| | Twenty-six mile ... | 1 8 | Warren to Coonamble | Bullagreen | 1 3 |
| Wilcannia to Tibbooburra..... | Dry Lake | 1 6 | Balranald to Ivanhoe | Box Creek | 1 4 |
| | Tarella | 1 6 | | Til Til | 1 9 |
| | The Peak | 1 6 | Hay to Booligal | Quondong..... | 0 11½ |
| | Murlippa | 1 6 | Cobar to Bourke | Curraweena | 1 5 |
| | Cobham | 1 6 | Bourke to Hungerford | Ford's Bridge | 1 3 |
| | Warratta | 1 5 | Dubbo District | Girilambone | 1 9 |
| Balranald to Ivanhoe..... | Clare | 1 5 | Cobar to Bourke | Cobar (town) | 1 6 |
| | Thirty-four mile ... | 1 6 | | Cobar (stock) | 1 4 |
| Cobar to Louth | Cuttygullaroo | 1 6 | Nyngan to Cobar | Booroomugga | 1 6 |
| | Booroodarra | 1 6½ | | Muriel | 1 6 |
| | Kerrigundi | 1 5½ | | Hermitage | 1 8½ |
| | Sixty-four mile ... | 1 5 | Parkes to Bogan | Brolgan..... | 1 7 |
| Cobar to Bourke | Hillman's | 1 8 | Deniliquin to Hay | Sixteen-mile Gums | 1 1 |
| Bourke to Eringonia | The Lake | 1 5½ | Mossgiel to Paddington | Carowra Swamp ... | 1 7½ |
| | Clay-pan Hollow... .. | 1 5½ | Booligal to Wilcannia | Twelve-mile | 1 9 |
| Eringonia to The Culgoa | Eighteen-mile | 1 4 | Mount Hope | Mount Hope..... | 1 6 |
| | Lednppa | 1 5½ | Narrabri to Moree | Galathera | 1 3 |
| Byerock to Brewarrina | Mulga (No. 5) | 1 2½ | | Boggy Creek..... | 1 3 |
| | Nellie's Paddock ... | 1 9 | Wagga District | Coolamon | 0 11 |
| Nymagee to Nyngan | Babinda | 1 4 | | Glendon | 1 9 |
| | Gilgies | 1 4 | Walgett to Bangate | Boro | 1 3 |
| | Thorndale..... | 1 6½ | | Lightning Ridge .. | 1 8 |
| Trangie to Dandaloo | Derribong | 1 6 | Booligal to Wilcannia | Thirty-eight mile .. | 1 9 |
| Hillston to Cobar | Merri Merriwa..... | 1 9 | | Forty-eight mile ... | 1 9 |
| | Wagga | 1 9 | Wilcannia to Hungerford | Seaville's | 1 5 |
| | Rock Holes | 1 9 | Balranald to Ivanhoe | Dowdigans | 1 1 |
| | Sandy Creek | 1 8 | Wagga District..... | Wallendbeen | 1 3 |
| | Priory | 1 7 | | Ilabo | 1 2 |
| | Shearlegs | 1 9 | Wilcannia to Hungerford ... | Copago | 1 6 |
| | Breura | 1 9 | Cobar to Wilcannia | Meadows | 1 5 |
| Condoblin towards Cobar | Mowabla | 1 5½ | Bourke to Hungerford..... | Yantabulla | 1 2 |
| | Boona | 1 9 | Dubbo District | Tomingley | 1 1 |
| | Tinda | 1 9 | Narrandera to Grenfell | Harman's | 1 1½ |
| | Mombill | 1 9 | Whitton to Euabalong..... | Waterman's | 1 0½ |
| | Wicklow | 1 9 | | Twenty-seven mile .. | 1 0 |
| | Beloura | 1 6 | | Horse Lake | 0 11½ |
| | Nymagee | 1 9 | | Springfield | 1 2½ |
| | Keighran's | 1 7 | Cobar to Wilcannia | Barnato..... | 1 3½ |
| Whitt n to Euabalong | Nine-mile | 1 1 | | Jay Plains | 0 11 |
| | Pulletop | 1 2 | Silverton District | Broken Hill | 1 1 |
| | Mount Elliot | 1 1½ | Cobar to Bourke | Corilla | 1 3 |
| Silverton Distrit | Silverton | 1 6 | | Two Waterholes .. | 1 2½ |
| | Rat-hole | 1 6 | | Nullamut | 1 4 |
| | Wilson's | 1 4½ | | Tindarie | 1 4 |
| | Purnamoota | 1 6 | Silverton District | Silverton | 1 6 |
| | Thackaringa | 1 5 | | Seventy-one mile... .. | 1 2½ |

Department of Public Works, Tanks and Punts, Sydney, 4 February, 1888.

IN reply to the Commissioners' minute on attached note from the Secretary to the Tanks and Wells Commission, I have to submit the following cases in which prices in excess of 1s. 9d. per cubic yard have been paid for tank excavation:—

Nymagee Tank.—In this case the contractor, Henning, was allowed the sum of 10½d. per cubic yard over and above his contract price of 1s. 9d., for removing rock which had escaped detection in the trial shafts put down by the Department for the guidance of contractor. [4,362, at 10½d., £190 10s.; or, 1s. 11½d. per yard over the entire tank.]

Wicklow Tank.—This is a similar case to the above, where 1s. 9d. per cubic yard in excess of contract price of 1s. 9d., was paid for granite excavation. [£9 9s. extra, or, one-eighth of a penny extra, over the whole excavation.]

Nellie's Paddock.—In this case the contractor provided in his tender for rock excavation at 2s. 4d. per cubic yard, which was paid to him. [£157 10s. or, one half-penny per yard extra over the whole excavation.]

Mulga No. 5.—This work was abandoned by the contractor (Finn) when about five-sixths of the excavation was completed; the work was relet, and 3s. 10d. per cubic yard paid for the remaining one-sixth, which was a hard cemented gravel,—this price covered all trimming of slopes in cutting a bank. The contract price was 14½d., so that the average price in this case was under 1s. 9d.

I would again point out to the Commission that in no case has more than 1s. 9d. been paid for such excavation.

ARTHUR P. WOOD.

To illustrate the precautions taken in such matters, I forward the papers relating to the first-mentioned work. There has been some delay in looking the vouchers up at Audit Office, so that it is desirable a few days should be allowed to obtain any information of this sort which may be necessary for my defence.—W.C.B., 7/2/88.

Mr. Mahon, Secretary, Tanks and Wells Commission. B.C.

IV.

CONCERNING PROPOSED TRANSFER OF CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC WATERING PLACES TO MINES DEPARTMENT.

Department of Mines, 21 March, 1887.

THE administration of the Public Watering Places Act, 48 Vic. No. 16, which gives statutory authority for the construction, control, and maintenance of works for storing or providing water adjacent to any public road, is charged to the Department of Mines.

The administrative arrangements of 1880, which are still in force, also allot to that Department the charge of works for the storage of water in the pastoral districts. In addition to the control, maintenance, and leasing, the survey of the watering places and the construction of huts have more recently been undertaken, and it is now found necessary to assume the charge of fencing, and provision has been asked for that purpose on this year's Estimates.

The construction and repairs still remain with the Department of Public Works, but this division of authority is accompanied by drawbacks, such as much unnecessary correspondence, great loss of time, and a resulting want of economy, which it is thought will be obviated if the service is placed under one Department.

The Secretary for Public Works will perhaps agree with me that under the circumstances it might be desirable in the public interest that the whole of the business connected with these works, including construction and repair, be handed over to this Department.

FRANCIS ABIGAIL.

Memorandum.

Some causes, that may appear to indicate the advantage of reorganizing the respective duties of the Departments of Mines and of Public Works in connection with public watering places:—

1st. A divided control in construction and maintenance; weakening the administration, making it difficult, if not impossible, to apportion the responsibility; and failing in economy.

2nd. A divided control seems impossible without a considerable friction, waste of time in apparently unnecessary and sometimes intemperate correspondence, serious delays in the transfer of works, and an undesirable jealousy between officers.

(a) Hesitation may be shown in taking over a new work, upon a question whether the execution is good, or details sufficiently complete; the constructing Department, not unnaturally perhaps, objecting to such criticism, while the Department with whom the maintenance rests points out that it is responsible for the work taken over being in effective order.

(b) Repairs and alterations being necessary, the tendency of the constructing Department is to find fault with officers of the maintaining one, and to attribute the necessity to the carelessness of the officers; and a tendency on the other side to place the fault upon imperfect design or defective construction.

3rd. The Department administering the Act, dealing with the survey, measurement and leasing of the works, supervision of tenants and caretakers, will undoubtedly have to undertake the fencing; and it has been proposed to do so during the present year, and a sum for that purpose placed on the Estimates. The construction of huts has already been undertaken; if repairs and alterations are to follow, the construction alone will remain with the Works Department, and it may perhaps appear that the whole of the construction, maintenance, and administration would be more smoothly and economically dealt with if transferred to one or other of the Departments.

Memoranda as to Transfer of Tanks and Wells to Mines Department.

Department of Public Works, 18 April, 1887.

THE construction of the wells and tanks was commenced in 1869; a few sums of money were voted to make route from Booligal to the Darling passable; a party was sent out under Mr. Wood across this country, then almost unoccupied, to bore for water.

For some years those works were carried out as money was voted and to extend benefit as far as small sums admitted; it then became necessary to lease them, and the Crown Lands declining to delegate to this Office the power of leasing, the works were handed over to that Office as executed.

Failing to realize any revenue, the works without any supervision fell into a state of disrepair. Charge of repairs was resumed in 1881 by Roads Department, the leasing remaining in charge of the Crown Lands Department; in the interim the Mines took charge of the Crown Lands Occupation Branch and of these works.

The administrative arrangements of 1880, though described as works for the storage of water in the pastoral districts, were held at the time by the then Minister for Works to apply only to the letting of such works on lease and collection of tolls. Some time after the Mines assumed the right to select sites and determine what works should be carried out, and published in several printed reports in a conspicuous way—after the names of many of the works—"condemned"—in some instances without the slightest reason other than the injury by silting or otherwise, consequent on the neglect of that or the Lands Department, during the time the works were in their charge.

Much fault was found with the lifting and drinking apparatus which were on the inexpensive scale suited to the amounts of the grants with which we had to deal. No end of devices—syphons, double whips, &c.—were proposed by the officers of the Mines Department, and it was proposed to purchase expensive excavating machines by Fowler, of Leeds; those proposals were steadily resisted by this Department, and it was then sought to have an hydraulic engineer and staff for the Mines Department—this Mr. Abbott, the Minister, decided against.

The survey of the watering places, reserves, and of the leases, has, I believe, been carried out by the Mines. I presume this will revert to the Survey Department. The construction of huts was handed over to the Mines under the following circumstances:—They stated certain accommodation was required; tenders were invited by this office for permanent structures in accord with the views stated. The Mines officers, on receipt of tenders, stated that they could get the work done for one-half by their caretakers, and under the circumstances the vote was handed over to their charge.

I am not certain that the fencing has been transferred to them, as there has been no reference to the Minister for Works. There has been no delay or shortcoming by this Department in that respect. On the contrary, we have tenders accepted for almost the entire of the fencing; and are waiting in any cases where it has not been provided with, for the surveys by the officers of the Mines Department not yet completed. A re-vote is in this year's Estimates for this purpose. The only official transfer of this fencing to the charge of the Mines is the insertion of the word "fencing" in the long title of a vote; by what specific authority this was done I cannot say, but the vote is not yet passed.

The drawbacks accompanying the division of authority arise solely from the action of the officers of the Mines, and most certainly the unnecessary correspondence is entirely from these officers, and the want of economy is certainly not attributable to this office. On the contrary we have endeavoured on every occasion to simplify and cheapen the works, but in every case without avail. I may instance the cheap tanks put between Bourke and Cobar, which the Mines insisted should be supplied with expensive lifting and drinking apparatus. I have felt some reluctance so far in dealing with the minute signed by the Honorable the Minister of Mines, but I think if he were made fully aware of the facts he would perhaps alter his views.

I may now deal with the unsigned and undated memorandum accompanying minute which proposes to show some causes which may appear to indicate the advantages of reorganizing the respective duties of the Department of Mines and Public Works in connection with public watering places:—

1st. The divided control in construction and maintenance weakens the administration, making it difficult if not impossible to apportion the responsibility, and failing in economy.

These arguments are equally applicable to any other Department of the Service. As well might the Medical Board ask to be allowed the building of lunatic asylums and hospitals; or the Department of Justice the gaols, court-houses, and lock-ups; or the Military Department to build the Barracks; or the Postal Department to build roads and bridges because they were for their use. As well might they complain that want of such control weakens their administration.

As to the difficulty in apportioning responsibility, that is very simple to anyone reading over carefully the records; and I am confident that any impartial person conversant with the facts would have very little difficulty in attributing the entire responsibility for neglect and failures to the officers of the Mines Department. It would lengthen this paper too much to quote the countless instances of frivolous complaints put forward, the fault in most cases being that of the Mines officers themselves.

2nd. With all the reasons under this head I most cordially concur. First as to the friction—there is nothing so easy as to make an appearance of friction by groundless and frivolous complaints. There has been no friction introduced by the Roads officers, but simply to rebut the implied charges of inefficiency brought against them.

No

No waste of time has been caused by, and no intemperate correspondence has emanated from this office, though it has been exposed to exasperating and groundless criticism from unqualified persons.

(a) The hesitation in taking over works has arisen from the inability and disinclination of the Mines Office to decide whether work was complete or not, and has been avoided lately by a note being taken of the alleged defect. It is stated this Department naturally objects to criticism; on the contrary, it courts the fair criticism of qualified and impartial judges, and such has been pretty favourable.

(b) I have explained how (easy?) by the interpolation of the one word "fencing" in an estimate, it is to acquire that duty from this Department, without the approval or knowledge of the Minister. Similar action has gradually led to the transfer of all the other duties, and it is now intended to attain the end so long sought by the transfer of the construction, which I trust will not be allowed. Repairs and construction can best be attended to by the experienced officers of this Department, the best of whom are stationed in the districts where there are most tanks; and who in common with everyone else in the Department take a keen interest in the success of the works constructed by them, which they are anxious to preserve from the neglect experienced on previous occasions when the works were removed from charge of the Department. And I would point out, that whether we have the repair and construction of these tanks, &c., or not, the officers charged with such duty must be retained in their respective districts in order to provide for road and bridge necessities, so that though there can be no doubt the administration would be more smoothly dealt with, the economy of keeping two sets of professional officers—one for tanks, and one for roads and bridges, in the same district—is not so evident.

I have no doubt that when the officers of the Department of Mines understand that the settlement to be now made is final, and not to be disturbed, further friction will cease; and I am of opinion that the divided authority—the duties of both parties being clearly defined—will result in a public benefit, by the check which will be established on the officers of each Department in those out-of-the-way districts where effective and vigilant superintendence is so difficult.

WILLIAM C. BENNETT.

I append a memoranda of Mr. Wood, Assistant-Engineer.

General Control of Tanks and Wells.

Roads, Sydney, 18 April, 1887.

In reference to the accompanying minute, signed by the Honorable the Minister for Mines, and the attached memoranda forming the basis of that minute, I have to submit for your consideration the following remarks:—

The minute, after defining the duties of the "Mines," under arrangements made in 1880, such duties being confined to the charge of works, further states, that in addition that Department has undertaken: (1.) The survey of watering places; (2.) the construction of huts; and that it is now found necessary to (3.) assume charge of fencing.

1. The survey of watering places was never carried out by us, so there is no necessity for me to deal with it further than to state that, had the work been left with the Survey Department, there would have been less delay in obtaining the necessary delineation of boundaries on which we have fenced the areas in question; there would have been less call for alterations in existing fencing after plans had been submitted, and no necessity for sending surveyors three and four times over the same work.

2. The construction of huts was vested, with the rest of the construction work, in this Department—tenders were invited and received for three-room cottages, and were then forwarded to the "Mines" for their final decision as to whether, in the face of the heavy expenditure on tank works, it was still considered desirable to proceed with their erection. All these works were in the dry districts, many of them being in most out-of-the-way places where material would be difficult to procure, and the tenders averaged about £85 each, and were recommended as being reasonable by our local officers. The Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places thought otherwise, and as the "Mines" stated they could carry them out more reasonably than we were prepared to do, this Department, though doubtful of the fact, thought, that in the public interest, they should have the opportunity of proving their case and if possible reduce the expenditure. At the same time it was considered that certain conditions should be imposed, fixing the standard of work and providing for information as to the cost of same. The Mines, as was naturally expected, accepted the construction, but as was also naturally to be expected, declined being bound by any condition on which a comparison could be based. In this way was the work acquired, and then only as regarded the erection of these huts at existing tanks and wells, then unprovided with such accommodation; their erection on all subsequent works having been provided for in the main construction contract. So far, I believe, no huts have been completed by the Mines, and so far no direct proof is forthcoming as to the wisdom or otherwise of handing a large sum of money to that Department for this purpose.

3. The charge of the fencing has always been under this Department, and after much patient thought, I have been unable to imagine on what grounds it is considered necessary for the Mines to assume charge of this particular work, unless it is to confine the evils connected with errors of survey to their Department, and save ours from the disagreeable duty of going over work twice on account of mistakes for which it is not responsible. If this is not the reason, it may possibly be found in the fact that having gradually absorbed or abstracted bit by bit much of the work from other Departments, they can then find a better claim for the transfer of the balance. This latter view is probably correct, as it is practically advanced as a reason for the transfer; concealed, however, to a certain extent, by statements with which I shall presently have to deal. To do this the more effectively, and to preclude the possibility of being charged with "interference with the functions of the Honorable the Minister for Mines," I will now traverse the statements advanced in the unsigned memoranda:—

"1. A divided control in construction and maintenance weakening the administration, making it difficult, if not impossible, to apportion the responsibility, and failing in economy."

This clause can best be taken in conjunction with the next.

"2. A divided control seems impossible without a considerable friction, waste of time in apparently unnecessary, and sometimes intemperate correspondence, serious delays in the transfer of works, and an undesirable jealousy between officers."

I am well aware of, and have on many occasions had to point out the evils of a divided control—have endeavoured to show that the only connection originally obtained by the Mines with these works was that due to their being vested with the control of the stock routes and reserves on which the tanks and wells were constructed, a duty that necessitated these works being leased by that Department, and to this their connection with them should be limited—though even that connection could be avoided by a very slight alteration in the Act.

The connection with the Mines has been gradually extended, with the result that good works have been neglected and condemned, and obstacles thrown in the way of this Department carrying out necessary repairs, because routine was neglected, and some weeks' time lost in passing reports and instructions through the two Departments. On the other hand, constant and frivolous complaints are made in reference to repairs, necessary or imaginary, and our officers sent travelling scores of miles in a most annoying and unnecessary manner. On the one hand we are guilty of "interference with the Minister's functions" (as per minute herewith relating to coating of tanks) if we do the work at once without waiting instructions from the Mines; and on the other hand if we neglect the public interest and observe strictly the rules and regulations, innumerable complaints are formulated against us. "Friction" is then complained of,—the wonder would be if under such conditions it did not exist. Charges of that nature can be brought against the most perfect and smoothest running machinery when the man in charge is seized with the absurd idea that sand is a better lubricant than oil.

"Waste of time" can most certainly not be charged against this Department, while as regards the question of "jealousy" it is quite safe to say that no officers of ours have the slightest grounds for any jealous feeling in regard to any of the Mines officers with whom they have had the pleasure of being brought into contact.

(a) "Hesitation may be shown in taking over a new work, upon a question whether the execution is good or details sufficiently complete, the constructing department not unnaturally perhaps objecting to such criticism, while the department with whom the maintenance rests, points out that it is responsible for the works taken over being in effective order."

The framer of these memoranda is perfectly correct in this case when he states that the "constructing department not unnaturally objects to such criticism." Fair and competent criticism is always valuable, and even when unpleasant can be respected; but criticism from gentlemen who, however capable they may be as inspectors of stock, are quite ignorant of constructive or mechanical detail, can be of little value especially when assertive and incorrect.

This (a) clause assumes relations between the two departments that do not exist; it assumes that we are simply the constructors, without any responsibility for maintenance. We are responsible for all repairs, with a concession to the

Mines that where necessary to save time—not waste it—they can expend a sum of money not exceeding £10. Criticism on design or on character of construction, provided the water can be properly supplied, is therefore unnecessary; but it is to be regretted that this is not recognized, and of my own pastoral knowledge I can certainly say that such unnecessary criticism has, in addition, been in many cases incorrect and most unjust. At the same time, I am quite prepared to admit that there have been defects in some of the details of construction in some of the works—defects that have necessitated repairs in some cases; but it is a strange thing that this army of ready critics, with which we have to deal, have failed in these cases to prove their qualifications for this role, having given us receipts for the works in good order and condition.

(b) "Repairs and alterations being necessary, the tendency of the constructing department is to find fault with officers of the maintaining one, and to attribute the necessity to the carelessness of the officers, and a tendency on the other side to place the fault upon imperfect design or defective construction."

The maintenance here referred to is that carried out, or that should be carried out, by the caretakers of the Mines or by the lessees. Unfortunately, there is too much ground for complaint as to the way in which these duties are performed. We have numberless complaints as to these men being absent from their duty; of neglect of drains, fencing, pumping gear, and appurtenances; and, worse than all, notwithstanding this neglect, a strong objection on the part of the Mines to our officers, who are constantly travelling these districts, and seeing these works, giving any instructions to the men in charge. Such neglect with consequent damage must accumulate until it has been inspected by a stock officer, reported to head office, and instructions passed through us to our local officers. I can readily understand that it must be most exasperating to the gentlemen who have constructed these works—their professional reputation at stake—to see them neglected, and to know that the consequent injury to the works is brought before them in the form of a complaint from the offending party, and to have to make long, expensive, and unnecessary journeys to attend to repairs which they might have had done when present in the first instance.

In the third clause of these memoranda the framer twists the strands together—shows how the Mines are charged with the administration of the Public Watering Places Act; how, by a slow process of absorption, they have acquired the survey of the public watering places, the construction of huts, and the partial general maintenance; how, by some unknown process, the introduction of one word—whether by the actual consent of the Minister or not—it has been decided that they "will undoubtedly have to undertake the fencing,"—thus by a piece-meal process of quiet, patient abstracting, leaving this Department construction only. Then the final twist is given to these strands, and the result stands boldly out in the form of a suggestion that "the whole could be more smoothly and economically dealt with if transferred to one or the other of the Departments." The inference as to which is obvious. When an octopus stretches forth its arms and fastens them one by one round its victim's arms and legs, and then suggests a transfer, it can be safely predicated that the transfer must be into the octopus; and that nothing but the entire man is intended. Similarly, there is not much room for doubt but that it is the intention of the Mines to absorb the entire work connected with tanks and wells. If such a transfer can be proved to be in the public interest, then there should be no opposition to this course being adopted,—if it is not in the public interest, then the claims of a far older Department than that of the Mines—the claims of officers who have been connected with these works from their initiation—are surely worthy of consideration.

I have no hesitation in stating that I consider any such transfer as that proposed would not be in the public interest; and I will give reasons that should free me from any charge of having formed a prejudiced opinion.

These works were initiated by this Department in 1869, and the whole of the small amount then available was expended between Booligal and Wilcannia; the tanks and wells then constructed were satisfactory to the Department and to the general public, being highly spoken of at the time, and adjudged the best works of the kind in the western districts. Since then about 130 more works have been constructed on the stock routes, nearly the whole of which have been handed over to the Mines, and receipts obtained showing them to have been in good order. The major portion of these works was carried out under very great difficulties during an exceptionally prolonged and disastrous drought, and when handing some of these works over to the Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places, he expressed himself as much pleased with the general design and the arrangement of details; on this point, I have no doubt he will bear me out. As all our subsequent works have been constructed on a similar type, I fail to see where the grounds for complaint arise. That such complaints are numerous our records can prove; as also, that in the majority of cases, they are due to the neglect of their own caretakers or lessees, or have no foundation in fact. If the overseers of public watering places are unequal to the duty of carrying out an efficient maintenance, it follows, *a fortiori* that they will be also unequal to laying out, designing, and supervising the construction. It is a fair assumption that none of the inspectors of stock, who are also overseers of public watering places, can use a level, and as that instrument is greatly required in laying out these works, that consequently they would be placed at a great and unfair disadvantage. Their stock duties, too, would not allow of efficient supervision being bestowed on these works, as is the case now; therefore, to properly carry out the works it would be necessary for the Mines to employ special officers, create a new staff at considerable extra cost to the country;—this, too, without any reduction in the staff of this Department now supervising these works, for their presence would still be required in their respective districts to supervise the other work of the Department.

A transfer to the Mines would thus be a source of great extra expense; the work would not be carried out in a more satisfactory manner, as I am sure the Commissioner will agree with me that our staff in the dry districts is fully competent for more important and extensive works than these; and that the general character of the work done is satisfactory. There being nothing to gain by such a transfer it could not be looked on as being anything but an injustice to take it out of the hands of those who have faithfully striven to do their duty, and have done it well.

ARTHUR P. WOOD,
Assistant Engineer.

The Commissioner for Roads.

Fencing at Public Watering Places.

Department of Mines, Public Watering Places Branch, Sydney, 11 May, 1887.

THIS letter from Mr. Overseer Yeo, shows the prices given by Mr. Stilwell for the erection of fencing at the Ivanhoe tank:—

First and original contract to Bevan, £112 per mile.

Bevan sublet to R. Elliot; price not ascertained.

Elliot sublet again to Anderson, 30s. per 100 for getting posts; £18 per mile for erecting same; £5 per 100 for carting posts from Kajulijah to Ivanhoe;

Equal to about £52 per mile, to which may be added cost and carriage of wire from Hay, showing that from £35 to £40 per mile has been paid in the excessive price given over and above a fair estimate; and about £60 per mile above the current station rates, which should not, I submit, be exceeded by this Department. In submitting these particulars I may state that from what I understand the prices paid for fencing upon this road, and indeed at most of the public watering places fenced by Roads and Bridges Branch are greatly in excess of ordinary rates; but this is the only instance in which I have directed the overseer to endeavour to verify the statements.

I have, however, reports from Mr. Inspector Boulton and Mr. Overseer Keighran, and a declaration made by the late caretaker of the One-tree tank, of a very undesirable and I may say unfortunate concession to some fencing contractors, by allowing them to dispense with straining posts.

I append extracts that bear very forcibly upon the existing state of things, and show the necessity of the Government making a stand against the exorbitant prices, that the careless manner of accepting contracts have induced contractors now to stand out for.

The Under Secretary for Mines.

HARRY GILLIAT.

Sydney, 9 March, 1887.

I, George Young, late caretaker of the One-Tree tank, do hereby make the following declaration: That the fence enclosing the said tank is strained from corner post to corner post, a distance of 160 yards, and that there are no intermediate straining posts. The knots in the wire from the length of the strain are prevented from being drawn tight. The wire is slack and cannot be properly strained without the intermediate straining posts. It is not usual in fencing to have this length of strain; the fence was left in this condition by the contractors a few days before I took charge.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the ninth year of the Reign of Her present Majesty, intituled, "An Act for the more effectual abolition of Oaths and Affirmations taken and made in various Departments of the Government of New South Wales, and to substitute declarations in lieu thereof, and for the suppression of voluntary and extra-judicial Oaths and Affidavits."

Taken and declared at Sydney aforesaid, }
this ninth day of March, A.D., 1887. }

GEORGE YOUNG.

ALEX. BRUCE, J.P.

Extract

Extract from letter from Mr. Overseer Tully, Wilcannia, *re* fencing in his district, 19th March, 1887.

"Wire delivered anywhere within 100 miles of Wilcannia £20 per mile. If a supply of the wire required was purchased privately it could be delivered here under £14 per ton. At least the stores offer to supply it at that price, and carriage is very low at present.

Ferguson, Wilcannia, quotes by wire on 11th inst. Best brands No. 8 steel wire, £13 5s. a ton.

"M. J. C. TULLY."

Extract from Mr. Overseer Yeo's letter of 5th May, 1887.

"Their (the contractors') tenders would be ridiculous, as they inform me the huts would cost from £90 to £120; in fact they are very reluctant in giving any information to assist me, as they are afraid if they do it will be the means of cutting down the very high prices they have previously received for Government works.

"J. YEO."

Administration of Public Watering Places.

Department of Mines, Public Watering Places, Sydney, 13 May, 1887.

It appears, to put it briefly, from Mr. Bennett's minute, that the difficulties connected with the maintenance and construction of public watering places are chiefly the fault of the officers of the Mines Department.

There are no doubt faults in this as in other Departments, but I submit that this is not a reply to the Ministerial minute, or to my memorandum prepared for the Secretary for Mines, and which I regret to see was forwarded to the Works Department unsigned, but which I desire to acknowledge and affirm as an impartial statement.

The papers now annexed are a few of the cases referred to by the Commissioner for Roads; they are not selected, but are some of the more recent ones, and do not, I respectfully submit, bear out the contention of Mr. Bennett; the character of the minutes written by the Mines and Works officers will speak for themselves.

With reference to economy in construction I must refer to the cost of hutting as quoted by the Works Department, and the rates now being paid by this Department. With respect to the fencing, I must refer to the Ivanhoe case; with respect to construction of tanks, reference may perhaps be allowed to the Dry Lake, Seavilles, Cobbham Lake, and Copago tanks; the first three new tanks, the latter an old one, but all four under water for the last fifteen months; to the Paroo tanks, three of which are sunk within easy distance of water more permanent than they afford.

Mere professional training in the construction of tanks is hardly, I contend, so much required as practical experience and absolute economy; pastoral tenants construct scores of tanks for one by the Government, comparing favourably in most respects, at cheaper rates per cubic yard; and I fail to see why Government work should be paid so much in excess of private, and I venture to submit the opinion that contractors would not ask it if they were properly supervised and promptly paid.

It will be neither necessary nor desirable in my opinion to maintain such a staff as employed by the Commissioner for Roads; half a dozen active practical men, similar to Mr. Inspector Boulton, with ample bush experience, who can use a level, will readily do all the work required—ensuring, I have every reason to believe, a marked reduction in prime outlay without interfering with efficiency. The result, as shown with the hutting, is in favour of this view.

The reflections upon the officers of this Department have been, I think, uncalled for, and unjust.

HARRY GILLIAT.

Mr. Bennett will please make a careful report on the difference between the items shown on the enclosed papers as soon as possible.—J.S., 17/5/87.

APPENDIX A.

COMPARATIVE Statement, showing prices of tenders recommended for acceptance by the Works Department, and the prices at which this Department is doing the work, namely, erection of cottage.

| District. | Works Tender. | | | Mines Tender. | | |
|---------------------|---------------|----|----|---------------|------|-----|
| | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| Bourke | 93 | 7 | 8 | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| Cobar | 82 | 6 | 0 | *55 | 0 | 0 |
| Corowa | 68 | 0 | 0 | *40 | 7 | 10 |
| Silverton | | | | Iron | *50 | 0 |
| Wilcannia | | | } | Iron | 52 | 13 |
| | | | | Wood | 69 | 0 |
| Deniliquin | 69 | 10 | 0 | *44 | 3 | 6 |
| Condobolin | 78 | 19 | 9 | | 47 | 2 |
| Coonabarabran | | | | | 54 | 3 |
| Narrandera | 87 | 10 | 8 | | 50 | 0 |
| Balranaid | | | | | 59 | 17 |
| Albury | 68 | 0 | 0 | } | Iron | 48 |
| | | | | | Wood | 54 |
| Ivanhoe | 114 | 7 | 1 | } | Iron | *56 |
| | | | | | Wood | 58 |
| Forbes | | | | | *26 | 1 |

NOTE.—The estimates are for wooden cottages, and those marked * have been let. Those not marked are still under consideration or have been approved.

APPENDIX B.

FENCING.

OVERSEERS have only been lately asked to furnish specifications and estimates for fencing, in their districts, and replies have not been received from all.

The following have replied, and the price quoted is per mile complete.

| | £ | s. | d. | |
|------------------|----|----|----|---|
| Narrandera | 59 | 11 | 0 | per mile. |
| Silverton | 75 | 0 | 0 | |
| Cobar | 38 | 0 | 0 | to 45 0 0 according to distance from Cobar. |
| Deniliquin | 69 | 0 | 0 | |
| Condobolin | 39 | 19 | 0 | |
| Wilcannia | 52 | 0 | 0 | |

Reply

Reply to Mines' Minutes of 13th May.

1 June, 1887.

IN reply to Mines paper of 13th May, I would first remark that Mr. Gilliat is incorrect in stating that my paper of the 10th May is not a reply to the Mines papers; it is not only a reply in full, but contains information necessary to the proper comprehension of the subject, and which also shows that Mr. Gilliat's statements are anything but impartial or correct.

Appendix F does not appear to have been sent on with the papers, but as it would appear, it alludes to cases stated to have been referred to by me. I herewith forward a book kept of the complaints from the Mines officers, which I think will be found to bear out my statement—that harassing and frivolous complaints were made by the officers of that Department. It is inferred that the character of the minutes from this office bear unfavourable comparison with those of the Mines, but when old public servants are accused of incompetence and maladministration, if not worse, it is excusable if they do write plainly.

With reference to economy in construction, it is inferred that tenders have been obtained on the plans and specifications of this office, as prepared to meet the peremptory requisition of the Mines office, and as will be seen by the papers, contrary to the advice of this office, which considered the cottages one of the unnecessary expenses, as the papers will show. Table appendix A to Mines paper states that a tender has been obtained for such cottages at £26 1s. 6d. This is simply impossible, and serves to throw doubt on all the statements.

The only building on list which has been seen by any officer of this Department is that at Silverton, which I am informed is a two-room corrugated iron building erected by the caretaker and stated to have cost £50. It is contrasted on list with the weatherboard three-room cottages for which tenders were received by this office at Deniliquin. List shows that a cottage has been let for £44 3s. 6d. I append the telegram from Mr. Cronin by which it appears that it is a two-room cottage without paint. As it is not yet built we cannot contrast it with those for which tenders were received by this Department, and it is not clear from Mr. Cronin's message that more than the supply of material has been let; it would also appear that the work is being carried out piecemeal with the help of caretaker.

The question of fencing has been dealt with at length in Mr. Woods' memo., attached. In the instance quoted—the Ivanhoe tank fencing—was an extension of a contract for which tenders had been three times invited, and it was with great difficulty anyone could be got to undertake it. Nearly all the fencing done by this Department under great pressure from the Mines (in order to lease the works) was let in dry weather; they now point out that because we paid the high prices then demanded, that we have been careless and extravagant, but now in this favourable season, tenders only just obtained by Department for work in this vicinity are but £12 a mile or 9 per cent. less. Fresh tenders have been invited.

With reference to the few tanks stated to be under water, two of the sites were supported by Mr. Gilliat, namely, Dry Lake and Cobham—at the former a house built on a slight elevation over the tank was submerged to the eaves. Scavilles and Copago tanks were sunk at sites concurred in by local officer of the Mines, and those on the Paroo were defined in vote to be on that river, and it matters little where they were sunk in that Valley, as all would have been submerged; that they were sunk within easy distance of permanent water is incorrect, as has been disproved before. This work was done more than ten years ago and by an officer not now in the service.

Professional training seems to be objected to, but where the practical experience, ability, and determination for absolute economy exist, I think professional knowledge is at least no drawback. Messrs. Cronin, Stilwell, Hanna, Smijth, Coleman, and Adam are as well able to properly supervise those works as any equal number of officers in the Mines. Fortunately the characters of many of those gentlemen are well-known, and the number is not greater than that proposed by Mr. Gilliat.

Why the squatters' tanks are let at cheaper rates per cubic yard is explained by Mr. Wood. The opinions that the contractors would not ask it if they were properly supervised and properly paid, are both equally baseless. As to the supervision, I have said sufficient; as to the prompt payment, an arrangement was made that 50 per cent. be paid by local officer's cheque, immediately on measuring, and remainder as soon as office routine permitted, in common with all other payments at this office.

I maintain that, all things equal, excavation cannot be done cheaper than by this Department. I believe that public competition is the safest and fairest way of letting work, and we have always understood that any other mode of letting work is illegal, and contrary to a resolution of Parliament.

With reference to the concluding paragraph of Mr. Gilliat's paper—that remarks on the Mines officers were uncalled for or unjust—surely it is not supposed that old and tried officers will permit their work of more than twenty years to be taken out of their hands in this way without some effort to prevent it; and as to those remarks being unjust, I have only stated what I believe to be true.

With reference to the concluding paragraph of Mr. Gilliat's memo. on fencing, as to the careless manner in which contracts have been accepted at exorbitant rates, the records will prove the manner in which this Department was driven to accept such tenders by those who now find fault.

I have obtained from the Railway Department the prices paid for such tanks along the Bourke line as varying from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. Our prices vary from 10½d. to 1s. 9d., and as I have stated the Mines themselves proposed to let seven to one man at 1s. 4d.

W.C.B.

Extracts from Mr. Gilliat's Minutes of 11th and 13th May, 1887, and replies thereto, by Mr. A. P. Wood.

Mr. Gilliat's statements.

1. Estimate of fencing "showing that from £35 to £40 per mile has been paid in excessive price given over and above a fair estimate, and about £60 per mile above the current station rates which should not, I think, be exceeded by this Department. In submitting these particulars I may state that from what I understand the prices paid for fencing upon this road, and indeed at most of the public watering places fenced by the Roads and Bridges Branch, are greatly in excess of ordinary rates, but this is the only instance in which I have directed the overseer to endeavour to verify the statements."

Replies.

I would point out that this is an exceptional case; that in the majority of instances the fencing has not cost more than £80 per mile.

The detail prices quoted have been obtained since the breaking up of the drought; and when an officer, anxious, like Mr. Yeo, to prove a case against this Department, has private conferences with contractors,—they, knowing his object, would be quite prepared to give him information calculated to serve his views, though I have little doubt they would at the same time hesitate very much to accept the work, even under existing conditions, at the prices quoted by them; their object being, as can be readily inferred, to assist in a change that must be to their advantage. The work in question, like most of the fencing throughout the western districts was let during and exceptionally severe drought, when the prices would necessarily be considerably in excess of the average rates. Tenders were invited several times, and eventually, as we were constantly being urged by the Mines to have this particular class of work carried out without delay, the lowest received tender was accepted; and it is submitted that the results obtained from public tendering must be accepted as giving the best evidence of the then value of the work, and as being more reliable than the biased information on which Mr. Yeo's estimate was apparently based. A proof of the correctness of this view is afforded by the fact that in many of the contracts in question it has been difficult to get contractors to accept extensions of their works at the original rates.

The comparison between the prices paid by the Crown lessees and by the Government is most inequitable. Station fencing is of a totally different standard to that required for the public watering places, as the latter has to be cattle, sheep, goat, and pig-proof; whereas the station fencing has only to be sheep-proof. And though this Department is accused of extravagance, the fencing adopted is of a much cheaper type than that recommended by the Mines, when these works were initiated. The Crown lessees generally carry out these works in favourable seasons, and afford their contractors every facility in their execution—giving grass and water, very often rations at cost price, providing for repairs to plant, permitting ready and short access through paddocks for haulage of material, and frequently assisting with the loan of draught cattle. It must also be borne in mind that the stations only pay half the usual rates of freight for wire, as it is carried as back-loading during the wool season, and is also delivered to their contractors on the ground.

With

Mr. Gilliat's statements

Replies

With Government contractors the conditions are nearly reversed. Where the station contractor finds every facility afforded him, the other finds only obstruction. In dry seasons grass and water is absolutely refused, rations most difficult to obtain, and access by direct routes through paddocks for haulage of material is forbidden; consequently great detours have to be made, proportionally increasing the cost of carrying out the work, and in some cases, leading to the indefinite suspension of the works in hand.

Another point worth consideration as bearing on the increased cost of the fencing is that all these works are carried out on the stock routes, where the grass or herbage is sooner exhausted than it is in the station paddocks.

Again, if, as is alleged, station fencing equal to ours is erected at much lower rates, it would appear strange that station fencers seldom tender for our work, and that when they do, they demand equally as high or higher rates, the work being open to all desirous of tendering. The inference to be drawn from this is that the large profits assumed to be made by Government contractors have no existence, and that the lower-priced station work offers greater inducements to these men than the necessarily higher standard of work we have to adopt for the public watering places.

The papers alluded to as having been received from Messrs. Boulton and Keighran have not been attached to Mr. Gilliat's minute, but we are supplied with the declaration made by the late caretaker of the "One Tree" tank.

In this, the only case adduced, there is no ground for the assertion that an "undesirable," "unfortunate," or in fact any concession having been made to the contractor. None of the fencing enclosing tanks is provided with other than the corner straining posts, as has been done at the "One Tree," nor do the specifications provide for any beyond these. If the adoption of this course is now considered such an evil, it is strange that this is the first time since the Mines have dealt with these works that any complaint has been made. Had that Department expressed any particular desire for this unnecessary addition the extra posts could have been provided without any increase in the cost of construction.

The extracts submitted have not in any way proved that exorbitant prices have been paid for tank and well works, and I think it would have been wiser to have provided very strong proof before practically accusing this Department of maladministration in carrying out these works, as also of criminal negligence, if not worse, in dealing with the public funds. It is almost unnecessary for me to state that tenders for these works have to pass through the same routine as tenders for other works under the Department, and it is hardly to be expected that a system which has borne the test of time as this has, will be much damaged by the criticism of an officer having a very limited, if any, experience of these matters.

I submit on attached schedule the prices obtained by the "Mines" from their local officers for the erection of caretakers' cottages; when quoting these prices to the prejudice of this Department, it appears to have been forgotten that estimates had been obtained from the same officers during a similar season to that during which our tenders were obtained. These are given in the first column of schedule attached.

In the endeavour to make a strong case against this Department by comparing the Mines quoted prices with the tenders we submitted, it appears that several very important features have been neglected, which, had they received due consideration would have materially altered the relative rates.

In 1883, prior to taking a vote for the erection of caretakers' cottages, we were furnished with a report from the Mines, informing us that from estimates obtained by the local officers of that Department it was found that two-roomed weather-board cottages would cost from £56 to £100; and in October, 1885, an extra room was recommended, and by minute of the Minister for Mines, the addition was authorized.

Tenders were invited for these works in May of last year (1886), when the season was as bad or worse than that of 1883—when the information was obtained by the Mines on which the estimate of cost of these works was based.

The tenders for three-room cottages ranged from £68 to £117, or from £12 to £17 in excess of the Mines estimate for two-rooms, which reduces our tenders to a more reasonable amount than the Mines Department expected these works to cost.

These tenders were submitted to the Mines for an expression of opinion as to whether, considering the great expense that had been already incurred with the tank works, it was still considered advisable to carry out this particular work. The tenders were, generally speaking, reasonable; but the Mines reported that they could carry out the work at a lesser cost, ignoring the fact that the offers submitted by us were below their own estimate; but on the strength of their statement the work was transferred to them, as it was considered that in the public interest they should have a chance of proving it. It will thus be seen that this so called extravagant expenditure was never undertaken by this Department, as with some few exceptions, no caretakers' cottages have been erected by us.

A schedule is now produced in which the tenders received by us are compared unfavourably with those received by the Mines; but it does not give any information to prove that the comparisons are fair; no word as to the size and accommodation afforded by these huts, nor as to the character of the work required; no information as to whether these tenders were obtained publicly or privately; as to whether they were prepared on a regular plan and specification, or on a vague verbal description. No allowance is made for the difference that contractors would make in their tenders if the work was supervised by the Mines local officers, and it is needless to say that without such elements of comparison being given, no such conclusion as is arrived at can fairly be deduced.

It is patent that the character of the seasons has a very important bearing on the cost of work undertaken in the western districts, but no allusion is made to this, though the statement is said to be impartial.

This alleged impartiality would have been less open to suspicion if when the Mines officers considered we were paying too much for works in connection with tanks and wells, they had through their office drawn our attention to it at the time. The information that has been gathered, and that it is now attempted to use against us, has been available for a very considerable time and on as good grounds as now, should long since have been brought forward and a remedy pointed out.

2. "I have, however, reports from Mr. Boulton and Mr. Keighran, and a declaration made by the late caretaker of the One Tree tank of a very undesirable, and I may say, unfortunate, concession to some fencing contractors by allowing them to dispense with straining posts."

3. "I append extracts that bear very forcibly upon the existing state of things, and show the necessity of the Government making a stand against the exorbitant prices that the careless manner of accepting contracts have induced contractors now to stand out for."

4. "With reference to economy in construction, I must refer to the cost of hutting, as quoted by the Works Department, and the rates now being paid by this Department."

Mr Gilliat's statements.

5. "With respect to construction of tanks, reference may perhaps be allowed to the Dry Lake, Seavilles, Cobham Lake, and Copaga tanks; the first three new tanks, the latter an old one, but all four under water for the last fifteen months—to the Paroo tanks, three of which are sunk within easy distance of water, more permanent than they afford."

6. "Pastoral tenants construct scores of tanks for one to the Government, comparing favourably in most respects, at cheaper rates per cubic yard, and I fail to see why Government work should be paid so much in excess of private, and I venture to submit the opinion that contractors would not ask it if they were properly supervised and promptly paid."

7. "It will be neither necessary nor desirable, in my opinion, to maintain such a staff as employed by the Commissioner for Roads. Half a dozen active practical men, similar to Mr. Inspector Boulton, with ample bush experience, who can use a level, will readily do all the work required, ensuring, I have every reason to believe, a marked reduction in prime outlay."

Replies

The Dry Lake and Cobham Lake tanks are sunk on sites supported by Mr. Gilliat's own report on the watering of the road from Wilcannia to Mount Browne; Seavilles and Copaga I have not seen, but the very fact of the sites being flooded is a proof that they have been constructed in suitable places; and as the Department was instructed to sink such tanks along the Paroo, much greater fault would have been found if to avoid floods the higher ground had been kept off the reserve, and in places where tanks were not likely to receive any supply but from the heaviest rains. It is well known that the rainfall has been exceptional in these localities, and that the flooding of the Dry Lake has never happened before. It is also well known that there is an unprecedented depth of water in the Cobham Lake, which has quite upset the opinion given in the report I have alluded to. The Paroo tanks I have never seen, but from what I have heard there was water in these works when there was no natural water in the Paroo, to judge of their value at the present time, when there is abundance of water through the country, is barely fair.

The statement that most station or private tanks will compare favourably with the Government work, is incorrect; the latter being acknowledged as the most complete works of the kind in the Colony. The statement that they cost more per cubic yard of earth excavated is quite true, but I will presently prove that water is conserved in them under conditions reversing the difference in cost.

1. The average station tank is much shallower than ours, and is excavated with much flatter slopes, and this makes a great difference in the cost. A tank 18 feet deep, such as ours, and costing say 1s. 6d. per cubic yard, would be put down to a depth of 12 feet with 4 to 1 slopes for 1s. or 6d. per cubic yard less, but the advantage of the extra depth in dry seasons more than compensates for the extra cost. The Government tanks must, as far as possible, give a permanent supply, and very few of these works have failed; whereas in long-continued droughts a very large number of station tanks run dry. The loss due to the flat slopes adopted by the squatters is shown by the following analysis, giving the salient points of difference between two tanks of the same depth and nearly equal capacities, but with 1½ to 1 and 4 to 1 slopes respectively:—

| | Depth tanks, 1½ to 1. | Station tanks, 4 to 1. |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Capacity..... | 21,226 cubic yards | 22,275 cubic yards. |
| Mean depth | 14.3 feet | 9.6 feet. |
| Evaporation area | 40,000 square feet | 62,500 square feet. |
| Soakage area..... | 45,536 ,, ,, | 64,636 ,, ,, |

These figures speak volumes for the advantages of steep slopes, which with increased depth as compared with station tanks, I have stated to be the chief cause of the increased cost. The steep slopes give an increase of 50 per cent. in the mean depth, a decrease of 30 per cent. in the evaporation area, and a decrease of 30 per cent. in the soakage area. These figures are in themselves sufficient to warrant the increased cost, but this increase is further covered by the lessened evaporation due to the formation of a high embankment round the tank with the excavated material; this tends to the increase of cost. This embankment is in many cases utilized for the conservation of water above the surface of the ground, and in these cases the extra cost is covered by this advantage, which as far as it operates by storing 2 yards of water for one of excavation, reduces the cost by one-half.

There are causes which necessarily make Government tanks more costly than station tanks, but as I have already drawn attention to them when dealing with the accusations in regard to fencing, there is no necessity for me to recapitulate them here.

The assumption that contractors would not ask more for Government work than they do for station work if they were "properly supervised and promptly paid," proves that an opinion is advanced without a knowledge of the facts. I have been under the impression that a keen supervision was more calculated to increase than to lessen the cost of carrying out work, and that a loose and inefficient supervision, such as that suggested, would be more calculated to induce that result, as the contractors would then be able to do pretty well what they chose.

The assertion as to the effect of prompt payments also proves ignorance of the real facts. In regard to these particular works, the usual rule of the Department has been departed from, and 50 per cent. of the amount due has been paid at the time of measurement, the balance in the usual course, and as a rule within a very reasonable time. With the large sums of money paid away in this Department a system must be followed or no proper check could be kept on the officers. The moneys are paid as promptly as possible, and as very few cases of dissatisfaction have been reported to the head office, it is a fair assumption they do not exist. Advices of payment are telegraphed, and not a moment is lost in putting the voucher through the due course, and as to the efficiency and promptness of mode of payment, &c., I think the Treasury and Audit Departments will bear favourable testimony.

This is the last paragraph I purpose traversing, and it is a fitting conclusion to this most unusual criticism by one Department of the management of another.

In the preceding paragraph we are practically condemned for an inefficient supervision and want of promptitude in making payments. I can only assume that as it is stated, if the works are transferred to the Mines Department, it "will not be desirable to maintain such a staff" as that now charged with their construction, the proposed appointment of an equal number of new officers is an indirect assertion that our men are not equal to this duty. The only inference to be drawn from this is that Mr. Inspector Boulton, with six other gentlemen like him, would have more bush experience, more practical knowledge, and more ability for carrying out these works than such officers as Messrs. Stilwell, Cronin, Hanna, Smijth, and Coleman, who, for zeal, energy, and integrity, are equal to any officers in the service. In order to avoid any painful personalities, it may be as well to make no further remarks on this proposal. But it should be noted that the character of the supervision exercised by the Mines over the maintenance of these works by the lessees and caretakers but poorly bears out the claim now made for the transfer of the construction works. It should also be noted that no case has been made out as to the inefficiency of our supervision, and that the proposed transfer means a series of new appointments, without any compensating reduction in salaries to meet the new expenditure, as the officers now charged with this work would still have to be retained in their respective districts to carry out the road works.

ARTHUR P. WOOD.

ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT showing prices for Caretakers' Huts quoted by Mines in 1883 and 1887, and tenders received by Roads in 1886.

| District. | Mines estimate. | Proportionate estimate for three rooms.—1883. | Tenders received. | Mines tenders.—1887. |
|------------------|----------------------|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Two rooms.—1883. | | Three rooms.—1886. | |
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| Bourke | 100 0 0 | 125 0 0 | { 90 0 0 } 94 0 0 | 60 0 0 |
| Cobar | 80 0 0 | 100 0 0 | 87 0 0 | 55 0 0 |
| Wilcannia | 80 0 0 | 100 0 0 | ..... | 69 0 0 |
| Hay | { 80 0 0 } 90 0 0 | { 100 0 0 } 112 0 0 | { 83 12 0 } | ..... |
| Deniliquin ..... | ..... | ..... | { 70 0 0 } 79 0 0 | 44 3 6 |
| Condobolin ..... | ..... | ..... | { 85 0 0 } | 47 2 0 |
| Balranald | 73 0 0 | 91 0 0 | 117 0 0 | 59 17 2 |
| Ivanhoe | 80 0 0 | 100 0 0 | 114 17 1 | 58 4 0 |
| Albury ..... | ..... | ..... | 68 0 0 | 54 10 0 |
| Narrabri | 90 0 0 | 112 0 0 | { 75 0 0 } 80 0 0 | ..... |
| Walgett ..... | ..... | ..... | 79 0 0 | ..... |
| Forbes ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 26 1 6 |
| Silverton ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 50 0 0 |

NOTE.—The type of building for which tenders were received was determined on information supplied by the Mines, and that Department also, in 1883, furnished an estimate of what two-room cottages would probably cost; but, as they desired, when practicable, to have three rooms, tenders were invited accordingly, and will be found to be under the Mines estimate.

We are now confronted with fresh estimates of value on which a charge of extravagance is founded, but no information as to the nature of the work that the Mines can do for the prices they quote is given. That the conditions are altered is certain from the price quoted for Forbes (£26 1s. 6d.), at which price it would be utterly impossible to erect a cottage under the conditions set forth.

Information has been furnished that, in the Deniliquin District, where the recent Mines estimate is £44 3s. 6d., the work is being done by day-labour; that the material, without carriage, has cost about £50, and that only two rooms are provided for. Under such conditions the comparison made is most unfair. The cottage at Silverton is of iron, contains two rooms, and is of a different type altogether to that submitted for the approval of the Mines. Any comparison on such a basis is not reliable.

V.

EARLIER SPECIFICATION UNDER WHICH TANKS WERE COMPLETED.

Specification of work required for the completion of a Tank at District, contract

Works.—The work for which tenders are to be made, and to which this specification refers, comprises the providing of all materials, tools, labour, scaffolding, implements, workmanship, and every other thing requisite for the full and proper execution of all the excavation, embankment, timber-work, and smith-work, together with the carting and fixing of all machinery, gear, hose, piping, and all appurtenances whatsoever required for the completion and efficient working condition of a tank at in accordance with the plans, specification, and general conditions hereto attached, and to the entire satisfaction of the Commissioner and Engineer for Roads.

Design.—The tank will be excavated in the , at the place specified, or at such other site as may be definitely fixed upon, as hereinafter provided; the excavated material to be placed . The high-level water will be drawn by gravitation; the low-level water will be pumped out. Troughs will be constructed for the purpose of watering stock outside the tank. Drains will be made for carrying water into the tank, and silt-tanks will be excavated where required.

Excavation.—As soon as possible after signing agreement, written instructions will be issued to the contractor, and immediately on receipt thereof he must proceed with main excavation on lines previously laid down by the superintendent. The excavation will be yards long by yards wide in the bottom, and feet deep; to have side slopes of to one. If a depth of should prove unavailable, or if from or for any other reason it may be deemed advisable or necessary, the Commissioner for Roads, or other authorized officer, may alter the design accordingly. Tenders must therefore state separate prices per cube yard for all material excavated under this contract for , and feet respectively. If any depth than those mentioned be finally adopted, a proportionate price must be agreed upon before commencement of main excavation, and at a schedule price per cube yard. The contractor must excavate all drains, silt-tanks, or other excavations whatsoever that may be required.

Embankment.—The base of the embankment shall first be ploughed with furrows not less than 5 inches deep. The excavated material is to be placed around the excavation as shown on plan. The inside toe of embankment to 10 yards distant from line of excavation. The embankment will be feet wide at base, with slopes of to one inside and to one outside. The superintendent may order, and the contractor must then use, any particular strata or quality of material obtainable in the main excavation for inside slope of embankment. The embankment to be commenced at the point nearest to where the material is drawn from the excavation, and worked away in such manner as may be satisfactory to the superintendent and as to ensure its being most firmly laid. The material to be spread in layers not more than 1 foot thick; all lumps that will not pass through a 6-inch gauge are to be broken smaller, and in event the sides are to be edged up to facilitate soakage and settling. The top of embankment will have a convexity of inches.

Silt-tanks.—Silt-tanks will be excavated as shown on plan to be feet square at the top feet deep, with side slopes of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1.

Drains.—Drains to be feet wide and inches deep, to have a curved cross-section, and to be excavated on lines and to levels laid out or instructed by the superintendent, the material being thrown on the lower or both sides, as may be directed. In graded drains the contractor must be careful that the levels are closely adhered to; any departure will be at his own risk, and the error must be remedied in any way the Commissioner may direct.

Inlet-pipe.—Cast-iron inlet-pipe 12 inches diameter, with valve and wind-bore, will be supplied by the Government, and delivered to the contractor at , from which place he must cart it to the works and fix it to the satisfaction of the officer in charge. The joints to be thoroughly caulked and leaded up.

Fluming.—Flume to be semi-circular in cross section, 4 feet wide, constructed of No. 20 plain galvanized iron supported on 9-inch x 6-inch joists, over which the iron is to lap 4 inches, and be secured there to with three rows of galvanized iron nails. All joints to be transverse, to have a 3-inch lap made perfectly watertight with white leaded felt, and secured with galvanized screw-bolts. The flume to be supported at intervals of 10 feet on timber trestles or on piles, as may be directed. The scantlings of all timbers to be the same as figured in drawings, but the lengths of trestle legs or piles for supporting fluming to be determined by the contractor on the ground. The inlet end of flume where leaving the silt-tank to be protected from scour by a row of sheet piling, as shown in drawings.

Inlet-shoots.—When the tank is fed through an inlet-pipe the shoot is to be 2 feet wide and 2 feet deep in the clear when lined; but when inlet-pipe is dispensed with and the tank is fed through a gap left in the embankment, or when supplied by fluming, then the shoots to carry the discharge are to be 5 feet wide by 2 feet deep, and in the latter case the upper end of the shoot is to be covered in for a distance of 10 feet, with 2-inch boards, as shown in drawings. The frame timbers are to be 6 feet apart and of the dimensions figured; the bottom and sides are to be sheathed with sawn planks 6 inches wide and 2 inches thick, close jointed and securely nailed to the frame timbers, and the shoot to be then lined with No. 20 plain galvanized iron, with transverse joints having a 3-inch overlap, and secured with three rows of galvanized nails with ruffs. In all cases a timber apron 12 feet long by 12 feet wide will have to be constructed as shown in drawings.

Pumping

Pumping Gear.—

Service tank.—This tank will be feet long, by feet wide by feet deep, measurements taken in the clear. To be built on sleepers bedded level and adzed on upper surfaces to give a true bearing for joists—sleepers to be not less than 12 inches diameter at small end. The tank will be built as shown in plan. All frame timbers must be of the full scantling shown, and all tenons and mortices must be clean cut and fit accurately. The timber lining will be of sawn planks 2 inches thick and 6 inches wide, to be close-jointed and securely nailed to the frame timbers. The inside of the tank is to be lined with No. 20 B.W.G. plain galvanized iron (Gospel Oak), having a lap of 3 inches at each joint, to be made watertight with a strip of felt 3 inches wide, white-leaded, and fastened with three rows of 1½-inch galvanized nails, with ruffs white-leaded. Each sheet of iron to receive one coat of coal tar on its under side. The contractor will supply and fix one 4-inch cast-iron cock for supplying troughing, and will make a watertight connection between outlet pipe and service tank.

Troughing.—100 lineal yards of troughing to be built as shown on plan. The iron to be of similar gauge and quality, as specified for service tank, to be secured to side timbers with three rows 1½-inch galvanized nails. Joints to be made perfectly watertight with white-leaded felt in all laps, and secured with galvanized screw-bolts.

Fencing.—Fencing to be erected round tank as shown on plan. Posts to be 7 feet long by 9 inches by 3 inches, sunk 10 feet apart to a depth of 2 feet 6 inches. Top rail 7 inches by 3 inches morticed into posts. Five No. 4 wires to be run through all posts.

Timber.—Where the kind of timber to be used in particular work is not hereinbefore specially mentioned, the contractor is to use gum, and the sizes and dimensions specified and shown on plan are for that timber. The timber throughout is to be of the best description, to be straight and sound, without wave, shake, gum veins, or sun cracks, and to be perfectly free from all other imperfections or defects. To ensure that it will be well seasoned, it must be cut as soon after acceptance of tender as possible, and no advance payment will be made until the whole of the sawn and squared timber is delivered on the ground, notwithstanding any progress with the works, or any clause in the general conditions to the contrary.

Tarring.—All timber throughout, except fencing, to receive three coats of tar and composition, the first coat to be all coal tar laid on hot, the second and third coats to be composed of seven parts coal tar and four parts of Stockholm tar and one part pitch, thoroughly melted together and applied hot. No tar to be applied during or immediately after wet weather, or while surface of timber is wet, and an interval of at least forty-eight hours must elapse between each application.

Time.—All the works specified to be completed within months from date of signing the bond, irrespective of bad weather or any other cause of delay, except a written order be given by the officers in charge not to proceed with the work, or to increase the same, when a proportionate extension of time must be allowed.

Tenders.—Tenders to state a bulk sum for the execution of all the works specified, and schedule of prices at which any deductions or additions shall be valued; such additions or deductions, no matter to what extent ordered, shall not vitiate or set aside the contract.

Conditions.—In all matters relating to this contract not herein specified, contractors shall be bound by the general conditions hereto attached.

VI.

LATER SPECIFICATION UNDER WHICH TANKS WERE COMPLETED.

SPECIFICATION of work required for the construction of a Tank and appurtenances at , on the road from to

Works.—The work for which tenders are to be made, and to which this specification refers, comprises the providing of all materials, except those hereafter specified as being provided by the Government, all tools, labour, implements, workmanship, and every other thing requisite for the full and proper execution of all the excavations, embankments, timber-work, smithwork, and stonework, together with the carting and fixing of all machinery, gear, piping, and all appurtenances whatever, required for the completion and efficient working conditions of a tank at , in accordance with this specification and the general conditions and drawings, and to the entire satisfaction of the Commissioner and Chief Engineer for Roads.

Preliminary.—Before commencing the excavation of main tank, the contractor must sink trial shafts to a depth of 18 feet on the site selected, and should the material passed through be considered unsuitable, the road superintendent shall have the power to order, and the contractor must then carry out, the necessary excavation at any other site that may be selected within 2 miles of the first-chosen site. The contractor will be paid 1s. 6d. per foot for all trial shafts put down on any site subsequently abandoned, but will receive no payment for such work where the site is adopted. When the site is finally approved, written instructions will be issued to contractor, and immediately on receipt thereof he must proceed with the works on the lines laid down by the road superintendent.

Clearing.—An area comprising that covered by the excavation, berm, and embankments, and extending 1 chain beyond the fencing enclosing tank, and extending 1 chain on each side of and beyond the line of troughing to be cleared, all trees, stumps, and brushwood to be grubbed and burnt, and holes filled with punned earth.

Excavation.—The excavation will be feet long by feet wide in the bottom and 18 feet deep, to have side slopes of 2 to 1. The bottom of tank to be left perfectly level, and the batters dressed to a regular surface. If a depth of 18 feet should prove unavailable, or if for any other reason it may be deemed advisable, the Commissioner for Roads, or other authorized officer, may alter the design accordingly. Tenders must, therefore, state separate prices per cubic yard for excavation 18 feet, 16 feet, and 14 feet deep, and if any depth other than these be finally adopted, a proportionate price will be fixed by the Commissioner, and contractor paid accordingly. Should the road superintendent consider that the surface, or any other stratum, passed through in the excavation is too porous, the contractor must adopt such steps to puddle the porous ground as the superintendent may direct; the cost of such work to be provided for by a price per cubic yard for puddle being quoted in schedule of prices. Silt-tank to be excavated in position shown on plan, or on such lines as the road superintendent may direct, to be 9 feet deep, 40 feet square in the bottom, with side slopes of 2 to 1. The bottom and sides to be neatly trimmed, as specified for main tank.

Embankment.—The excavated material from main and silt-tanks to be formed into an embankment round main tank, as shown on plans. The inner toe of embankment to be 30 feet distant from line of cutting. The embankment to be 10 feet high, with side slopes neatly and regularly dressed to batters of 2 to 1; the top width to be uniform, and regulated by the amount of material to be excavated. When the design provides for the storage of water above the natural surface of ground, the seat of the embankment must be ploughed, the furrows to be not less than 5 inches deep, and the material in embankment must be thoroughly grafted with the surface. The bank to be commenced at points nearest to where material is drawn from the excavation, and the earth deposited in such way as will ensure the most thorough consolidation by traffic. The earth to be spread in layers not more than 6 inches thick, all clods to be broken down, and, in the event of rain, the edges are to be raised to facilitate soakage and settlement. Should the features of the locality make such a course advisable, the road superintendent may alter the design by running the side embankments out to high ground adjoining excavation, and such alteration shall be carried out by the contractor without any claim for additional payment. When the embankment is trimmed up, the top surface to be neatly dished to the extent of 9 inches, the dishing to be graded so as to give a regular fall to such points as may be directed by the road superintendent, and at these points the contractor will be required to lay 3-inch diameter iron discharge pipes (provided by the Government) in the embankment to carry off all rain water that would lodge on the surface.

Drains.—Ordinary drains are to have a curved cross-section, to be 9 inches deep, and feet wide, and are to be excavated on lines laid out by the superintendent, the material being formed into an embankment on the lower side and 3 feet clear from edge of drain. In graded drains the contractor must closely adhere to the levels, and any departure from them must be at his own risk, and the error must be remedied in any way the Commissioner may direct.

Inlet pipes.—When the design provides for the storage of water above the surface, cast-iron inlet pipes 12 inches in diameter will be supplied by the Government, and delivered to the contractor at from which place he must cart them to the works, and fix them in such position and at such level as the Superintendent may direct. Joints of pipes and valves to be made with white hempen yarn, well caulked in so as to leave a vacancy of 2 inches for the lead, which must be poured in at one running, and caulked up with suitable tools to ⅜ inch within the sockets; great care must be taken to keep the spigots concentric with the sockets; great care must also be taken to have the earth thoroughly punned round the pipes.

Inlet shoot.—When the tank is fed through an inlet pipe the shoot is to be 2 feet wide and 2 feet deep in the clear when lined; but when the tank is only intended to contain water to the level of natural surface the inlet shoot is to be 5 feet

feet wide and 2 feet deep, and that portion of it extending under the dwarf embankment must be covered in with closely-fitting timbers 6 feet long and 6 inches thick. In both cases the shoot for 10 feet on its upper fall into tank is to be covered in with 2-inch thick sawn planking, spiked to side planks of sheathing, and further secured by a 4-inch x 2-inch bearing-plate, secured to frame timbers, as shown in drawings. Spaces $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide to be left between these covering-boards. The frame timbers are to be 6 feet apart from centre to centre, and to be of the scantlings shown in drawings; the bottom and sides to be sheathed with sawn planks 6 inches wide and 2 inches thick, close-jointed, and secured to frame timbers with 5-inch nails; the sheathing boards to break joint on alternate frames. The sheathing to be lined with No. 20 gauge plain galvanized iron of approved brand, all joints to have a 3-inch overlap, and to be secured with three rows of galvanized nails with ruffs pitched 2 inches apart. The side timbers of frames are to be sunk in the ground and securely rammed, three sets in each shoot being cut with a 12-inch diameter butt, as shown in drawings. Spreaders 6 inches x 4 inches to be securely fixed at each set of frames, and after being notched down 2 inches on sheathing boards are to be secured to side timbers with $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch diameter bolts. The inlet end of shoots 5 feet wide to be splayed for a length of 10 feet, the width being increased to 10 feet, and the iron lining to be carried 18 inches into the bottom and sides of inlet trench to prevent scouring at the back of or under the timber-work. When the top of shoot is below the level of ground the excavation to be battered at $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1, a berm of 1 foot between shoot and foot of slope. Where the shoot passes through gap in embankment a berm of at least 3 feet must be left between edge of shoot and toe of bank.

Apron.—A timber apron 12 feet long and 12 feet wide to be constructed at the bottom of shoot, as shown in drawings. Four sleepers 16 feet long and 9 inches square to be let 4 feet into the foot of slope, and to be sunk flush with bottom of tank; sheathing planks 12 feet long, 6 inches x 2 inches, to be close-jointed and secured to sleepers with 5-inch nails; side logs 9 inches square and 12 feet long to be secured to outer sleepers with three driving bolts 16 inches long and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch diameter. Posts 9 inches square and 5 feet long, exclusive of the 12-inch diameter butt, to be sunk in the ground and well rammed and secured to side logs with $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch diameter bolts as shown.

Pumping gear.—“Special” steam pump with boiler, suction and discharge piping, suction joint, foot valve, and all connections will be supplied by the Government and delivered to the contractor at _____ from which place he must cart them to, and erect them at the works. The foundation plate of boiler and pump to be securely bolted to a timber platform constructed of four sleepers 12 inches square and 10 feet long, firmly bedded in the ground, and covered with sawn slabs 10 feet long, 8 inches wide, and 4 inches thick, secured to sleepers by spikes 7 inches long and $\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, two at each intersection. The level of platform to be 6 inches above level of ground. The suction pipe to be laid under the embankment, and connected with the movable suction joint which is to be supported on timber frame, as shown in drawings, the movable length of suction pipe to be of sufficient length to reach to the bottom of tank, and to be supported by a buoy, as shown. The pipes to be thoroughly cleaned before being laid, and all joints to be white-leaded and screwed tight into the collars. All steam and water connections to be made steam and water tight; all glands to be packed; mud-hole and man-hole covers made steam-tight, and all machinery cleaned and lubricated. The outside of boiler and pump, &c., to be thoroughly scraped, cleaned, and painted; the boiler to receive three coats red lead and oil, the steam and water cylinders three coats green paint picked out in black; all connections three coats black paint. Brass and faced work to be left bright. The contractor will have to fill the boiler with water and get up steam for test trial, and no payment on account of erection will be made by the Road Superintendent until he is fully satisfied that everything is in working order. Amos and Smith’s horse-gear pump, with all connections, will be supplied by the Government and delivered to the contractor at _____ from which place he will cart them to and erect them at the site of the works. The bed-plate of horse-gear and pump to be securely bolted to 12 inches square timber sleepers, as shown in drawings. The suction-pipe and fittings to be laid and fixed, as specified for steam pump in *previous clause*, the movable suction-joint and pipe being supported on similar timber staging. The foundation logs for horse-gear and pump are to be firmly bedded flush with the surface of horse-walk, which is to be 30 feet in diameter, and formed in main embankment, as shown in drawings. The contractor to provide a horse-arm to fit in socket of horse gear, to be 12 feet long, planed and wrought, to receive three coats of red lead and oil. The horse-gear and pump to receive three coats of green paint picked out in black. All brass and faced work to be left bright.

Service tank and troughing.—The service tank to be of _____, as per specification attached; the troughing of _____, also as per specification attached. The contractor to fill whichever type of service tank is adopted with water after completion, and no final payment will be made on account of contract until the superintendent is satisfied that it is perfectly watertight.

Weather-shed for engines.—Weather-shed for engine to be framed in accordance with drawings. The walls, roof, and doors to be covered with No. 24 gauge corrugated galvanized iron. The shed to be 12 feet square outside, framing to be supported on eight blocks, 2 feet 6 inches long, sunk 2 feet in the ground and securely rammed. The bottom sills to be 8 inches x 4 inches, halved at the corners, and spiked down to the blocks with 7-inch spikes, $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch diameter; to be morticed to receive the tenons of uprights. Corner uprights to be 4 inches x 4 inches, and intermediate uprights 4 inches x 3 inches, braced, as shown in drawings, with 3 inches x 1 inch diagonals. Wall-plates to be 4 inches x 3 inches, halved at the corners, and morticed to receive the tenons of uprights. Horizontal bearers, 4 inches x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, to be let in flush with outer surface of uprights, to carry screws securing iron. Rafters to be 5 inches x 2 inches, secured to wall-plates and ridge-board with nails; ridge-board to be 6 inches x 1 inch; battens, three on each side, to be 3 inches x 1 inch, to be securely spiked to the rafters. Gable studs, 4 inches x 2 inches, to be tenoned into wall-plate and securely spiked to outer rafters. Doors to be 6 feet 6 inches x 3 feet in the clear, framed as shown in drawing, with 3-inch x 3-inch timber, and hung to door-posts with T hinges; the doorway to be opposite the furnace-door of boiler. The galvanized corrugated iron in walls, roof, and door, to be secured with galvanized screws to the entire satisfaction of the superintendent. Opening to be cut in roof for funnel of boiler, and the ridge covered with a galvanized iron ridge cap.

Tank fencing.—Fencing to be erected round tank as shown in drawings. Posts to be 7 feet long x 9 inches x 3 inches, sunk 2 feet 6 inches in the ground, and pitched 3 feet 3 inches apart. Top rail, 7 inches x 3 inches, to be accurately tenoned into mortices. Five No. 6 gauge wires to be run through each post, and strained to corner posts, 12-inch diameter, securely strutted with 8-inch diameter struts, notched into posts, sunk 2 feet in the ground, and footed against a dwarf post, 8 inches diameter, sunk 2 feet 6 inches.

Special lease fencing.—The fencing to be erected on lines laid out by the road superintendent or other authorized officer. The posts to be 7 feet long x 9 inches x 3 inches, sunk 10 feet apart from centre to centre, and to a depth of 2 feet 6 inches. Corner posts to be 12 inches diameter, securely strutted with 8-inch diameter struts, notched into posts, sunk 2 feet in the ground, and footed against a dwarf post, 8 inches diameter, sunk 2 feet 6 inches. Six wires to be run through each post, the top one No. 4 gauge, and all the rest No. 6 gauge, to be spaced as shown in drawings, and each wire to be strained to the nearest post to the end of coil; no wires to be spliced.

Gates.—Field gates to be 12 feet long, constructed in strict accordance with drawings, and of wrought and planed Kauri pine. Eight foot gates, either double or single, to be also constructed of wrought and planed Kauri pine. The iron-work of all gates to be of the best quality and of the full dimensions shown. Each gate to be hung on two double strap wrought-iron hinges, with eyes worked in the solid to take a wrought-iron crook 1-inch diameter, the crook to pass through post and to be secured with nut and 2-inch square washer $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch thick. The whole of the timber to receive three coats of white lead in oil, and all ironwork three coats of Brunswick black. The gates to be fixed where directed and hung on 12-inch square posts sunk and strutted as shown in drawings.

Caretaker’s cottage.—Caretaker’s cottage to be constructed in such position on the special lease area as the road superintendent may direct, and in accordance with the attached specification.

Timber.—Where the kind of timber to be used in any works on this contract is not hereinbefore specially mentioned, the contractor is to use _____, which is to be of the best description, straight and sound, without wanes, shakes, or sun cracks, and to be free from other imperfections and defects. To ensure that it will be well seasoned, it must be cut as soon after acceptance of tender as possible, and no advance will be made until the whole of the timber is delivered on the ground, notwithstanding any clause in the general conditions to the contrary.

Tarring.—All timber, except that specified for weather-sheds, caretakers’ cottages, gates, and fencing to receive three coats of composition, composed of three parts of coal tar to one part of pitch, thoroughly melted together and applied hot.

Time.—All the works specified to be completed within _____ months from date of signing the bond, irrespective of bad weather or any other cause of delay, except a written order be given by the officer in charge not to proceed with the work, or to increase the same, when a proportionate extension of time must be allowed.

Tenders.—Tenders to state a bulk sum for all the works specified.

Conditions.—In all things relating to this contract not herein contained, the contractor to be bound by the general conditions attached.

VII.

A.—DEPARTMENT OF ROADS AND BRIDGES—TANKS AND WELLS.

SPECIFICATION of work required to be done in the construction of a Caretaker's Cottage at the
on the road from to

General.—This contract is for the supply of all tools, labour, and material, necessary for the construction of a three-roomed cottage, in accordance with the drawings and this specification, and to the entire satisfaction of the Commissioner for Roads or other authorized officer.

Site.—The site to be determined by the local officer, who will mark out the lines for the foundations.

Design.—The cottage will contain three rooms of the dimensions shown on drawings, and will be founded on wooden blocks; the walls to be of weather-board, secured to timber studding, except the partitions, which will be of sawn slabs; the roof to be covered with galvanized iron, capped and guttered; the whole of the rooms to be floored.

Foundation.—The foundation to consist of twenty-three blocks, 12 inches in diameter and 3 feet long, the ends to be sawn square and the blocks sunk to an average depth of 2 feet 6 inches, the top surfaces to be accurately levelled, and the earth thoroughly rammed in round them.

Framework.—The bottom wall-plates to be 4 inches x 3 inches, all intersections to be halved, and all other joints square scarfed; the scarfs to be 9 inches long, and must be made over a foundation-block. The plates to be secured to each foundation-block by an iron spike 7 inches long and $\frac{3}{8}$ inch in diameter. The studs to be of the lengths shown in drawings, to be 4 inches square at all corners, and 4 inches x 3 inches in all other cases; tenons 3 inches x 2 inches x 3 inches, to be clean cut at each end, and accurately fitted into mortices cut in the bottom and top wall-plates. The top wall-plates to be 4 inches x 3 inches, halved at the intersections, and scarfed at the joints as already specified; the end and partition-plates to be the full width of the building. Lintels of windows and doors, and sills of windows, to be tenoned into the studs forming the jambs. The outer walls to be covered with weather-boards, securely nailed to the studding; all joints and cutting ends against jamb-linings, and against corner fillets, to be cut true and to fit close. The weather-boards to be not more than 9 inches wide, and to be $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick. The fillets at corners of cottage to be 3 inches x 1 inch, securely nailed to the corner studs. The partition-walls to be filled in between studs with horizontal sawn planks 1 inch thick, secured in position by fillets, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch square, as shown in drawings.

Floor.—The floor to consist of sawn pine boards 6 inches wide and 1 inch thick, close jointed and securely nailed to joists 6 inches x 3 inches, set 2 feet apart from centre to centre; the boards to be accurately fitted round and up to the face of the weather-boarding.

Roof.—The rafters to be 5 inches x 3 inches, framed as shown in drawings, to be 3 feet apart from centre to centre; collar-beams to be 4 inches x 3 inches, secured to rafters with $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch bolts; the ridge-board to be 8 inches x 1 inch; battens to be $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches x 1 inch, three rows on each face of roof. The whole to be covered with No. gauge corrugated galvanized iron, securely screwed to the battens; the ridge to be capped with galvanized iron, as shown. Galvanized iron guttering to be fixed on back and front of main building, and connected to one down-pipe; the roof at back of skillion to be guttered and provided with a down-pipe.

Chimney.—The chimney to be constructed as shown in drawings, the walls to be similar to those of the main building; the hips and flue to be of corrugated galvanized iron, fixed on a timber frame; the hearth to be brought up 6 inches above the level of floor with well-tempered clay, and the chimney-place lined 3 feet 6 inches above the same level with similar material. If stone is procurable within 3 miles of the site, rubble masonry, set in lime mortar, to be substituted for clay.

Doors.—Front door to be framed with four panels as shown, to be hung on 3-inch butt-hinges, and provided with 8-inch rim lock and usual furniture. The jamb-linings to be of 1-inch pine, planed and wrought. The remaining doors to be "proper ledged," hung on two 12-inch T-hinges, and provided with 8-inch rim locks and usual furniture.

Windows.—The front windows to be double sashed; the upper sash fixed, the lower sliding. The side window to have one sash hung on pivots, the whole to be provided with brass fastenings. The jambs to be lined with 1-inch pine, planed and wrought.

Timber.—Where the kind of timber to be used in particular work is not hereinbefore specially mentioned, the contractor is to use pine, and the sizes and dimensions specified are for that timber, which is to be of the best description, straight and sound, without waness, shakes, or sun-cracks, and to be free from all other imperfections or defects. To ensure that it will be well-seasoned, it must be cut as soon after acceptance of tender as possible, and no advance will be made until the whole of the sawn timber is delivered on the ground, notwithstanding any clause in the general conditions to the contrary.

Painting.—The outer face of weather-boarding to receive three coats of white lead, in oil; and the doors, window-sashes, and jamb-linings three coats of dark gray paint.

Time.—All the works specified to be completed within months from date of signing the bond, irrespective of bad weather or any other cause of delay, except a written order be given by the officer in charge not to proceed with the work, or to increase the same, when a proportionate extension of time must be allowed.

Tenders.—Tenders to state a bulk sum for all the works specified.

Conditions.—In all things relating to this contract not herein contained, the contractor to be bound by the general conditions attached.

B.—DEPARTMENT OF ROADS AND BRIDGES—TANKS AND WELLS.

SPECIFICATION of work required to be done in the construction of a Caretaker's Cottage at the
on the road from

General.—This contract is for the supply of all tools, labour, and material, necessary for the construction of a three-roomed cottage, in accordance with the drawings and this specification, and to the entire satisfaction of the Commissioner for Roads, or other authorized officer.

Site.—The site to be determined by the local officer, who will mark out the lines for the foundations.

Design.—The cottage will contain three rooms of the dimensions shown on drawings, and will be founded on wooden blocks; the walls to be of half-round timber, fixed in a timber framing, except the partitions, which will be of sawn slabs; the roof to be covered with galvanized iron, capped and guttered; the whole of the rooms to be floored.

Foundation.—The foundation to consist of twenty-three blocks, 12 inches in diameter and 3 feet long, the ends to be sawn square, and the blocks sunk to an average depth of 2 feet 6 inches, the top surfaces to be accurately levelled, and the earth thoroughly rammed in round them.

Framework.—The bottom wall-plates to be 6 inches x 4 inches, all inter-sections to be halved and all other joints square scarfed, the scarfs to be 9 inches long, and must be made over a foundation block. The plates to be secured to each foundation block by an iron spike 7 inches long and $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch in diameter. The studs to be of the lengths shown in drawings to be 6 inches square at all corners, and 6 inches x 3 inches in all other cases; tenons 3 inches x 2 inches x 3 inches, to be clean cut at each end, and accurately fitted into mortices cut in the bottom and top wall-plates. The top wall-plates to be 6 inches x 3 inches, halved and scarfed as already specified; the end and partition-plates to be the full width of the building. Fillets, 2 inches x 2 inches, to be securely nailed along the studs, one edge of each to be flush with the outer and inner faces of studs, leaving a groove 2 inches wide and 2 inches deep on each side to receive the wall slabs. Lintels of windows and doors, and sills of windows, to be tenoned into the studs. The spaces between the studs of outer walls to be filled with half-round sawn pine logs, not less than 4 inches nor more than 9 inches wide, to be adzed to a thickness of 2 inches at the ends, to fit into the grooves on the studs, the upper and lower edges to be dressed to give parallel bearing surfaces not less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. The partition-walls to be filled in with sawn slabs 2 inches thick, the whole to be close jointed.

Floor.—The floor to consist of sawn pine boards 6 inches wide, and 1 inch thick, close jointed and securely nailed to joists 6 inches x 3 inches, set 2 feet apart from centre to centre; the boards to be accurately fitted round studs and up the face of the wall-slabs.

Roof.—

Roof.—The rafters to be 5 inches x 3 inches, framed as shown in drawings, to be 3 feet apart from centre to centre; collar-beams to be 4 inches x 3 inches, secured to rafters with $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch bolts; the ridge-board to be 8 inches x 1 inch; battens to be $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches x 1 inch, three rows on each face of roof. The whole to be covered with No. gauge corrugated galvanized iron, securely screwed to battens, and the ridges capped with galvanized iron as shown. Galvanized iron guttering to be fixed round main roof and back of skillion, and provided with two down-pipes.

Chimney.—The chimney to be constructed as shown in drawing, the walls to be similar to those in the main building; the hips and flue to be of corrugated galvanized iron, fixed on a timber frame; the earth to be brought up 6 inches above the level of floor with well-tempered clay, and the chimney-place lined 3 feet 6 inches above the same level with similar material. If stone is procurable within 3 miles of the site, rubble masonry, set in lime mortar, to be substituted for clay.

Doors.—Front door to be framed with four panels as shown, to be hung on 3-inch butt-hinges, and provided with an 8-inch rim lock and usual furniture. The jamb-linings to be of 1-inch pine, planed and wrought. The remaining doors to be proper ledged, hung on two 12-inch T hinges, and provided with 8-inch rim locks and usual furniture. The whole of the doors and jamb-linings to receive three coats of dark gray paint.

Windows.—The front windows to be double sashed; the upper sash fixed, the lower sliding. The side window to have one sash hung on pivots, the whole to be provided with brass fastenings. The jambs to be lined with 1-inch pine, planed and wrought, and with the sashes to receive three coats of dark gray paint.

Timber.—Where the kind of timber to be used in particular work is not hereinbefore specially mentioned, the contractor is to use, and the sizes and dimensions specified are for that timber, which is to be of the best description, straight and sound, without waness, shakes, or sun-cracks, and to be free from all other imperfections or defects. To ensure that it will be well-seasoned, it must be cut as soon after acceptance of tender as possible, and no advance will be made until the whole of the sawn timber is delivered on the ground, notwithstanding any clause in the general conditions to the contrary.

Time.—All the works specified to be completed within months from date of signing the bond, irrespective of bad weather or any other cause of delay, except a written order be given by the officer-in-charge not to proceed with the work, or to increase the same, when a proportionate extension of time must be allowed.

Tenders.—Tenders to state a bulk sum for all the works specified.

Conditions.—In all things relating to this contract not herein contained, the contractor to be bound by the general conditions attached.

VIII.

SPECIFICATION for Cottages to be erected under Department of Mines at the Public Watering Places, known as the Silverton well, the Rat Hole tank, Day Dream tank, Purnamoota tank, and Thackaringa tank; five in all.

Size.—Cottage to be 25 feet by 12 feet x 10 feet.

Materials.—To be built of timber and galvanized corrugated iron, 26 gauge.

Blocks.—Cottage to be built on gum or mulga blocks, twenty-seven in number, 2 feet long, 1 foot in ground and well rammed, the blocks to have not more than 3 feet 6 inches centres, and to be $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches at small end.

Plates.—To be $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch by $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch red deal, well nailed to blocks at bottom, and morticed top and bottom to receive studs.

Studs.—To be $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch by $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch red deal, properly tenoned to fit mortices in plates, and skew nailed to plates top and bottom. None of the studs to be more than 3 feet 6 inches apart, and to be twenty-seven in number.

Rafters.—To be nine pairs, and to be $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch by $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch red deal cut to shoulder against side plates and ridge board, and well nailed top and bottom with wire nails.

Ridge board.—To be 6-inch by $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch flooring boards, and to stand up $\frac{1}{2}$ inch above rafters, so that roof iron can butt up against it.

Iron on roof and sides.—The whole of the building to be covered with 26 gauge galvanized corrugated iron, Emu brand. The iron on end and sides to be horizontal, well nailed to studs with galvanized screws. The screws to be put in at ends and centres of each sheet at each lap; to be 2 inches by 12 inches, with galvanized washers. Roof iron to be nailed with 2-inch by 12-inch screws and washers to a purline at the top and centre, and to the top wall-plate at bottom, and to have 3 inches lap.

Ridge capping.—To be 12 inches, to have 3 inches lap at each joint.

Doors.—To be three in number; one at back, one in front, and one in partition. To be made of 6-inch by $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch T and G flooring boards, beaded and well nailed to three cross pieces, hung with 14-inch T hinges, and fastened with an American lock, No. 450 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Windows.—To be two pairs of 6-inch casement, 10 by 12, hung with butt hinges, and properly stopped and fastened.

Floor and joists.—To be thirteen in number, spaced 2 feet apart, and resting on the wall-plates at each side and on a bearer on blocks in centre, to be 6 inches by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, well dogged up and double nailed.

Partition.—Studs to be 3 inches by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, spaced 3 feet apart, and carried up to collar ties. To be covered by 6-inch by $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch matchboard, and door hung as described.

Angles.—The corners, windows, and doors to be stopped with 2-inch by $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch battens nailed to studs.

Chimney.—To be galvanized iron, bricked up 3 feet inside, and of a pattern similar to those used about Silverton.

Collar ties.—One to each pair of rafters, to be 3 inches by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch, nailed on 4 feet above wall-plates.

IX.

Specification of Gates for Watering Places—Recommended by Chief Inspector of Stock in a report dated 19th March, 1883.

1. The gates to be double of the shape shown in the accompanying sketch, each 10 feet wide, and 5 feet 6 inches high, with a post between, and stay at back.
2. The posts to be sound river gum or ironbark, 10 feet long, 1 foot diameter, 4 feet in the ground, and to rise 6 feet above ground.
3. A ground plate of river gum or ironbark, not less than 9 inches diameter, to be laid between and morticed into each pair of posts.
4. The back of the gate to be 6 x 4, river gum or ironbark, 8 feet long, and the front to be 4 x 3 of same material, 6 feet in length.
5. The whole of the rest of the gate to be made of 3 x $1\frac{1}{2}$ hardwood battens.
6. The rails to be five in number (battens) set at the following gauge:—The first, 9 inches from the ground; the second, 9 inches from the first; the third, the same from the second; the fourth, the same from the third; and the fifth, 12 inches from the fourth.
7. There will be three stays to each gate as shown, the long stay to be double battens, with the rails passing between—the others single crossing with the rails between.
8. All the joinings and intersections to be made with bolts well nutted up.
9. The hooks of the hinges to be made of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch round iron, to be hung on the inside (not the front of the post as shown on the sketch) right through the post with shoulder in front, and fastened at the back with screws and nuts; and the eyes to have clamps extending 2 feet 6 inches along rails (which will be double for that length) fastened by four bolts and nuts to the rails.
10. The fastening on the gate to be by wooden latch, working on middle rail, falling into groove cut on the faces of the post.

X

Report of the Inspector of Public Tanks and Wells on Repairs and Alterations recommended as urgent.

Sir, Department of Mines, 16 October, 1883.
I beg to hand you my report with the annexed statement of repairs and alterations, recommended as urgent, for the consideration of the Honorable the Secretary for Mines.

I have considered it desirable to urge the application of machinery for lifting water into troughing at all the tanks. This plan it has been decided to adopt in the construction of future works, and from which great advantages may be anticipated in economising water and the protection to the tank.

I have to recommend that gauges, indicating the depth of the water, may be placed in all tanks where not already erected.

With reference to the fencing of the special leases, immediate action is recommended to secure the leasing of many of the works. I beg leave to submit the following recommendations :—

1. That the fencing should be of a substantial character, and sheep-proof posts not more than 8 feet 6 inches from centre to centre; five wires, and a top rail where timber is plentiful; seven wires, the top ones of No. 6 gauge, where timber is not obtainable.
2. That the fencing of the lease should include as much as possible within its limits of the surface water collecting in the neighbourhood.
3. That provision may be made for increasing the size of the special leases.
4. That the Surveyor-General may be informed of the importance attached by this Department to the early survey of these leases—both at Works,—now approved for construction by the Secretary for Mines, and at the completed works, where such survey has not yet been made.
5. That the Department of Public Works may be requested to furnish the Surveyor-General with the defined position of new works, as soon as convenient after the decision has been made.
6. That the Surveyor-General may be requested to furnish tracings of the surveys when completed, for the information of the Commissioner and Engineer for Roads and Bridges, as well as to this Department.

I have, &c.,

HARRY GILLIAT,

Inspector, Public Tanks and Wells.

Alex. Bruce, Esq., Chief Inspector of Stock.

The Chief Inspector of Stock.—I beg to recommend, as these repairs are urgent, that, on the approval of the Hon. the Secretary for Mines, they should be forwarded to the Works Department; also that a copy should be forwarded for the information of the Surveyor-General. Description of the approximate position of the leases, so as to include the greater portion of surface water in the neighbourhood, will be submitted in a day or two.—H.G., B.C., 31/10/83.

Instructions for the different officers connected with these works herewith.—A.P.W., 8/12/83.

XI.

Consideration of Repairs and Alterations for 1883, proposed by the Inspector of Public Tanks and Wells, 20th January, 1883; including appliances for raising water from Tanks and Dams; troughs, supply tanks, windmills, drawing-pipes, and syphons, enclosing the Works, and fencing in the 200 acres let to tenant.

Mr. GILLIAT here recommends that some £6,560 be laid out during the current year in alterations and repairs to the public tanks and wells under his supervision; and as there is a good deal of other work to be done besides that specified by him, I believe that his estimate is understated by at least £2,000, and that a sum of from £8,000 to £9,000 will be required to meet the cost of repairs and alterations during the current year.

As this is the case, and as it will take some time to prepare the necessary specifications and call for tenders, I would suggest that the subject be now fully considered, and the works to be carried out during the year decided upon; when instructions could be given to Mr. Gilliat to prepare the necessary plans and specifications, with a view to their completion with the least possible delay.

Taking then the estimate in the accompanying list of the alterations proposed at the One Tree tank, on the road from Hay to Wilcannia, as a fair sample of the rest, and dealing with the items in the order in which they stand, the first is :—

The Double Whip.—This mode of raising the water from the main tank into the supply tank, which was suggested by Mr. Gilliat, has been submitted to the Commissioner for Roads, and has, so far, met with his approval (see II, 82-402, 17/5/82 herewith), as the most efficient, least expensive, and most easily repaired horse-power for raising water in the interior at a distance from a foundry.

The Troughing.—Mr. Gilliat is in favour of iron or steel troughing, but the Commissioner for Roads prefers the sort now in use—wood—lined with galvanized iron. (See papers III, 82-410, herewith).

The troughs now in use answer well, but require a good deal of repairs; and, if made in this way, they have to be constructed in two sets—one placed low down for the sheep, and the other higher up for the cattle; for, if these troughs were set so as that both sheep and cattle could water at them, the cattle would very soon destroy them; whereas the one set, of either 2-inch red-gum, or of the steel or iron troughs, would be strong enough to water both cattle and sheep, and thus make the red-gum, or steel, or iron troughs, cheaper than the wood and galvanized iron. The former would also need fewer repairs than the latter.

Red-gum troughs, properly made, would cost about 10s. per foot in position; and iron and steel, if the cost of carriage is not very heavy, about the same; while the wood and galvanized iron, at present prices, could not be made for less.

The Supply Tanks.—The description of supply tank has been under consideration, and the papers. See IV, 83-388, herewith, which were sent on to Mr. Gilliat for his report, have now been returned.

It will be seen from these papers that he is in favour of puddle supply tanks for roads where the traffic is comparatively light, and not more than 10,000 gallons of water required to be stored; and of either steel or iron, or wood and galvanized iron, where the traffic is heavy, and 20,000 gallons required.

He was also asked to say whether it would not be safer, and in the end more economical to make the supply tanks of larger capacity than 7,000 gallons. The size he here proposes to make the puddle supply tanks, and his views on this point are also stated in the report referred to above :—

There should, I think, always be sufficient water in the supply tank to water the heaviest lot of sheep which travels; and there are at times as many as 15,000 in one lot. It is thought, therefore, that the capacity of the supply tanks on the main roads should not be less than (say) 20,000 gallons; for it is a bad thing to delay travelling sheep in watering, especially if they are in low condition, and there might be two different lots following so close on, or crossing each other, that there was not time to replenish the supply tank.

Windmills.—Since it was decided to lift the water from the main tanks and supply it in troughs, it has occurred to me that the most economical mode of doing so would be by the windmill. From

From the inquiries I have recently been making as to the cost and efficiency of these mills, I find that a good mill including stand, pump, piping and all complete, would cost in Sydney (where the whole could be put together with bolts and nuts taken down and packed ready for transmission and re-erection) about £75.

The construction of the mill is simple, the parts substantial, and all easily replaced from duplicates.

It is self-regulating and requires little or no attention, beyond oiling, and with a person living on the spot, cannot possibly get out of order, except through gross neglect; for it is so constructed as to throw itself out of gear in very high winds, and offer a minimum resistance to a storm.

A mill of the size mentioned—14 feet—will, it is said, with a good strong wind, raise some 1,800 gallons an hour, to a height of from 20 to 25 feet.

Mr. Russell, the astronomer, has no returns of the average duration and power of the wind in the different parts of the colony, but he thinks that an average of at least five or six hours a day might be counted upon on the salt bush plains, where windmills would mostly be required.

What I would suggest, therefore, with respect to these mills is,—that where the water is at present supplied to the stock from drinking tanks, instead of erecting there the double whip recommended by Mr. Gilliat (which he estimates will cost £130 each; considerably more than a windmill, stand, pump, and all complete), a 14 feet mill and pump be erected (the supply tank would be the same in either case) and should it ever happen, which it very seldom would, that the water in the supply tank ran short, the stock could, as they now do, water at the drinking tank.

This double arrangement would insure a constant available supply for travelling stock and travellers; and as it would only be on very rare occasions that the stock required to use the drinking tank, the water in it would not become polluted, nor would the entrance "get potched or boggy," or the connecting pipes silted up, as they now do, mainly through the watering of cattle.

With care, horses and cattle could always be supplied from the troughs; for when the water in the supply tank became low, it could be kept for the large stock, or a sufficient supply for them could be raised by a good hand-pump worked by two men, and the sheep could be watered at the drinking tank,—which they could of course be without cutting up the entrance or polluting the water, as large stock do.

It seems, therefore, if windmills are as serviceable as represented, that they should be used for raising the water into the supply tanks, and, that instead of doing away with the drinking tanks, the proper course will be to retain them; and in constructing tanks in future to do so with drinking tanks, as they will not only be a reliable stand-by, in case of failure in the wind or any accident to the mill or pump (which would very seldom occur), but they will also conserve a large additional quantity of water.

In this way a constant supply of good clean water can always be guaranteed at a minimum cost—that in fact this will be the solution of the vexed question how the water should be supplied to stock from public tanks.

Drawing Pipe and Syphon.—With the view to drawing from the surface of the water in main tanks and keeping the pipe which carries it from that to the pump from choking, or the pump from being clogged or stopped with mud or other foreign matter, I would suggest that the following plan be adopted:—

Let a cast-iron pipe of the right size be carried through the embankment from the main tank to the place where the mill and pump are to be erected—opposite, of course to, and at the proper height for, pumping the water into the supply tank; and let this pipe be carried out on a stage erected on the bank, and into the main tank until it is over the deep water. Then fit on to the end of the pipe a double V joint; attach to that a piece of pipe of the same size with a bend or knee near the joint, and a straight shank somewhat longer than would be sufficient to reach the bottom of the tank, and at the end of the straight shank fix a pine float, letting the end of the pipe (to which a rose would be attached to keep anything but the water from getting into it) protrude so far through the bottom of the float as to draw water from (say) 18 inches from the surface.

In this way the joint in the pipe will allow the float to rise or fall with the water in the tank without interfering in the least with the flow, and only clean surface water will be drawn, so that the pump will seldom or never choke, and will, of course, last very much longer. The joint is simple and substantial, and not at all likely to become deranged or leak.

This plan will also answer in using syphons, and get rid of the trouble and expense of knees and bends now required in carrying syphons up to and over the embankments, while the other end of the syphon, which delivers the water into the drinking tank, could be made a fixture, and be so fitted with three or four taps, so as that the discharge of the water into the drinking tank would be always above the level at which it was desired the water in the drinking tank should stand, and thus never get choked.

In fact, where a pump and drinking tank are to be used together, the one float and jointed piece of pipe will answer for both pump and syphon, as the pipe for the drinking tank can be made to branch off a short distance from the pump, and, with a cock on the syphon branch, and another on the pipe leading to the pump, either could be used as required, and would work efficiently.

Should the proposal here made with respect to the employment of windmills be entertained, Mr. Gilliat might perhaps be asked to report upon it, after which the papers might be forwarded for the opinion of the Commissioner for Roads on this and the other unsettled questions here brought under consideration.

Fencing in the Works.—It is very essential that the works should be properly enclosed with a secure and substantial fence, say a fence with six wires and a top rail; and it should, where practicable, include not only the tank or dam, but also the surface or back water, which lies for a long time after rain around the tank, or the back water from the dam, so as to prevent stock from watering without payment.

Watering lane or yard and gates.—It is also essential both for the sake of stock, and also for saving the works from damage, that there should be a wide lane or yard with wings and gates so constructed as that the stock can be admitted to the troughs or drinking tank by a gate at one side in such numbers as could be conveniently watered without crushing or crowding, and passed out after drinking at the opposite, and the gate then closed to prevent them from coming back—as shown on the accompanying sketch (VI)—of a main and drinking tank lane, gates, and wings.

The expense of this would not be great, and it is very necessary that such an arrangement should be made, for stock are at times (after a 15 or 20-mile stage without water) very thirsty, and apt to rush the water and knock themselves about, as well as damage the works, more particularly where the water is supplied from drinking tanks, it being impossible for the drover to have the control over his stock which he would have with lanes or yards and gates, as here suggested.

A plan of a double gate for the watering lane is submitted for approval, as being light, durable, and easily repaired (see plan and specification VII herewith).

Fencing in land let with the Works.—The Minister for Mines has decided that the 200 acres let to the tenant is to be enclosed, and this will no doubt be a great inducement to suitable tenants leasing the works and paying fair rental. The fence in this case, too, should be six wires, with top rail, unless where the timber is very scarce, in which case the top rail might be dispensed with and a double wire substituted.

The Under Secretary for Mines.

A. B., 19/3/83.

XII.

TANKS AND WELLS.—New Works proposed for 1884.

| No. | Road. | Locality. | Work. | Class. | Size | Remarks. |
|---------|---|----------------------------------|-------|--------|------------------|---|
| 1st | * Cobar to Wilcannia . . | 6½ miles from Cobar . . | Tank | A | C yds. 20,000 | By purchase from Miss Dickson and Leslie Bros. See report and plan. See tracing herewith. |
| | * " " " | Near 23-mile post | " | " | " | } Plan of survey not yet received from the Surveyor-General. Report and plan showing sites will be submitted before the end of the year. New line. Site will be selected and report and plan furnished as soon as road survey is completed. |
| | * " " " | Between 38 and 39-m. posts | " | " | " | |
| | * " " " | } Exact site not yet defined | " | " | " | |
| | * " " " | | " | " | " | |
| | " " " | | " | " | " | |
| 2nd | Byrock to Gongolgon . . . | Exact site not yet defined | " | " | " | Report and plan. Awaiting receipt of particulars connected with special lease. |
| 3rd | Mossgiel to Paddington | Carowra S. amp, Res 817 | " | " | " | Report and plan. Awaiting receipt of particulars connected with special lease. |
| 4th .. | Wilcannia, via Mount Gipps to Thackerings | A line of borings 15 miles apart | Wells | " | " | .. .. . |
| 5th | Gongolgon to Brewarrina | Exact site not yet defined | Tank | " | 20,000 | This site might be conveniently selected at the same time as the one between Byrock and Gongolgon. |
| 6th | Balranald to Ivanhoe . . . | 9 m. northerly of Clare .. | " | " | " | } See report and plan. |
| | " " " | 10 m. southerly of Kilfera | " | " | 15,000 | |
| 7th | Urana to Corowa " .. | At Coreen or Daysdale .. . | " | " | " | |
| 8th... | " " " | At Lowesdale | " | " | " | |
| 8th | Jerilderie to Tocumwall .. . | At Murray Hut | " | " | " | |
| 9th | Whitton to Euabalong . . | T.S.R. 1,167 | " | " | " | } See report and plan. |
| | " " " .. . | " 2,084 | " | " | " | |
| | " " " .. . | Reserve 2,059 | " | " | " | |
| 10th | Parkes to Condobolin | " 1,015 | " | " | " | Report and plan will be furnished shortly. |
| 11th... | * Cobar to Louth | Near 64 m. post from Cobar | " | " | 20,000 | .. .. . |
| 12th .. | Collarendibri to Angledool | T.S.R. 162 | Well | " | " | See report and plan. |
| 13th... | Bangate to Goodooga .. . | Reserve 941..... | Tank | " | 20,000 | .. .. . |
| 14th | * Cobar | T.S.R. 591 | " | " | " | See report and plan, and memo. of 10/10/83. |

* Tanks in Cobar District.

HARRY GILLIAT,
Inspector, Public Tanks and Wells.

XIII.

Abstract of Reports on Tanks and Wells in Hay District.

The Tank.—Report of 21st January, 1885 (85-118): That Mines caretaker was without a horse to work the McComas lifter, and without oil for bearings; that the public worked the pumps with own horses when requiring water, and it had thus sustained considerable damage. Report of 3rd April, 1885 (85-578): Found caretaker absent on leave, only a lad in charge; sheep and cattle had been admitted inside tank enclosure to water at silt tank, and the embankment was thus being damaged; fence rails were missing, apparently used for fuel by travellers. Report of 1st May, 1886 (86-643), as to pumps. Holman horse-power being reported by caretaker as out of repair and quite ineffective; that there was no defect except that bucket leathers required renewal, and this should have been done by caretaker instead of requiring mechanic to be sent from Hay, 100 miles; also that much negligence was evinced in keeping drains and fence in repair, and that sheep had been allowed inside tank fence, damaging the embankment. Mr. McLeod, Mines overseer reported in reply to this, that caretaker had been told by travelling mechanic never to open the pump for repairs, and that the sheep had been removed from tank enclosure soon as observed. Report of 6th August, 1886 (86-1,165): That statement of caretaker as to repair of pump was incorrect; had not been directed not to touch it by mechanic, but the mechanic had found that caretaker did not know how to overhaul the pump, and that there was no other defect than as to leathers being worn. That Mr. Nicholson reports that sheep had remained inside fence by caretaker's admission for some days until they were too weak to walk out.

Yoult Plains tank.—Report of 3rd April, 1885 (85-580): That on this as on previous visit in January, caretaker was absent rabbiting; no protection to the tank or appliances. The public helping themselves to water, or to fence rails for fuel as they require them. The drains choked with silt and vegetation.

Dolmoreve well.—Report of 8th August, 1887 (87-656): Travelling mechanic reports well-rope broken, and centring below the water level forced out by fall of bucket; great difficulty with assistance of men and horses in lowering water, effecting repairs and recovering buckets, new rope and bucket had been sent out; breakage of rope had apparently been occasioned by the end near bucket being injured by action of water in well, in which it had been left during the intervals of baling. Mechanic also reports that on first going to the well on this occasion he could obtain no assistance from caretaker, owing to his absence for several days at an inn 7 miles away where he was drinking, and that he finally returned in a state of intoxication.

Tom's Lake tank.—Reports of 29th March, 1887 (87-253): Pump housing damaged, pump-well contained a foot of water, rusting pump had been in this state some considerable time. The main drain remained as reported in October, 1886 (86-1,417), quite obstructed by silt and vegetation. The embankment across creek 1 mile to northward to divert water into drain still remained broken through, and all water escaping, and that any water the drain had brought down had escaped into the swamp before reaching the tank, through a gap which had not been repaired. Report of 29th July, 1887 (87-634), that the embankment is damaged by rain flow down batters and repair neglected, pump requires cleaning and silting, housing still out of repair, and main drain and bank across creek still remain in same state as reported above.

Dry Lake well.—Report of 13th November, 1886 (86-1,525). Service tank not half full, no baling done for some time, caretaker had no horse, said he had lent it to a man for a few days, when he returned it he would fill the tank. This neglect will probably lead to obstruction of bore in well. Report of 7th March, 1887 (87-303): Mines overseer having reported to me that the supply had failed, went out with him and tested it. After lowering water a few feet so as to bring pressure in the bore it freed itself, and two hours baling could not lower the water—1,300 gallons an hour being taken out. The temporary obstruction of the bore was caused by want of the most ordinary attention, the service tank being nearly empty, showing that no water had been raised for some weeks, and the man in charge is incapable from old age.

Lignum

Lignum Hut Well.—Report of 22nd October, 1886 (86-1,429): Connecting rod of pump broken, pump does not receive due attention from caretaker, having a ladder put in well so that caretaker should have no excuse as to want of access to pump. Report of 8th November, 1886 (86-1,499): Breakage of plunger rod. Report of 5th December, 1886 (86-1,593): Breakage of windmill connections. It is evident that there is much want of attention on part of caretaker. Report of 22nd December, 1886 (86-1,680): Windmill had not yet been painted, in very dirty state, water level in service tank too low, showing that pump had not been kept working. Report of 29th March, 1887 (87-255). Pump working badly, not throwing full stream. Caretaker absent, three days afterwards found pump in same state. Caretaker made absurd excuses as to not keeping pump packed, and leathers renewed, &c. Service tank liable to damage from getting dry; ladder had previous to this been fixed in the well. Windmill not yet painted. Report of 28th April, 1887 (87-343): Another breakage in connections; duplicate castings from Sydney required; frequent breakages owing to negligence on part of caretaker. Mines overseer informs me he will discharge him and get more diligent and competent man. Report of 29th July, 1887 (87-625): Caretaker (same man) absent; pump not at work, although plenty of wind; from what I could gather, pump has only worked about a week during the last three months; only about 2 feet of water (should be 6 feet) in service tank. Caretaker apparently keeps mill out of gear and pump idle to prevent necessity of packing and repairs, &c.

Boonoono tank.—Mr. Wood's report of 11th June, 1886 (86-917): Pump reported by Mines overseer and caretaker as quite inefficient; that it took two and a half days to fill the service tank, working the pump as fast as a horse could fairly walk. Tested accuracy of this, and the result was that pump was found to deliver at rate of nearly 3,000 gallons an hour, which would fill service tank in little over six hours. The caretaker was found to be working machinery with dry bearings and appeared to be surprised to hear they required oiling. My report of 29th October, 1886 (86-1,408): Found that pump had been taken apart to renew bucket leathers six weeks previously, and in the interim had been left so with some of the parts lying embedded in mud on the horse-walk. Caretaker said he had not proper tools for the job and could not manage it, or put pump together again, but with the tools found there I put all right within an hour, and the pumps worked well. The caretaker said he had been told by his overseer to leave the pump as I found it until I came or sent up, as he could not put it right. The Government had thus quite unnecessarily the discredit of insufficient works for this period, owing to incompetence of the Mines officials. Report of 31st July, (1887-87,644): That Mr. Yeo, Mines overseer, had recently caused 2 feet of water to be run out of tank, because he thought embankment was endangered. There was still from five to six feet in height of bank above water level, so that this was a most absurd waste of water.

Mount Manara tank.—Report of 20th October 1886 (86-1,409): That the steam pump is in a disgracefully dirty state. Caretaker admits he has not overhauled it since Mr. Wood did so, four months before, when it was found in a similar state; had again to take it apart and clean it. Report of 1st August, 1887 (87-643): Seven of the outer concrete piers of the tank have the edges and corners scaled off, the interior of the piers remaining quite sound, a slight defect easily repaired by the mechanic, and not all impairing stability of the tank. Mr. Yeo's report that tank was unsafe, and his action in running off the water, were equally absurd and uncalled for.

Ivanhoe tank.—Report of 29th March, 1887 (87-260): Drains a good deal silted up; this would, as I suspected at the time, account for the loss of water the Mines overseer attributed to inadequacy, and of the inlet on the lower or western side of the tank. Report of 30th July, 1887 (87-626): Drains show evidence of neglect; the alteration made in dwarf fence of troughing by Mines overseer apparently renders that side of troughing inaccessible for sheep, the rail being inclined over the trough; the steam-pump had not evidently, and by admission of the caretaker, been cleaned for some months; and the pump weathershed is used as a kitchen and store-room by caretaker, to judge from appearances.

One Tree tank.—Report of 25th November, 1885 (85-1,563): Fence wires around tank slack; caretaker might easily have remedied this, but appeared to think it no part of his duty; found him at the inn, instead of being in charge of the tank. Report of 25th November, 1886: Caretaker said he was quite ignorant of, and appeared to be equally indifferent as to, the working or the keeping in repair of the pumps; the plunger gland had been fractured through carelessness in screwing it down, but he said he knew nothing about it; the pump consequently disabled, service tank not half full, and the troughing contained only some liquid mud. The pump was, in addition, in a most dirty and neglected state, the bearings being almost dry; sent out the following day and put pump in repair. Mr. Nicholson's report of 2nd July, 1887 (87-519): In consequence of Mines reporting pump disabled, he was sent out to inspect; that nothing was amiss, except that the piston-rod had become disconnected, owing to the pin falling out; put it right in 5 minutes, and pump then worked well. Caretaker's incompetence had occasioned an unnecessary journey of 50 miles in wet weather.

Pulletop tank.—Report of 6th December, 1886 (86-1,601): Embankment in bad repair generally and damaged by scour at two corners, some 30 cubic yards of earth being displaced; wires in surrounding fence very slack; service tank not full; and the lessee in charge appeared to know little about, care, or working of the steam-pump. Memo. of 9th February, 1887 (87-119): In reply to statement by Mines overseer that I had forbidden their lessee to repair embankment in accordance with his instructions, and also to minute of Mr. Gilliat's, complaining of interference with officers of his Department; that the lessee's statement was not true, made to screen his gross negligence in performing a most urgent work, and apparently accepted by the Mines officers as a sufficient excuse for him, and also for throwing the onus on this Department. Report of 7th March, 1887 (87-199): Embankment still remained unrepaired, fence wires slack, troughing foul, drains neglected.

Mossiel tank.—Report of 30th July, 1887: Embankment batters scoured by rain flow; negligence in keeping in repair; horse has been admitted inside fence and on the embankment, destroying the vegetation which it is so desirable to protect; that caretaker had taken up the dwarf fence from troughing, leaving the post-holes open; had evidently been so for a long time, were full of rain-water, impairing stability of trough sleepers. The fence was being used to construct a rail laid on the posts, as bearers, along the middle of trough.

Jumping Sandhill well.—Mr. Wood's report of 5th June, 1886 (86-903): The buckets, one left at bottom, the other at top of well; the caretaker should be instructed to leave them midway out of reach of water, and save corrosion of the iron rope. Service tank only half full, in which state it has been for some time, no regular baling having been carried on. My report of 22nd October, 1886 (86-1,432): Caretaker's horse inside sheep trough enclosure; had put his foot through iron of troughings rendering it useless till repaired. No baling done for some time; regular baling very necessary to prevent destruction of bore. Report of 22nd December, 1886 (86-1,697): Hole made in sheep trough by caretaker's horse has now been repaired by our mechanic, after being left by caretaker nearly two months. Grass in paddock had been burnt off, no satisfactory account as to origination of it. Report of 24th February, 1887 (87-181): That Mr. Boulton, Mines inspector, reported: Whim spindle shrunk from drum carriers, &c., presumably the cage arms of whim referred to, the bolts of which, as in all cases, occasionally require tightening up. A spanner in hands of a competent and diligent caretaker would remedy this in a few minutes, and without the necessity for a visit from our mechanic, who has since overhauled this whim. Mr. Boulton also says: "The stays from the horse and balance arms are vertical, &c., and consequently useless." This is obscure. It is possibly the cage struts are here referred to, and it is not of any disrepair, but of a principle of construction or design that complaint is here made, as I think hardly called upon to discuss this with Mr. Boulton. He next reports that a gate in progress in the hands of a contractor under this Department, and not yet finally inspected by me, should be condemned. Would save me much trouble and responsibility if he would similarly say when work carried out by contractors with this Department should be passed. Report of 29th March, 1887 (87-263): Had visited on 17th and 20th instant. On first occasion caretaker said he was just about to start filling service tank, which was empty; on second occasion he said he had half filled it and run water out again to cleanse tank; on examination this proved to be false, no baling had been done.

Box Creek tank.—From Mr. Wood's report of 21st June, 1886 (86-964): Pump could not be tested as the caretaker, or rather his deputy, he being a publican living some distance from the work, had no horse in. The pump had not been worked for a month, and the service tank was nearly empty. This is most objectionable. Mr. Crummer's report of 28th July, 1886 (86-1,151): The new Mines caretaker, though he reached the inn, 2½ miles off, on the 23rd (five days ago) has not yet gone near the tank. My report of 24th February, 1887 (87-149): In reply to Inspector Boulton's complaint that foot-valve of pump was suspended from suction-joint, and should have staging out in tank for suspension and elevation; that Mr. Boulton has misapprehended the purpose with which these stages are provided at other places; here the foot-valve is suspended vertically in well of disused McComas lift; no stage is required, and the only alternative to be made will be to substitute an ordinary pipe-bend for the movable joint, which is in this case superfluous.

Uulong tank.—Report of 13th September, 1886 (86-1,293): When there on 8th instant, found caretaker at his camp reading his newspaper, although his drains were much in need of attention. Report of 8th November, 1886 (86-1,511): The drains, for want of attention during rainfall, had allowed a considerable quantity of water to escape into the swamp. Report of 9th December, 1886 (86-1,616): The drains require much more attention during wet weather than the old man stationed here as caretaker gives them; the wires in fence around tank were slack. Report of 7th March, 1887 (87-201): The tank batter had been damaged by caretaker discharging water from the berm down it. Report of 1st July, 1887 (87-530): Caretaker and family residing in pump watershed; use boiler fire for domestic purposes.

A. W. STILWELL,
20/8/87.

XIV.

Composition for Service Tank, &c., and General Control of Tanks and Wells.

Silverton, 28 March, 1887.

THE objections raised by the Mines officers to the use of the composition referred to in the enclosed papers, I am not in a position to traverse, as I have seen none of the service tanks or troughing that have been coated with it—but I may state that the receipt was given to me by Mr. M'Kinney as being one that produced a good coat for the purpose sought, and until further information is available I would, with all deference to Mr. Boulthbee's opinion, feel inclined to accept that of a gentleman of Mr. M'Kinney's engineering experience as being more reliable.

There can be no doubt that protecting the service tanks and troughing is one of the duties of the Mines caretakers, as stated, but the experience of our officers is that the men do not in all cases do their duty, and this being the case, I am decidedly of opinion that any necessary work so neglected should be done by us rather than the public interest should be prejudiced—on this account Mr. Stilwell has doubtless instructed the travelling mechanic to do such necessary work when visiting the tanks for the purpose of carrying out his more particular and immediate duties.

I still maintain, Mr. Gilliat's opinion to the contrary notwithstanding, that the Department is responsible for repairs, and this being the case I cannot understand exception being taken to such repairs being carried out as soon as they are found to be necessary by our officers, instead of waiting, with a chance of the necessity being overlooked, for the red-tape routine involved in sending notices from the Mines Department, a course which often causes dangerous delay and a great increase in the cost of repairs. I would have thought that the necessity of studying the public interest would have been equally recognised by the Mines as by this Department, and would have been considered to have a premier claim to that of red tape.

The effect of a divided control is decidedly objectionable—the entire control of the works should be vested in this Department, a course which would eliminate many of the evils which now exist. The experience of our officers has led them to form opinions adverse to the character of the maintenance under the Mines, and as the expenses connected with these works should be reduced as much as possible that end would be gained by the entire control being handed over to our local officers, who, whether charged with this duty or not, would have to be retained in their respective districts. Such a course involves no extra expense for supervision, as would be the case if the Mines employed a separate staff and created a number of new and quite unnecessary appointments, with a corresponding increase in the public expenditure. This course would also avoid any chance of "friction," as deprecated by Mr. Gilliat.

ARTHUR P. WOOD.

The Commissioner and Engineer for Roads, &c., &c.

All this correspondence relates to the use of a composition on the tanks, which is just referred to in report of Water Conservation Commission thus:—"It is found that the mixture applied assumes a glassy surface, and does not affect the taste of the water." This is a specimen of the friction complained of in minute asking that execution of works be handed over.—W.C.B., 21/4/87.

Hay District.—As to Composition used for Coating Service Tank and Troughing.

The Commissioner and Engineer for Roads,—

Sir,

Hay, 23 March, 1887.

In reply to your attached telegram, the composition used for protecting inside of troughing from action of water, &c., is a mixture of 2 lb. of pitch and 2 lb. of tallow to 1 gallon of tar.

It has been used at three tanks only, viz.:—Mount Manara, Boonoonna, and Gunnaramby. Doubtless—as almost any composition would—it affected the first water put into the troughing after it was applied, but this should have been run to waste by the caretaker instead of being supplied to the public to save them a little additional pumping.

At Gunnaramby, where it was first applied, it no longer injures the water. At the two other places there has been no demand for water owing to the rains, but if the water were run out of the tanks, and they were re-filled, there would be no valid grounds for complaint.

No composition is being used by the Mines Department in this district.

I have, &c.,

A. W. STILWELL.

Telegram from Sydney to Mr. Stilwell, Road Superintendent, Hay.—Objection taken by Mines to your coating tanks with tar and grease. Report very fully *re* this, and do not coat any more. Report on composition used by them.—W. C. BENNETT.

Telegram from Hay to Commissioner for Roads.—Will send in full report *re* composition used for service tanks and troughing after inspection next week.—A. W. STILWELL, Assistant Engineer.

Coating insides of Tanks and Troughing with a Composition.

Sir,

Public Watering Places, Mines Department, 24 February, 1887.

Referring to your blank cover communication of 10th instant, relative to the coating of the inside of service tanks and troughing with a composition, at several of the public watering places, and to the minute thereon, I now have the honor to forward for your information a copy of a minute dealing with the matter.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary for Mines.

The Under Secretary for Public Works.

Copy of this paper having been sent to me at G.P.O., Melbourne, the original should be sent to Mr. Stilwell for full report. I may state that the mixture that has been applied was recommended by the Engineer to the Water Commission, branch apparently of the Mines.—A.P.W., 28/2/87.

Tarring the inside of Troughing, &c.

Department of Mines, Public Watering Places, Sydney, 12 February, 1887.

MR. INSPECTOR BOULTBEE'S return from his last inspection, &c., reported an objectionable composition of pitch and tar and tallow was being used for coating a portion of the inside of service tank and troughing at some of the watering places by a man in the service of the Works Department, acting under instructions through the local road superintendent. Repairs of this nature are carried out by our own caretakers, who are paid for the service; the employment of a skilled mechanic for the purpose appears, therefore, unnecessary.

Mr. Inspector Boulton states:—"A composition of tallow, tar, and pitch, and the water was, after standing a short time most objectionable and undrinkable, bearing a greasy and prismatic scum on top."

Mr. Overseer Yeo states:—"It melts and forms a scum on top of the water which prevents stock from drinking. Boonoono and Mount Manara troughing had already been done. There have been several complaints about it."

Objection has been taken to the use of the composition referred to (*vide* Mr. Boulton's memo.), and I need hardly point out that it is apparently even more unsuitable when the water may at any time be required in considerable quantities for domestic purposes, as at the Ivanhoe tank.

Our own officers are instructed to use boiled coal tar and pitch for coating service tanks and joints of troughing when required. This forms a hard glaze, and has so far been found suitable.

I am in doubt whether Mr. Wood is correct in assuming that the Department of Public Works is responsible for repairs until they are authorized by the Hon. the Secretary for Mines; and I am equally in doubt whether it is desirable for that Department to take such steps as it may deem necessary to protect or render the works more efficient without reference to the Department responsible for their maintenance and control under the Act.

The effect of a divided control can only tend to confusion and lowering of the standard of efficiency, as well as to create friction between the Departments; and any steps taken, I would respectfully suggest for the consideration of the Honorable the Secretary for Mines, would preferably be in the direction of relieving the Works Department entirely of all repairs in future.

HARRY GILLIAT,

Chief Inspector, Public Watering Places.

If the use of the composition renders the water unfit for the purpose for which it is conserved, it is not clear how the use of it can be said to render the works more efficient. It is very desirable in the public interest that when the works have been taken over by this Department they should not be interfered with by the officers of another Department; and it is to be hoped the question of construction, control, &c., will be dealt with at an early date.—H.W., 16/2/87. Submitted. Approved.—F.A., 21/2/87.

Ivanhoe Tank.—Stilwell A. W., 29/1/87.

Mines overseer would not permit troughing to be tarred in accordance with Mr. Wood's instructions, as he had received instructions from Sydney not to have it done.—A.W.S.

Mr. Wood's Minute.—It appears to me that this Department is responsible for repairs and renewals; that no objections should be raised to such steps being taken as we consider necessary to protect the works or to make them more efficient.—A.P.W., 7/2/87.

Commissioner's Minute.—I think the instructions of this Department should be carried out for the protection of this iron. Mr. Wood gave these orders after consulting on the matter, and the work is absolutely necessary.—W.C.B., 7/2/87. Under Secretary, for transmission to Mines.

XV.

Letter from A. H. Doudney to F. A. Franklin, C.E.

Steam Scoop Camp, Government Tank Works,

29-mile Peg, via Nyngan, 15 February, 1885.

Dear Mr. Franklin,
I read with very great interest the *Herald's* reports of the meetings of the Water Conservation Commission, and it has often struck me, that perhaps a few lines occasionally on the subject of tanks might prove acceptable to you.

Outside my personal connection, I take the deepest interest in the matter of water conservation, and if any of my suggestions should in the slightest degree prove of use, I shall consider myself well repaid for the trouble taken in the matter.

I think I might be useful, because you, as a Commissioner, can only take evidence, examine, and see things from one point of view, whereas I as a contractor, and actually carrying out works for the conservation of water, observe matters from an entirely opposite, and, so to speak, more practical point of view.

I cannot lay before you any elaborate scheme for conserving water, not being a scientific man—no doubt you can get plenty to do that—but I can give you my practical experience, especially in the matter of details which possibly might prove of some value to you.

I should imagine one of the greatest difficulties the Commission have to contend with, is conflicting evidence. One witness for instance favours dams, another condemns them altogether—and both witnesses from the same district—and equally reliable men.

Now, with all that sort of thing, I wish to have nothing to do. What I propose is to point out a few existing evils, and to answer practically any questions you might consider me capable of answering, that may occur to you from time to time.

I should say the first principle to be applied in the matter of water conservation, is economy, and a judicious expenditure of the public money.

As the system is carried out at present, there is no economy observable, and the judiciousness of the expenditure is ver questionable.

To make the scheme self-supporting, the system should be worked on a strictly commercial basis, and many alterations must be effected before that can be established.

When a new road is opened, the Stock Inspector for that district, and the Chairman of the Local Land Board, or other reliable authority, should be asked to report on the road—what the traffic consists of chiefly, and what it is likely to consist of for (say) five years to come.

Many roads are used solely by teams, others again by teams and travelling stock, and according to the report the road should be classed as either A, B, C, or D. The size of the tanks, and the distance to be placed apart should be determined by the class under which the road is recorded as follows:—

Class A.—Heavy traffic of teams and stock requires 20,000 yard tanks every 15 miles, or as near the distance as the catchment will allow of.

Class B.—Heavy traffic of teams, and occasional heavy traffic of stock requires 15,000 yard tanks every 15 miles.

Class C.—Heavy traffic of teams, and light traffic of stock requires 10,000 yard tanks every 18 miles.

Class D.—Traffic of teams and vehicles only; requires 8,000 yard tanks every 18 miles.

To show the necessity for this classification of roads, and making the size of the tanks to suit the quantity of the traffic, I shall point out the Condobolin to Nyngan road, for example.

On the above mentioned road during the past two years the Government have had six tanks put down at an average cost of £2,400 each tank, making a total expenditure of £14,400.

Now the traffic does not amount to fifty teams per annum, and the travelling stock is absolutely nil.

The drought has not prevented the passage of stock on this road, and good seasons will make but little difference. The road is cut off for travelling stock by the Nyngan railway and will never be used again by stock.

Such a road as this, I would put under class D. 8,000 yard tanks, every 18 miles would amply meet the requirements.

Now, I will take another road, the Nyngan-Nymagee one. On this road I have already excavated a tank, 20,083 yards, and am about completing another of 16,800 yards. Ahead of me, again, a 15,000 yard tank has just been started.

The traffic on this road consists solely of teams and vehicles. I estimate an average of four teams per day and one vehicle.

This road I should also place under class D.

I am quite aware of the necessity in a new country, when making improvements, of looking well ahead—that in watering a new road the chief thing to consider is, how will a railway affect the traffic in time to come?

Trucking is so obviously preferable to driving the stock, that once a railway penetrates a district the roads are abandoned for the trucks, and the elaborate and expensive tanks are of use only to occasional mobs of cattle and flocks of sheep, vehicular traffic, and to the lessee of the run on which the tanks are sunk.

The present specifications for the 15,000 and 20,000 yard tanks, I would not alter to any great extent.

I should suggest, however, that in places where much wash is likely to be met with, two silt-tanks be put down instead of one, so that the water in passing through the two tanks would be altogether clear of deposit before entering the main excavation.

I know instances of silt-tanks filling right up after one heavy fall of rain. This happened to the tank I put down on Melrose, eighteen months ago.

And in every case, I would recommend that between the excavation and the embankment, a gutter, at least 9 feet wide, and from 2 to 3 feet deep, according to the soil, be made right around the tank, and filled in again with clay taken from the excavation.

My reason for making it 9 feet wide is so as to allow the drays to go into it when filling the gutter up and thereby consolidating the new material.

The stamping weight of a horse and loaded dray I calculate roughly at 2 tons. A contractor would do this work at the same price as the excavation.

This matter is of great importance, as the tank would, with the gutter, hold water right up to the surface.

As it is, the water in every tank I have done has soaked away for the first 2 or 3 feet, and I have noticed the same thing happen at every Government tank I have been to.

On a 20,000 yard tank, it would take 300 yards to put a gutter round the excavation, 3 feet deep and 9 feet wide. 800 yards at (say) 1s. 6d., equals £60.

And for this small outlay we save 440,836 gallons, allowing the soakage at 2 feet, and 661,168 gallons at 3 feet of soakage.

In many tanks the water soaks away considerably more than 3 feet.

Now, as regards the 10,000 and 8,000 yard tanks, I would construct them in a different manner.

The heavy expense in connection with the troughing, service tank, pumping machinery, &c, I would avoid by having none of those extras, and allowing the stock to drink out of the tank itself; and the shape I would alter, so that these small tanks would be excavated cheaply and expeditiously.

Three of the slopes, 2 to 1, and the remaining slope, 3 to 1, which would be the roadway, allowing ingress and egress to and from the water.

Embankment would be formed in the shape of a horse-shoe, or across as a dam, according to the nature of the surface.

At the edge of the excavation I would erect a strong three-railed fence around the three steep sides, and down to the water at each side of the roadway.

As watering the stock from the tank itself would tend to pollute the water, I would, to supply drinking water for human consumption, sink a well 4 feet by 2 feet 6 inches, about 3 feet away from edge of excavation, on one of the steep slopes, and to a depth 3 feet below that of the main tank. At the bottom level of the tank I would put a drive 3 feet x 3 feet 6 inches, through from the well to the tank, and then, after slabbing, fill the drive with sand firmly rammed.

This would act as a filter; the water would percolate through from the tank into the well, and rise to the level of the water in the excavation.

I estimate the cost of sinking the well, putting the drive, and timbering the lot at £40 bulk sum.

Planking would be fixed on the top of the well, and a small hand-pump would complete the concern.

In conclusion I would like to say a word or two with regard to the officials in charge of the construction of Government tanks.

In the selection of inspecting officers enough care has not been exercised by the Roads Department.

When a tank has to be put down, instructions are given to the road superintendent of the district in which the tank is situated, and visit the work monthly to report progress. When the tank is completed, the officer measures it, and the Government are got at for hundreds of yards. And, because the inspector knows little or nothing about what he is sent to do, and consequently the contractor gets the best of him at every turn.

I know of no other business where a contractor has so many opportunities of—to use a seafaring term—getting to windward of his employer.

F. A. Franklin, Esq., C.E.

I am, &c.,

A. H. DOUDNEY.

XVI.

An Act to regulate Public Watering Places and to protect certain Reserves from trespass. [Assented to, 21st October, 1884.]

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide public watering places and to regulate the management thereof and also to protect travelling stock and other reserves from trespass Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows:—

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the "Public Watering Places Act of 1884" and shall come into force on the first day of January next.

Interpretation

2. In this Act if not inconsistent with the context—

"Governor" means the Governor with the advice of the Executive Council.

"Minister" means the Minister charged with the administration of this Act.

"Reserves" means all such places as shall be declared to be travelling stock and camping reserves.

"Public Watering Places" means all such reserves as shall be declared to be public watering places under this Act.

"Inspector" means any person who may be appointed an inspector under this Act.

"Stock" means any horse mare gelding colt filly ass mule bull cow ox heifer steer calf ram ewe wether or lamb goat or pig.

"Travelling Statement" means any statement required by the "Registration of Brands Act of 1886" and the "Diseases in Sheep Act Amendment Act of 1878" or any Act amending the same.

"Permit" means any permit required by the "Sheep Diseases Act of 1866" the "Diseases in Sheep Act Amendment Act of 1878" or any Act amending the same.

"Travelling Stock" means any stock the driver of which is required to be provided with a permit or travelling statement.

Power to proclaim reserves for public watering places.

3. The Governor may from time to time make and again revoke reserves for the purpose of establishing public watering places and for the accommodation and agistment of travelling stock. Such reserves shall be made by notification in the *Government Gazette* but shall not be withdrawn from pastoral lease except by a special notification to that effect.

Governor may appoint inspectors and overseers.

4. The Governor may from time to time appoint inspectors and overseers for the purpose of this Act and such inspectors and overseers may exercise the powers hereby conferred upon them in any part of the Colony and shall be *ex officio* inspectors of stock.

Power to construct tanks and dams.

5. It shall be lawful for the Ministers to construct tanks dams or other works for storing or for providing water adjacent to any roads or upon any reserves or public watering places.

Governor may lease tanks and dams for term of years.

6. The Governor may from time to time let by tender or otherwise for a term not exceeding five years any such tanks dams or other works for storing water and any such public watering places upon such terms and conditions as may be deemed expedient and the lessees thereof shall supply water to such persons and such stock at such rate as shall from time to time be fixed by regulations for that purpose.

The Minister may appoint caretakers of tanks and dams.

7. It shall be lawful for the Minister from time to time to place such tanks dams or other works for storing water and any public watering places in charge of caretakers who shall supply water to travelling stock at such rate as shall from time to time be fixed by regulations for that purpose.

8. The Governor may place any public watering place for any period not exceeding three years under the control of trustees who shall supply water to travelling stock and to all persons who may require the same upon such terms as shall be prescribed by regulations for that purpose.
9. It shall be lawful for any person duly authorized by the Minister to impound in the nearest pound any stock found trespassing upon any public watering place or upon any reserve and to charge thereon the damages mentioned in the first Schedule to this Act together with the driving and other fees imposed by the Impounding Acts. And the owner or person having charge of any stock who shall wilfully allow the same to trespass upon any such watering place or reserve may be prosecuted by any such person and upon conviction shall for the first offence be liable to a penalty not exceeding the sum of five pounds and for any subsequent offence to a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds. Provided that trespass a second time by stock belonging to the same owner shall be deemed to be a wilful trespass for the purposes of this Act.
10. If any person shall obstruct travelling stock in the lawful use of any public watering place or in the use of any pasture or water to which such stock are entitled under this Act or any regulation thereunder or under any other Act shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds.
11. Every owner or person in charge of stock shall produce and show to the lessee caretaker or person in charge of any dam tank or well or public watering places or reserves when he shall require to use the same his proper permit or travelling statement on demand and any person failing to do so shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five pounds.
12. If any person shall wilfully destroy or injure any public dam tank or any structure or other work connected therewith in any public watering place or wilfully destroy or injure any part thereof or any machinery used in connection therewith or wilfully pollutes diverts or interferes with any water flowing into or in any such dam tank or well shall be liable to be fined by any two Justices any sum not exceeding one hundred pounds or to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding six months.
13. Any lessee caretaker or trustees who shall refuse or neglect to comply with the regulations to be framed under this Act shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding ten pounds for every such breach of such regulations.
14. The Governor may make regulations for the purpose of carrying out this Act and of regulating the management maintenance and control of such dams wells tanks public watering places and reserves as aforesaid and may impose any penalty not exceeding the sum of two pounds for the breach of any such regulations. And all such regulations shall on being published in the *Gazette* have the full force of law and copies thereof shall be laid before Parliament forthwith if then sitting and if not within one month after the commencement of the then next Session.
15. Any person who shall think himself aggrieved by any penalty under this Act imposed upon him or by decision of any Justices under or concerning the provisions of this Act may appeal against such penalty or decision to the Court of Quarter Sessions according to the law in force for the time being for the general regulation of appeals of such or the like nature.
16. All penalties for any breach of this Act or of any regulations made under the same and all charges expenses and sums due and payable thereunder may be recovered in a summary way before any two Justices of the Peace by any inspector overseer lessee caretaker or trustee or by any person authorized by the Minister to do so.

Watering places may be vested in trustees.

Power to impound stock found trespassing in watering places or reserves.

Obstruction of travelling stock in the use of reserves.

Owner of stock to produce permit or travelling statement.

Penalty for destroying or injuring dams tanks or other structures.

Penalty on lessee caretaker or trustee neglecting to comply with regulations.

Power to frame regulations.

Penalties.

SCHEDULE.

Rates of Damages to be charged for Trespass.

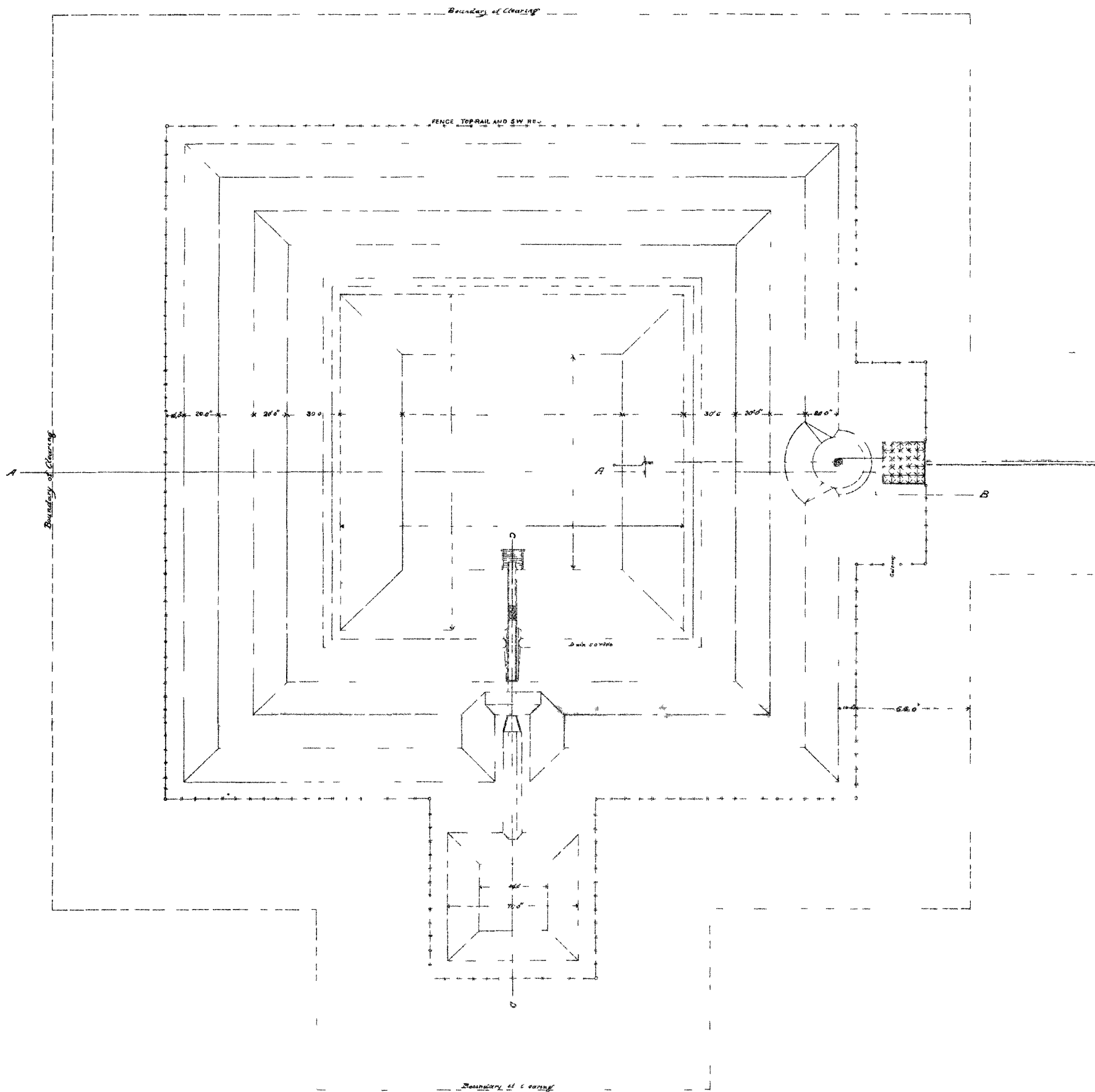
| Description of Animals trespassing. | Damages. |
|---|--------------------------|
| For every horse mare gelding colt filly ass mule bull cow ox heifer steer calf... | Threepence per head. |
| For every ram ewe sheep or lamb | One half-penny per head. |
| For every goat | Sixpence per head. |
| For every pig | Sixpence per head. |

[Six Plans and one Map.]

GENERAL TYPE PLAN & SECTION OF TANKS.

APPENDIX XVII

NO. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100

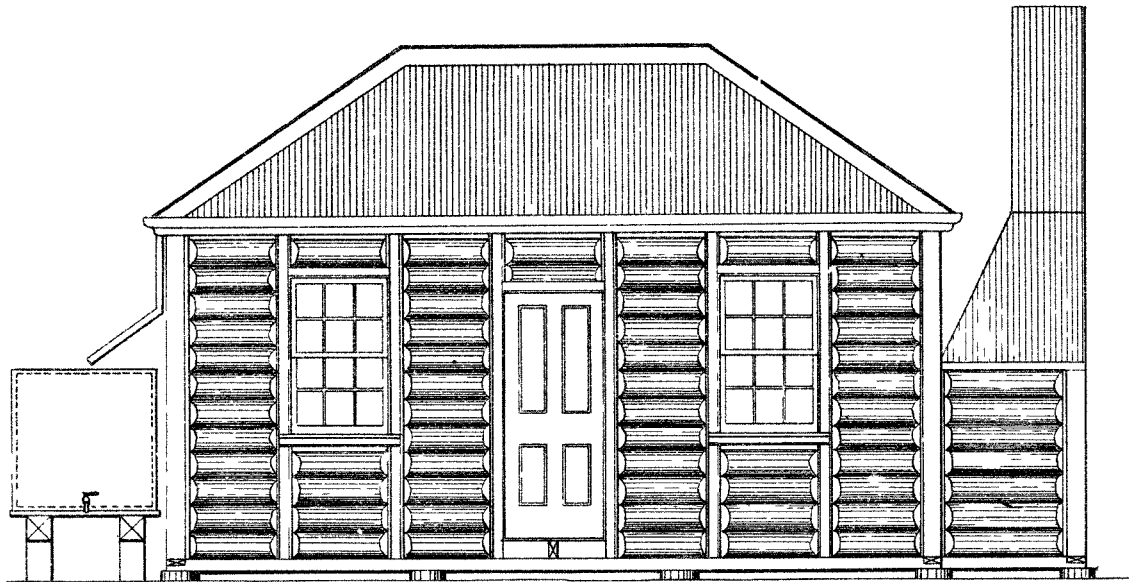
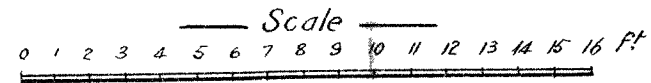


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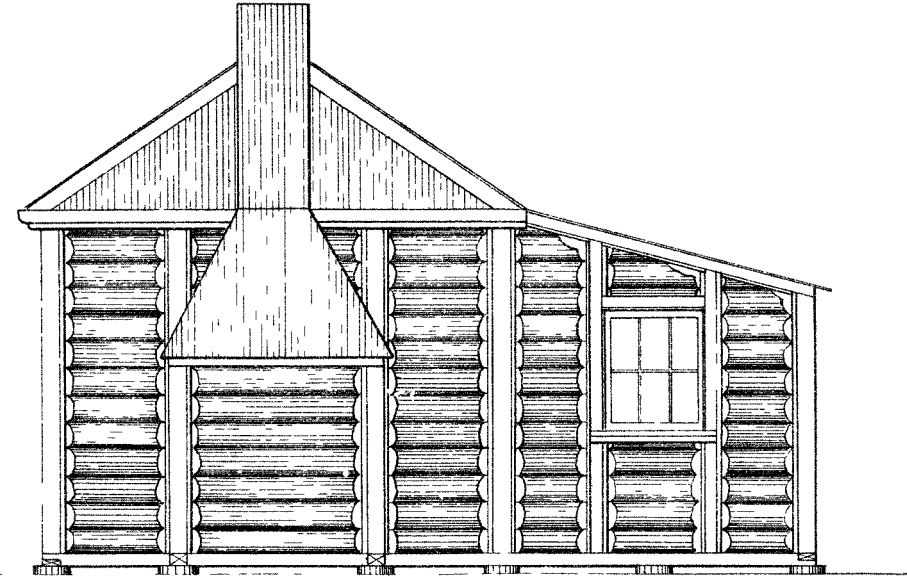
PLAN OF CARETAKERS COTTAGE
CONSTRUCTED UNDER ROADS DEPARTMENT

APPENDIX XVIII.

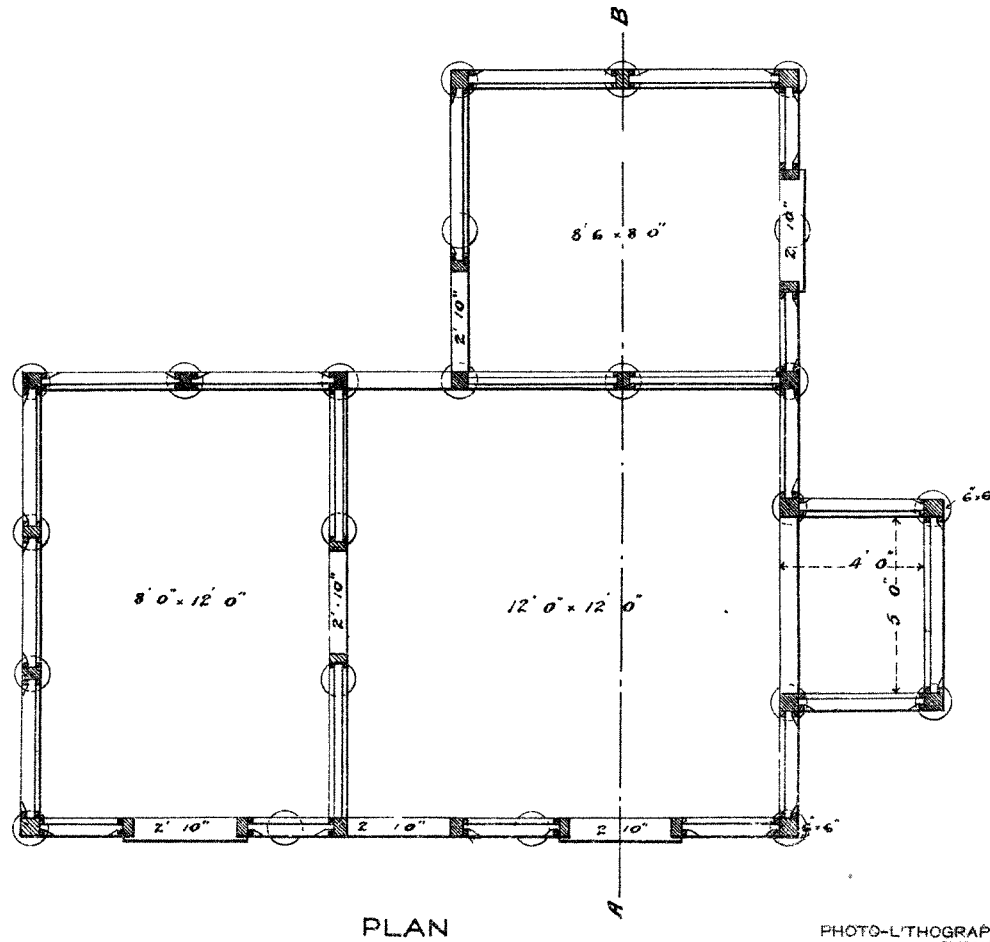
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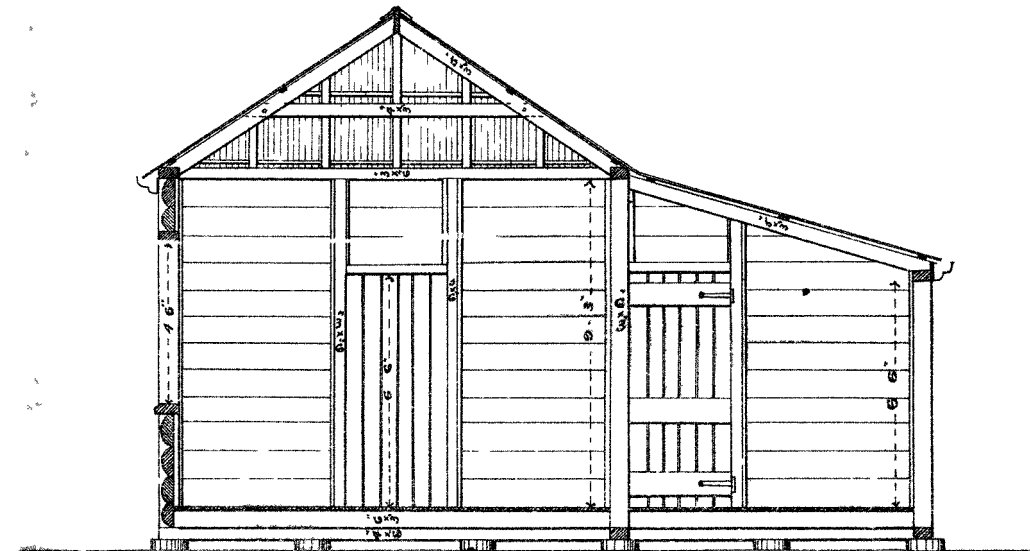
FRONT ELEVATION



END ELEVATION



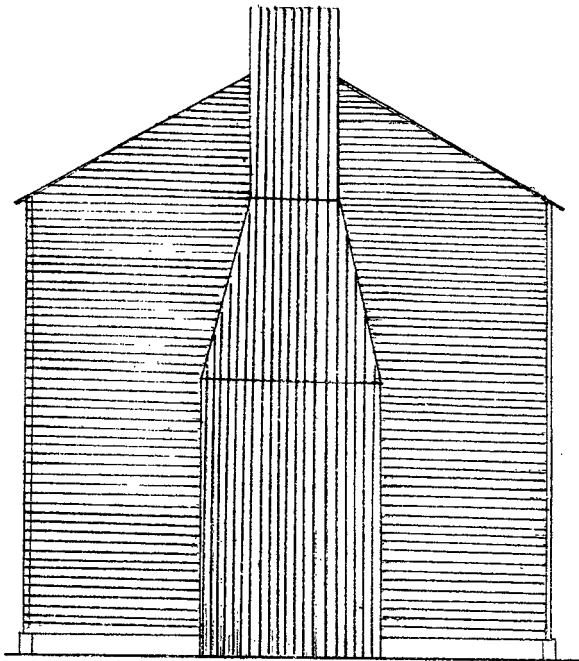
PLAN



SECTION THROUGH A.B.

PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHED AT THE GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE,
SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES

APPENDIX XIX.



End Elevation

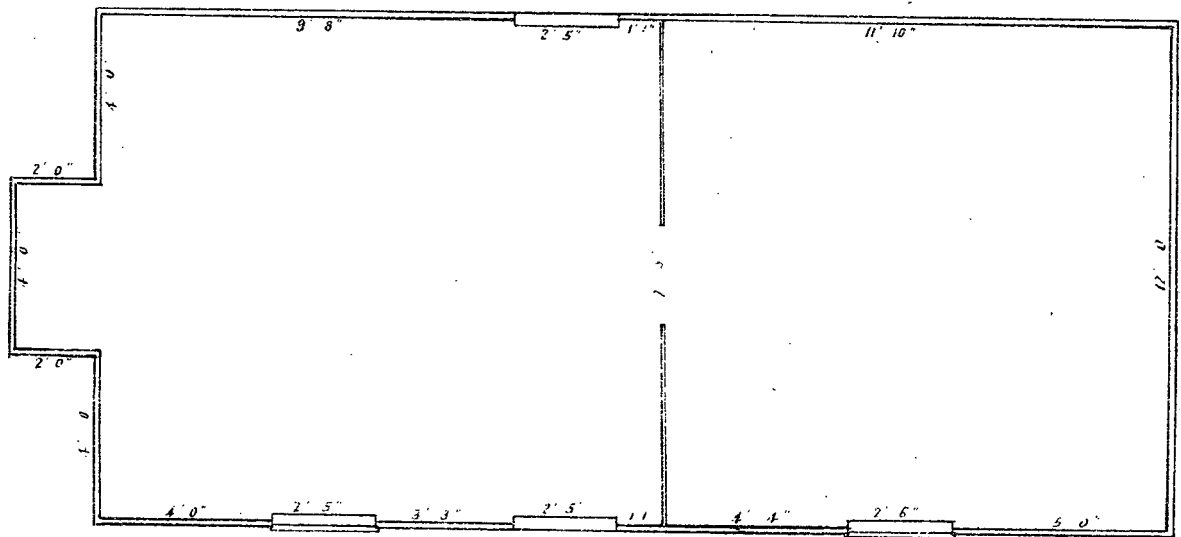
Sketch
— of —
CARETAKERS COTTAGES
— in the —
— *Silverton District* —

— Scale $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to one foot —

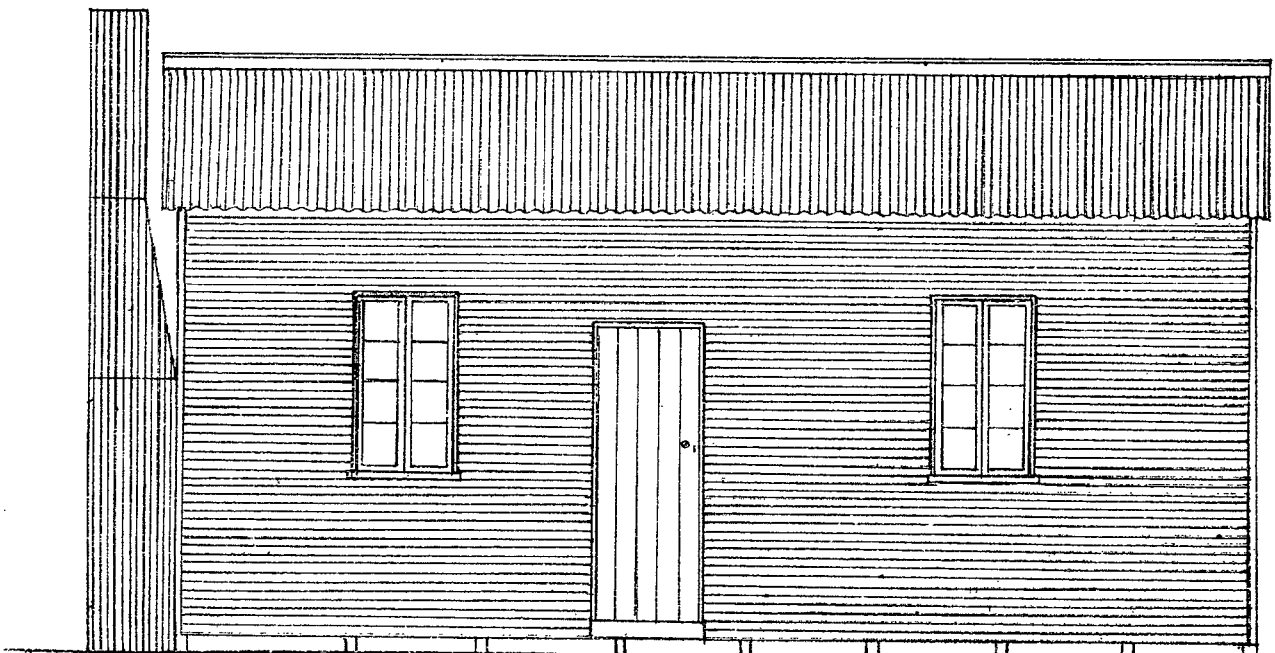
Scale.



PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHED AT THE GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE,
SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.



Plan

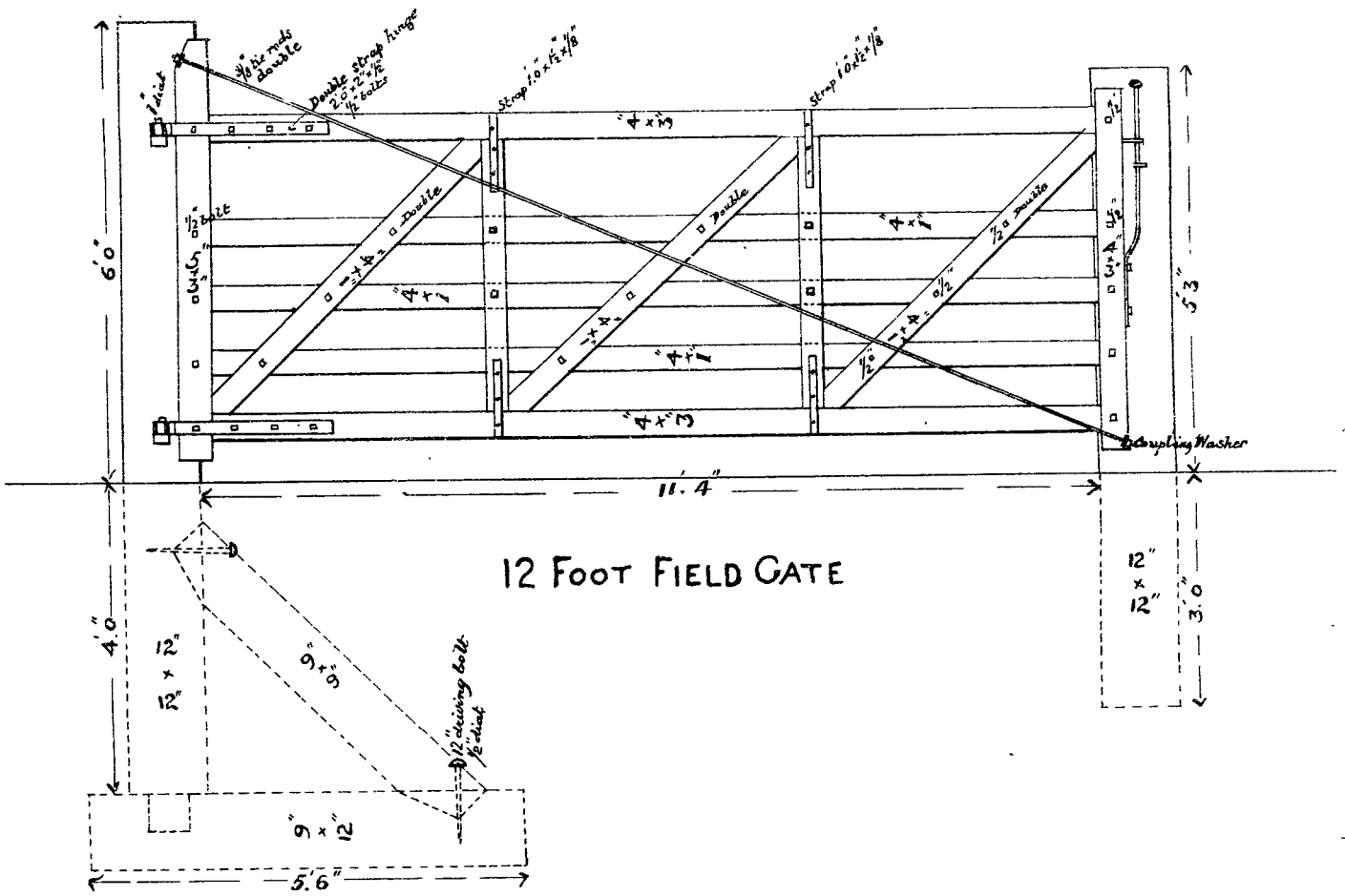


(Sig 34.)

Front Elevation

APPENDIX XX.

12 Foot Field Gate, erected by
Works Department at Public Watering Places.



(Sig. 34.)

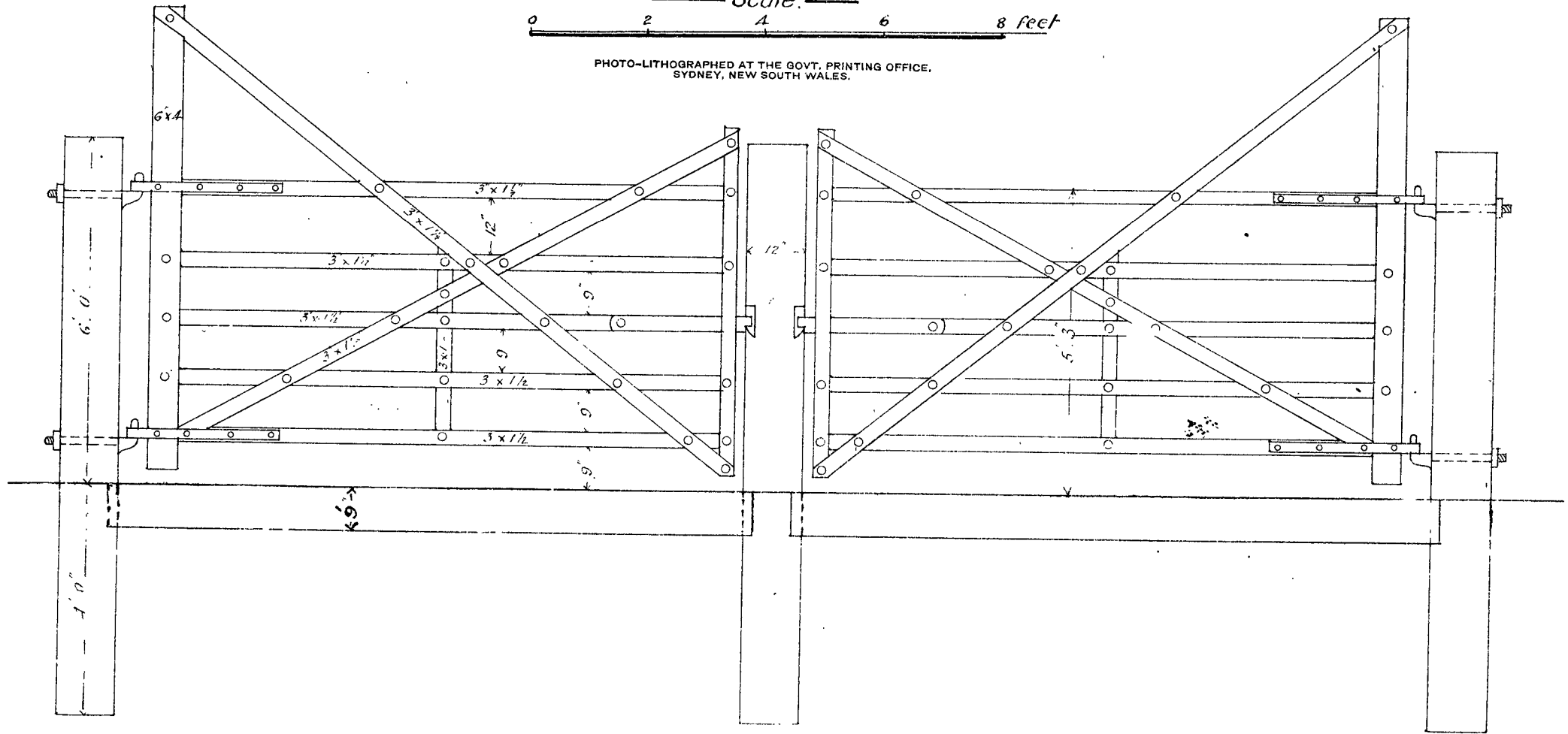
GATES FOR WATERING PLACES

Recommended by Chief Inspector of Stock

Scale.



PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHED AT THE GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE,
SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.



(Sig 34.)

APPENDIX XXII.

TOMS LAKE TANK

Scale.

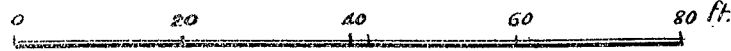
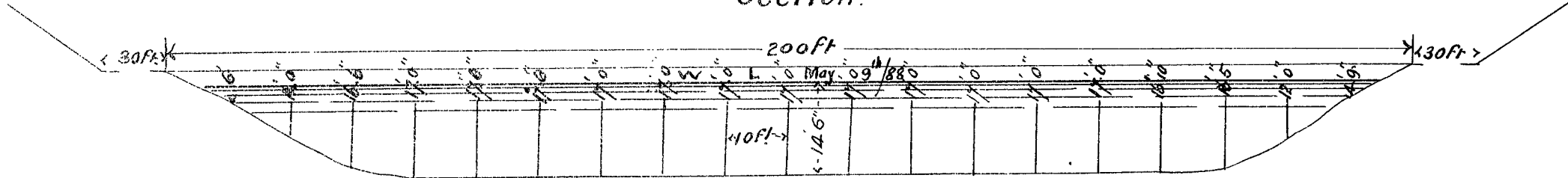


PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHED AT THE GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE, SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Section.



The mean depth of the tank is 17ft below the beam level; and the batters of the excavation have not materially altered from 1/2 to 1.

(Sig 34.)

J. G. Coxew - Gibson
May 9th / 88

W. B. Stowell
12.5.88

MAP OF NEW SOUTH WALES

PREPARED TO ILLUSTRATE THE REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON TANKS AND WELLS

Scale of Statute Miles
(2 1/2 Miles to 1 Inch)



NOTE: Constructed works are shown in Red thus ●
 Proposed works and those in course of construction thus ○

1888-9.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

TANKS AND WELLS.

A STATEMENT IN REPLY, TENDERED IN EVIDENCE, BUT REFUSED BY THE ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC TANKS AND WELLS.

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 11 January, 1889.

The Chief Inspector of Public Watering-places to The Under Secretary for Mines.

In submitting for the information of the Honorable the Secretary for Mines a detailed reply to the finding of the Royal Commission on the Construction of Public Tanks and Wells, the character of the Report is such as to necessitate a brief recapitulation of some of the circumstances attending the inquiry, which are fully dealt with in their proper places in the subsequent papers.

1. The Blue Book on Public Tanks and Wells, prepared by the Department of Mines in compliance with the order of Parliament, contains the whole of the cases referred to the Commission for inquiry. These gentlemen, however, declined to receive it as evidence, although on page 1 of the volume they were proffered the original papers, and invited to call the writers to substantiate their statements. This, it appears by the evidence, they did not do, nor have they called for the original documents. I may point out further, that by their letter of the 21st January, 1888, P.W.P., 88-506, the Department of Mines was restricted to certain witnesses by the Commission directing who should be summoned, specifying Inspectors Low and Mackenzie, and an overseer from the north-west, the west, and the south-west districts.

Parliamentary Blue Book not accepted as evidence.

Restriction to certain witnesses.

2. The non-compliance of the Roads and Bridges with the Order of Parliament for a return of all their papers upon the subject has placed this Department in the position of having supplied full information to the other side while their papers have not been up to the present laid on the Table of the House.

3. The fitness of permitting a revision of questions and answers in evidence taken on oath, and the necessity of making *material corrections* claimed by the President in his letter of the 8th of June, 1888, has been dealt with subsequently, (*Vide* p. 51, 52.) But it may be briefly stated that from time to time, the evidence, amounting to four large volumes, was forwarded to the Department of Mines. On the 22nd June, this Department's reply was completed, and submitted to the Secretary for Mines. On the 12th September, or nearly three months later, a letter was received from the Commission forwarding *the evidence in part, with corrections taken before the Commission*, and inviting reply. And upon the 27th of September I was summoned to meet the Commission and give evidence in reply upon this corrected copy. A comparison of the two copies of evidence, that had now been furnished by the Commissioners revealed, not only *material corrections*, but such grave alterations and omissions in both questions and answers, that it became necessary to consider whether the Department was justified in appearing to assent to the course the Commissioners had taken by making any reply to the evidence in its remodelled form—the question was however settled by the Commissioners refusing to receive the Mines reply.*

4. From a perusal of the second paragraph on page 28 of the Commissioners' Report, it would probably be inferred that the Department of Mines had not been desirous of tendering evidence in reply, but the fact is that the reply was twice tendered, having been forwarded first in type-writing by messenger on the 14th September, and subsequently by myself, in person before the Commission, upon which occasion I offered to read it to the Commission upon oath; they however declined to receive any thing but oral testimony. (*Vide* p. 35.) The Commissioners have therefore not only framed their Report without hearing the rebutting testimony of the Mines Department, but apparently have allowed the report to convey the impression that no evidence was tendered.

5. In connection with the refusal of the Commission to receive the Mines evidence in reply, it will be observed these gentlemen afforded no opportunity for the cross-examination of witnesses; it was consequently necessary to submit the evidence supplied to a much more searching review than would otherwise have been required.

6.

6. The Commissioners have permitted themselves to touch upon certain subjects not included within their Commission, but one point which may be deemed as fairly within its scope has not been alluded to, that is, the tone and temper of the minutes and correspondence of the Department of Public Works, which needlessly—whatever differences of opinion may have honestly existed—first provoked a soreness, and subsequently maintained and embittered the unfortunate relations between the Departments.

7. Time has not allowed a complete comparison to be made between the two copies of the evidence, but a number of the revisions and alterations have been taken out, and appear in the Appendix. As the questions in the original copy were not numbered, reference can only be made to the page on which they appear, but the number of the revised question is in all cases given.

8. For convenience of comparison, the finding of the Commission and the evidence that would have been tendered in rebuttal upon that particular case are given in parallel columns.

Submitted.—H.W., 2/1/89.

Approved.—F.A., 2/1/89.

H.G., 1/1/89.

Extracts from Report of Commission.

Page 5.

“We have dealt with the allegations as nearly as possible in the order in which they are given in the Minute Paper by the Chief Inspector of Public Watering-places, covering the *précis* of cases submitted to us, under the following heads:—

1. Faults of judgment in the selection of sites for public tanks on stock routes.
2. Defective design and faulty construction; too steep batters in most cases without reference to the nature of the soil, and the adoption of a certain form of tank without reference to the formation of the ground.
3. Excessive cost of construction of public tanks on stock routes, and sub-letting of contracts for same.
4. Incapacity of officers of the Department of Public Works, and frauds by contractors in the construction and measurement of public tanks.
5. Defective construction of flumes and inlet pipes.
6. Carelessness in laying out drains, and excessive cost of construction.
7. Expensive forms of machinery for lifting water, necessitating greater cost of maintenance.
8. Excessive cost and faulty construction of fencing; sub-letting of a contract for fencing, and excessive cost of gates.
9. Interference with Mines caretakers and overseers by officers of the Department of Public Works.
10. “Greasing” of service tanks.
11. Faulty sites of wells.
12. Faulty construction of wells; sinking, timbering, and centering of shafts, and erection of head works—whim, service tank, and troughing—before testing for supply and quality of water.
13. Excessive cost of construction of wells, and supply and quality of water.
14. Costly hutting for caretakers.
15. Defective construction of troughing.
16. Unfortunate effects of dual control, and suggested remedies.”

Replies of Mines Department to Report of Commission.

The perusal of this paragraph of the report of the Commission would lead one to infer that the list of allegations given by the Commission, and numbered from 1 to 16, is the same as the summary of deductions given by the Chief Inspector, Public Watering-places, numbered 1 to 10. To correct this erroneous impression the two summaries are given:—

Minute Paper by The Chief Inspector of Public Watering-places.

Subject:—Summary of deductions based on cases submitted to Royal Commission on Tanks and Wells.

Department of Mines,
Public Watering-places,
Sydney, 10 January, 1888.

In the cases herewith submitted to the Royal Commission *re* tanks and wells, there appears to be evidence of—

1. Faults of judgment in the selection of sites for tanks.
2. Of defective design and faulty construction, with but little concern to take advantage of formation of ground or selection of catchment area, so as to avoid collection of silt; of too steep batters in most cases, and apparently the adoption of a certain form of tank, without reference to formation of ground or nature of soil; the defective construction of flumes and erection of inlet pipes, with carelessness in laying out drains, and excessive cost in construction.
3. Expensive forms of machinery for lifting water, necessitating greater cost of maintenance.
4. Faulty construction and excessive cost of fencing.
5. Interference with caretakers and overseers; greasing of service tanks.
6. Sub-letting of contracts.
7. Faulty construction of wells, sinking, timbering, and centering of shafts, erection of head works, whim, service tanks, and troughing before testing for supply and quality of water.
8. Excessive cost of construction.
9. Costly hutting for caretakers.
10. Defective construction of troughing.

And finally, the evidence throughout confirming the unfortunate effects of a divided control, under which each Department denies responsibility.

HARRY GILLIAT,
Chief Inspector of Public Watering-places.

The Under Secretary for Mines.

Report of Commission.

Page 7.

"The improvement of these natural waters at the public expense, with the object of making public watering-places of them, as suggested by Mr. Gilliat (see Q. 117), would have necessitated reservation from lease; and, at the time the sites were selected, reservation of these natural waters—especially those improved at the expense of the Crown tenants—would have been, in our opinion, an unjustifiable violation of vested rights, and a very serious obstruction to the improvement and profitable occupation of the adjacent waterless country."

Reply of Mines.

Reservation from lease would not have been necessary, either under the Crown Lands Act of 1861 or under the Public Watering-places Act of 1884. Nor would the pastoral lessee have suffered any hardship, as he had unrestricted access to the water of the springs, which was ample to supply the wants of his own stock and those travelling the Paroo Road. It is quite clear from the evidence of Mr. E. Quin (Q. 1869–1877) that the tenant, Mr. W. Hogarth, was quite willing that travelling stock should avail themselves of the water, but even had the pastoral lease been transferred to a tenant not so disposed, travelling stock could have been protected by declaring the area around the springs a Travelling Stock Reserve, in which event the pastoral tenant would still have had the free use of the water. Mr. Hogarth in his letter of January 27th, 1883, to the Chief Inspector of Public Watering-places, says (page 7 of evidence):— . . . "I think putting the tank down in the present site a great waste of public money. Had the Government and station-owners (M.P. Co.) combined, and spent (say) £300 on the springs, they would have watered all the stock that ever came down the Paroo, and all the station stock that the country would carry."

As the Commissioners did not call Mr. Hogarth as a witness, it may be assumed that they were willing to accept Mr. Quin's version of his views. (See Q. 96 to 114, and 3689 to 3691.)

The original version of the evidence on page 20, Mr. Woore states:—"I think it will be found that this is in a water reservation; I have a recollection of having recommended it myself." This has been cut out from the evidence as printed, but should have appeared after the ninety-seventh question and answer. In view of the finding of the Commission, attention is invited to the suppression of this statement.

Again, on page 27 of the original version, Major Penrose asks the witness, who has just read the above letter from Mr. Hogarth, "I presume we can examine Mr. Hogarth himself upon that letter?" Witness replies, "I think that Mr. Hogarth would be a most important witness." This has been cut out from the evidence as printed, but should have appeared between Q. 114 and 115. I may call attention to the fact that Mr. Hogarth does not appear to have been called.

"With regard to the statement that the catchment at Goomboolara Tank is defective, Mr. David Brown, of Kallara, a witness suggested by the Department of Mines, states in his evidence that if a tank was required there at all, he does not think that a better site could have been had within a reasonable distance from the road (Q. 951); that in 1875 and 1876 there was no water at all at Mungundie Lake within 4 miles of the tank (see Q. 946 and 949); that he has not seen the tank dry (Q. 960); that he leased it for about two years formerly, and had the general supervision of it for three or four years after that (Q. 961 and 962); and that it was not dry during the drought of 1884 (Q. 963). Mr. Gilliat, also, states in his evidence in reference to the tanks in question that there is no fault that he knows of as regards catchment (Q. 107).

"Considering these statements in connection with the evidence of Mr. Hanna (Q. 3767 to 3775), we find that the site of this tank, as regards catchment, is not open to any objection."

Mr. Brown also says that the site is particularly badly chosen (Q. 945); that, though the tank was not absolutely dry, it was useless, from which it may be inferred that its contents were mud, not water. Mr. W. Sly states (Q. 729) that the tank was dry in 1885. It is evident that the tank is practically useless, because when the lake is dry the tank is also destitute of water (Q. 945). It does not appear from question 107, or from the context, that Mr. Gilliat made any such admission, no allusion being made to Goomboolara Tank. (See also Q. 964.)

Q. 77 also shows the objection to all the Paroo Tanks was their close neighbourhood to natural water.

Report of Commission.

"We also find that sound judgment, a proper regard for the improvement of the public estate by Crown tenants, and a just appreciation of private rights and enterprise, were exercised in the selection of the sites for all the tanks in question; and that proximity to natural waters must have considerably facilitated and diminished the cost of their construction."

"*Dry Lake Tank.*—This tank is on the road from Wilcannia to Mount Brown, and has not yet been transferred to the Department of Mines. Notwithstanding that it has been submerged by an unprecedented rainfall, which could not have been foreseen, the site is admitted to be, and undoubtedly is, a very good one under ordinary circumstances, both as regards catchment and position on the road, and was reserved from sale specially for water supply many years ago by the local Commissioner of Crown lands. The Department of Mines did not recommend the site for a public watering place, which is alleged to be unnecessary on the ground that a Mr. Smith, a publican of Dry Lake, had made sufficient provision there for watering stock. The Department of Public Works on the other hand, recognizing the importance and urgency of providing public watering places on that road during the "rush" to Mount Brown, constructed the tank at Dry Lake, deeming it injudicious to leave the public entirely at the mercy of the publican Smith, who had the power, in seasons of drought, not only to demand excessive rates for water, but to refuse it altogether, if he thought fit.

We find that in this instance the Department of Public Works acted judiciously and in accordance with the best interests of the travelling public; and that the Department can scarcely be blamed for the tank being submerged, seeing that the lake was never known to have been flooded before. It may here be noted that this is not a parallel case to Cobham Lake, inasmuch as that lake is much more liable to be flooded, being supplied by two of the largest creeks in that part of the country, and was known to have been flooded two or three times before the tank was made there. It is also very much larger than Dry Lake, where the tank is more sheltered than that at Cobham, and consequently less liable to be damaged by wave action."

Page 8.

"*Seaville's Tank.*—This tank is on the road from Wilcannia to the Paroo; the site is objected to on the ground that it is only 7 miles from the River Darling.

We find that the tank is within about 7 miles of the nearest point of the river, which is about that distance off the Paroo stock route; that it is properly situated on the stock route about 12 miles from Wilcannia, and that there is no reasonable objection to the site."

Reply of Mines.

A careful study of the questions and answers quoted must show that the finding of the Commission is inconclusive. The Peri Springs Tank was sunk close to permanent natural water, and the Goomboolara Tank failed at the very time when it was required (the drying up of the lake.) This can hardly be said to display sound judgment in the selection of sites. As to "a just appreciation of private rights and enterprise" it does not appear that these were ever in danger, considering that the pastoral lessee was at any time in a position to protect his rights to any outlay incurred, and his stock were never debarred from water.

The publican Smith had provided three tanks and a well for the purpose of supplying water to the travelling stock, and as this provision was ample, and there was no disposition on his part to charge exorbitant rates, it seemed unnecessary that the Government should incur the expenditure necessary in sinking a public tank. In this case the Commissioners seem to be somewhat indifferent to that "just appreciation of private rights and enterprise" which excites their admiration in the case of the Peri Springs Tank. The statement that the Department of Works "constructed" the Dry Lake Tank to meet the necessities of the Mount Brown rush is somewhat inexact. As a matter of fact, the tank is still uncompleted, and the rush has been a thing of the past for years. (See Mines Return, *re* Tanks and Wells, pages 220 and 246; see also reply-in-chief, p. 56.)

An important fact which the Commissioners did not elicit in examining the witnesses is that this tank has been submerged since the flood of January, 1885 (Mines Return, p. 217.) No doubt a knowledge of this fact would have affected their statement that the site is unobjectionable. The site chosen by the Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places, and confirmed by local residents, 3 miles further along the road, is beyond the influence of floods; but although the Works Department were urged to adopt this site they appear to have preferred the one which was ultimately covered by flood water. The result of their choice has been that since January, 1885, until quite recently, only the embankments of the tank have been visible.

Report of Commission.

"*Tarella Tank*.—This tank is on the road from Wilcannia to Mount Brown, and is alleged to be unnecessary on the ground that it is situated between Koonawatta and White Cliff dams, about 8 miles apart, on Bunker or Tarella Creek. These dams were constructed at the expense of the Crown tenant on whose run they are situated; and we are of opinion that the water in them, conserved by his enterprise and the expenditure of his money, is as much his property during the currency of his lease as the grass upon his run; and that no person has a right to take the one or the other without his consent; and although Mr. Quin, the present occupant of the run, has generously allowed the public to use the water in his dams, there is no guarantee that he will always do so, or that his successor will be equally obliging, or that the dams will always be equal to all demands, especially as silting up is said to be inevitable (see Q. 1960 and 3691).

Therefore, to protect the public from inconvenience and possible disaster in seasons of drought, when the Crown tenant would probably require all his water, the Department of Public Works chose this site as a convenient stage on the road for a public watering place; and in doing so in this and other similar instances, prior and subsequent to this, acted upon a principle laid down in a Minute by Mr. J. P. Abbott when he was Minister for Mines, referring to J. K. Well, dated 3/7/84, the justice and expediency of which we have no reason to doubt.

We therefore find that, in this instance, the Department of Public Works did not commit any fault of judgment in the selection of the site, which we believe to be the best that could have been chosen, and that proximity to water must have considerably facilitated and diminished the cost of construction."

Page 9.

"As to the suggestions of the Mines Department for a tank 3 or 4 miles south-east of the lake [Cobham], (Q. 2439 and 2440) or a well a mile south of it (Q. 237), the former would be too near Murlippa Tank, and would make the distances between that and Cooilly still more unequal. As to the latter, the saline nature of the country and the proximity of a very large salt lake—divided from Cobham by a sand ridge only about a mile in width—is much against the probability of obtaining suitable water in an ordinary well, though artesian water of fair quality might perhaps be obtainable by boring."

Reply of Mines.

The banks of Bunker Creek were reserved. It is acknowledged that the pastoral lessee has a right to all water—either artificial or natural—upon a public road or T.S.R., and to the pasture; but this does not deprive travelling stock of the same right, and there is no reason to suppose that if the dams had not been constructed, travelling stock would have suffered any disability. The dams, as shewn in Mr. Quin, the pastoral lessee's evidence (Q. 1909 et seq.), were on a public road used largely by travelling stock for years, and that he, as lessee, never thought of preventing the use of either feed or water, even if he had the power. The subsequent proclamation of a T.S.R. 1 mile wide has placed it beyond the power of any lessee—even were he disposed to prevent the public from using the water in the dams—from doing so. A Crown lessee had the option of protecting his improvements by improvement purchases; but this alienation in no case comprised the whole or both sides of a water frontage, which was and is always accessible and used by the public (Q. 1927). When it occurs that these dams are dry, the want of feed must render the road equally as impassable as the want of water. It is also evident that Mr. Bennett was impressed with Mr. Quin's representations in regard to this tank (Q. 1909), and would have stayed the work, but it was found that compensation in excess of the amount required to complete the tank would have to be paid.

No such suggestion was made by the Mines Department. Mr. Overseer Tully in his evidence given before the Commissioners expressed an opinion in favour of the site south-east of the lake, but not only did the Mines Department never approve of it, but it never came under their notice. The comprehensive scheme for watering the whole road from Wilcannia to Mount Brown, proposed by Mr. Gilliat, on April 17, 1882 (Mines Return, p. 249), suggests a more economical means of supplying water with fewer works of a less costly nature. Mr. Gilliat reported:—"The lake cannot be regarded as a source of water supply, as it may remain for long periods unfilled, and when filled must become brackish after a short time, having no effluent. I have therefore to recommend that a well be sunk about 1 mile south from the public-house, and a reserve of 640 acres notified around it, at the same time reserving the northern and eastern shore of the lake, so that water will be available for stock, so long as they can drink it."

This is the suggestion of the Mines Department.

"*Ivanhoe Tank*.—This tank is on the village reserve at Ivanhoe, on the road from Booligal to Wilcannia. The allegations against the site are that, being in the centre of the township at Ivanhoe, it is inconveniently situated for watering stock; that the drainage from the township past stables and piggeries flows into the tank; that the townspeople cannot get near it; that it has never been used for supplying the town; and that it does not hold water well, the soil being very porous.

A reference to page 66 of the Mines Return will show that the information of the final site for the Ivanhoe Tank was conveyed by Mr. Wood's letter of 10th March, 1885, in which he says the "question of site was ultimately settled by constructing the tank on the village reserve, which pleases Kilfera, Ticehurst, and the residents of the township." Upon this my minute was written, stating that I thought the conditions were fully met with in the site Mr. Wood had selected.

It

Report of Commission

It appears that a site for this tank was first chosen on the Ivanhoe to Balranald road, about 1 mile west of the town; and a tender was accepted for construction; but it is stated pressure was brought to bear against this site by the lessees of Kilfera run and some of the townspeople. Consequently it was abandoned; and a site was then chosen at Box Swamp, about 1 mile east of the town on Ticehurst run.

Trial holes were put down and contract for construction was let, but between the time of sinking the trial holes and the arrival of the contractor on the ground, the lessees of Ticehurst run selected—*i.e.*, conditionally purchased—the site and ordered the contractor off it, no precaution having been taken to have the land reserved from sale, which Mr. A. P. Wood frankly admits was an omission on the part of his Department. (See Q. 4844, 4845, and 4846.) The Department of Public Works was then apparently forced to adopt the alternative of placing the tank in its present position on the village reserve.

This site was approved of by Mr. Gilliat in his minute of the 18th March, 1885, quoted by Mr. A. P. Wood (see Q. 3350), and appears to have been the only one then available free from the drainage of the town. Mr. Stillwell, under whose supervision the tank was constructed, states that he consulted the residents of the locality as to the suitability of the site, and did not hear anything against it until some time after the work had been in progress. (See Q. 4417.)

We find that although this tank is on the village reserve, it is a short distance (about 100 yards) apart from, and not in the centre of the town as alleged, which consists of only a few buildings.

That it is somewhat inconveniently situated for watering stock on account of being so near to the buildings.

That the drainage from the buildings does not flow into the tank by the drains, though it is *possible* that it might do so by an indirect course, and from the main road through the lower silt tank during heavy rains.

That the tank is accessible to the townspeople, and though there is no evidence showing whether it has been used for supplying the town or not, it could be used for that purpose, if the inhabitants wished to avail themselves of it, and were permitted to do so.

That the soil is porous and some of the water is now lost by absorption, but the deposition of silt will, no doubt, in time, render the tank sufficiently retentive, the holding powers of the tank having very much improved already.

That notwithstanding that the site is somewhat objectionable, mainly on account of its proximity to the buildings, the tank is a useful work and answers the purpose for which it was intended.

That the site chosen at Box Flat is, all things considered, preferable to that on the village reserve; and the Department of Public Works is responsible for omitting to have it reserved from sale."

Reply of Mines.

I naturally assumed that as Mr. Wood stated that the tank was on the village reserve, and the residents of the township were pleased, that no cause of complaint existed. But Mr. Wood's statements were not confirmed, the tank is placed upon the surveyed allotments of the township, and the townspeople are not pleased.

I submit an extract from a letter of George Williamson, Esq., J.P., of Ivanhoe, P. W.P., 88-3,237, dated 28th May, 1888:—

"The general opinion of the residents was never in favour of the present site, although I said—and dare say others said—that if it was absolutely necessary that the tank should be in the town, the present was the best available, but we were never in favour of the present site."

The Commissioners admit the possibility of a flow of drainage from the town into the tank, but do not appear to attach much importance to a matter which jeopardises the health and possibly the lives of the residents. The residents possibly regard the question in a different light. The Commissioners arrive at the conclusion that "the tank is a useful work, and answers the purpose for which it was intended." It will perhaps be admitted that it would have been equally useful and more wholesome had it been placed beyond the village drainage.

The tank is upon the village allotments, and opposite the main hotel (Elliot's), and separated from that building only by the width of the street. There are buildings above it on both sides of the street, and the piggery referred to was actually upon the very edge of the drain, in position where the drainage from it would not fail to reach the tank.

It has never been alleged by this Department that the tank was not accessible to the townspeople; they, in common with the rest of the public, have a perfect right to the use of the water, which has never been refused since its completion, which was in 1887. During the greater part of 1888, and at the time the Commissioners made their inspection, the townspeople were dependent upon it for domestic purposes.

Page 10.

"*Walla Walla Tank.*—This tank is on Petrie's Creek about 25 miles north of Albury. The site is objected to on the ground that it is in close proximity to natural water, and that the tank was therefore unnecessary.

On 9th October, 1882, Mr. Gilliat wrote the following minute:—"Bearing in mind the large expenditure required in the dry districts of the Colony, the comparatively good rainfall here, and the trifling expense at which water can be con-

We

Report of Commission.

We find that the site was suggested by the Stock Branch of the Mines Department; that the natural water near it is not permanent, and when it fails, the inhabitants of the locality are entirely dependent on the tank; and that the tank is not an unnecessary work, and the site is not in any way objectionable."

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served by the settlers themselves, and the fact that the construction of a tank here (Walla Walla) would be taken as a precedent, and be followed by numbers of applications for similar works which would be convenient, but not absolutely necessary for the well-being of the settlers, I am not prepared to grant this application."

On 24th October, 1882, the Chief Inspector of Stock, in a covering paper, wrote:—"I would suggest that it be considered in the same class as the other works asked for on the roads from the Murray to the Murrumbidgee—the construction of which should, I think with Mr. Gilliat, give place in the meantime to the more urgent works in the outlying waterless portions of the Colony where the rainfall is much more uncertain, and very much less. If this be approved, Mr. Day, M.P., might perhaps be informed, and the papers forwarded to the Department of Works.—A.B., Stock Branch, 24/10/82. The Under Secretary for Mines."

And upon that minute Mr. Bennett wrote as follows:—"I do not see that any action can be taken by this Department in this case. The Jindera papers which were given to the Mines some time ago are now required in this office.—W.C.B., 13/11/82.

The accompanying letter from C. H. Douglas, Esq., J.P., the owner of Walla Station, and chairman of the Albury Stock Board, and a resident of the district for over thirty years, and a lessee of the tank, confutes the statement of the Commission, that the natural water near the tank is not permanent:—

Dear Sir, Walla Walla, Albury, 23 May, 1888.

In reply to your letter of the 21st instant, I beg to bring before your notice the following facts regarding the Walla Swamp and Petrie's Creek which flows into same, and which also supplies the Government tank leased by myself and brother. The water now in swamp covers an area of nearly 700 acres, varying in depth up to 6 feet, and will, with the help of ordinary winter rain, last for at least two years before drying up, even should comparatively dry seasons set in; the swamp was so full that for three months during last spring it overflowed, and flooded a large area of country, and made the roads in its vicinity on north-west side quite impassable, and has remained full all summer. Petrie's Creek, which fills it, ran nearly constantly all last winter, and continued to do so up to end of last year. The bursting of a dam thereon in no way affected or caused its continual running, sixty dams bursting on a creek like it would not have been nearly sufficient to thoroughly soak the earth over even the half area of said swamp. Before the Walla Tank was made a spring existed, and still flows across main road from Jindera to Walla post office or township about 2½ miles south of same at which spring a large number of the farmers drew their water supply for stock and homesteads. The Billabong Creek also has never actually been dry for very many years. The farmers and residents always being able to obtain water at it in any quantity in the driest season known for twenty-five years. The distance from tank to Billabong being something under 3 miles. When the Walla Tank was proposed I recommended a dam, the earth forming it to be taken from bed of creek, in fact forming tank, say 15 feet deep, which would have thrown the water back at least a mile, and could have given a splendid permanent supply at the small cost of £100. A fence placed round the main tank, and dam 20 yards of troughing, and a little spouting fed by a common Douglas pump costing £4, would have been perfectly sufficient for all requirements. My proposal I believe was recommended by the then District Surveyor, Mr. Wood, of Albury. I may mention that as one of the lessees of Walla public watering place over which nearly £2,000 has been squandered, and for which a rental of £50 per annum is paid that from the commencement of lease until now a period of eighteen months not a penny has been taken or water supplied, neither do I expect during the currency of the lease (5 years), ¼d. will be taken as it is not likely that drovers and teamsters will pay for water when plenty can be had free a mile or so in any direction from said tank. From 4,000 to 5,000 yards is in this district considered a large tank, and quite sufficient to water 7,000 sheep daily through the driest year.

I am, &c.,

CHAS. H. DOUGLAS.

James W. Boulton, Esq., Public Watering Places,
Mines Department, Sydney.

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"Gilgai Tank.—This tank is on the road from Nymagee to Nyngan. The site is objected to on the ground that there are some gilgai holes within half a mile of it which are not included in the tenants' lease.

We find that in this case the objection is of a frivolous nature, and that the site is not open to any objection whatever."

"Gunaramby Tank.—This tank is on the road from Ivanhoe to Balranald. The allegations with regard to the site are that it is in a swamp, in rotten copai ground; and that it would have been better if it had been situated about 300 yards away on red ground, where the catchment would have been much quicker.

We find that the tank is placed on the edge of a swamp; that it has a good catchment from the swamp and the adjacent high ground; that it is capable, with proper care and management, of conserving a large quantity of water above the berm; and that the site is in every way satisfactory."

"Clare Tank.—This tank is on the road from Ivanhoe to Balranald. The allegations with regard to the site are that it is on low ground, in a boggy black-soil swamp, and that the works are liable to damage from being surrounded by water when the tank is full.

We find that the tank was placed on low ground in the swamp with the object of commanding as large a catchment area as possible by tapping a neighbouring swamp; that during an exceptionally wet season the water from this swamp—added to that in which the tank is situated—caused an excessive supply, which surrounded the works and made the ground about them boggy; that this state of things was prolonged by the valve being left open, allowing the water to escape from above the berm level of the tank into the swamp; that very little damage was done to the works by the excess of water in the swamp, which could easily have been prevented by cutting off the supply from the upper swamp, and preventing the water above berm level from flowing back into the swamp by closing the valve; that the site probably is the best that could have been chosen in the locality; and that there is no reasonable objection to it."

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The only evidence taken by the Commission bearing upon the utility of this tank is comprised in questions 181 and 182. No evidence was tendered to controvert this, and yet the Commission find the objection is frivolous and the site open to no objection whatever. The Commissioners advance no proof that the tank could not have been placed close to the gilgai holes, which could have been utilized as natural silt pits. In confirmation of the view of the Mines Department it may be pointed out that since the Commissioners began their inquiry it has been found necessary to reduce the rent of the tank from £60 to £30 per annum. This was done in response to the earnest appeal of the tenant, who found himself unable to pay his rent in consequence of the loss of revenue sustained by stock watering at the gilgai holes and passing the tank. Thus not only is the Government losing £30 per annum, but at the expiration of the lease it may reasonably be supposed that, in consequence of the neighbourhood of the gilgai holes, it will be impossible to lease the watering place again, thus involving the employment of a caretaker at £130 per annum at least. In view of these facts the opinion that the objections raised by the Mines Department are frivolous will hardly be general.

It is difficult to understand how a consideration of the evidence submitted to the Commissioners could have led to the conclusion that "the site is in every way satisfactory." Even if the rest of their finding, which is hardly more than mere generalization, be admitted, the fact remains that the Commissioners do not deny that a better site could have been found; nor do they appear to consider the statement made by Inspector Boulton on page 37—that the batters, owing to the loose nature of the soil, have caved in excessively to a depth of 3 feet—as sufficient to modify their opinion that the site is in every way satisfactory.

No effort appears to have been made by them to test this statement, and no denial is given by the Works Department. The evidence shows that it is entirely due to the forethought of the Mines officers that the batters did not cave in bodily (see Q. 2637). At the date of the Commissioners' inspection along this road the tank had about 14.6 feet of water, and the damage must have been very apparent even to the most inexperienced eyes.

See reply, page 108.

The conclusion of the Commissioners that the tank was placed upon low ground in the swamp with the object of commanding as large a catchment area as possible by tapping a neighbouring swamp, appears to show that they have somewhat blindly adopted the statement (Q. 4421) made by the Works officer in exculpation of his action in placing the tank in a position where it was flooded, as one on which to base their finding. It is usual among practical men to place a tank in a position where it is not liable to be damaged by flood, and, by intercepting the flow of water at a higher level by contour drains, thus secure it before it can reach the lowest portion of the catchment. The rudiments of tank sinking appear only to have been reached in this effort of the Works Department at Clare. The embankments of this tank are copai soil and friable in the extreme, and to save them from damage the valve was, with the full concurrence of the Department, left open. Had the valve been closed the water would still have reached the level at which the service tank and trough were flooded. Had the drain from the neighbouring swamp been closed the water would still have reached the same level. This Department maintained that a sufficient catchment was available in the neighbourhood where there would

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*“Box Creek Tank, and New Tank 16 miles from Balranald.—*These tanks are on the road from Ivanhoe to Balranald, at the junction of stock routes. The sites are objected to on the ground that better sites could have been obtained.

We find that the sites are in every way satisfactory.”

*“Tom’s Lake Tank.—*This tank is on the road from Booligal to Ivanhoe. The allegations with regard to the site are that it is in a rotten, boggy swamp; that there is much better holding ground three-quarters of a mile northerly; and that the tank is quite half silted up.

We find that the tank is partly in a swamp, in good holding ground, and where a larger catchment area is obtained than if it had been placed in any other position; that the troughs are on the edge of the swamp, clear of the bad ground; that there is only about 1 foot of silt in the tank; and that the site is satisfactory.”

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would have been no danger from flooding. (Q. 1107, 1108, 1109, 1112, 2629, 2633, 2635.) The Commission has not elicited any evidence to the contrary, but still has framed its finding so as to leave the impression that the best site was selected. The evidence of the flooding of troughing, of the boggy nature of the swamp, and that a better catchment was available, are surely grounds for a reasonable objection to the site.

The case of the Box Creek Tank is another instance in which there is a direct conflict of testimony between the officers of the Mines and the Works Departments, yet the Commissioners appear to experience no hesitation in discrediting the evidence of the Mines Inspector, a gentleman with a practical experience of many years in conserving water on western stations. It was brought before them that a larger body of water could have been stored at less cost by improving the natural water-holes less than a mile down the creek, but they quite ignore this information. The construction of a single embankment with the excavation in the bed of the creek, instead of a large tank with four embankments, would have met all requirements at much less cost. The water that may be conserved above the surface level of the present tank cannot certainly exceed a few inches. The error committed was in constructing a costly tank with embankments on four sides in the bed of a creek when three-quarters of a mile lower down natural water-holes existed, which, by being deepened, and the material used for a dam, would have conserved an ample supply of water, with a very great reduction in cost. The water-holes referred to last longer than any other natural water in the neighbourhood. Had they been excavated an additional 10 or 12 feet to obtain material for the dam it would have given a greater depth for a conserving area than the present tank.

As to the site of the new tank (Dowdican’s), it will be observed that the Commissioners omit to refer to question 4410, which has an important bearing on this point. Possibly a consideration of Mr. Stillwell’s admission that a better site might have been obtained would have affected their finding. Mr. Stillwell practically admits Mr. Low’s statement that a better site could have been procured, and if, as Mr. Low states, the distance was only half a mile, which would not have affected the position as regards the stock routes, it is to be regretted that Mr. Stillwell did not give some more conclusive reason why the better site was not adopted.

It is perhaps only necessary to reply to this statement briefly. It must be apparent that water flowing into a swamp can be intercepted before reaching it, consequently it is not necessary to put the tank in the swamp to obtain a catchment. I may add further that to do so where stock are to be continually watered in large numbers, is not such a judicious course as placing it upon sounder ground and intercepting the storm-water. The Commissioners appear to disagree with this conclusion, but it may be remarked it is not so regarded by practical bushmen and tank-sinkers. The Commissioners make no allusion to the statement of the Mines that one of the drains runs for some distance from the tank instead of towards it. Having lately visited this tank, the Commissioners have doubtless confirmed the truth of this charge, otherwise it can hardly be supposed they would have failed to contradict it. With regard to the statement made by Inspector Low, of the Mines Department, that the tank was quite half silted up, it should be explained, in fairness to that officer, that when he inspected the watering-place he had been only a few months in the service of the Department, and had had no opportunity of sounding the tanks. He merely expressed an opinion, which it is admitted has been found to be incorrect.

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"Kerrigundi and Mulya Tanks.—These tanks are on the road from Cobar to Louth. It appears to have been impossible to obtain good sites in suitable positions on the portion of the road on which they are situated; and we have no reason to doubt that the sites chosen are the best that could be obtained within the limits of the stock route, and with due regard to approximate equal division of distance.

According to the return of the Department of Mines for the week ending 10th January, 1888,—produced by the Department at the request of the Commission—the first-named tank contained 14 feet of water; and there is no evidence showing that it has not answered the purposes for which it was intended. Mulya Tank is said to have contained 12 feet of water at one time; and the catchment has been increased by extending the drains so as to make it fill more readily.

We find that any faultiness in the sites of these tanks is due to circumstances beyond the control of the Department of Public Works, and not to any want of judgment in their selection."

The objection to the site of the Kerrigundi Tank raised by this Department is shown in the Mines Return, pp. 220 and 226, and is that the tank has been placed in such a position that it is liable to great damage in flood-times. The troughs and supply tank have already in one flood been displaced from their position, and the engine completely submerged and embankments damaged, and this may occur again. These points the Commissioners have not investigated. The reply made by the Mines officer to Q. 1671 was undoubtedly made in error. It is known that he referred to the Booroondara Tank, the next one south of Kerrigundi, and had he not resigned his position in the Department he would have corrected his error. It was understood that he had done so, and had mentioned the matter to the Secretary of the Commission at the time, but no trace of the correction can be found. The Department contends that this is a site where the tank could have been excavated in close proximity to the present one, out of the direct flow of the stream; but this contention, which is embodied in the papers of the Mines Return, p. 220 et seq., the Commission did not deal with, and took no evidence upon. It is therefore difficult to understand upon what evidence they have arrived at their conclusion that the site was the best that could be obtained within the limits of the stock route.

The question as to the suitability of the Mulya Tank site may perhaps be brought into greater relief by a reference to the weekly returns showing the depth of water in the Government tanks, and which have been so freely referred to by the Commissioners as affording evidence as to the suitability of the various sites questioned. It will be observed that in this case no reference is made to the weekly return, while they content themselves with quoting a hearsay statement of the Works officer that at some time he was informed it held 12 ft. of water. The tank is now dry, and has been so for months, and a reference to the return here given will show that at no time since its transfer to this Department in December, 1887, has the depth exceeded 6 ft., and at that time 3 in. rain only contributed 2 ft. 6 in. of water. Mr. Cotton's evidence is that with 8 in. of rain the tank did not fill. The catchment has been increased by additional drains, but with as yet no apparent results. Stress is laid upon the Works officers' statements that the sites were the best obtainable, while the statements of the Mines officers that a better one could have been obtained are regarded as of no value.

RECORD of depth of water in Mulya Tank :—

| | 1887. | Depth. ft. n. | Rainfall. |
|-------------|-------|------------------|---------------------|
| 17 December | | 3 6 | } 3 inches. |
| 24 " | | ... | |
| 31 " | | 6 0 | |
| 1888. | | | |
| 7 January | ... | 6 0 | } 1 inch 15 points. |
| 14 " | | 5 6 | |
| 21 " | | 5 6 | |
| 28 " | | 5 3 | |
| 4 February | | 5 0 | } 1 inch 10 points. |
| 11 " | | 4 9 | |
| 18 " | | 4 6 | |
| 25 " | | 4 3 | |
| 3 March | | 4 0 | |
| 10 " | | 3 9 | } 20 points. |
| 17 " | | 4 6 | |
| 24 " | | 4 3 | |
| 31 " | | 4 0 | |
| 7 April | | 3 9 | } 10 points. |
| 14 " | | 3 6 | |
| 21 " | | 3 3 | |
| 28 " | | 3 0 | |
| 5 May | | 2 9 | } 1 inch 30 points. |
| 12 " | | 2 8 | |
| 19 " | | 2 6 | |
| 26 " | | 2 3 | |

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"*Lowesdale Tank.*—This tank is on the road from Corowa to Urana. The site is objected to on account of the sandy and unretentive nature of the soil, which at first resulted in loss of water by absorption; but it is admitted that the tank has been made retentive, and holds well now; and from the weekly returns of the Department of Mines relating to public watering-places, it appears that the depth of water in this tank during nine months from the 1st January last has been from 16 to 18 feet.

We therefore find that there is now no objection to the site on the ground stated."

"*Thirty-five-mile Tank.*—This tank is on the road from Ivanhoe to Wilcannia. It is alleged that the site was badly selected, and that the tank never had any water in it to the knowledge of witness G. W. Townsend. On reference to the weekly returns of the Department of Mines relating to public watering-places—produced by the Department at the request of the Commission—it appears that the depth of water in this tank during nine months from the 1st January last has been from about 16 to 19 feet.

We therefore find that the site is satisfactory.

"*Booroorban Tank.*—This tank is on the road from Deniliquin to Hay. This is a case of alleged faulty site mentioned in the *précis* of cases submitted to us—p. 220. The objections advanced against the site are that it is in a swamp, and that it is near a waterhole which is admitted not to be permanent.

There is no evidence supporting these allegations; or showing that the tank is an unnecessary work; or that it has not fulfilled the purposes for which it was intended."

"*Youhl Plains Tank.*—This tank is on the road from Ivanhoe to Balranald. This, also, is a case of alleged faulty site, mentioned in the *précis* of cases submitted to us—p. 219. The objections advanced against the site are that the drains have had to be taken over porous ground, and that the watershed is very small.

There is no evidence supporting these allegations; and on reference to the weekly returns of the Department of Mines relating to public watering-places, it appears that the depth of water in this tank during nine months from the 1st January last has been from about 14 to 17 feet."

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"In concluding this portion of our report, we desire to point out that there are 113 public tanks on stock routes in the Colony, including those in course of construction. With respect to twenty-two of these, it is alleged that the Department of Public Works has committed faults of judgment in selecting the sites. It will be seen from our report on the sites of these tanks that there is one

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It will be seen from the foregoing extract from the records that in December last 3 in. of rain only ran 2 ft. 6 in. of water into the tank, and the rainfall of January, February, and May, 1888, each exceeding 1 in., ran in no water.

The tank has been dry since 20th October, 1888.

A perusal of the Q's. 200 and 1430, in which the only reference is made to Lowesdale Tank, will show that no objection was taken to this tank. It was simply mentioned as an instance of a tank that upon completion would not hold water, and the successful steps that were taken by the Works Department to make it do so were detailed. It was never alleged that the tank does not now hold well, and although, as the Commissioners find, there is now no objection to the site on the ground stated, no effort was made by them to elucidate how the tank came to be placed in such a position where it was nearly dry three days after being filled (Q. 1430), or who was to blame for the expenditure necessary in filling in the tank with clay to render it retentive.

Mr. Townsend, Q. 2176, states the year during which he was at this tank was 1878 or 1879. I am able to confirm Mr. Townsend's statement that it had no water in it. It was dry in November, 1879, and from then until some time in 1881 or 1882, when the embankment was cut by my instructions, and the original 9-in. inlet pipe removed and replaced by a box flume of 12 by 24 inches at a much lower level. This tank did not, to my knowledge, previously collect more than a foot or two of water. Since that date it has filled readily.

The case of the Booroorban Tank is referred to on p. 120 of the Mines Return. The Commissioners did not apparently deem it worth while to investigate, neither did they call any evidence to test the allegations made with regard to it; yet they consider it of sufficient importance to include in their report with a verdict of not proven. It was understood to be one of the functions of the Commissioners to elicit the fullest evidence in every case. The Mines Department stood prepared to support their charges, and their objection to the tank was,—1st, its situation in a swamp; 2nd, its proximity to the dam constructed by the Works Department in the Pine Ridge Creek. This tank was constructed in the face of the recommendation made by the Mines Department that the dam referred to should be deepened and enlarged to 15,000 cubic yards.

See reply-in-chief, p. 57.

It is hardly correct to say there is no evidence in support of these allegations, as the Commissioners asked no questions and summoned no witnesses, nor asked for any papers from this Department, in short, made no apparent effort to investigate the case; but there is ample evidence submitted in the Mines Return in proof of the assertion made. It is remarkable that though the Commissioners have not investigated the value of this testimony, they do not hesitate to practically treat it as unworthy of credence.

It is worthy of remark that the Commissioners have not deemed it necessary to arrive at any conclusion with regard to the allegations made by the Mines Department, in connection with the following watering-places:—Dry Lake Well; Mount Manara Tank; Boro Tank; Bunghill Tank; Galathera Tank; Boggy Creek; Hovell's Dam; Muriel Tank; Shearlegs Tank.

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case—namely, Old Copago—of total failure and loss of public money on account of injudicious selection of site; that there is one case—namely, Cobham—which may result in total failure and loss of public money on account of injudicious selection of site; and that there is one case—namely, Ivanhoe—in which the site, and the action of the Department of Public Works with respect to it, are, to a certain extent, unsatisfactory.

It is a well-known fact—and it is within the personal knowledge of two of your Commissioners—that in the selection of sites for the conservation of water the squatters themselves have made great mistakes, resulting in loss of money and disappointment; and Mr. Tully, of the Department of Mines, who has had considerable experience as a station manager, admits that in the early days “mistakes were made all round” (See Q. 2419.) Therefore, infallibility in this respect cannot reasonably be expected from a Government Department; and taking into consideration the restrictions previously mentioned,—by which the Department of Public Works was limited in selecting sites for public tanks, and the novel nature of the duty to the Department,—the result is somewhat remarkable; and cannot fail to be regarded as highly satisfactory to the public and creditable to the Department.”

“No. 2.—DEFECTIVE DESIGN AND FAULTY CONSTRUCTION; TOO STEEP BATTERS IN MOST CASES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE NATURE OF THE SOIL, AND THE ADOPTION OF A CERTAIN FORM OF TANK WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE FORMATION OF THE GROUND.

A great deal of evidence was taken in reference to this comprehensive allegation, which may be resolved into the following more specific allegations.

- (a) That in most cases the batters are too steep, and will not stand.
- (b) That in some cases the tanks are too large.
- (c) That in many cases advantage has not been taken of the lie of the ground to conserve water over the natural surface by a proper disposition of the embankments.
- (d) That the steep batters have unnecessarily increased the cost of construction.

(a) The latest type of tank approved by the Department of Public Works and the specifications are shown in Appendices.

This type is the outcome of many years' experience of tank-construction in all parts of the Colony; and we are of opinion that it is admirably adapted to the requirements of a public watering-place on a large stock-route.

The form is square, the batters of the excavation 2 to 1, and the depth 18 feet. Assuming that experience has shown that this batter is the steepest advisable in most cases, this form of tank—putting aside one of circular plan—will conserve most water with the smallest evaporation and soakage areas; the mean depth will be greatest; the surface exposed to wind and sun will be least; and the probability of the tank holding water through a long drought will be a maximum.

In some of the earlier tanks batters of 1 to 1 and $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 were adopted, with a view of still further reducing the areas for soakage and evaporation in relation to the cubic contents. Much fault has been found with these earlier batters, and we think, much exaggeration indulged in as to the evil effects said to have been produced by the crumbling away of these slopes under wave-action. We inspected two of the tanks specially

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The allegations made were explicit, and seemed serious enough to demand investigation, but though the Commissioners have been pleased to deal with cases of apparently minor consequence, they have not pronounced any opinion on these. Of course it is possible that the Commissioners have satisfied themselves of the truth of the statements, but if so, one may be permitted to express regret that this does not appear in their report. However, the charges still stand as set forth in the Mines Return laid before Parliament, and they have not been refuted.

As to the difficulty in selecting suitable sites, it is still contended by the Mines, with all respect to the Commissioners, and making all allowance for the fallibility of even a Government Department, that fewer mistakes should have been made, and that with the constantly increasing experience being gained by the Works officers during twenty years, better results should have been obtained. Even the misadventures of the squatters “in the early days” might have served to indicate the mistakes to be avoided. And with respect to the restriction, which is said to have limited the Works Department in their choice of sites, it is strange that it should have been regarded as being so stringent as to compel the selection in some instances of inferior sites, when more suitable ones were to be had within a mile or two.

The terms of this allegation No. 2 are not those adopted in the *précis* in the Mines return, and the sub-headings (*a, b, c, d.*) into which the Commissioners have resolved the allegation convey impressions which the Mines Department did not intend. This is notably the case with regard to sub-heading *b*, which asserts that a portion of the Mines charge is “that in some cases the tanks are too large.” Not even by inference does the Mines allegation No. 2 imply this. The Commissioners imagine the charge, and then proceed to confute it. The Department is not responsible for the opinion of witnesses unconnected with it, nor even for the independent opinion of subordinate officers of the Department.

The specifications shown in the appendix would appear to somewhat bear out the construction that a standard form of tank is adopted, and that only the two forms of specifications have been found advisable during the past twenty years, and that even the two types do not appear equally applicable to all grounds and situations. A reference to the Mines Return, p. 105, will show that as early as May, 1884, the defective form of tank was strongly commented on by this Department, and representations have been made repeatedly since by this Department. (See Q. 193.) The Commissioners find the new type of tank to be the outcome of many years' experience of tank construction. They practically admit a new and individual type as having been adopted, and yet assert that every latitude is given to modify this new standard tank.

It is shown in evidence that the batters were as a rule from 1 to 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1. In July, 1887, the amended specifications of the Works Department, as far as we can trace, were changed to 2 to 1. It has always been urged by the Department of Mines that any hard and fast rule is wrong. The batter should be adapted to the soil. The use of 2 to 1 in all soils is just as objectionable as 1 to 1. The Boro, Bunghill, and others besides those named by Mr. Wood, also the 35-Mile, Box Creek, Youhl Plain, and Til Til Tanks, are all from referred

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referred to as instances of this falling-in of the batters, viz., Ivanhoe, a new tank, and Gunaramby. We are of opinion that the damage done by wave-action at these tanks is practically insignificant, and that it will probably cease as age and exposure consolidate the sides. In the older tanks, the growth of water-plants on the batters, which are undisturbed by stock, appeared to afford an excellent protection against wave-action.

(b) As regards the statements that tanks are in many cases too large, we are of opinion that the evidence does not bear out the allegation, and that the Department of Works has, as a general rule, constructed the tanks of the cubic capacity requested by the Department of Mines. Some witnesses have said that the tanks in the Cobar district are about twice as large as required, owing to the quick and good catchments generally available there; but Mr. A. P. Wood, of the Department of Public Works, shows (in Q. 3416 and Appendix XII), that the size of many of these tanks (20,000 yards) was fixed by the Department of Mines. He also proves that the *Walla Walla* Tank, the size of which is complained of by some of the Mines witnesses, was constructed of its present capacity in accordance with a minute by Mr. Bruce, Chief Inspector of Stock of the Department of Mines. (See Q. 3425 to 3431.)

(c) That in many cases advantage has not been taken of the lie of the ground to conserve water over the natural surface by a proper disposition of the embankments.

Although the formulated allegations of the Mines Department do not contain the above charge in so many words, yet the evidence given with regard to tanks generally—and those in the Cobar district especially—led us at first to suppose that much stupidity and ignorance had been displayed in the adaptation of the works to particular sites where natural advantages existed for conserving water over the surface of the ground.

We find, however, that such is not the case; and that the allegation has not been substantiated. We consider that considerable skill and judgment have been displayed in many instances in adapting the tanks to local circumstances, so as to catch

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1 to 1 or $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1, and all in loose soil. The batters at the Gunaramby and Clare Tanks, two of the latest constructed ones, are reported much cut away.

Mr. Wood now states that no rule for batters is "slavishly adhered to;" how then is the destruction of the batters of so many tanks to be accounted for except by want of judgment of the character of the soil?

Mr. Wood again says that on the Mount Brown Road they have adopted 3 to 1 batters. I may state confidently that I have not yet seen a site for a tank where such a batter all round is required.

Mr. Wood also states that their officers are directed by circular not to adhere slavishly to specifications in regard to this matter. Mr. Road Superintendent Adam in his evidence, Q. 3841, states that any alterations he suggested had to be sent to the head office for approval, and that he never did anything without getting the sanction of the head office, and adds, Q. 3850, "I do not remember just now having received a copy of that circular."

[Mr. Adam also states that the plans showing the alterations in the batters were sent from the head office.] (Q. 3823.) (See also Mr Budd's evidence, Q. 2346.)

As before shown no such allegation has been made by the Mines. No objection has been taken by the responsible officer of that Department to the size of any of the tanks, with, perhaps, the exception of the *Walla Walla* Tank, which the Chief Inspector directly reported against as unnecessary. Mr. Wood puts in papers which he claims authorises the construction of this tank; all that I can trace is that Mr. Bruce, while wishing for a tank, agrees with me that it should give place until the more urgent works in the outlying districts have been constructed. (See my minute, p. 144, Mines Return). On page 141 of the Mines Return, Mr. Bruce distinctly states that this tank was undertaken without reference to the Mines, and further adds that the same course was taken with *Jindera*, *Black Swamp*, *Galathera* and *Nymagee* Tanks, and this minute is dated 28th October, 1884, or two years later than the paper put in by Mr. Wood as authorising the construction of the *Walla Walla* Tank.

The papers put in by Mr. Wood were not in our possession, and were not traced in our search, or they would have been laid before Parliament. There was nothing misleading or incomplete as far as our knowledge went, and had the Roads and Bridges complied with the order of Parliament the papers would have appeared. Some witnesses examined before the Commissioners considered that smaller tanks would have sufficed in certain places. The finding of the Commissioners therefore merely amounts to a difference of opinion between them and the witnesses, and may possess some interest for the latter.

The references to tanks are dealt with in their respective places. The objection to steep batters was not so much to the extra cost, but to the inevitable result of their washing down to their natural slope. Why then pay an extra price for a batter that would not stand against the action of water? A too steep batter taking its natural slope under water deposits just so much silt and earth at the bottom of the tank, and nothing has been gained by the extra cost, while so much depth of water has been lost. With respect to discretionary power, see Q. 3841, 3842, 3850.

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water from different levels ; on one side up to— or nearly up to—berm level ; and on the other side above the natural surface—*e.g.*, *Tom's Lake*, *Mossqisl*, and *Gunaramby* Tanks,—which we personally inspected. At *Tom's Lake* and *Gunaramby* Tanks the embankments are run out to the high ground to impound the water above the natural surface, and we find from the evidence that this has been done wherever practicable.

We find, also, that the shape, depth, and ratio of batters have been left very much to the discretion of the local officers, subject to approval at headquarters, and that an admirable code of instructions was issued by the Commissioner for Roads to these officers to guide them in this particular branch of their work. (*See evidence, page 148.*)

At *Tom's Lake* Tank, which has been the subject of much adverse comment by officers of the Mines Department, there are two catchments as already explained, feeding the tank through silt-tanks at different levels. From the neighbourhood of the upper silt-tank a large deep drain has been led for about three-fourths of a mile to a shallow creek or swamp on a slightly higher level than the main tank ; this creek has been dammed by a low embankment which was constructed to throw the water down this drain to the upper silt-tank and raise the water in the main tank some feet above the natural surface. When we inspected this tank we found that the water in the upper creek had been allowed to scour a channel round the dam ; the intercepting drain choked up with vegetation and silt, and a cutting made through the lower side of the drain near the tank to prevent any water going into the upper silt-tank ; so that the object of this drain has been completely defeated. We have no doubt that this drain has at one time brought water down to the tank as intended from the creek, partly because the upper silt-tank was quite full of silt ; and from the evidence adduced, we believe the present state of the work to be due to want of proper maintenance and care on the part of those in charge of the tank. This appears to us a notable instance of the lamentable result of the divided control of these public works.

“(d) That the steep batters have unnecessarily increased the cost of construction.

There is no doubt that the steep batters have increased the cost of construction, but not, we think, to the extent supposed by some. To obtain any material reduction in the cost of excavation due to the batters alone (apart from depth and other conditions) would have involved very gentle slopes of 4 or 5 to 1 ; and we are of opinion that in view of the many undoubted advantages conferred by steep batters, the Department of Works have been wise in keeping them as steep as possible ; and that the consideration of the permanence of the water so conserved far outweighs the slightly increased cost of first construction. Taking the increased cost of construction due to steep batters at 2d. per yard in an 18,000 yard tank the increased cost of excavation is £150 ; and this is but a small fraction of the total cost of such a work.

We are of opinion that the holding qualities of the tanks have not suffered to any appreciable extent owing to the steepness of the batters, and that although at first a tank with steep slopes possibly may not hold as well as one with gentle slopes, yet the published records produced by the Department of Mines of the depths of water in the public tanks during the past dry year afford no indication of any undue leakage. Some of the tanks appear to have leaked when first filled ; but there is no evidence to show that any undue loss is now occurring from this cause.”

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"It has also been alleged under the head of 'faulty construction,' that in some instances the embankments have not been completed to the full height,—notably at *Pulletop* and *Rathole* Tanks,—and that as these tanks conserve water over the natural surface, the embankments have been in considerable danger in consequence. It has been explained by Messrs. Hanna and Stillwell, the Works officers in charge, that the contractors in each case failed to complete their embankments, and thereby forfeited some of their retention money; and that if any danger to the embankments has arisen, it has been the fault of the caretakers in not having diverted the water from the drains into the creeks and natural by-washes, and in not having made up the embankments themselves to the proper level. It is evident that unless care is observed in cutting off the supply of water to tanks conserving much above the natural surface, the best finished embankments are liable to be washed away in exceptionally heavy rains."

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Pulletop Tank has embankments on three sides only, and the water from the catchment is intercepted by two main drains converging at the silt-pit on the upper or open side. Mr. Stillwell admits in the original evidence that the water lifting appliances are on the lowest ground, but he contradicts this in the evidence as printed, Q. 4437. When the tank is full it must be apparent that the watering appliances are liable to be flooded by every successive rain, as pointed out by Mr. Inspector Low in his report read to the Commission page 58, Commissioners' Report. Our reports show there was a heavy fall of rain in December, 1887, which filled the tank and overflowed around its embankments, the flood-water submerging the troughs and scouring under the service tank, and completely filling the silt-tank with silt. The caretaker was directed to block the main inlet with sand bags so that he could clean out the silt-tank; before this could be done a further fall of rain occurred, and the tank again overflowed, being full to its utmost capacity. The caretaker did stop the main inlet; if he had not done so the flood water would have found its way around the embankments, injuring them as well as flooding the troughing. I am informed by the local officers that the creek in which the small dam stands and which Mr. Stillwell suggests should be used for a by-wash is distant about 20 chains from the tank, and that during the heavy rains referred to the overseer intercepted the flood-water collected in the creek above this dam and permitted it to escape by a cutting below. The course which Mr. Stillwell points out should have been adopted to prevent the main tank overflowing was done, but the tank still overflowed from the storm water over the remainder of the catchment area.

Attention is directed to the statutory declaration by Mr. Overseer Elworthy (p. 92 reply in chief.) It is therefore apparent that the Mines Department had pursued the very course which the Commissioners state to have been subsequently recommended by the Works officers.

With respect to the *Rathole* Tank the answer of Inspector Low to Q. 1137, shows exactly what was done by the caretaker, whose action appears to have saved the lower embankment. The Commissioners have clearly failed to comprehend the real bearing of the complaint made by the Mines Department, which was that works were handed over to them in an unfinished and possibly dangerous condition. And they have equally failed to observe that on page 170 of the Mines Return, the Works Department in protesting against the "absurd system (of the Mines Department) of refusing to take over works" in an incomplete state, fully admit their responsibility to keep the works in order. It is certainly somewhat extraordinary to expect that a caretaker who is fully occupied in attending to the machinery and watering appliances, supplying water and cleaning drains, &c., should be able and find the time to perform so large a piece of work as the completing of an embankment which the contractor has failed to finish. In each of the cases under reference a steam-pump is used for the supply of water. The caretaker has therefore no horse to assist him in the work of repairing the embankments. The whole of the work of seeking the spoil, picking and shovelling it into a wheelbarrow, wheeling it to the tank and on to the top of the embankment 13 feet high, spreading and levelling it, would devolve on the caretaker. His other duties of supplying water &c., are imperative, but if it be granted that he might be able to spare half of each day to the extra work, he would not be able to remove in that time more than 5 cubic yards of spoil on to the embankment. Taking the length of the lower embankment at the *Rathole* as 360 feet and the breadth at 15 feet, to raise it 2 feet would require 400 cubic yards of spoil. Bearing in mind that from the time of the transfer of this tank to the
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No. 3.—EXCESSIVE COST OF CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC TANKS ON STOCK ROUTES AND SUB-LETTING OF CONTRACTS.

"It is alleged that the Department of Public Works has given very excessive prices for the construction of public tanks on stock routes, and that these prices are very much higher than those given by squatters for the construction of their tanks."

The principal reasons given for the alleged excessive cost of construction are,—

- (1.) That the design is unnecessarily expensive, especially in respect to steepness of batters and formation of embankments round and at a given distance from the excavations.
- (2.) That the specifications adopted by the Department of Public Works were framed for the purpose of consuming public money and contain a great many unnecessary provisions.
- (3.) That unnecessary, absurd, and ridiculous precision and nicety of finish of the works has been insisted upon.
- (4.) That delay in payment of contractors has induced them to tender at higher rates than they would have otherwise.
- (5.) That contracts have in some instances been let at excessively high rates and sublet at much lower rates.

A remarkable fact in connection with the allegation as to the excessive cost of public tanks—as compared with private tanks—is, that the witnesses of the Department of Mines on this question do not seem to have had any knowledge of the prices per cubic yard actually paid by the Department of Public Works for excavating tanks, excepting from hearsay statements, which do not appear to have any foundation in fact. Mr. Gilliat, for example, states that he has been unable to ascertain the cost of the public tanks, yet he says the cost is excessive, because it exceeds the prices given by squatters. (See Q. 245 and 246.)"

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"That the cost of these works has ranged from 10½d. to 1s. 9d. per cubic yard, excepting in four instances mentioned in Appendix III, in which prices exceeding 1s. 9d. per cubic yard were given for the removal of rock and hard cemented gravel met with in the excavations."

Mines Department, the caretaker's time has been almost wholly employed in supplying water (and almost exclusively so during the past year), the task which Mr. Hanna would impose upon him as "healthful exercise" is clearly out of the question. Nor ought it to be expected that the Mines should undertake repairs which by the special arrangement with the Works Department already referred to devolved upon that Department, nor to complete unfinished contracts.

The whole tenor of the Mines statements with respect to this section 3 (*sub-section 1*) is that the work done has been unnecessarily expensive.

Sub-section 2.—With regard to the statement made by the Minister for Mines, that the specifications of the Department of Works were framed for the purpose of consuming public money, practical men on reading the 3rd clause of that specification, page 256 of Commissioners' Report under the head of "clearing," will probably admit that it is justified.

Sub-section 3.—The words "absurd and ridiculous" occur once in reply to Q. 462, and refer directly to the clause in the specifications insisting that the bottom of a tank should be perfectly level. Upon this solitary expression the Commissioners base their statement that the Department of Mines allege that unnecessary, absurd, and ridiculous precision and nicety of finish have been insisted upon. This is scarcely a just way of placing before the public a question involving the spending or saving of many thousands of pounds.

The return containing the Mines allegations was presented to Parliament on February 7, 1888, and was directly afterwards forwarded to the Commissioners. Mr. Gilliat was examined before the Commissioners on January 12 and 13, and he repeatedly pointed out the importance of the Commissioners having these papers before them during his examination. (*Vide* Q. 14, 38, 65, 69, 71, 73, 244.) With regard to the question of cost alluded to, it will be seen on p. 270 of the Mines Return that the memorandum of the cost of the public watering places was not supplied by the Department of Works until February 3, 1888, and appears as an addendum to the Mines Return.

With respect to the Commissioners' remarks upon hearsay statements, it must be observed in Q. 244 that the witness, Mr. Gilliat, was informed by the Chairman "that they wished to get all the evidence in connection with these charges, *not only what you know of your own knowledge, but also what you have heard from others, so that we may have grounds to go upon.*" That portion of the Chairman's remarks in italics appears in the original evidence, but has been excised from the printed copy. Again, after the Chairman's Q. 1325 Mr. Woore remarks, "*but this is only something that someone else told him.*" The Chairman states (Q. 1626), "It is sufficient evidence for us to go on." Mr. Woore's remarks in italics do not appear in the printed evidence.

With regard to the cost of these works, the Commissioners, who merely deal with it at so much per cubic yard, appear to have considered it unnecessary to make any investigation into the very remarkable return furnished by the Works Department, which appears on page 270 of the Mines Return, and to which their special attention was invited on February 6, 1888. Nor do they appear to have deemed it worth while to offer any comment on the

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NO. 4.—INCAPACITY OF OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, AND FRAUDS BY CONTRACTORS IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND MEASUREMENT OF PUBLIC TANKS.

"It is alleged that Mr. A. P. Wood has been terribly embarrassed by the incapacity of the officers under him, and that these officers have been repeatedly misled by contractors making up the soil round the tanks so as to make the excavations appear deeper than they really are, in some instances by 2 or 3 feet; that they have been imposed upon by contractors in measuring the work; and that in one instance cement was represented to the Road Superintendent as gravel, in consequence of which he told the contractor not to go any deeper. (Q. 2259 to 2262; 3018 to 3020.)

Mr. A. P. Wood emphatically denies the incapacity of the officers under him (see Q. 3290); and from what we have seen of these gentlemen under examination before us, and learned from the evidence in defence, we are of the opinion that it is extremely improbable that they have been misled or imposed upon by such very simple and perceptible artifices as those described, or that frauds to any appreciable extent have been perpetrated."

NO. 5.—DEFECTIVE CONSTRUCTION OF FLUMES AND INLET PIPES.

"Very little evidence has been elicited in support of this allegation, and what has been given is comparatively trivial and unimportant.

We are of opinion that as a rule the flumes and inlet pipes are of good construction; and that, with ordinary attention from those in charge, will fulfil—and have fulfilled—the purpose for which they were designed. At Tom's Lake Tank, which has been constructed some years, we noticed an open flume failing for want of a little ordinary care on the part of those in charge of the tank.

Great exception has been taken by some of the Mines Department Officers to the method in which the water is led into Gunaramby Tank from one side. There are two silt-tanks at opposite sides of the main excavation; the water from the upper silt-tank is led round both sides of the excavation in drains cut in the berm to the flume on the further side. It is said that this will endanger the edge of the excavation and carry it away into the tank. We fail to see why this should happen with ordinary care and attention, and the explanation offered by the Department of Works, viz., that it was done to save a second flume and apron, costing £100, appears to us reasonable and satisfactory.

At Box Creek Tank we found a defective valve on the inlet shoot, which has probably been the cause of a great loss of water. The tank has had 19 feet 6 inches of water in it, which, if this non-return valve had been in repair, would have been impounded in the tank as the outside water fell. We cannot say whether this valve was out of repair before the water filled the tank; but we do know that it was out of repair at the time of our inspection, long after it might have been repaired by those in charge of the tank."

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the singular discrepancies that exist between that return and the one previously furnished by the Department of Works, on January 5, 1885. An examination of the prices paid by the Works Department for the construction of watering places will sufficiently prove the contention of the Mines that a great deal of unnecessary expense has been incurred.

It would appear from this section that these charges of incapacity were made by the Department of Mines. So far from this being the case, they proceed from an independent witness, Mr. A. H. Doudney, whose evidence on the whole is hostile to this Department.

The Commissioners' statement that very little evidence was elicited in support of this allegation is easily explained. Some fifteen cases, covering nine pages of the Mines Parliamentary Return, were submitted to them and inquiry invited. The evidence was not elicited because the Commissioners do not appear to have called the witnesses; or, if they were called, did not examine them on the subject. It must be remembered that witnesses were examined by the Commissioners only, no cross-examination having been granted.

With regard to Tom's Lake, until recently the defective flume has been under water. The tank being leased, no competent workman was on the spot, and the matter was held over, being not very urgent, until the Inspector could be withdrawn from Broken Hill, where he had been sent on special service.

With respect to Gunaramby, the preservation of this drain, which at the first rain cut so deeply as to cause alarm, is entirely due to the action of Mr. Yeo, the local officer of this Department, in having it pitched with copai stones. The stones were collected and the drains pitched by the caretaker with a great deal of labour. (See evidence given by Mr. Yeo, Q. 2637, and Mines Return, p. 145.) That it should have been necessary to take such precautionary measures immediately after the transfer of a new watering-place does not appear to have impressed the Commissioners as any proof of the alleged faulty construction.

With regard to the Box Creek valve, the Inspector has been absent as stated above on special service at Broken Hill, and has not had the opportunity of dealing with this. If the caretaker proves to have neglected any duty he could have performed he is aware that he will lose his appointment. Before Mr. Inspector Low left his district for Broken Hill, he reported the flume as under water, but prior to his return the flood fell.

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No. 6.—CARELESSNESS IN LAYING OUT DRAINS AND EXCESSIVE COST OF CONSTRUCTION.

“A good deal of evidence has been received on this subject, chiefly in regard to tanks in the Hay District. Having carefully considered the evidence and visited many of the works complained of, we are of opinion that the Department of Public Works has successfully rebutted or explained away the allegations.

We consider it desirable to specify some cases—three of which came under our own notice:—

Tom's Lake Tank.—Mr. Low, Inspector of Public Watering Places, in a report read before the Commission (p. 59) states:—Drains.—These are badly constructed, especially one alongside of road, which for some distance from its commencement runs water from instead of to main tank, having a direct and sudden fall into same without the water, as is usual, passing through a silt tank. Owing to no silt tank being here, and the drain being much cut up by traffic and nature of ground, much silt must have been carried into main tank, which, I feel confident, is quite half silted up. This drain could easily and practically have been led to opposite end of tank when water could have run through swamp and silt tank, thus allowing silt to settle and not be carried into main tank.

These statements are further corroborated in his sworn evidence (Q. 1161.) Mr. Stillwell, the Works officer in charge, in Q. 4452, says:—That statement is directly at variance with the facts. There is a silt tank on this side of the creek through which all the flow must pass into the tank, &c.

Having carefully examined this watering place we found the upper silt tank full of silt, showing that the drain referred to by Mr. Low as running water away from the tank must at one period have run water into it. Moreover, had Mr. Low's proposal of running the water from this intercepting drain into the swamp been adopted, the whole object of the drain would have been defeated, as it was intended to run water in above the natural surface by means of this drain on the upper side, the embankments having been run out as wings for this express purpose. At the time of our inspection the lessee was clearing out the silt tank which Mr. Low says does not exist; but the drain referred to had been blocked, and the water diverted into the swamp, thus defeating the object of the original design.

In the same report, referring to *Dowdigans*, or the *new tank 16 miles from Balranald*, which had not, by the way, been transferred to the care of the Mines Department, Mr. Low states:—‘Drains.—There were 50 chains 6 ft. by 9 in. excavated here. Although there had been heavy rains shortly before my inspection, these had run no water into silt tank; in fact they never will, as both drains in some places were full of water, but quite dry near the tank, thus showing they would run water from instead of to main tank.’ In reply to this, Mr. Stillwell, the engineer in charge, states (see Q. 4467 to 4469), that the statement is at direct variance with the facts; that when he visited the place about November, 1887, he was unable to measure up the silt tank as it was overflowing with water brought down by these drains; that there was no water standing in the drains themselves; and that the water had to be dammed back from the main tank which was not quite completed.

We examined this tank at the end of August, 1888, and found the silt tank two-thirds full of

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The Commissioners have, of course, framed their report without being in possession of the rebutting testimony of the Mines on this subject. It appears a simple conflict of evidence between the officers of the two Departments. With respect to the upper main drain at Tom's Lake, the Commissioners are in error in the conclusions drawn from finding silt in the silt tank. The drain runs over into the swamp 100 yards at least before reaching the silt tank. (See diagram, Appendix I, Mines Return. See also Mr. Stillwell's evidence, reply-in-chief, p. 111.) The replies to the rest of the cases are too bulky for insertion here, but will be found in the reply-in-chief, as follows:—Dowdican's, p. 88; Ivanhoe, p. 89; Hulong, p. 92; Mount Elliott, p. 91.

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water after a long spell of dry weather. We are of opinion that Mr. Low's criticisms are not borne out by the evidence and the facts of the case.

Ivanhoe Tank.—The allegation in respect to these drains is that they have been carelessly laid out and badly graded; that one important drain (the northern drain) leading to the upper silt tank is ineffective for a good distance at the end furthest from the silt tank; and that another drain leading to the lower silt tank runs through the town and collects filth from stables and piggeries. The Road Superintendent in charge of the work, Mr. Stillwell, in his evidence states that after a portion of the northern drain referred to had been constructed, he found by levelling that an advantageous extension of this drain could be made by cutting through a small rise 3 feet 6 inches in height, and continuing the drain on the other side for some chains. This work he gave to the caretaker to do just before the tank was handed over; the cutting has never been continued or finished properly; and therefore that extension of the northern drain is still ineffective.

We see no reason to doubt that Mr. Stillwell's explanation is satisfactory as far as he is concerned. As regards the lower drain passing through the township allotments we found on inspection that this drain ran through the allotments above the stables and piggery referred to, and consequently did not carry the drainage from these places to the lower silt tank. We concur in the action taken by the authorities in closing this drain, which has been found unnecessary for the supply of water to the tank, as it cuts through many township allotments. We strongly recommend that the allotments near the tank should be resumed, and the catchment area of the tank be kept quite clear of human habitation.

From the ample supply of water in the tank at the time of our inspection after a long period of drought, we see no reason to doubt that the drains, with the exception referred to—which has never been completed—efficiently fulfil the purpose for which they were constructed.

Hulong Tank.—Exception is taken to the state of some drains at this tank, which are said to run water away from instead of to the tank; and it is further alleged that the Department of Public Works was obliged to lower the level of the flume to get the water to run into the tank owing to carelessness in levelling the drains. (Q. 533, 879, 1096. *Précis* pp. 185-186 Mines Return.)

The engineer in charge replies (see Q. 4445, 4781, 4806), that the drains were not completed by the contractor, who also left the tank excavation unfinished; and the flume set at the wrong level, that the retention money was more than enough to cover the cost of completing the work by day and contract labour; that he had the flume put right by his own men as soon as possible, and not in consequence of seeing water lying in the drains; that in order to save expense he left the completion of the drains to be done by the caretaker; and that the ineffective drains complained of could easily be put right at small expense and trouble.

We are of opinion that the Department of Public Works acted in this manner from a desire to save undue expense and hand over the work to the Department of Mines for use by the public as soon as possible; but that it was unwise to so hand over the work to another Department in an incomplete state."

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*“Excessive Cost of Construction of Drains.—*Mr. Low in his report read before the Commission (p. 59 and Q. 1166) states that the cost of the drains at Ivanhoe Tank was 15s. per chain—about three times what they should have cost—and this is corroborated by Mr. Yeo (Q. 2673). Mr. Stillwell, the engineer who constructed the tank, admits that the price paid for these drains was excessive. It would appear from his evidence (Q. 4508 to 4516) that the drains were offered for public tender, and that he was forced to let them at an excessive price to get the work done at once; and that by so doing he was able to catch the first fall of rain, which would otherwise have been lost.

It would appear that the drains were not included in the tank contract, and that had they been included they would probably have been done much cheaper.

We consider that under the circumstances the Department of Public Works acted judiciously and in the interests of the public in paying this excessive price, rather than run the risk of losing the first opportunity of filling the tank by leaving the drains unconstructed until more moderate tenders were obtained; but that an error of judgment was committed in not including the drains in the tank contract originally.

We have had no evidence to lead us to believe that drains as a rule have been constructed at excessive prices.”

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No. 7.—EXPENSIVE FORMS OF MACHINERY FOR LIFTING WATER, NECESSITATING GREATER COST OF MAINTENANCE.

“The Mines Department, some years ago, strongly urged the adoption of watering appliances at public tanks; and we are of opinion that the recommendation was a wise and proper one. Objection is, however, strongly urged to the alleged expensive nature of the water-lifting appliances adopted by the Department of Works in accordance with this recommendation. The M’Comas horse-gear lift was first tried by the Works, found wanting, and condemned, as it involved expensive timbered wells and staging, and was very difficult to put in order if anything went wrong when the tank was full. The Mines Department strongly advocated a double whip to be worked by a horse, and sent in a sketch of proposal, which the Works Department found involved the same expensive and perishable timbering as the M’Comas horse-gear lift.

The Works Department then determined to adopt pumps, involving little or no woodwork in the tank itself, and selected some simple and effective forms of steam and horse-gear pumps for trial. The steam-pumps are placed at tanks where wood is easily obtained, and horse-gear pumps where wood is not easily obtained.

Many witnesses of the Mines Department now state that neither horse nor steam-power is required for these tanks in many instances, and that the hand-power M’Comas lifts would amply suffice in these cases. We can find, however, no evidence that the Department of Mines recommended the adoption of hand-power lifts at the time the question of watering appliances was first taken in hand; and we do not consider that hand-power lifts would have been adequately powerful for these works, taking into consideration the possible maximum demand for water, the depth of the tanks, the severity of the climate, and the uncertainty as to the physical powers of the caretakers or lessees.

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*Excessive Cost of Construction of Drains.—*The Commissioners state that it would appear from Mr. Stillwell’s evidence (Q. 4508 to 4516) that the drains were offered for public tender, and that he was forced to let them at an excessive price to get the work done at once. The Commissioners profess to base their conclusion on this portion of Mr. Stillwell’s evidence, and yet it is clear that, in the most precise language, Mr. Stillwell distinctly admits that the drains were not let by public tender, and that the price was excessive (Q. 4508.)

Mr. Overseer Yeo in his evidence (Q. 2680) points out that the same contractors who constructed these drains for Mr. Stillwell, constructed the same class of drains for the pastoral tenant in the same paddock in which the tank is situated, for 3s. 6d. per chain. Further, Mr. Hanna, another officer of the Works Department, was getting drains cut at 26-mile Tank, 60 miles north, in the same kind of soil for 4s. 6d. per chain. (Mines Return, p. 126.) Reference may also be made to Mr. Coleman’s evidence (another Works Officer) Q. 4047, stating that he pays from 10s. to 15s. per chain. These statements appear to sufficiently confirm the allegations of the Mines Department.

A reference to the return furnished by Department of Public Works, on February 3, 1888, p. 270, Mines Return, shows the average cost of the machinery for watering at eighty-one tanks, as £532 2s. 3d.

This is perhaps a sufficient admission of the allegation of the Mines Department, and further comment appears unnecessary.

The double whip advised by the Mines Department in 1883 could have been adopted at all new tanks with watering appliances for £250, allowing a liberal margin, and it was approved by Mr. Bennett (*vide* p. 261 Mines return). See also Mr. Leslie’s evidence, Q. 2892.

With regard to hand-power lifts, the evidence taken by the Commissioners does not confirm their statement that many witnesses of the Mines Department now state that these would be sufficient, &c. Four of the Mines witnesses gave evidence that in special cases, where there was but little traffic, they considered this class of lift would be sufficient, but the Department at no time endorsed this view, or made any recommendation to give effect to it.

No. 8.—EXCESSIVE COST AND FAULTY CONSTRUCTION OF FENCING; SUBLETTING OF A CONTRACT FOR FENCING; AND EXCESSIVE COST OF GATES.

“It is alleged that the cost of fencing at public watering places has been excessive as compared with the cost of squatters’ fencing; that in some instances the construction is faulty; that in one instance a contract for fencing was sublet with enormous profit to the original contractor; and that the cost of gates has been excessive.

We find that the prices paid by the Department of Public Works for fencing at public watering places, consisting of fencing inclosing the tanks and caretakers’ paddocks, have usually ranged from £58 15s. to £100 per mile; and that in one or two instances £112 and £120 have been paid.

The extent and description of fencing appears to have been decided upon by the Department of Mines (see Appendices X and XI) under departmental arrangements (see “Public Tanks and Wells—Departmental Arrangements;” Class A, No. 7; p. 175), no distinction having been made in the description of fencing for inclosing tanks, and that for lessees or caretakers’ paddocks. But the Department of Public Works, finding the description of fencing decided upon very expensive for these paddocks, substituted a No. 4 wire for the top rail, or two No. 6 wires, decided upon by the Department of Mines; and placed the posts 10 ft., instead of 8 ft. 6 in., apart.

Notwithstanding that the posts were sunk 2 ft. 6 in. in the ground (which we consider unnecessary and costly), this is a somewhat less expensive description of fencing than that decided upon by the Department of Mines, and quite as effective. And in Wilcannia district a still less expensive description of fencing has been constructed.

We find that the description of fencing decided upon, and that constructed is not too substantial or costly for inclosing the tanks, it being absolutely necessary that these valuable national works should be very substantially protected; but that the same description of fencing, and that constructed, is unnecessarily substantial and costly for tenants’ leases or caretakers’ paddocks; and that the Department of Mines, having, under departmental arrangements, decided upon a very expensive description of fencing for the purpose, is responsible for the somewhat extravagant expenditure that has taken place with respect to it.

The faulty construction complained of consists chiefly in erecting fences without straining posts, running the wire out to its full length, and straining and fastening to posts only 3 inches thick, which it is said will not stand the wiring plug being driven in, and are splitting and giving way, being unequal to the strain.

We find that this description of fencing has been erected in several instances, experimentally, to lessen the cost and to avoid splicing the wire; but it was discontinued on account of the objection raised by the Department of Mines.

We inspected some fencing of this description in the Hay district; it was in very good order, and seemed to be well and substantially constructed; and we did not observe any of the posts splitting or giving way; but we are of the opinion, nevertheless, that a fence constructed in the usual way with special straining posts is better.

With regard to subletting, Mr. Abigail states (see Q. 477).—“There was one case (Boonoono Tank) which cost more than £120 per mile. It was sublet by the contractor to another man, and the former pocketed about £40 per mile.” And

Without entering into any contention as to the relative merits of the fences recommended by the Mines Department in 1883, and that adopted by the Department of Public Works, the question appears to be whether the prices paid for the fencing are not greatly in excess of its actual value. This view of the case does not appear to have been noticed by the Commissioners, who point out, however, that the prices paid by the Works Department range from £58 15s. to £100 per mile, and in some cases to £112 to £120. This admission of the Commissioners appears practically to confirm the Mines allegation of excessive cost. With respect to the departmental arrangements of 1883, I may point out that from the date on which they were entered into there has apparently been no observance of them on the part of the Department of Works. No communication has ever been received from that Department upon the subject, and works have been repeatedly constructed without any recommendation from this Department. In confirmation of this, I may point out that under those arrangements Nos. 3, 4, and 6 were to be decided by the two Departments jointly. To take one of these alone, No. 6, which is to determine the sort of watering appliances to be used, in not one single instance has this Department ever been consulted. With respect to No. 3—deciding on the description of the work—no consultation has, to my knowledge, ever taken place between the Departments. And No. 4—to determine the dimensions and capacity—has been equally ignored. It must be apparent that arrangements that have been so completely set aside for four or five years can only have been revived in the present instance to escape the responsibility of an outlay that has been repeatedly objected to by the Mines Department. As a further instance that this Department recognize no such arrangement, fencing has been done by its officers for £44 per mile at Colombo Creek, and tenders have also been received to fence at the following rates:—

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| P.W.P., Wagga district, | £35 per mile. |
| „ Walgett district, | £57 per mile. |
| „ Silverton district, | £75 per mile. |
| „ Cobar district, | £42 per mile. |
| „ Bourke district, | £38 per mile. |

The estimates received from the various overseers do not exceed an average cost of £52 per mile. (See Mines Return, page 122.)

Further evidence on this point appears in the reply to Mr. Hanna’s evidence (Reply-in-chief, page 79).

With regard to the subletting, the Commissioners state that no evidence has been tendered beyond hearsay. All the papers in this case were furnished to the Commissioners, with the request that they would call for the witnesses necessary to substantiate the allegations. Neither Elliott, Bevan, nor Anderson, who were the alleged sub-contractors, have been called before the Commissioners; so it must appear that no steps were taken to obtain the evidence, although the Commissioners visited Ivanhoe, where Elliott resides.

With regard to gates, it must be a matter of opinion as to whether £15 each is not an excessive price. Double gates, 6 ft. each, which we have every reason to believe are more durable, and are certainly less liable to breakage, while at the same time being much more convenient, have been erected by this Department at 50s. the pair. Another and chief objection raised was placing these gates at the tenants’ lease paddocks, where they could never be required. (*Vide* also reply to Mr. Wood—Reply-in-chief, page 72.) referring

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referring to subletting fencing at Ivanhoe Tank, Mr. Yeo states (see Q. 2710):—"The first contractor must have made a profit of £60 per mile on the transaction;" and Mr. Low, referring to this case (see his report, last paragraph, p. 59), puts down the profit from first contract price at "at least £33 11s. per mile."

We find that no evidence excepting hearsay has been tendered in support of these statements.

With regard to excessive cost of gates constructed by the Department of Public Works at a cost of from £10 to £15 each (see Appendix XX), we are of the opinion that these gates are not too substantial for access of stock to public watering places, and that their cost is not excessive.

It is stated that at some of the paddocks to which travelling stock are not admitted these expensive gates are provided (we observed some of them at paddocks in the Hay district), but as no reason is given for this apparently extravagant expenditure, we have no alternative but to find that the Department of Public Works is responsible for it."

Page 22.**No. 9. — INTERFERENCE WITH MINES' CARETAKERS AND OVERSEERS BY OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.**

"It is alleged that caretakers and overseers of the Department of Mines, at public watering places, have been interfered with by officers of the Department of Public Works, and that the interference has taken place chiefly in the Hay district.

We find that with the exception of the interference admitted by Mr. Coleman, which appears to have been justified (see Q. 4100 to 4107), there is no admissible evidence of direct interference with the caretakers and overseers of the Department of Mines by officers of the Department of Public Works; but that Mr. A. W. Stillwell, Road Superintendent of Hay district, Mr. A. P. Wood, Mr. W. J. Hanna, and Mr. J. Coleman have, we believe, in the execution of their duty, and in the interests of the public, indirectly interfered by reporting to the head of their Department cases of negligence and incompetence of caretakers of the Department of Mines, that have come under their notice.

That such negligence and incompetence is amply proved by the evidence of Mr. Stillwell, Mr. Wood, and Mr. Adams (see Q. 4610 to 4614, Mr. Stillwell's reports, pp. 222 to 224, and Q. 4588, 3503 to 3505, 4716), and by the fact proved by the evidence of Mr. Abigail, Mr. Boulton, and Mr. Low, that several of the caretakers were reported and suspended for neglect of duty and dismissed on account of their unfitness for their positions. (See Q. 507, 876, 877, 1290, 1312, 1313.)

As far as we were able to observe, the caretakers on the Hay and Ivanhoe and Balranald roads were capable and attentive to their duties."

Reply of Mines.

This having been repeatedly done, the Commissioners state that they have no alternative but to hold the Department of Works responsible for it. It is difficult to imagine how they could have done otherwise.

For an experiment which any stationholder in the district would have condemned as impracticable, I may remark that five paddocks, or approximately 20 miles of fencing, appears to be on somewhat too large a scale, particularly when the contracts were let, by Mr. Stillwell's own admission, as high as £112 per mile.

The two following declarations from the caretakers at Mount Manara and Merri Merriwa Tanks are perhaps a sufficient reply in this place.

In each case the caretaker was ordered to clean out the silt tank, and in each case the Works officer interfered, countermanding the order saying he would have it done by contract.

I, John Murray, caretaker of the Government tank situated at Mount Manara, in the district of Ivanhoe, and on the road from Hay to Wilcannia, do solemnly and sincerely declare:—

1st. That Mr. Road Superintendent Stillwell did direct me not to clean out silt tank, and said that he would get it done.

2nd. I further declare that the silt tank has not been cleaned out by Mr. Stillwell's contractor.

3rd. And I also further declare that the silt tank has not been enlarged nor any alteration made to the intake of the shoot since my appointment here as caretaker in December, 1886.

Signed at Mount Manara Government Tank, on this ninth day of July, 1888.

JOHN MURRAY, Caretaker.

Witness,—E. W. PROCTOR,

Overseer, P. W. P., 9/7/88.

Declared before me, this 24th day of July, 1888, at Mount Manara Tank, Ivanhoe Road,—

GEO. H. GOWER, J.P.

P. W. P., 88—3,903.

I, William Mortimer, caretaker at the Government tank at Merri Merriwa, situated on the road from Hillston to Cobar, do solemnly and sincerely declare:—

1st. That Mr. Stillwell never visited this tank, nor ever directed me not to clean out the silt tank.

2nd. I further declare that a contract to clean out the silt tank was let and the work supervised by Mr. Adams, of Cobar.

3rd. And I further declare that the silt tank was not enlarged, further than that in cleaning it out it was made 6 inches deeper by the contractor, nor has any alteration been made to the intake of the shoot by anyone since my appointment here as caretaker.

Signed at Merri Merriwa Government Tank, this 14th day of July, 1888.

WILLIAM MORTIMER, Caretaker.

Witness,—E. W. PROCTOR,

Overseer, P. W. P., 14/7/88.

It

*Report of Commission.**Reply of Mines.*

It was also made distinctly clear to the Commission that the interference with caretakers was confined almost entirely to Mr. Stillwell's district (Q. 314, 937).

Additional cases of interference by Mr. Stillwell will be found in Caretaker Leighton's declaration (*vide* p. 92), Hulong; Kellick's declaration, p. 108, Boonoonoona; Inspector Boulbee's declaration, p. 95, Ivanhoe.

With respect to the alleged interference by Mr. Coleman, no notice of it ever came before the attention of the Mines Department, and the questions referred to by the Commissioners (4100 to 4107) are mere general statements referring to no particular instance.

With respect to the negligence and incompetence of caretakers, it must be evident that where such a large number of men are being employed, in many cases without previous knowledge of their character, instances of incompetence and neglect of duty must occur. The moment that such cases have been brought under notice of the Mines Department an inquiry has been made, and if the charge has been proved the offender has been dismissed. In a number of the cases brought forward by Messrs. Stillwell and Wood an investigation of the charges does not appear to confirm their conclusions; but the testimony borne by the Commissioners as to the character of the caretakers on the Hay, Ivanhoe, and Balranald roads should be sufficient evidence of the care displayed by the Mines Department in selecting men for the position of caretaker. It will not be out of place to remark that it is hardly fair to judge men in this position, who are not required to possess special qualifications in point of education, by an exceptional standard of honesty.

No. 10.—“GREASING” OF SERVICE TANKS.

“It is alleged that service tanks were ‘greased’ with a composition of tar, tallow, and pitch (Q. 907); that 7,000 sheep were lost on the borders of a tank because they would not drink the water owing to the mixture which the Department of Public Works has been in the habit of dressing the inside of service tanks with, causing a film to arise on the water and rendering it undrinkable by stock (See Q. 452 and 2769); that the Mines Department strongly objected to this being done, and has evidence to show that it was done after it was objected to. (See Q. 510.)

We find that a mixture, composed of tar, tallow, and pitch, was in three instances applied by the Department of Public Works to the inside of service tanks, a somewhat similar mixture having been reported by Mr. M’Kinney, C.E., of the Mines Department, to have been used with success in Victoria, and having been recommended by him to Mr. A. P. Wood.

That the statement that 7,000 sheep were lost on the borders of a tank because they would not drink the water owing to its being rendered undrinkable by the use of the mixture is not substantiated.

That the mixture at first produced a film upon the water, but its effects appear to have been only temporary.

That the Department of Mines objected to further use of the mixture on service tanks, and its use was at once discontinued by the Department of Works in deference to the objections of the Department of Mines.

That no evidence whatever has been offered showing that the mixture was used after it was objected to.”

The objections were made equally against the use of an unsuitable composition that was entirely unnecessary, and the employment of a skilled mechanic at a high rate of wages (£6 per week) to do what the caretaker was both able and instructed to carry out where required.

(*Vide* reply to Mr. A. P. Wood's evidence, page 73).

The Commissioners assert that the statement as to 7,000 sheep having been lost on the borders of a tank has not been substantiated. A perusal of the evidence fails to show that any effort has been made by them to elicit further testimony on this point. They did not even ask the witness to whom the sheep belonged, or at what tank they perished.

Report of Commission.

No. 11.—FAULTY SITES OF WELLS.

"*J. K. Well and Menamurtee Well.*—These wells are on the road from Wilcannia to Mount Brown. The objection advanced against them is that they are unnecessary, having been placed near permanent waterholes, which might have been used as public watering places. The waterholes referred to are named respectively 'J.K.' and 'Menamurtee.'

Though they are fine waterholes they certainly did not afford a permanent supply of water in their natural state; but the supply was largely increased by dams constructed at the cost of the first occupants of the runs on which they are situated.

The fourth, sixth, and ninth paragraphs of our report upon the sites of Peri, Yentabangee, Warramutty, and Goomboolara Tanks (see pages 6 and 7), and the second and third paragraphs on the site of Tarella Tank (see page 8), apply generally to these wells, rendering repetition here unnecessary.

It will be seen that the action of the Department of Public Works in these cases is covered by Mr. Abbott's minute."

"*Willandra Well.*—This well is on the road from Balranald to Ivanhoe. The site is objected to on the grounds that the Department of Mines did not ask for a well there; that one watering place, namely, a tank, would have been sufficient between Clare and Ivanhoe; that the Department of Public Works constructed two watering places there, namely, a tank and the well in question; and that the well is absolutely unnecessary on such a road. (See Q. 169 to 172; 3323, 3324; extract from Mr. Gilliat's report of 13th January, 1880, upon the road from Balranald to Ivanhoe, on page 27, Mines *précis* of cases; Q. 4766.)

We find that in constructing two public watering places between Clare Tank and Ivanhoe the Department of Public Works was guided by Mr. Gilliat's recommendations for 1884, for two works (see Appendix XII); and in our opinion one public watering place between Clare Tank and Ivanhoe would not be sufficient, and that a public watering place at this site is necessary."

Reply of Mines.

The cases of the Menamurtee, the J.K., and the Roto Wells are brought together by the contention of Mr. A. P. Wood, that they were constructed under a minute of the then Minister for Mines, Mr. J. P. Abbott.

The minute of Mr. Abbott referred directly to the construction of a well at the J.K. waterhole (*vide* p. 217 of Mines Return, under date 3/7/84.)

But Mr. Wood admits (Q. 3346) there was no distinct sanction for the Menamurtee Well, and it is difficult to conceive how Mr. Abbott's minute upon a special case can be taken as having a general application.

Mr. Wood has already stated (Q. 3307) that although Mr. Abbott's minute was regarded by him as having this general application, it was only applied in one other instance, namely, the Roto Well, yet he now claims that it was his justification for the site selected for the Menamurtee Well and the Tarella Tank.

But Mr. Wood continues: "The statement made by this Department that the dam near the Roto Well was dry at the date of the transfer of the well to the lessee, Mr. Evans, is here used as an argument that the water adjacent to the well is not permanent. My statement was made in error, inquiry showing that the dam was full at the time referred to and has seldom been dry. But in any case, with a creek filling at a two-thirds rise in the Lachlan, irrespective of local rains, it may be questioned if it was necessary to sink a well at a total cost of £1,181 4s., when a dam costing probably less than one-quarter of the sum could have been constructed." Page 205 of the Mines Return shows the receipts at this well, for 1886, to be 4d.; in 1887, stock watered by lessee, nil; in 1888, stock watered by lessee, nil.

Mr. Wood further states the sites were approved by the Mines Department, this site of Roto Well being one of them. The papers in connection with this matter were sent to the Secretary for Public Works on the 17th May, 1882,—Tanks and Wells, 82-401, the only record in this office being a press copy of a minute in which the Chief Inspector states:—

"The points marked for sites and reserves on the Run Map herewith, are very suitable in point of distance and well arranged for future subdivision when the traffic demand it."

This, it will be observed, carefully avoids giving any other approval of the sites selected beyond their being suitable in point of distance. The reason for this caution was that he had not at that time been over the road or inspected the sites.

In 1884 the Chief Inspector recommended two public watering places between Clare and Ivanhoe, one 9 miles north of Clare, and one 10 miles south of Kilfera. The Works Department have constructed three, in violation of the Departmental arrangements which they claim to have been in force.

The Commission, without eliciting any evidence upon the subject, confirm the action of the Works Department as being in accordance with the Mines recommendation. The merest reference to Appendix XII, p. 262, will show their error, and that instead of two watering places three have been constructed.

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"*Normanstone Well*.—This well is on the road from Gunnedah to Coonabarabran. The site is objected to on the grounds that it is not identical with that fixed by Mr. Gilliat, and that it is in basalt country. (See Q. 179, 233; latter part of Q. 521; Q. 1739 to 1743; 1756 to 1758.)

It appears from the evidence of Mr. A. P. Wood that this well is in basalt, and was sunk within a few chains of the site fixed by Mr. Gilliat; that many wells sunk through basalt have proved very good water-yielding wells; and that wells sunk in the neighbourhood have given an abundant supply of water. (See Q. 3326 to 3340.)

We find that in this instance the arrangement between the Departments with respect to sites (see Q. 9) appears to have been adhered to by the Department of Public Works; that the fact of the site being in a basalt country is not sufficient to justify us in condemning it, and that there is no evidence showing that a supply of water would have been more readily obtained by sinking the well in the exact position defined by Mr. Gilliat."

Reply of Mines.

The case of the Baloola and Normanstone Wells cannot be separated, as in neither instance was the site recommended by the Mines Department adhered to. The site of Baloola, though generally approved of by Mr. Gilliat, was placed on the shoulder of the hill and not upon the black soil plain below, where, as he pointed out in his report, water could be obtained at about 100 feet sinking. With regard to Normanstone, the site selected by him was nowhere near where Mr. Dowe recommended a tank, and the present site is fully 4 miles from the one selected by him on Basin Plain. The Works Department on page 155 of the Mines Return states:—"The Road Superintendent was instructed to adhere as closely as possible to the sites marked out by the Stock Inspector, and which it was understood were approved of by Mr. Gilliat."

No reference is made to Mr. Gilliat's report and tracing. He states on page 153 of the Mines Return:—"For their third site Messrs. Mackie and Dowe suggest a point 10 miles from Mullaly and suggest a 4,000-yard tank. This point is very nearly the watershed between Cox's Creek and the Namoi. After careful examination I consider the point marked in red on the annexed tracing will prove the best site." The tracing showing the exact points selected by Mr. Gilliat was sent to the Works Department, and although repeatedly asked for has never been returned.

The Commissioners state (Q. 3328) that Mr. Wood "produces tracings of Baloola and Normanstone Wells to show that the actual sites adopted were within short distances of the sites pointed out by the Mines Department." The question may now be asked why the Commissioners did not call upon the officers of the Mines Department to verify the correctness of these tracings, which, as has before been pointed out, have been repeatedly asked for from the Works Department without being able to recover them (see p. 155 Mines Return). Finally, it may be added that the Works Department claim the right to fix the exact site of works in all cases, leaving to the Mines the power only of pointing out the approximate one. Under these circumstances I fail to see how they can with any consistency endeavour to throw the responsibility of these blunders upon the Mines Department.

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No. 12—FAULTY CONSTRUCTION OF WELLS—SINKING, TIMBERING, AND CENTERING OF SHAFTS AND ERECTION OF HEAD-WORKS (TO LINE SERVICE TANK AND TROUGHING) BEFORE TESTING FOR SUPPLY AND QUALITY OF WATER.

"There are about thirty wells at public watering places, and the Department of Mines allege that many of these wells have been constructed, and great expense incurred, without a proper test being made of the supply and quality of the water.

Exception is taken to the sites of *Baloola* and *Normanstone* wells as not being in the exact sites prescribed by the Mines Department, and also that they have been sunk in basalt rock; that no water has been found; and that the whim and service tank were erected or commenced at one of these wells before any water was found.

No trial shafts were first put down in these cases, as the ground was basaltic and it was thought cheaper to sink the main shaft at once.

We are of opinion that it would have been wiser to have bored in these two cases; and that the Department of Works committed an error of judgment in not doing so, as admitted by Mr. Wood (see Q. 3549), although they appear to have had good grounds for their action, as wells in the same district through basalt are said to give a fair supply of good water.

Report of Commission.

We find that head-works were not put up at *Normanstone Well*, as stated, and that at *Baloola* the contractor was stopped constructing the service tank, the whim having been put up most probably to help in the sinking of the shaft. It would appear that these wells are not yet done with, and further boring and driving operations are either in progress or contemplation, so that water may yet be obtained."

"*Old Gunbar, Holy Box, and Dolmoreve Wells* are cited as cases where the Department of Works have completed the shafts and head-works without testing the quality of water, and that in each instance the money has been thrown away, owing to the water being quite unfit for stock.

In the case of *Old Gunbar Well* we find that the Department of Works received a sample of water which was good, which purported to come from the trial shaft; and that having sunk the main shaft some distance away from the trial shaft, bad water was obtained, and that the water has remained unfit for stock ever since.

We are of opinion that in this instance the Department of Works has not evinced enough care in testing the quality of water previous to erecting costly head-works and fencing.

In the case of the *Holy Box Well*, we are of opinion that the Department of Works were justified in proceeding with the erection of head-works; and that although the quality of the water is not so good as it might be, it has much improved, owing most probably to constant baling. We visited this work, and found that a large number of travelling and station stock were watering at it, and our own horses drank readily of the water. (Q. 4755 to 4760.)

Dolmoreve Well.—The water at this well is not at present fit for stock; and we find that in this instance also the Department of Works is responsible for having completed the head-works, &c., without properly testing the quality of the water. Seeing, however, that there is within a mile of this well a private well where the water is very good, and from which water is constantly being drawn, we recommend that the well should be leased, if possible, to the lessees of Til Til station for (say) two years, with a view of its being given a thorough trial, and of testing the value of constant baling in improving the water. We have reason to believe that the manager of Til Til station would be ready to take the well over for a time.

Willandra Well is cited as an instance of faulty construction and excessive cost, without any supply of water for stock having been obtained.

We find that this well has given great trouble to the Department of Works, which is still endeavouring to get the well completed and to obtain a supply of stock-water. It would appear that in sinking the main shaft the contractor failed to get the shaft to stand in soft drift at the bottom, and it had to be abandoned, and a new one sunk in close proximity, three contractors, failing to complete the well. It appears that the whim, service-tank and troughing have been erected, and two shafts partly sunk, the sums paid to contractors amounting to £752, or considerably less than the first contract. As the operations in connection with this well have not yet been concluded, we are of opinion that the time has not yet arrived for criticising this work, which may, after all the difficulties that have been encountered, prove a useful public watering-place. (Q. 4819 to 4821.)"

Reply of Mines.

Old Gunbar, Holy Box, and Dolmoreve Wells.—The Commissioners admit the allegations of the Mines with respect to the *Old Gunbar Well*. But in addition it may be pointed out that the Public Works Department fenced in the lease area, although cautioned by this Department that the well in its present condition was useless. (*Vide* p. 49 Mines Return.) With respect to the *Holy Box* the water, it is admitted, has greatly improved, although unfit for human consumption, a point of serious consideration at a public watering place. With regard to *Dolmoreve Well* the Commissioners confirm the contention of the Department of Mines that the water is useless for stock purposes.

If, as they state, the lessees of Til Til are willing to lease it, it may be remarked that they have not availed themselves of the three opportunities afforded when tenders have been publicly invited for its lease. Further, I may add that Mr. Waugh, of Clare station, has written to urge the construction of a tank, and that the Ivanhoe Pastures and Stock Protection Board have also made representations to the same effect. A petition has also been presented by Mr. Wilkinson, M.L.A., on behalf of the residents of the Balranald district, having the same object.

The Commissioners apparently accept the conclusion of Mr. A. P. Wood (Q. 3324), that, as the *Willandra Well* has not yet been completed or handed over, the Mines Department have no right to say anything about it. Objection may be taken to this view. It is admitted by Mr. Wood that these works are decided upon as necessary, and sites approximately fixed by the Mines Department. Mr. Wood's reply to Mr. Woore's question (3419) distinctly admits this:—

"*Mr. Woore*:—This point as to the necessity of the works has to be decided by the Mines Department?

Answer:—Yes; we simply construct."

The two shafts at *Willandra*, each of which has proved a failure, have been sunk in opposition to the recommendation of the Mines Department. (*Vide* Appendix XII to Commissioners' report and reply-in-chief, p. 262, with Mr. Webb's letter; also reply to Mr. Stillwell's evidence, p. 111.)

The Commissioners' statement that the sum of £752 paid for the whim, service-tank, troughing,

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"*Wooloondool Well* is sited as an instance of faulty construction, in that the Works Department omitted to put a floor and pipe at the bottom of the well; and that in consequence of this omission the bore at the bottom of the well became choked with silt. The Department of Works affirm that no floor or pipe is necessary, and that baling or the occasional probing of the bore is all that is required to keep the well in order. We believe a floor and pipe, as suggested—and, we understand, constructed—by the Mines Department to be unnecessary; and fail to see how it will get over the silting up of the bore, unless constant baling is kept up.

It appears to us doubtful whether wells are satisfactory as public watering-places where brackish water is known to exist, seeing the uncertainty that seems to obtain as to whether the water when struck will be fit for stock or not, and as to where the line is to be drawn between good and bad stock-water. Seeing, however, that wells are so much cheaper than tanks, and afford a more permanent supply of water, we are of opinion that both the Departments of Works and Mines have evinced a proper regard for the public purse in making every effort to put down wells as often as possible, and that the Department of Works is by no means singular in its failure to provide good stock-water in every instance."

Page 25.**No. 13.—EXCESSIVE COST OF CONSTRUCTION OF WELLS.**

"It is alleged by the Department of Mines that the cost of construction of wells has been excessive.

We are of opinion that no comparison can be made between the wells constructed by the Department of Works at public watering-places and those constructed by squatters, as regards the material and workmanship. We find that the total cost of some of the wells has reached a sum of £1,000, but this includes the whim, service tank, and troughing, and frequently repairs and alterations. We believe the construction of these works to have been let by open tenders, and that the Department of Works has exercised due reluctance to accept high tenders. We do not consider the class of work at these wells unnecessarily good or expensive for such important national works. Our remarks as to the disadvantages under which tanks are often constructed, tending to raise the cost of construction, apply in some degree to wells."

No. 14.—COSTLY HUTTING FOR CARETAKERS.

"The Department of Mines allege that the caretakers' huts designed by the Department of Works were too expensive, and that by undertaking the construction of these huts themselves they have effected a saving of something like 50 per cent. Having compared carefully the drawings and specifications of the huts designed by the Works Department with those constructed by the Mines Department, some of which we have inspected on

Reply of Mines.

and two shafts sunk does not correspond with the return furnished by the Department of Works on February 3rd, 1888, where the progress payments upon the first shaft are given at £1,087 5s. 8d.

Again, Mr. Stillwell (Q. 4819) states that the amount paid to the contractors on account of the first shaft was £900. The Commissioners do not explain by what means they have arrived at a conclusion so entirely opposed to the statements of the Department of Works.

The Commissioners offer their opinion against the value of a floor and pipe, but do not appear to have taken any independent evidence upon the subject. The well is bottomed in drift below the clay, and the water is sub-artesian, and rises about 18 feet above the bottom of the shaft. I found when testing this well with Mr. A. P. Wood, on 18th December, 1884, that the water made rapidly, and that two hours steady baling only lowered it about 18 inches. Constant baling as recommended by Mr. Wood, to keep the bore free, necessitates a continual daily and, I think, entirely unnecessary labour of both man and horse, wear and tear of gear, and waste of water.

The choking of the bore is occasioned by the falling in of the clay through which it has been made, and by the drift held in suspense while the water is being baled, and subsequently deposited when the water is at rest.

A plan and section of the pipe and floor, which has been placed at the bottom of the well by this Department, was submitted for the information of the Commissioners, and our present reports show that the well has now a strong flow of water, and that no obstruction has occurred since the alteration was made in the early part of 1888.

The Commissioners' finding on this heading is, unfortunately, not in accordance with the return furnished by the Department of Works, and quoted in their Appendix I. The exact list of wells completed and unfinished is 27; of these the cost of 26 is given in the return referred to. In this return 8 wells, including 2 unfinished ones, have cost from £794 to £1,001. Four have cost between £1,000 and £1,100; 5, between £1,100 and £1,200; 5, between £1,200 and £1,300; 1, between £1,400 and £1,500; 2, between £1,500 and £1,600; and 1, between £1,700 and £1,800. The Silverton Well being grouped with two tanks the cost cannot be given.

The best proof, perhaps, of the efficiency of these huts is that they are found fully to answer their purpose, and at less than half the cost proposed by the Works Department; they are equal to most, if not all, of the station improvements in the district for similar purposes. The statement that they are unable to withstand a strong gale of wind,—or are scarcely fit habitations for human beings in the severe climate of the Western District,—must be regarded by any
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the spot, we find that no comparison can fairly be instituted between the two classes of buildings. (See Appendices.) The designs of the Department of Works—which were estimated to cost about £100—provide for three rooms, with spouting, and a tank for rain water, while the constructive details are far stronger and better than those of the huts put up by the Department of Mines.

Having examined some of the huts erected by the Mines Department, we consider that they are of very inferior construction; that they will probably in their present condition, fail to withstand a strong gale of wind; and that they are scarcely fit habitations for human beings in the severe climate of the Western District. In these huts only two rooms are provided; the gauge of iron and scantling of timber are of the lightest description; there are no braces to walls or roofs; no painting of wood-work is done; and no guttering or drinking tank is provided—even at brackish wells, such as Holy Box, where we found the caretaker carting his drinking water from Mossgiel, distant 16 miles.

We believe that it would have been a truer economy to erect the more expensive huts designed by the Department of Public Works.”

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one accustomed to western life as a somewhat highly coloured description none have blown down, nor is it probable—from the specifications—that any will do so. The fact is dwelt upon that only two rooms are provided—what more is required, may be fairly asked.

The Commission comment upon no drinking-tank being provided. That such a convenience should be required at a public watering-place seems an anomaly; but as it is the intention of the Department of Mines to bore these wells for artesian water, it seemed an unnecessary expense to provide them. With reference to the specifications for huts, the Commission desired to be supplied with copies of those in use by the Mines Department, and the three kinds, viz.,—log, weatherboard, and iron were sent to them. Of these three, the latter alone—which is only used where round pine or weatherboard is too costly—appears in the Appendix, and it is to be feared the impression will be given that it is the only class of hut constructed by this Department.

No. 15.—DEFECTIVE CONSTRUCTION OF
TROUGHING.

“Exception is taken by the officers of the Mines Department to the original type of railing put round the watering troughs to prevent cattle and sheep from getting into them.

We find that this railing was at first experimental, and that the Department of Works submitted a sketch of the railing as used at some private troughing for the approval of the Department of Mines; that this form of railing was generally approved by the Inspector of Public Watering-places, but that it failed to give satisfaction to the public. We find that a superior design of troughing has been adopted by the Department of Works, and that a rail down the centre as proposed eventually by the Department of Mines, has also been adopted. We think the latest type of troughing and railing to be excellent. We find that the Department of Works adopted the form of railing which was the best they knew of at the time, and that the subsequent alterations are the outcome of experience. We noticed that the alterations now being carried out to existing troughing rails by the Mines Department are by no means uniform; and while those at Ivanhoe Tank appear to be excellent, those at Mossgiel Tank seem to us quite the reverse.

We do not find that the Department of Public Works has been to blame in this matter, which has been the subject of experiment for some years by the pastoral community.”

The troughing was found to be defective, and, as a matter of economy, the Mines Department gave instructions that the caretakers should remodel it upon the present form, making use only of the original material. This material was better adapted for the change in some places than at others, and the overseer specially reported that this was the case at the Mossgiel Tank, referred to by the Commissioner. The Department of Public Works followed the example set by the Mines in making this alteration.

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No. 16.—UNFORTUNATE EFFECTS OF DUAL
CONTROL, AND SUGGESTED REMEDIES.

“We find that the evidence throughout discloses that the dual control exercised by the Department of Public Works and the Department of Mines over the public watering-places, and the laxity in adherence to arrangements between them—doubtless framed with the best intentions, but in which the seeds of discord are sown broadcast (see p. 175)—has, as a natural consequence, for some years past, been productive of frequent unseemly differences and recriminations, and much unnecessary and irritating correspondence between the Departments, the tedious details of which we have deemed it unnecessary and unprofitable to enter into in this report.

The case of the Department of Mines has now been stated: it may perhaps be added that its officers have been actuated throughout by an earnest wish to bring the public watering-places to the highest degree of efficiency under an organization that would ensure to the State a fair equivalent for the money expended.

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This very objectionable state of things has no doubt for a corresponding length of time been highly prejudicial to public interests, and to the decorous and regular conduct of public business by the Departments in question. We therefore deem it incumbent upon us to suggest the adoption of the following remedies:—

- (1.) That the Department of Public Works, be charged with the construction of all public watering places, whether tanks, wells, or artesian borings, and with the entire supervision, maintenance, and control of them.
- (2.) That the necessity for constructing public watering places on any stock route, be in all cases reported to the Department of Public Works by the Stock Branch of the Department of Mines.
- (3.) That the sites for such watering places be fixed by the Department of Public Works, dividing the distances between them as equally as the circumstances may permit.
- (4.) That before entering upon the construction of such watering places a report be obtained by the Department of Public Works from the Government Geologist, or other competent authority, as to the advisability of sinking wells or boring for artesian water.

In concluding this portion of our report we desire to point out that for some time past three classes of officers have been employed in the supervision, control, and maintenance of public watering places, namely: Road Superintendents, under the Department of Public Works; Inspector of Public Watering Places, and Overseers of Public Watering Places (who are also Inspectors of Stock), under the Department of Mines. (Q. 647 to 649)."

Page 27.**SUBJECTS REFERRED TO AT PAGE 6.****(A.) COST OF MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC WATERING-PLACES.**

"It appears that the revenue derived from public watering-places, provided at great cost for construction and maintenance, is so insignificant that the maintenance of them is a burden upon the community.

The principal reason for this appears to be that in good seasons, or after heavy rain, there is usually sufficient natural water along stock routes to enable stock to travel independent of public watering places, which, irrespective of such conditions, have to be continuously maintained up to the normal standard of efficiency, notwithstanding that they may sometimes remain unused for long periods.

We are of the opinion that these works should be at least self-supporting, and that they might with perfect justice be made so by making owners or drovers of travelling stock pay for the water along the particular stock route they wish to travel at the time they take out their travelling permit.

The revenue from public watering places would thus be collected by officers of higher responsibility than caretakers, over whom, under the present system, there does not appear to us to be any sufficient or satisfactory check.

The proposed mode of payment would not be applicable in the case of teamsters' stock, the collection of charges for which, being comparatively a minor matter, would probably have to be entrusted to the caretakers as at present, if no better arrangements could be made."

Reply of Mines.

Anticipating the action here taken by the Commission, the following remarks were submitted to the Secretary for Mines on the 22nd June, 1888:—

"Department of Mines, Public Watering Places,
"Sydney, June 22, 1888.

"I have the honor to submit herewith remarks which I think it is desirable should be put in evidence before the Royal Commission *re* Tanks and Wells.

"I may, perhaps, in connection with this call attention to the powers conferred upon the members of the Commission under the Great Seal of the Colony, by which they are directed 'to make a full and diligent inquiry into certain allegations which have been made respecting the construction of Public Tanks and Wells.'

"It is apparent on perusal of the evidence taken by the members of the Commission that their inquiries have greatly exceeded the scope of the authority extended to them, but confident that the Hon. the Secretary for Mines was not only willing but desirous that the fullest light should be thrown on both sides of the subject, and particularly on the working of this Department, which is at present responsible only to a certain extent for the maintenance of these works, I have not hitherto referred to this point, but both in my evidence-in-chief and in the remarks now submitted, have replied as fully as the questions admitted to matters pertaining both to the construction and the maintenance of tanks and wells. But that this has been done with a full knowledge of the position, and with the sole object of assisting them to obtain the fullest information should, I think, be clearly understood by the Commission.

"At the same time, it must be evident that any report upon the maintenance of these works, unless based

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based upon much fuller investigation than has been made, would possibly result in an incorrect conclusion.

"To this I may now add that no further investigation was made by the Commission.

"With respect to the Commissioners' suggestion that owners or drovers should be made to pay for water along the route they wish to travel, I may say the proposal was carefully considered by the Department of Mines some years ago, but the objections appeared to outweigh any possible advantages to be obtained. They may be shortly stated—

"1st. That it necessitates retaining the costly machinery of caretakers.

"2nd. That in case of rain after the drover has purchased his water permit he will not require water, equally so in case of selling his stock upon the road, or by his change of route from any cause.

"3rd. Refunds upon unused water permits would be troublesome and tedious.

"4th. But chiefly that the payment of caretakers constitutes an annual charge to write off against the revenue whether the season is wet or dry, while by the system of rentals the tenant takes the risk of the season, and the rental is clear revenue.

"Bearing in mind that from circumstances over which it had no control the Department has been in a position to offer only a certain number of the public watering places for lease during the past two years, the conclusion of the Commission does not appear justified. In 1887 thirty-eight watering places were leased at an average rental of £49 0s. 6d. In 1888 fifty-eight were leased at an average rental of £46 16s. 9d., and during the current year there are good grounds to anticipate that upwards of 90 per cent. of the watering places may be offered for lease."

(B.) CARETAKERS.

"Intimately connected with the question of cost of maintenance is that of caretakers, who, under present arrangements, are employed at most of the public watering places, and we think are indispensable for the protection of the works.

In some cases public watering places are leased, but lessees appear to us not to be so much under control, and in case of any default, such as negligence or incompetence, cannot be so readily and promptly dealt with as caretakers.

Leasing, moreover, appears to involve the expense of erecting several miles of fencing which, where steam water-lifting appliances are used, is unnecessary for the efficacy of the works; and even where horse-power appliances are used, less fencing would perhaps suffice for caretakers than for lessees.

For these reasons we believe caretakers to be preferable to lessees, and in the event of our suggestions as to payment for water by travelling stock being carried out, caretakers might be allowed the use of existing paddocks in part payment for their services."

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"Understanding that the Department of Mines wished to reply to the evidence of the Department of Public Works, we expressed our willingness to receive oral evidence in reply, in denial of facts spoken to by the witnesses of that Department; but although ample opportunity was afforded, no such evidence was tendered."

The circumstances connected with the refusal of the Commissioners' to receive the reply of this Department to the evidence of the Department of Public Works has been previously dealt with.

HARRY GILLIAT,
Chief Inspector,
Public Watering Places.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

ALTERATIONS IN THE EVIDENCE, AS SHOWN BY COMPARISON BETWEEN THE ORIGINAL AND PRINTED COPIES.

THE evidence is in reply to 4848 questions, and, in the time at our disposal, it has been impossible to compare the whole of the original version with that printed in the Report. What has been done will perhaps afford sufficient proof of the character of the revision.

Q. 20—

Original: "I should think this document ought to be put in evidence."

As printed by the Commission: "I should think the letter referred to ought to be produced."

Q. 32—

The word "mainly" altered to "really."

Q. 36—

A portion of witness' reply has been converted into Q. 37 and the answer.

Original: *Mr. Woore*.] "You are quoting now from the report? Yes; I am quoting roughly from it, but I cannot put it in because the papers were, as I have already said, destroyed in the Garden Palace fire. That is the substance of them, as far as I can recollect."

Statement of *Mr. Woore* cut out after Q. 37:—

Mr. Woore.] "What I wish to point out is that in case any document cannot be produced here notice should be taken of it."

Following the statement of the Chairman (Q. 39), after the words "information for ourselves," the remark, by *Mr. Woore*, "but we can receive papers in evidence, and they will help us in the putting of questions."

Q. 61—

The word "reported," in the original, is changed to "repaired."

Q. 67—

Portion of question altered. *Original*: "Were you obliged, or did you merely take them over because you wished to do so"?

Q. 73—

The following remarks of the Chairman after the word "next," and the reply of the witness have been cut out:—
"The third point is the excessive expense of machinery. We want to go into these things seriatim, and we have decided to press on this matter which has come upon us at a most inopportune time. We cannot, of course, go much into detail?"

Answer—As a matter of fact, you will find the papers so complex that it will be impossible not to do so."

Between Questions 97 and 98 the following remarks of *Mr. Woore* have been cut out:—

Mr. Woore.] "I think that it will be found that this is on a water reservation. I have a recollection of having recommended it myself."

Q. 98—

Between the question and the answer of the witness, the following statement of the Chairman has been cut out:—
Chairman.] "We can hardly ask that question now, because these tanks were not made as a rule by direction of the Mines Department. We already have evidence that this tank was made at the instance of the Works Department, but that other tanks were not."

Just before Q. 115 the following question and answer have been cut out:—

Major Penrose.] "I presume we can examine *Mr. Hogarth* himself upon that letter? I should think that *Mr. Hogarth* would be a most important witness, &c."

After the word "drought" in the second line, Q. 117, the following remark has been cut out:—

Mr. Woore.] "Before these reports went in, I could not get a drop of water in travelling from the Paroo to Peri Springs."

After "tanks and wells" in 5th line, Q. 117, the following statement is cut out:—

Mr. Woore.] "But this cannot be done at Warramurtee."

Q. 122—

This question "So that no idea of leasing could have been brought forward;" in the original, is a portion of the witness' reply to Q. 121. The word "No," which purports to be a portion of the answer to Q. 122, does not appear in the original at all. The remaining portion of the answer refers to an entirely different matter, and was made after some remarks from *Major Penrose* and *Mr. Woore*, which have been cut out.

Immediately preceding Q. 156, the following questions and answers have been cut out:—

Major Penrose.] "Practically, all these wells are under consideration? No, because they have not been transferred. We have never raised the question; but outside persons have come forward and made certain assertions, and I have been directed to detail the steps the Mines Department have taken in the matter. Officially, from the Works Department I have no information of these things; but we have information that some of them are under water, and others have never been taken over for various reasons—although the works were commenced in 1884."

Question—Are there any others that you wish to refer to now, *Mr. Gilliat*?"

Answer—"There are minor ones; however, from what your Chairman has said this morning, I should prefer to reserve for a future time what I have to say about them."

After the word "subject" on the last line, Q. 157, the following statements are cut out:—

Mr. Woore.] "I should think you have a right to put in evidence such papers as you wish, and which you think will support your case."

Answer—"We do, although this one contradicts."

Major Penrose.] "I think we ought only to take your evidence at the present time."

Answer—"I wish merely to show that there is a letter here from *Mr. Bennett*, in which he denies our statements."

Q. 202—

"Construction" has been replaced by the words "selection of site."

Q. 244—

After the word "charges" on the second line, the following words of the Chairman have been cut out—"not only what you know of your own knowledge, but also what you have heard from others, so that we may have grounds to go upon."

Q. 249—

The first word "perhaps" has been inserted.

After Q. 296—The following statements have been cut out:—

Mr. Woore.] "The flooding of this lake was a most unusual thing. Nobody ever saw water in it except a few inches after rain, but in the extraordinary flood which took place in 1882 the water ran through from another lake into this and filled it. Before that, to my knowledge, that lake was standing for nineteen years without water."

Chairman.] "Another strange thing is that the Paroo River never came to the Darling until this year."

Mr. Woore.] "The water of the Darling backed up to it and joined it."

At the end of Q. 317 the statement is made that no answer was given. The original evidence shows that before the witness replied to the Chairman's question *Major Penrose* interposed the remark, which has been here cut out—"That opens up the whole question. A man is generally very chary in giving advice or instructions which he has not power to carry out." The Chairman then proceeded with Q. 318, to which a full reply was given.

Q. 335—

The following words have been cut off this question, "For instance a squatter constructs a tank to suit his time and purpose, but the Government are obliged to put one down wherever it is required."

Q. 344—

- Q. 344—
In this question "letter of the contract" is altered to "spirit of the contract."
- Q. 409—
After the word take in the second line "these waters artificially conserved by lessees" have been substituted for "these places."
- Q. 469—
In the first line the word "human" does not appear in the original.
- After Q. 523, the following has been cut out—
Chairman.] "As a rule it is the case with squatters, wells are sometimes put down near tanks in view of the great droughts, and that these important places should not be without water, it is on this account that apparently double expense is incurred, but it is very necessary sometimes that wells should be placed near tanks."
Mr. Woore.] "I believe Menamurtee is sunk not far from permanent water."
- Q. 548—
After the word "expended" in line 8, the following remark of the Chairman has been cut out, "That is quite a satisfactory answer, in fact I do know that Mr. Bennett has taken a great deal of interest in water conservation, and was continually bringing it before the various Governments, and I can imagine although he is a friend of mine—"
- Q. 763—
After the word "Yes" the words "much the same as a windmill" has been cut out.
- Q. 770—
In the original no answer given, the reply "No" has been inserted.
- Q. 567—
After this question the following is cut out :—
Mr. Woore.] "There is not a permanent waterhole in the Albert district away from the river. The Depot Glen is the most permanent."
After Q. 575—The following has been cut out :—
Mr. Woore.] "Stone tanks are the best?"
Answer.—"Yes; but they are very expensive."
- After Q. 592.—The following has been cut out :—
Mr. Woore.] "Can you say that there was a drop of water in the place in 1869?"
Answer.—"I was not here then. I did not come out to the Colony till 1874."
Chairman.] "Are there any other places where the expenditure was unnecessary besides Menamurtee?"
Major Penrose.] "There is Peri Springs?"
Answer.—"There is a tank which I have never visited, and know nothing of it. Some of these places are not in my district, but still I have lived up there for some time, and have a personal knowledge of them."
- Q. 612—
Just before this question the following has been cut out :—
Witness.] "I desire to know whether the specifications which have been read to me, and which I understand were adopted by the Works Department during 1886 and 1887 are the same as those used during the earlier contracts."
Chairman.] "That is a very proper question, they are not the same."
At the end of Q. 674 the following has been cut out :—
Chairman.] "We have that in the evidence of Mr. Gilliat."
Mr. Woore.] "There seems to be bad management there to allow a tank to be put on private grounds."
Major Penrose.] "I believe the place had been selected only a week before."
- Q. 870—
The words "found living in the engine shed" have been substituted for "found out in the pump." The alteration makes the witness' reply to appear to refer to a different occurrence.
- Q. 949—
After this question the following has been cut out :—
"I do not remember anything like a lake during my time out there, and I can remember that in 1865 there was no water there at all."
Answer.—"Quite so; and in 1875 there was no water there at all."
- Q. 951—
The following has been cut out :—
Major Penrose.] "Was the lake in existence before the tank was made?"
Answer.—"Yes, it was."
- After Q. 970—
The following has been cut out :—
"Well, it was mine."
- Q. 999—
After the words "watering stock" on line 3, the following has been cut out :—
Question.—"Would not the cost be too great?"
Answer.—"No."
- Q. 1045—
Between this and the succeeding question the following has been cut out :—
Question.—"What ought to have been the cost of this Holy Box Well sinking and timbering?"
Answer.—"The sinking and timbering of the well could have been done for £1 per foot, and less than £1 per foot exclusive of material."
- Q. 1056—
At the end of this question the following has been cut out :—
Major Penrose.] "I suppose that in going through rock also a bore would be cheaper than a trial shaft?"
Answer.—"Probably; I think there is a great deal in the question as to what kind of machinery you have for boring."
- Q. 1091—
At the end of this question the following has been cut out :—
Chairman.] "Of course we can get the information from others, but we still have to find out all about that from the officers of the Works Department, and ascertain whether the system has not been altogether a wrong one."
- Q. 1113—
After the word "made" in the second line, the word "tanks" is altered to "swamps," and "seldom" to "never."
After Q. 1124 a question and reply have been cut out :—
Mr. Wood.] "Had you a long experience as a station manager?"
Answer.—"Yes."
- After Q. 1128 the following question and reply have been cut out :—
Major Penrose.] "You mentioned that well (Holy Box) as badly sited."
Answer.—"No; I did not mention that as badly sited, I condemned it altogether."
- Q. 1129—
After the words "so placed," the following has been cut out :—
"because if they were badly placed there must be some reason for it."
After Q. 1140 the following questions and replies have been cut out :—
Mr. Woore.] "Do you consider that the biggest tank that you have ever seen in the Albert district to be permanent water?"
Answer.—"Yes, I do."
Chairman.] "Has not the Albert district been subject to three years' drought?"

Answer

Answer—"Yes, I admit that, but the Walla Walla Tank is in the Albury District."

Mr. Woore.] "How far does your experience go back?"

Answer—"It goes back to 1879."

Q. 1184—

This question in the original reads as follows :—

Chairman.] "What I mean is this, with the perfect safety of carrying the by-wash through the rock, would that perfect safety warrant the department in making this by-wash where there is a chance of damming a new creek?"

After Q. 1217, the following questions and replies have been cut out :—

Mr. Woore.] "For wells and tanks alone?"

Answer—"Oh no, for tanks alone, I am in favour of raising it by hand power."

Mr. Woore.] "You said something about the feed of a horse in a dry time in such a district as the Albert, where would you get feed for a horse?"

Answer—"If the paddocks did not supply feed enough it must have been a very useless expense to have fenced them."

After Q. 1242, the following question and reply have been cut out :—

Chairman.] "In fact it was erected at that price?"

Answer—"I cannot say what the man was paid for the work, but I know what the contract was sublet for."

After Q. 1325 the following has been cut out :—

Mr. Woore.] "But this is only something that someone else told him."

After Q. 1361 the following question and reply have been cut out :—

Mr. Woore.] "And that the stock would water much more easily if there was no rail there at all?"

Answer—"Quite so."

After Q. 1426 the following remark by Mr. Woore has been cut out :—

"But as a matter of fact they get a great deal more."

After Q. 1520 the following questions and replies have been omitted :—

Mr. Woore.] "Where there is no whim at a tank to pump the water over the embankment, would not the difficulty be easily got over by having a surface outside the tank into which the water could run, and as it fills have it pumped over the embankment?"

Answer—"Yes; but you can run it in by natural means without going to that expense."

Question—"I mean that when the tank is filled up to the ordinary level of the ground to fill it to the top of the embankment?"

Answer—"Yes; but we can fill it in naturally on three sides as much as the drainage will give."

Question—"But there is no definite limit to the drainage, it depends upon the rainfall?"

Answer—"Oh yes, there is. In the Cobar district a fourth side is utterly useless because it is not possible to utilize it by pumping the water between the embankments, as there is no surplus water to be obtained."

Q. 1534—

The words "say 20 feet" have been added to this question.

In the original evidence Q. 1568 does not appear, but the answer which follows is given as part of the answer to Q. 1567.

After Q. 1599 the following question and reply have been cut out :—

Mr. Woore.] "But then, if a drover changes his mind and goes by another route he would have to pay for the water again?"

Answer—"A drover is already under a penalty for changing his route with travelling stock."

Q. 1684—

In the second line the words "to a great extent" have been altered to "completely."

After Q. 1723 the following question and reply have been omitted :—

Major Penrose.] "What do you call strainers?"

Answer—"The strainers are the posts that the wire is fastened to. Every twentieth post in the fences is a strainer, but it is not sunk any deeper on that account."

After Q. 3251 the following question and reply have been cut out :—

Mr. Woore.] "Casting what you might regard as slanders upon you and your officers which you resisted?"

Answer—"Yes; and if I had not resisted, it would have been taken as a tacit admission that their statements were correct."

Q. 3468—

After the word "year" in eleventh line the following question and portion of reply are cut out :—

Mr. Woore.] "With regard to the caretakers' time not being fully occupied, might not that argument be applied to the police, who are sometimes whole weeks without having anything to do?"

Answer—"Yes; I should think so."

Q. 3619—

In the original evidence this reads :—

Question—"Then let us distinctly know who it is that fixes the exact site of the works;—is it your Department?"

Answer—"Yes; in all cases. The Mines Department indicate the general position, and we choose the exact site."

In the evidence as printed the answer has been altered to, "Yes, in most cases, &c."

Q. 3630—

The reply in the originals reads :—

"Yes; I will give you a list of the tanks that have 3 to 1 batters. I have not a tank in the whole district that has a batter of 1½ to 1. The steepest sloped tank in my district is the 26-Mile Tank, which has a batter of 2 to 1."

This has been altered to :—

"I have only three tanks in the whole district, namely, the 12, 35, and 48-Mile, on the Booligal Road, that have a batter of 1½ to 1. The next steepest sloped tank in my district is the 26-Mile Tank which has a batter of 2 to 1."

Q. 3812—

Do you think that these huts erected by Mines Department are suitable for caretakers? No; I do not.

Next question in original, left out here, viz. :—

Mr. Woore.] Do you think that such buildings as they erected are suitable for human beings to live in in that country?

No; I do not think they are suitable at all.

Q. 3861—

The words "as we have been led to believe," have been left out.

Q. 4437—

The words "are in" have been altered to "are not on."

Q. 4484—

The original reads "our contractors occasionally, in fact almost invariably, have to use wild cattle belonging to the station owner, who is anxious to get them broken in by the contractors."

Q. 4501—

In the 4th line of the reply to this question the words to "cut these drains" has been altered to "to make this cutting."

Q. 4579—

The concluding words "I have his approval in writing," have been altered to "It was approved of by him verbally, not in writing."

After question 2854, the concluding one in Mr. Cotton's evidence, the following appears in the original :—

"James Budd, recalled at his own request, made a statement which the Chairman took down in writing."

The statement has not been submitted to this Department, and the foregoing is now omitted.

THE reply of the Mines Department to the evidence given by the officers of the Works Department to the Royal Commission *re* Tanks and Wells, and which they refused to receive, although it was proffered on two occasions and offered to be read before them, may now, perhaps, be printed in readiness to lay before Parliament.

It will be evident that this course will enable reference to be made to the pages of the printed reply, showing the rebuttals to the statements of the Works Department which the Commission have apparently accepted without reference to the papers contained in the Parliamentary Blue Book, furnished by the Department of Mines.

H. GILLIAT, 20/12/88.

Approved.—F.A., 21/12/88.

The Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir, Department of Mines, Public Watering Places, Sydney, 22 June, 1888.

I have the honor to submit herewith remarks traversing portions of the evidence of Mr. Bennett and certain of his officers which I think it is desirable should be put in evidence before the Royal Commission *re* tanks and wells.

I may, perhaps, in connection with this, call attention to the powers conferred upon the members of the Commission under the Great Seal of the Colony, by which they are directed "To make a full and diligent inquiry into certain allegations which have been made respecting the construction of Public Tanks and Wells."

It is apparent, on perusal of the evidence taken by the Members of the Commission, that their inquiries have greatly exceeded the scope of the authority extended to them.

But confident that the Hon. the Secretary for Mines was not only willing but desirous that the fullest light should be thrown on both sides of the subject, and particularly on the working of this Department, which is at present responsible only to a certain extent for the maintenance of these works, I have not hitherto referred to this point, but both in my evidence in chief and in the remarks now submitted have replied as fully as the questions admitted to matters pertaining both to the construction and the maintenance of tanks and wells. But that this has been done with a full knowledge of the position, and with the sole object of assisting them to obtain the fullest information, should, I think, be clearly understood by the Commission.

At the same time it must be evident that any report upon the maintenance of these works, unless based upon much fuller investigation than has been made, would possibly result in an incorrect conclusion. The bulk of the independent evidence appears so substantially in favour of the views of this Department that I have not thought necessary to refer to it in these remarks, which deal chiefly with those statements of the officers of the Department of Public Works, which it seemed most important to refute. At the same time I have endeavoured to reduce the reply to the smallest limits. I may perhaps remark that with regard to Mr. Bennett's evidence it has been unnecessary for me to do more than submit corrections to some statements, since his knowledge of the cases before the Commission has been chiefly derived from Mr. A. P. Wood or the Road Superintendents, he himself not having, so far as I am aware, visited any of these works during the last ten years, the period within which the majority of them have been constructed. Evidence from Mr. Bennett, founded upon his personal knowledge, would be of undoubted importance, but this he is not in a position to give, and I am firmly convinced that he would upon personal inspection have condemned far more severely than has yet been done many of the cases brought before the Commission. With respect to Mr. A. P. Wood's and Mr. Stilwell's evidence, it can only be apparent that the former has made repeated allegations, without, it would seem, making any sufficient efforts to test their accuracy, as I have here shown, in numerous instances, while the tone and temper of the latter's evidence, both as it appears in his verbal and still more in his written statements to the Commission, are of such a nature as to afford a ready explanation of the fact that his district was the only one in which disputes were constantly arising between himself and the officers of this Department.

I have further to suggest that the Royal Commission may be asked to include all papers and correspondence from this Department in the appendix to their report, and I assume there can be no objection to this request being acceded to, as the President of the Commission, on page 614 of the evidence, suggests to Mr. Bennett that it should be done with the papers he had produced, and which I may here add, with the exception of those appearing in the text of the evidence, the officers of the Mines Department are ignorant of.

HARRY GILLIAT,

Chief Inspector of P. W. Places.

Submitted.—H.W., 2/7/88.

Approved.—F.A., 2/7/88.

The Secretary, Royal Commission on Tanks and Wells, to The Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places.

Sir,

Royal Commission on Tanks and Wells, Sydney, 12 September, 1888.

I have the honor to forward herewith the evidence (in part) with corrections, taken before the Commission.

The Commission invite your perusal of same, and, if necessary, will receive evidence in reply from your Department.

As the Commission have decided to close the evidence next week, it is desired that your immediate attention be given to this matter.

I have, &c.,
HUGH MAHON,
Secretary.

The Secretary, Royal Commission on Tanks and Wells, to The Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places.

Dear Sir,

Royal Commission on Tanks and Wells, Sydney, 17 September, 1888.

I beg to forward herewith pages 945-960 of corrected evidence.

Yours, &c.,
HUGH MAHON.

The Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Public Watering Places, Mines Department, 14 September, 1888.

As I shall be for some days fully occupied in examining the revised evidence forwarded by the Royal Commission, it may, perhaps, meet the convenience of those gentlemen if the first portion of the reply be submitted for their perusal. This will comprise the rebuttals of Mr. Bennett's and Mr. Wood's evidence.

HARRY GILLIAT,
Chief Inspector, Public Watering-places.

Submitted.—H. W. Approved.—F. A. The Chairman, Royal Commission Tanks and Wells.
—H. W., B. C.

The President, Royal Commission on Tanks and Wells, to The Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places.

Sir,

Royal Commission on Tanks and Wells, Jamieson-street,
Sydney, 26 September, 1888.

The Commission has received your voluminous papers purporting to be replies to evidence given by various officers of the Department of Public Works.

The Commission cannot accept them as evidence, and invite your attendance at the above office on Thursday morning next, the 27th instant, at 10 a.m., when it will be prepared to hear you in reply.

Yours, &c.,
GEO. H. COX,
President.

The Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places to

Department of Mines, Public Watering Places, Sydney, 26 September, 1888.

THE Royal Commission on tanks and wells in the annexed letter of this date state that they "cannot accept the voluminous papers purporting to be replies to evidence given by officers of the Department of Public Works," and they invite my attendance to-morrow morning, when they will be prepared to hear me in reply.

I may point out that the papers refused by the Commission are a carefully considered reply to the evidence. Some later evidence received subsequently has not yet been submitted to the Commission, but will probably be ready to-morrow. That the papers are voluminous is owing to the fact that the Commission unfortunately omitted to number their questions, and I was obliged, for the sake of correct reference, to quote both question and answer in my review of the evidence.

If the Commission refuse to receive this reply, or to hear it read, I have practically nothing left to say, and I must submit that I am not allowed the same consideration that was extended to Mr. Bennett. In Questions 3027 and 3028, Mr. Bennett states:—

"I was preparing my statement in the form of a paper, but I was not able to complete it by the time of meeting of the Commission. The evidence is very voluminous, but I have gone through it and marked everything to which I wish to refer particularly. But I wished to have the views of the Commission before I present a document of that sort to them, because it would be equivalent to a speech of Counsel in evidence, and I thought the Commission might consider the position I was in, and allow me to justify myself by a formal defence in reference to the evidence.

The Chairman: I am quite prepared to admit such a statement, having already done so in the case of other witnesses.

Witness

Witness then said that he would hand in the Commission a written statement replying fully to the various allegations that have been made, with a view to lessen the labours of the Commission, and would give his views in defence."

It is evident that the witnesses of the Works Department have had the advantage of the Parliamentary Blue Book of this Department to assist them in their defence, while I am now apparently debarred from replying to evidence which was given by witnesses who had all the plaintiffs papers at their disposal.

I may point out further that, after having received from time to time the evidence taken by the Commission, amounting to four large volumes, on the 13th September four additional volumes were forwarded with a letter from the Commission stating that they forward herewith the evidence (in part) with corrections taken before the Commission, and my perusal was invited. I have not yet had time to complete the revisions and alterations made by the Commission, but some of them are, I think, so material that the serious question is raised whether such a course is in accordance with simple justice or the usage of Royal Commissions.

I may perhaps suggest that I should appear in person before the Commission and formally tender and offer to read the reply already submitted to them. Should they decline to accept it as the rejoinder of the Department, I should perhaps intimate that it is the only form in which the Department is prepared to make a reply.

HARRY GILLIAT,
Chief Inspector, Public Watering Places.

Approved.—F.A., 27/9/88.

Mr. J. Boulton to The Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places.

Public Watering Places, 28 September, 1888.

Notes of occurrences at the Royal Commission *re* Tanks and Wells this day.

Present:—Hon. G. H. Cox, Mr. Woore, Mr. Gilliat, Mr. Boulton and clerk.

THE meeting apparently opened without any reference to former meeting, or the confirmation of previous minutes. The question as to the legality of the meeting was raised by Mr. Woore pointing out that only two members of the Commission were present, and that notices to attend had not been forwarded to the members. This was set aside by the Hon. G. H. Cox stating that such notice was unnecessary, as the day (Thursday) was one of their usual days for meeting. A note, presumably to Major Penrose, calling for his attendance, was sent to him by the Chairman, who then addressed Mr. Gilliat, recapitulating the terms of the letter addressed by him to this Department, stating that the Commission had received voluminous papers purporting to be replies to the evidence given by the Department of Public Works, that they could not receive the reply furnished in evidence, and requesting Mr. Gilliat's attendance this morning to furnish any oral testimony he might wish to give. Mr. Gilliat, in reply, referred to the fact that the non-numbering of the questions necessitated their repetition in the reply, and that the bulk only of the reply was increased in consequence. Mr. Gilliat then read to the Commission his instructions from the Department on the matter, stating that the reply forwarded in type-writing was the only reply this Department was prepared to give, and that he was present to read the same to the Commission on oath if desired.

At this stage Major Penrose arrived, and referred to the fact that he had not been summoned to attend the meeting.

The Chairman then explained what had transpired, and Mr. Gilliat repeated what he had already said, and, upon his suggestion, he withdrew while the Commission deliberated.

Upon being recalled, the Chairman stated that the Commission were unable to receive the reply since it was simply a "running comment on the evidence." Mr. Gilliat again informed the Commission that it was the only reply this Department was prepared to give, and that he was present to read it on oath, and pointed out that, so far from being a "running comment," he considered it to be a complete rebuttal of the evidence given by the Department of Public Works, and invited their perusal of it. The Commission stated that they had looked into it in places, and were confirmed in their view, and that it was for them to comment on the evidence.

Mr. Woore then defined exactly the lines upon which a reply from this Department was admissible, namely, that it should consist purely and simply of oral testimony in proof of the incorrectness of any statements made in evidence. He admitted that, in his opinion, the Commission had in instances acted wrongly (though his views were not shared by his colleagues), more especially in admitting papers and documents in support of various statements, and also in making any corrections in the evidence.

Mr. Gilliat then read that portion of Mr. Bennett's evidence in which he expressed a wish to hand in a written statement, &c., commenting on the evidence and the remarks of the Commission promising to receive such statement, and stated that it appeared to him that the matter now under consideration was an identical one. The Chairman remarked "no doubt," but that Mr. Bennett had not availed himself of it. Mr. Gilliat observed that he might yet do so. He also pointed out that this Department had no opportunity of cross-examining witnesses, and that therefore his "comments" in reply appeared to be justified. He further added that no fresh matter was introduced, and that the reply was a comparison of evidence and documents, and the addition and reference to documents that, in his opinion, was a complete rebuttal of the evidence given by Mr. Bennett and his officers. Mr. Woore then remarked that possibly the decision of the Commission may have taken Mr. Gilliat by surprise, but he wished to express clearly again that the only reply that could be received from the Department must consist of oral testimony disproving any evidence given, and that they would not press Mr. Gilliat for it to-day.

Mr. Gilliat then desired that the determination of the Commission should be conveyed to the Department in writing. This the Commission declined to do. Mr. Gilliat then said that his duty was completed

completed, and he would lay the matter, as substantially correct as he could, before his Chief, and that a reply should be forwarded. Before withdrawing reference was made by the Chairman, who was hurriedly looking over the reply sent by this Department to a reply to certain evidence, which he characterized as a "running comment," and not a reply. Mr. Gilliat, however, pointed out how the revision nullified his reply. Mr. Woore retorted by calling attention to an alteration in Mr. Gilliat's evidence, page 34 (where "a" is altered to "no"), and which he characterized as the most material alteration in the whole evidence. This Mr. Gilliat combatted, and showed how the succeeding paragraph demonstrated that it was no more than a clerical error. Mr. Woore adhered to his opinion that the alteration was a most material one, observing that if it was not he did not know what a material alteration was. Mr. Gilliat pointed out that far more material alterations had been made by the Works officers and added that he thought the most material alterations had been made by the Commissioners themselves. Major Penrose observed that the alteration referred to did not appear to him to be material and referred to the revision by the Commissioners as simply the excision of irrelevant questions and conversational matter. Mr. Woore then remarked that he had been overruled by his colleagues and Mr. Gilliat's revision had been accepted. Mr. Gilliat further added that if the Commission considered the revision a material one opportunity should have been given him to correct it on oath. Mr. Gilliat then withdrew.

This is substantially, I think, a correct account of what transpired this morning.

JAMES W. BOULTBEE.

The Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places to the Under Secretary for Mines.

Department of Mines, Public Watering Places, Sydney, 28 September, 1888.

I SUBMIT herewith a minute of the proceedings at the meeting of the Royal Commission *re* Tanks and Wells yesterday, and beg briefly to recapitulate some of the points that appear to justify the course taken by this Department.

An examination of either copy of the evidence makes it apparent that the Commission has not adopted the practice of excluding everything that is not evidence. Comment upon the part of the witnesses for the defence has been fully permitted, and in not a few instances, I venture to think suggested and even invited by the Commission.

2. Two papers were read by Mr. Stilwell (pp. 222, 224) and accepted by the Commission, the larger portion of which are composed entirely of comments, allegations, and satirical remarks, upon the officers and caretakers of the Mines Department entirely unsubstantiated by evidence.

3. That the Commission when Mr. Bennett (Q. 3027, 3028) asked permission to "present a document" which "would be equivalent to a speech of counsel" to justify himself by a formal defence in reference to the evidence replied through the President, they were quite "prepared to admit such a statement having already done so in the cases of other witnesses."

4. That this Department not having had the opportunity of cross-examining witnesses on either side, has a fair justification to traverse their evidence now and to analyze it, within reasonable limits, which it is confidently maintained has not in the reply submitted, been exceeded, that the reply is a substantial rebuttal of a large portion of the evidence for the defence, that it contains but little comment as compared with other papers received, and finally that while Mr. Bennett was granted permission to read his "speech of counsel" before it had been submitted to the Commission, a similar paper submitted by this Department was refused after having been in their hands for some days.

5. A free revision of the evidence has been made by the Commission, excising questions and answers and parts of each. This action appears to raise a very grave issue, as to whether it is in accordance with the established custom of Royal Commissions, Select Committees, or Boards of Inquiry, or indeed with the simple principles of justice.

It is at least in direct opposition to the rule laid down by the Commission and forwarded to this Department, which states:—

"The object of course in obtaining a shorthand note of the proceedings of Royal Commissions is that the precise language used, both by witnesses and by the members of the Commission, shall as far as possible be reproduced."

Some of the questions cut out are of such a character that their presence must in my opinion have produced a very strong influence upon the mind of the witness, and would also upon any person reading the evidence—it is apparent therefore would have an important bearing that should not be lost sight of. It may perhaps become necessary to ask for the minutes containing the resolutions under which these alterations and excisions were authorized.

6. If any special consideration was due to either Department it apparently should have been towards the Mines, as in response to the order of Parliament all papers in their possession were printed in the Blue Book, and the Department of Public Works had the advantage of it to assist them in their defence, while of the "mass of papers" Mr. Bennett alludes to, which are to be placed before the Commission, this Department is still without any information.

Under these circumstances I think the Commission may be informed that after careful consideration of the evidence, and the custom followed by the Commission in other instances, the Department considers itself justified in expecting that its reply should have been accepted, but since this has been refused it is not considered necessary to do more.

Consideration of the further steps to be taken with respect to the points here indicated will await the report of the Commission.

The Commission may perhaps be requested to return the copy of the reply forwarded to them.

HARRY GILLIAT.

Submitted

Submitted, 29/9/88. There can be no doubt that this Commission has acted quite opposite to the system always acted upon by other Commissions and Select Committees in the mode of taking and correcting evidence, and without wishing to reflect upon their proceedings, it does appear opposed to the true principles of fair justice to refuse to one party what has been granted to the other. They however have the power to do this if they desire. It will be for the public to judge of the equity of such proceedings.—F.A., 1/10/88.

Letter sent to Commission, 1/10/88.

The Secretary to Royal Commission on Tanks and Wells, to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Royal Commission on Tanks and Wells, Bank Chambers, 34 Jamison-street,
Sydney, 5 October, 1888.

Sir,

In compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 1st instant, I beg to return herewith the papers submitted to this Commission by Mr. Gilliat referred to therein.

With respect to your remark about the "custom followed by the Commission in other instances," I am to say that the Commission is not aware of any custom having been followed which would commit it to the acceptance of the papers referred to.

I am further to inform you that as the Department of Mines decline to give evidence in reply, this Commission understands that its case is now closed.

I have, &c.,
HUGH MAHON,
Secretary.

Replies to the Evidence of the Commissioner and Engineer for Roads and Bridges.

Mr. Bennett's evidence before The Royal Commission *re* Tanks and Wells.

Q. 3022.

Question :—Of course, Mr. Bennett, you have read over these printed documents that have been printed and placed before Parliament containing various letters and complaints from the Mines Department as to works performed under your management?

Answer :—Yes.

REPLY.

I would point out that the Chairman in alluding to the Parliamentary papers refers to them as if they contained only various letters and complaints from the Mines Department. I must respectfully submit that the papers contain all the action taken by both the Department of Public Works and the Department of Mines that can be traced in our records. Many of them are Works papers originating with that Department, and most of them contain records of that Department's action.

Q. 3023.

Question :—And the various allegations that are made in these papers?

Answer :—Yes; I have written a letter protesting against the question being put before the House and the Commission in this one-sided way.

REPLY.

I contend there is nothing one-sided in the way the question has been put by this Department. Parliament ordered the papers upon the subject to be laid before it. The Mines Department forwarded all that were in its hands, and repeatedly but unsuccessfully endeavoured to obtain from the Department of Works others that were found from our records to be in the possession of that Department.

So far from this being a "one-sided" course, the Department of Works have been in possession of the cases as submitted by this Department from the beginning of the inquiry. While owing to Mr. Bennett's continued neglect to comply with the order of Parliament, this Department is still unaware of the papers produced by his Department except such as are contained in the text of the evidence taken before the Commission.

Q. 3027, 3028.

Question :—You think it would be preferable if you would give us your evidence without going through the form of asking questions. First of all you might speak in connection with the selection of sites of tanks and wells, referring in your statement to the most salient points—those cases which have been said to be the most glaring ones?

Answer :—I was preparing my statement in the form of a paper, but I was not able to complete it by the time of meeting of the Commission. The evidence is very voluminous, but I have gone through it and marked everything to which I wish to refer particularly. But I wished to have the views of the Commission before I present a document of that sort to
to

to them, because it would be equivalent to a speech of counsel on evidence, and I thought the Commission might consider the position I was in and allow me to justify myself by a formal defence in reference to the evidence.

Chairman :—I am quite prepared to admit such a statement, having already done so in the case of other witnesses.

Witness :—Witness then said he would hand to the Commission a written statement replying fully to the various allegations that had been made with a view to lessen the labours of the Commission, and would give his views in defence.

Q. 4749.

Question :—Since your examination before the Commission have you read over the evidence and do you wish to make any further statement to the Commission?

Answer :—I had undertaken to prepare a short statement on the evidence. I have not been able, owing to many causes, to complete that statement, but I will be able to do so if I obtain an extension of time.

Question :—The Commission will not meet again until 10th May.

Answer :—Then I will have it ready by that time.

REPLY.

The Commission here ask Mr. Bennett if he has read over the evidence, and whether he wishes to make any further statement, and in reply he states his wish and his intention to do so. As Mr. Bennett has throughout the whole of the examination had the advantage of being in possession not only of the evidence given by the Mine's officers but his own, and their papers laid before Parliament, I apprehend there can be no objection on the part of the Commission to receive any further evidence that we may desire to furnish.

I may, however, add that Mr. Bennett's statement has not to this date (15th September) been received by the Department, and consequently any reply to it must await its receipt.

Q. 3033.

Question :—Since when have complaints been made in regard to faults of construction, and with respect to badly chosen sites for tanks and wells.

Answer :—Ever since the Mines Department got charge.

REPLY.

That is in October, 1879, but it must be borne in mind that at that time, out of the 165 watering-places Mr. Bennett speaks of in the previous question, only some 20 or 25 were constructed, and that the cause of complaint continued as the new works were constructed. My letter on pages 104 and 105 of the Blue Book deals with the whole question, and Mr. A. P. Wood's minute upon page 101 of the Blue Book practically admits it was justified. Mr. Stilwell appears to differ from Mr. Bennett, and in question 4603 of the evidence will be found the following :—

Major Penrose :—It appears that you suddenly found that your works were subjected to elaborate criticism, when before you never heard anything against them?

Answer :—Yes."

Q. 3034.

Question :—Were no complaints made by private individuals prior to that time?

Answer :—I have no recollection of complaints having been made. There were criticisms and suggestions by private individuals, but no complaint.

REPLY.

That complaints were not made by private individuals previously was owing to the fact that the works were few in number, and did not form part of a comprehensive scheme to enable the movements of stock and traffic during dry season. This originated with the Mines Department, and is alluded to in my annual reports of 1881 and 1882.

Q. 3037.

Question :—About what time was this?

Answer :—It commenced in 1869 and went on to about 1872 or 1873. Then we were from time to time ordered to make repairs, which in some cases amounted to restoration, the works in the meantime falling into decay from want of superintendence and care, &c.

REPLY.

Mr. Bennett is in error. The transfer of the tanks and wells was not made until October, 1879, to the Crown Lands Occupation Branch. He is, however, quite correct that prior to that date the "works had fallen into decay from want of superintendence and care," but at that time they were in his own branch; I took delivery of them myself from his own officers.

Mr.

Mr. Bennett's evidence, Q. 3042.

Then from that day, for the last five or six years there has been nothing but a continual fire of letters and complaints.

Mr. Woore :—By whom?

Answer :—From the Mines people through their Minister to the Works Department. The complaints were in most cases about trivial things, but the restoration of these trivial things must have made an impression.

REPLY.

The Blue Book is sufficient to show whether the complaints were trivial or not; they involve the expenditure of large sums of money for what it is considered should have been done at much reduced rates.

Q. 3057.

Question :—Did you foresee any complications from this dual control of works?

Answer :—No, I did not; the whole thing was in a rather embryo state at the time, and had not assumed the very large proportions which it has assumed since. These works were merely made as aids to the travelling public without any idea of getting revenue from them. The matter of revenue was an after-thought altogether.

REPLY.

Hence by Mr. Bennett's own showing since the administration by the Mines Department and in spite of the disadvantage of a dual control, this question from a "rather embryo state" at the time it was handed over by him, has assumed very large proportions. The records of both departments will prove that these proportions have grown up under the control of the Mines Department, and that of the works Mr. Bennett alludes to as "his children" five-sixths at least have been called for by the Department of Mines.

Q. 3061.

* * * * I would wish to add something in regard to what I have said in reference to handing these works over to local bodies. There should be some control over the local bodies in order that they might not be allowed to stop a road, because a local body from motives of injudicious economy, or from some other reason, might neglect works which would inconvenience the travelling stock. That has to be considered, so that rather more supervision would be required over these tanks and wells than over the ordinary road and bridge works of the Colony which it is desirable to decentralize.

REPLY.

Mr. Bennett's statements contradict each other. He first strongly advocates the control of these works being handed over to local bodies, and then considers that more supervision would be required over these tanks and wells than over the ordinary roads and bridges work. From this I gather that he has not previously given the matter much consideration.

Q. 3066.

Question :—But what I want to know is, were not these waters, adjacent to which works were constructed, conserved by the lessees at their own expense?

Answer :—Yes; but the works were not put there at the time with my knowledge. Mr. Woods was sent up there owing to the great rush to Mount Brown.

REPLY.

Previously to Mr. Wood being sent up I had been over the road, and Mr. Bennett was furnished with the positions recommended by this Department for Works for supplying water some considerable time before Mr. Wood left for that purpose. *Vide* Blue Book, p. 250, where Mr. Bennett states:—

"Copies of Mr. Gilliat's report retained, as it is improbable all the works proposed to be carried out can be done before the end of the year. I think the works proposed on this line should be at once commenced by this Department; I have therefore instructed Mr. Cambridge to proceed at once to Wilcannia, and have forwarded him instructions, plans, &c., to that place, so that tenders may be at once invited.—W.C.B., 28/4/82."

Q. 3090 and 3091.

Question :—As a matter of fact, I suppose most of the early tanks were sunk with these very steep slopes?

Answer :—Yes; most of those on the Wilcannia Road.

Mr. Woore :—And do you and your Department know now, from experience, that that was a mistake;—of course, everything was new then, and experience had to be gained?

Answer :—We found that the droughts and rainfall, which were the principal causes in making us construct steep slopes, were not so great in their operation as we anticipated; and we found also that the slopes did not stand so well, and we modified them accordingly.

REPLY.

I venture to think half an hour's conversation with the nearest squatter would have ascertained that his experience was such that steep slopes could not stand; but it was surely not necessary to buy our experience here. It must be evident to any engineer that one soil will stand a much steeper slope than another.

Mr.

Mr. Bennett's evidence.

The chief complaint against them is that the stock cannot water in the tanks, on account of the steepness of the slopes.*

REPLY.

I think this is incorrect; it is not intended that stock should water in them. The complaint is that steep batters are made the excuse of a high rate of costs, and when the slopes fall in, and the extra money is wasted, a lower slope, as is asserted frequently through the evidence, would have been much cheaper and stood better. I may point out that the objection of this Department is to a hard and fast rule. There are circumstances in which 3 to 1 may be needed; others, where the sides may be nearly verticle, it is a question to be decided by the nature of the soil and by the natural features. I may be wrong, but it appears to me that the principle of insisting upon 2 to 1 slopes is as erroneous as 1 to 1. In the same way the embankment may be needed of a certain form in one place and a different form may prove altogether better in another.

Q. 3108.

* * * * *
Therefore there was no reason for modifying the batters in the ordinary tanks unless they could be done cheaper. We called for tenders in every possible way, giving the contractors the advantage of this alteration, but we got no alteration in price.

REPLY.

Mr. Bennett here states that although contractors were offered modified batters, they would not reduce the price. This should entirely correct the impression apparent throughout the enquiry that these steep batters were the principal cause of the excessive cost of these works. Mr. Bennett further states in Q. 3130 of the evidence:—

“A certain sum of money was voted for watering a particular road, and we wished that that money should go as far as possible, and that was another reason for having steep slopes. *Economy was more imperative then than now, &c., &c.*”

Q. 3119 and 3120.

Question:—Now we have also had it before us that the Government had gone to unnecessary expense in sinking wells in the neighbourhood of tanks?

Answer:—That is entirely a misapprehension. I do not know a single instance of it.

Question:—We have it in evidence here, you must have read it, of wells being sunk in close proximity to tanks in one or two instances?

Answer:—Wells have been sunk in close proximity to water-holes, but not to tanks.

REPLY.

Mr. Bennett is right, no such statement has been made to my knowledge.

Q. 3126.

Question:—We have also heard that drains have been carelessly constructed, and that in one instance the water instead of running into the tank runs away from it?

Answer:—That was explained to me by Mr. Stilwell. In one place the drain crossed a flat or depression in the ground where there was a tank made for confining the water. A big flood came and washed away the tank. It was not replaced, and consequently the water runs back from the tank solely through the neglect of the caretaker.

REPLY.

It does not appear to which tank this refers, consequently I am unable to reply here.

Q. 3130.

Question:—Is not this soil exceedingly friable?

Answer:—Yes, it melts away like sugar. There is one other thing that strikes me—in making the original tanks we were rather limited in the matter of money. A certain sum was voted for watering a particular road, and we wished that that money should go as far as possible, and that was another reason for having steep slopes. Economy was more imperative then than now, though whether that economy was judicious or not is open to question; but at that time it appeared to us that economy was imperative.

REPLY.

Mr. Bennett here again states that steep slopes were used on the score of economy. Throughout the whole of the evidence stress has been laid on the steepness of the slopes as one of the causes for the high prices paid.

Mr. Wood in his evidence, Q. 3384, states, alluding to cost:—“In the first place the very question that you have touched upon includes one reason—the steepness of the slopes.”

Q. 3142 and 3143.

Question:—Do you think that the estimate of 8d. per cubic yard, which is said to be the advantage gained by dealing with the squatters on account of their supplying grass, water, meat, and so forth, can be justified?

Answer:—I think these particular items should be taken *cum grano salis*, but there are other reasons besides those furnished by the contractors, which may account for the difference between the prices the Government pay and those the squatters pay.

Chairman:—Will you kindly state those reasons?

Answer:—One great reason is that these tanks have to be pushed on regardless of the nature of the season, while in all probability the squatter selects his own time. Mr.

* This statement by Mr. Bennett, which appears in the original evidence, has been cut out of the evidence as printed.

Mr. Bennett's evidence, Q. 3138.

REPLY.

Mr. Bennett just gives the amount of difference in the cost produced by the advantages a squatter can afford, amounting to 8d. per yard, and then admits it should be taken *cum grano salis*, but offers a further reason that his works must be pushed on regardless of the nature of the season. I would ask why this should be done. I am aware of no reason for it.

Q. 3150 and 3151.

Question :—And a contractor invariably asks a higher price from the Government—other things being equal—than he would ask from the squatters ?

Answer :—The condition of other things being equal is in this case almost an impossibility.

Question :—But I am only putting a suppositious case ;—do the contractors think that the Government is a fair game to be fleeced ?

Answer :—A contractor will get as much as he can from everybody, and he is only restrained from asking a high price because he fears that he will not get the job, and that if he did ask a very high price he would get no more work. I think it is all a matter of freetrade. There is a great deal more made of this than there should be. Contractors have a great desire to get the work.

REPLY.

On pages 270, 271 of the Blue Book the Department of Public Works have furnished a list of the prices of the various tanks and wells. It is evident from these prices that works have cost far more than would have been paid by private individuals, and it must be evident that if the lowest tender is accepted, where all tenders are in excess of the value of the work to be done, contractors are only encouraged to ask high prices. I venture to think that if all tenders exceeding the fair value of the work to be done were promptly rejected, that contractors would soon recognise the fact that the officers of the Works Department were as well informed of the value of the work to be done as they are themselves.

In regard to Mr. Bennett's concluding statement that "contractors have a great desire to get the work," it will be observed that Mr. Wood, in Q. 3402 of his evidence, says that "It is a very strange thing that as a general rule the contractors will take work from the squatter, where the work is available, when they will not take it from the Government."

Q. 3182.

Question :—Now you mention that in dry seasons it is difficult to get a horse-power to do the necessary work ;—would not the same thing apply to firewood for the steam-engine ?

Answer :—The caretakers ought to have a stock of firewood on hand to anticipate any such thing.

REPLY.

The objection to the storage of large stocks of firewood is evident in that dry country, where it is exposed to the danger of fires and of being stolen by travellers.

Q. 3191.

Question :—And are you not aware that since the railway has been opened traffic has to a certain extent ceased on certain stock routes ?

Answer :—That shows that our proposal to economise in the matter of pumping appliances on the Bourke to Cobar Road was correct. But it was overruled by the Mines Department, and we were peremptorily ordered to put down the tank appliances and pumps.

REPLY.

The recommended alterations and repairs on the Bourke to Cobar Road were made, and if peremptorily ordered can hardly be regarded as promptly carried out. In 1882 recommendations for lifting appliances were made, including the fencing of an area of 200 acres of special lease. These were not completed till February, 1886. The expenditure at each work recommended by this department for lifting appliances and fencing was to cost £475 ; the actual cost for lifting appliances as undertaken by the Works Department, not including fencing, is an average of £519. These recommendations appear in the printed Report issued by the Chief Inspector of Stock. (See Annual Report for 1882, pages 11 and 12.) See also reply to Q. 3223.

Q. 3194.

Mr. Bennett states :—But so long as the present traffic arrangements are in existence you will probably require caretakers. The question is whether the office of caretaker might not be amalgamated with some other office. I know it was a very objectionable thing, and Mr. Fosbery, the Inspector of Police, has objected to it very much, to have the maintenance men along the roads amalgamated with the Police Force as is done in Prussia. It might be possible to roll into one the duties of a stock inspector and policeman, and a number of offices of that sort, and those of a caretaker might be added to it. He would know when large flocks of sheep were coming to his tank, and he would be there to give them water. There is no doubt about it, it is a very great expense to the country to keep these men, and this expense ought to be reduced as much as possible.

REPLY.

With respect to the employment of caretakers the Commissioners have been informed that the purpose of the Mines Department is to lease these public watering places, and that as fast as the necessary surveys are completed, and notification by the Local Land Board made in the *Gazette*, tenders for leasing them are being called for.

Mr.

Mr. Bennett's evidence, Q. 3202 to 3207.

Question :—You have seen all the papers which have been printed and presented to Parliament by the Mines Department?

Answer :—Yes.

Question :—Do they contain all the evidence and correspondence in connection with the two Departments?

Answer :—No.

Question :—What letters are chiefly left out of the printed reports?

Answer :—Papers recorded in the Roads Department, which consist to a great extent of reports of our officers, bearing out the views of the Roads Department.

Question :—And to a large extent these would rebut many of the allegations contained in the published papers?

Answer :—Yes.

Mr. Woore :—Do I understand you to say that those papers which have been printed by the Mines Department are papers which have been carefully drafted out by them, presenting their own view of the question.

Answer :—I would not say that, but the papers in the Mines Department, and issued by them, contain a large number of papers conveying their own views.

Question :—These papers, according to your account, present in fact only one view of the question?

Answer :—Yes; one view.

REPLY.

1. Mr. Bennett's statement that all papers have not been presented by the Mines Department is largely answered by his following reply, that the omission consists of papers written by his own officers, and which were never submitted to this Department, and of which we have no record. The Parliamentary papers presented by the Mines Department contain numbers of Roads papers, in fact all that we had in our possession appearing to bear on the subject.

2. This statement that these papers are in Mr. Bennett's possession is an admission that he has not complied with the order of Parliament, and having failed to do that he now endeavors to make the non-publication of these papers a reflection upon the Mines Department, because it has done its best to carry out that order. The Commissioners have already been supplied with written statements from the two officers engaged in compiling these papers, that nothing bearing upon the subject has been left unpublished, and that the only papers not appearing that we could trace in our records were those that we were unable to get returned by Mr. Bennett's department.

Q. 3208.

Chairman :—Then hearing from you that a large amount of correspondence that has not been made public is contained in your Department, I will request you to produce it, and such portions of it as you may think relevant to be placed in the appendix to the Report of the Commission.

Answer :—Very well; I have the papers all here, but it might be injudicious of me to make a hurried selection.

REPLY.

The Mines Department, in compliance with the order of Parliament, supplied all the papers bearing on this subject in their possession, and Mr. Bennett has taken umbrage on more than one occasion to this having been done, and has gone so far as to assert before the Commission that he objects to the Parliamentary papers submitted by the Mines as an *ex parte* statement. The reply is obvious. Mr. Bennett was as much bound by the order of Parliament as the Mines Department was, and should have supplied such papers as were in his possession. The Blue Book supplied by the Mines Department is a sufficient refutation of his allegation that it is an *ex parte* statement; all that was done by the Works Department, so far as they informed this Department, appears in full.

With respect to Mr. Bennett's remarkable statement that it might be "injudicious for him to make a hurried selection," I venture to submit that, however injudicious it may appear to Mr. Bennett, he should be required to comply with the order of Parliament, and be called upon to furnish all the papers in the case.

Q. 3209.

Chairman :—Is it a fact that the Mines Department have at any time given approval to the new form of machinery for lifting water rather than the old and now disused forms?

Answer :—Yes; Mr. Gilliat in a letter on page 174 of the printed papers has done so. This is the paragraph:—"But as I have stated in my minute to Mr. Overseer Jones' report *re* fencing (minute and sketch herewith) I consider the present fencing a very good one if proper attention is paid to the height of the rails in proportion to the position of the troughing upon the ground, and I think a little energy, combined with a desire to make the best of what I think are substantially good, although not perfect improvements yet certainly far in advance of anything done for the convenience and comfort of travelling stock, as far as my experience goes, in any part of the world I have visited, would enable the overseer, with the labour of the caretaker, to remedy the defects that exist in the height of the rail. This depends to a great extent upon the formation of the ground and may not be the same along the length of the troughing. The sketch submitted will show the plan I think may preferably be adopted."

REPLY.

A perusal of the paragraph in question will show that it refers simply to the fencing of the troughing and in no way to the machinery. The approval of the fencing, however, is qualified by the statement that "I think a little energy, combined with the desire to make the best of what I think are substantially good, although, perhaps, not perfect improvements."

Mr.

Mr. Bennett's evidence.

Mr. Bennett states :—There is another opinion of Mr. Gilliat's, given before the Water Conservation Commission, in which he expresses unqualified approval of the tanks and everything else. He says at pages 137 and 139 of the first report of the Commission referred to :—

“*Chairman* :—The other form of batter could be given by the steam appliances in use? There I agree with Mr. Bennett so far as steam power has yet been used. We get very low slopes, and there is, consequently, an increased tendency for the water to splash up round the edges of the bank, especially in hot and windy weather.”

REPLY.

This has no reference—as will be seen by reading the context of the evidence—to steam pumps for lifting water, but refers merely to the employment of steam machinery for excavating :—

“3454. *Mr. M' Mordie* :—Do you think that finishing off the work is an expensive process? The embankments have to be trimmed and the slopes to be adapted to the exact batter.

3455. Is that an expensive process? Yes; it has to be done by handwork.

3456. *Chairman* :—The other form could be given by the steam appliances in use? There I agree with Mr. Bennett, so far as steam power has yet been used. We get very low slopes, and there is consequently an increased tendency for the water to splash up round the edges of the bank, and this especially in hot and windy weather.

3457. *Mr. Donkin* :—What are the slopes made by steam appliances? I think the Fowler slopes are 4 to 1. In a letter Mr. Doudney asked me whether I would consent to this if the Works Department did, in the event of his increasing the depth. I do not know what contract he entered into with the Works Department, but his view was to preserve slopes from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to one side batter, and to increase them at the end. I replied that I saw no objection to that, provided he increased the depth, and these concessions being granted he would reduce the price, but as Mr. Doudney asked as much as other contractors I did not see that much was gained, because we got a better finished work from the others.

There is nothing that can be read as ‘an unqualified of the tanks and everything else.’

Mr. Bennett also quotes from first report of Water Commission a further portion of Mr. Gilliat's evidence :—

“Is that pump (the Tangye pump) effective? Yes; it is an excellent pump, with occasional repacking it will stand very well, and is sufficiently strong to bear the rough treatment of the men we employ.”

REPLY.

This paragraph quoted by Mr. Bennett does not give the whole of the evidence, but leaves out a portion in which I state that my wish to employ a simpler form of lifting appliances has been put aside, and in reply to the question of the chairman of the Water Commission, if the pump was effective, I replied that it was an excellent pump, but in no way did I recommend it or approve the adoption of such a lifting appliance, that question not being asked. This is what was said :—

“My view was to get the simplest gear, which was the double whip, but that was disapproved of and the present Tangye pump was substituted.

3493. *Chairman* :—Is that pump effective? Yes, it is an excellent pump; with occasional repacking it will stand very well, and is sufficiently strong to bear the rough treatment of the men we employ.”

[See also my reply to Mr. Wood's evidence on this point, Q. 3475.]

Q. 3315 and 3216.

Question :—Have any such whips been erected?

Answer :—Not by our Department.

Question : Are you aware that any have been erected by the Mines Department?

Answer :—Not to my knowledge. It is simply an application of the ordinary gold-fields whip.

REPLY.

Mr. Bennett's statement in itself should be a sufficient reply as to the simplicity, suitability, and cheapness of this appliance. He also admits that for drawing water from a shallow well it is a good idea. (Q. 3217.)

3223.

Mr. Bennett states :—But our orders from the Mines Department were always of the most peremptory character, and whenever we suggested that there might be a saving, as in the case at Cobar to Bourke road, we were over-ruled.

REPLY.

See my recommendations with regard to this road in the appendix to the Annual Report issued by the Chief Inspector of Stock for 1882, pages 11 and 12.

There are no papers in the possession of this Department or in our records that I can ascertain of any over-ruling. Our recommendations to the Works Department were that watering appliances and fencing should be erected at an expenditure of £475, whereas the Works Department spent on an average on that road £519 for appliances alone without the fencing. (See also reply, Q. 3191.)

Mr.

Mr. Bennett's evidence, Q. 3229.

Mr. Bennett states :—Of course fencing is not a matter with which I am intimately acquainted, but it appears to me that the general fault-finding with the heaviness of our fences is caused by contrasting it with the fencing on sheep runs, which are only intended to keep sheep apart, while our fences are intended to resist wild cattle.

REPLY.

The fault-finding was not so much with the heaviness of the fence as with the cost and defective construction. I would point out that the horse-paddock fences erected by station owners answer all purposes and block wild cattle and horses. What more then is needed at a Government tank paddock, to which mobs of wild cattle are not admitted?

Q. 3238.

Question :—We have also had complaints that the fencing is unnecessarily expensive because the posts were put in the ground much too deep for the ordinary wire fence?

Answer :—Well that is a matter of detail that I can hardly speak of. It strikes me though that the posts of a road fence in that part of the country are not too deep at 2 feet 6 inches. However that is a matter of practice.

REPLY.

There is rarely ever more than one side of a paddock fronting a road. As a matter of practice, sinking posts to the depth stated is confined entirely to the Works Department. As far as I am aware station horse-paddocks have usually to stand quite as great strains as any tenant's lease, and the depth of sinking is, I think, I may say, invariably 22 inches. The copy of specifications of fencing, tenders for which are now being called for for the Silverton district by Mr. Bennett's officers, will show that they have adopted very closely the lighter form of fence we recommend. For copy of specifications see reply to Mr. Wood's-evidence. Q. 3482.

Q. 3251.

Mr. Bennett states :—And I would have been very happy at any time to have handed these works over to the Mines Department. I got no fee or reward for my work in connection with them, but when the Mines Department took charge it was evidently with the fixed determination to get all these works out of my hands, not merely because they wished to relieve me of the duty but because they wished to make it appear that we were unequal to the proper carrying out of the works.

Mr. Woore :—Casting what you might regard as slanders upon you and your officers, which you resisted?

Answer :—Yes; and if I had not resisted it it would have been taken as a tacit admission that their statements were correct.*

REPLY.

I submit that this is an assertion unsupported by a particle of evidence, and I venture to think that, with all the information that is contained in the papers in the Blue Book, it is absolutely unjustifiable. The statements that have been made by the Mines Department appear fully in the Blue Book, and cannot, I think, be characterised or regarded as "slanders."

Q. 3252.

Chairman :—It has been complained also that you have departed from the proper departmental rule not to write to the newspapers in justification of your conduct?

Answer :—Well, I have the approval not only of my own Minister, the Minister for Works, but of the Premier as well, to whom I showed the letter before it went into the paper. I think it is much less harmful to write in a paper over one's own name than to attack people in paragraphs which are evidently inspired.

REPLY.

From this imputation this Department is freed by the statement in the article of which he complains; it is there admitted that I, as head of the Branch, refused positively to give the writer any information.

Q. 3254.

Question :—Complaint has been made also that you have used improper composition for the coating of supply tanks, rendering the water undrinkable by stock?

Answer :—This composition was put on in three cases, in only one of which was any complaint made about it. The mixture is one not new to the Department, but it was suggested in a report by Mr. M'Kinney, Engineer to the Mines Department, as having been used with the greatest success in Victoria. This is what Mr. M'Kinney says :—

"While the works, as a rule, are of well known types, the flume shown in the accompanying plan presents some unusual features. This work consists of a trapezoidal flume of sheet iron of No. 12 gauge, that is of the thickness of less than one-ninth of an inch, supported in a framework of timber. It has been seven years in use, and has given entire satisfaction. It is laid with a fall of 8 ft. per mile or 1 in 660; its length is 920 ft. and its total cost was £1,500. The ironwork is cleaned annually and coated with a mixture prepared in proportion of 2 lb. tallow and 2 lb. resin to 1 gallon of tar. This is put on in hot weather and at a time when the channel is not in use. It is found that the mixture applied assumes a glassy surface, and does not affect the taste of the water."

Mr.

* This question and answer have been cut out of the evidence as printed.

Mr. Bennett's evidence.**REPLY.**

The cases were all reported and the objection taken was a general one. Ivanhoe was specially referred to as the water there was required for domestic use. Mr. M'Kinney's own statement is submitted, Q. 3511, where the matter is further dealt with in rebuttal of Mr. Wood's evidence.

The important difference to be observed is that the preparation as used in Victoria and described by Mr. M'Kinney is not the same as that used by the Works Department, and which Mr. Wood asserts was adopted on that gentleman's recommendation; and further, that as used in Victoria, it is put on in hot weather when the flume is not in use. The conditions are dissimilar as in hot weather the tank and troughs (not flume) are most in use.

Q. 3257.

Question :—Although it was recommended by their own officer?

Answer :—Yes; I do not say that it was used entirely on his recommendation, because the mixture was known to our Department long before.

REPLY.

1. Mr. M'Kinney was not an officer of the Mines Department at the time referred to. 2. Mr. Wood distinctly states in his evidence, Q. 3511, that it was on the strength of Mr. M'Kinney's recommendation that the composition was used, an evident contradiction of Mr. Bennett's statement. Mr. Wood also says, Q. 3511 :—

"I may state that the composition that we used was a mixture of tar, pitch, and tallow, in proportion of 1 gallon of tar, to 1 lb. of pitch, and 2 of tallow. This composition was recommended to me when I met Mr. M'Kinney, the engineer, to the "Water Conservation Commission," down at Hay sometime ago. He stated that the composition was a very serviceable one for the purpose, and on the strength of his recommendation we tried it.

Q. 3260.

Mr. Bennett states :—No contract for well sinking has ever been made without a prospecting shaft, where possible, having been put down, and in some instances boring. In two cases we had reason to doubt the genuineness of the sample (of water) produced.

REPLY.

It may be noted that bad water and unfit for human consumption exists at Old Gunbar, Holy Box, Willandra, and Dolmoreve, and no water obtained at Normanstone, Baloola, and JK Well. This should not have occurred if trial shafts had been sunk. I am also informed that there were no trial shafts at Mena Murtee, Mulga Valley, or Beefwood Wells.

Q. 3261.

Chairman :—Why go to the expense of putting this well (Normanstone) in basalt without knowing what the result would be. Whether good water could be had or any water at all?

Answer :—Mr. Gilliat himself selected the site, and yet he now states that the wells are not on the sites that he selected. But we have been assured by a gentleman who was with Mr. Gilliat at the time the sites were selected—Mr. Kelly, manager for Sir Patrick Jennings—that the wells are practically on the sites chosen by Mr. Gilliat.

REPLY.

Mr. Kelly could not possibly know anything about the selection of the site of Normanstone well; it is about 20 miles from his place, and he was not with me when the site was selected. I first drew attention to the sites as varying from the spots pointed out by me in June, 1884. (See Blue Book, page 154.) The site of Baloola, though generally approved of by me and by Mr. Kelly, was placed on the shoulder of the hill and not upon the black soil plain where, as I pointed out, water could be obtained at about 100 feet sinking. With regard to Normanstone, the site selected by me was nowhere near where Mr. Dowe recommended a tank, and the present site is fully 4 miles from the one selected by me on Basin Plain. The Works Department on page 155 of the Blue Book state :—

"The Road Superintendent was instructed to adhere as closely as possible to the sites marked out by the Stock Inspector, and which it was understood were approved of by Mr. Gilliat." No reference is made to Mr. Gilliat's report and tracing.

I state on page 153 of the Blue Book :—

"For their third site Messrs. Mackie and Dowe suggest a point 10 miles from Mullaly, and suggest a 4,000-yard tank. This point is very nearly the watershed between Cox's Creek and the Namoi. After careful examination I consider the point marked in red on the annexed tracing will prove the best site."

The tracing showing the exact points selected by me was sent to the Works Department, and although repeatedly asked for has never been returned.

I may further add that the Works Department claim the right to fix the exact site of works in all cases, leaving to the Mines the power only of pointing out the approximate one. Under these circumstances I fail to see how they can with any consistency endeavour to throw the responsibility of these blunders upon us.

Mr.

Mr. Bennett's evidence, Q. 3270 and 3271.

Question :—I would like you to turn to No. 17 of the *précis*, the case of the Holy Box Well, concerning which it is stated :—

“Holy Box Well.—This well was sunk, and a small supply of fresh water tapped, followed by a great flow of salt water, which, when twice analysed, was declared unfit for use. Evidence as to saltiness was submitted. Well was abandoned, and tank commenced. Works officer stopped work at tank when about 3 feet deep, declaring well-water good. Well again handed to Mines, and constant baling insisted upon to improve to improve quality of water; this done without result. Cost of well and price referred to—94 feet deep; cost over £1,000. Mines has to bear cost of maintenance, and employ caretaker to bale and protect head-works. There is no prospect of leasing salt wells. Caretaker has carted drinking water 17 miles. Whim, service tank, and troughs erected before quality of water decided suitable. Iron in troughs destroyed by action of salt. Well almost useless for stock, and quite unfit for travelling public.”

Do you see that the sinking of 94 feet cost over £1,000?

Answer :—Yes; that is possible.

Mr. Woore :—Does that include the cost of erecting head-works and troughing?

Answer :—Yes; it includes fencing and everything connected with the well. Besides, the well was sunk in dear times. It very likely includes also some additional repairs, but we can produce the original vouchers. I will reply to this in the evidence I am about to furnish.

REPLY.

Mr. Bennett is in error; the cost quoted, £1,088 18s., is that given in his return of cost of works in 1884 (Blue Book, page 215), two years previously to the erection of fencing, while in a second return of cost of works, dated 3rd February, 1888 (Blue Book, page 270), the price of this work is given at £1,064 9s. 9d.—the last date is subsequent to the erection of the fencing—being a less amount, after additional work has been done, than the well is stated to have cost in 1884. There is no explanation of the discrepancy in these figures, but it is peculiar that the price alleged to have been paid before the fencing was erected in 1884 should be £24 8s. 3d. more than the price given in 1888, after fencing 640 acres.

Q. 3272.

Mr. Bennett states :— * * * of late years I think most of the well sites have been decided on by the Mines officers. This is my impression.

REPLY.

In no instance has the exact site of a well been selected by the Mines officers except the Murray Hut Well, but in any case the Mines only select the approximate sites. The Works Department fix the actual one.

Q. 3277 and 3278.

Question :—Can you give us any information about this costly hutting for caretakers?

Answer :—We were told to provide huts for the caretakers, and I all along thought that the adjuncts to these works were too expensive. The first works were simply water-holes. Then we were urged from one thing to another. A sum of money was put on the Estimates at the instance of the Mines Department for cottages for caretakers, Mr. Bruce's estimate being £100 for each; Mr. Gilliat's figures were the same. We made out a drawing and called for tenders.

Question :—Will you state what the accommodation was?

Answer :—I have the specifications here, which I will hand in. One room was to be 8 ft. x 12 ft., and one 12 ft. x 12 ft., and one 8 ft. 6 in. x 8 ft.; to be built of timber, with galvanised iron roof, iron chimneys, and iron tank with pipes to provide for fresh water. We received tenders from £80 to £100. Our plans were suited to the amount which was voted by Parliament. Before we incurred such a large outlay I thought it was necessary to have the approval of the Mines Department before I accepted any tender. The papers were sent on to the Mines office, and the reply we got was that they could get the work done very much cheaper.

REPLY.

Mr. Bennett is again in error; my figures were not the same as Mr. Bruce's in August, 1883; at that date I gave no estimate at all. In August, 1886, I averaged the cost of these cottages at £50. Mr. Bruce states that the buildings would cost less than £100 each. (See Blue Book, page 135.) My minute (Blue Book, page 137) fully deals with the matter, and in which I point out that two rooms will be sufficient where there is a long or costly carriage, but where the material can be delivered at a moderate outlay I would suggest that three rooms be given.

The Blue Book, pages 135 to 141, under the head of hutting, contains all the correspondence that passed between the Departments.

Mr. A. P. Wood, in his evidence, Q. 3577, admits :—“They (the Mines Department) recommended at the time two-roomed cottages 24 ft. x 12 ft., &c.” This recommendation was not superseded.

Mr.

Mr. Bennett's evidence, Q. 3280.

Question :—Then the Mines Department stated that they could get caretakers' huts put up for one half the price without stating what the accommodation was?

Answer :—Yes; and I think this was calculated to mislead both the Minister and the public.

REPLY.

The class of hutting required was fully indicated in my minute (Blue Book, page 137); and in Mr. A. P. Wood's evidence, Q. 3577, the following appears:—

“We were instructed by the Mines to have these huts erected. They recommended at the time two-roomed cottages 24 ft. x 12 ft., with iron roof, windows, floors, chimneys, and so forth; the cost of which was estimated to range from £56 to £100. * * *”

This evidence contradicts Mr. Bennett's statement, and is confirmed by my minute above referred to, which goes fully into the subject.

Qs. 3281 and 3282.

Question :—No doubt a hut built altogether of iron would be very inexpensive?

Answer :—Very.

Question :—But would it be at all suitable for people to live in?

Answer :—It would be uninhabitable.

REPLY.

On page 135 of the Blue Book Mr. Stillwell recommends iron cottages, and upon this Mr. Bennett minutes that the purchase is approved of long ago and the house erected. And on page 136 of the Blue Book, Mr. Wood recommends as follows:—“And in the timberless Riverina District corrugated iron might be used and reduce the expense.”

This I think practically shows that iron cottages were recommended by two of Mr. Bennett's officers, and approved of by him. I state (Blue Book, page 137) that I “agree generally with Mr. Wood as to iron cottages in timberless country.” As to their being uninhabitable there is hardly a station between the Murrumbidgee and the Darling without them, and Cobb's grooms upon that road are similarly housed.

Further evidence of the Commissioner and Engineer for Roads and Bridges before the Royal Commission re Tanks and Wells.

Mr. Bennett's evidence, Q. 4744.

Mr. Bennett states:—I beg to present to the Board the attached papers belonging to this Department, sent to supplement the Blue Book prepared for Parliament by the Mines officers, and to which Mr. Gilliat refers in his memo. I have already protested against this book as an *ex parte* statement, presenting the Mines view of the matter, and calculated, whether designedly or not, to prejudice this Department before Parliament, the Commission, and the public; but even that compilation will not bear out Mr. Gilliat's statement that, whatever the faults of the Mines Department, discourtesy is not one of them. The present papers afford strong evidence to the contrary. Mr. Gilliat, on the strength of a statement in a newspaper paragraph, which is entirely baseless, takes occasion to express his opinion that under judicious management, with properly constituted works, stock should not be allowed to go past unwatered, even if lifting appliances are incomplete. I point out that such reference is uncalled for, and not calculated to diminish friction. Mr. Gilliat then writes memo. dated 26th March, in which he refers to the Blue Book, as described, and states that his words express a “tenable general proposition” that if, while in the hands of this Department, works were judiciously managed and properly constructed, there would be no reason for stock going unwatered. He then goes on to say that the works have been in progress four years, the two latter of which have been the most favourable ever known in the Colony; the press and the public are justified in assuming that they were transferred, and that the duty devolved on Mr. Gilliat to correctly inform the Secretary for Mines.

As it happens, the information given in this instance is incorrect. The delay in completion of these works is first owing to unprecedented drought; the excavations were obliged to be suspended for want of feed and water; the iron tanks obtained from England were used elsewhere, and those ordered to replace them were delayed in construction and in transit from England, and in erection by the exorbitant demands of contractors. Had we yielded to those demands, and pushed on the work regardless of cost, the converse accusation of extravagance would have been made.

I submit this correspondence to the Commission as a sample of the treatment which has been given to this Department by the Mines. There is nothing to justify Mr. Gilliat's foregone conclusion, or, as he calls it, “tenable general proposition,” that the management of the Department was injudicious or the construction improper.

REPLY.

I fail to see how Mr. Bennett construes the minute referred to as discourteous to his Department unless he admits that the works were not properly constructed, and were not judiciously managed; if this was the case my remarks require no justification.

With respect to the statement in the newspaper paragraph being entirely baseless, Mr. Bennett produces no evidence to that effect. The telegram appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* of 9th March last, and Mr. Hanna states in his letter that on the 6th March he gave instructions to the caretakers at these tanks to water travelling sheep. But Mr. Hanna does not deny the statement in the newspaper telegram, and it is at least suggestive that the drovers' complaints in the telegram and Mr. Hanna's instructions

to

Mr. Bennett's evidence.

to caretakers rescinding their previous orders not to admit stock to the tanks should so closely approximate in point of time, and this is made more apparent from the fact that Mr. Hanna refrains from contradicting what Mr. Bennett apparently, on the strength of Mr. Hanna's letter, calls "an entirely baseless newspaper paragraph."

With respect to my statement of the time the works in question have been in progress, I beg to refer the Commission to Mr. Bennett's minute of April, 1882 (Blue Book, page 250); stating that he has forwarded instructions for tenders to be invited at once, and to Mr. A. P. Wood's minute of December, 1882, on the same page, enumerating and stating that the works were let and in progress, and that the recent rains would enable them to be completed more rapidly than was anticipated. In October, 1885, more than two years and a half later, Mr. Overseer Tully reports (Blue Book, page 254) upon the progress of these works, and mentions that the Waratta and Maxwell's tanks, and the Milparinka and Mena Murtee wells should be completed very soon. These works, however, were not ready for transfer until the following dates:—Maxwell's tank, July, 1888; Waratta tank, June, 1888; Milparinka well, June, 1888; Mena Murtee well, December, 1886. The Peak and Tarella tanks were transferred also in June, 1888. Making every allowance for bad seasons, I must remind the Commission that 1885 was a good year in that district, 1886 a fair one, and 1887 the best ever known, and that three fair to good years out of six appears a fairly liberal allowance for the construction of a tank or well. I must therefore demur to Mr. Bennett's alleging that the information given by me is incorrect. With respect to the delay in the transit of the iron tanks from England, that appears to me a question of departmental foresight. With regard to Mr. Bennett's final paragraph, I beg leave to remind the Commission that I arrived at no foregone conclusion, as stated by Mr. Bennett, but that as he has chosen to submit these minutes of mine "as a sample of the treatment which has been given to this Department by the Mines," I beg to submit the following as proceeding from the Roads and Bridges, which in each case have been transmitted over the B.C. of Mr. Bennett. I may safely leave it to the Commission to institute a comparison:—

Brolgan Steam Pump. (Blue Book, page 227.)

It is a great pity that the officers engaged by the Mines to inspect these works and report on their maintenance, &c., do not know a little more of the very simple mechanical details of the pumps that have been provided. There is very little doubt that if the pump will not work it is due to carelessness in not keeping it in order and properly lubricated. Last trip I made the same complaints were made in regard to two of the steam pumps which I had to take to pieces and clean myself, the caretakers being incapable of giving any practical assistance. In both these cases gross carelessness was the cause. Mr. Dowling's idea that it is due to a settlement in the foundation plate is absurd. These pumps will work in almost any position if the steam connections are all right. Mr. Dowling's best plan is to take the pump to pieces and have it cleaned and oiled; but before doing so he should be certain that he will be able to put the parts together again. Before these works were handed over to the Mines such complaints were unknown, and should not be made now. It might be well for Mr. Morton to be wired to go out to the work and see that no damage is done to the pump by the overseer of Public Watering Places' efforts to repair.—A.P.W., 17/11/86.

Boonoona Pump. (Blue Book, page 229.)

The complaints in regard to the way in which the Mines caretakers neglect their work and prejudice our connection with these works are becoming so frequent that in self-defence some action must be taken. During my last trip to the district I had to find fault, and the attention of the Mines officers was directed to it, with the result that we were informed that the matter had been referred to their local officers, and the reports furnished by them—not sent on to us—were satisfactory. Matters are now getting worse, and we shall have a repetition of old evils, unless more care is paid to their duties by these caretakers. They receive good wages and have but little to do—that little should be done well.—A.P.W., 23/10/86.

The old evils mentioned refer to the ruinous condition these wells were allowed to fall into for want of proper control between their construction and being taken charge of by Mines, when the evils referred to were attributed to faults of construction or neglect of this Department.—W.C.B., 25/10/86.

Under Secretary for transmission to Mines. The Under Secretary for Mines.—J.R., B.C., 27/10/86. Mr. Yeo will report upon this at once.—H.G., B.C., 29/10/86. Copy of Public Watering Places, 86/5,107, B.C. to Mr. Inspector Boulton for report.—1/11/86.

One Tree. (Blue Book, page 232.)

If any disposition to work or to learn their duties were evinced on the part of these men some allowances, when new to the work, would cheerfully be made for them, but when they make it so very obvious that their ignorance is equalled by their indifference, and that their view of the position that they are not there to work, but merely to take charge, make complaints, and look in hope for improvement, is futile, and it is as well that the state of the case should be recognised and stated plainly at once, because a number of this class of men are being sent up from Sydney of late, and the resulting negligence and complaints will have to be met and provided against.

I have, &c.,

A. W. STILLWELL.

The Commissioner for Roads.

Byewash, Brolgan Tank. (Page 236.)

Mr. Dowling has not made out a case. The unusual storm is reported, but no damage to the embankments. Why then the surmise that some day the whole will be swept away? This paper should be sent to Mr. Morton for report. I do not think the Mines officer should have undertaken this work without conferring with the local officer. I think deepening the by-wash would be a mistake, as it would lower the level of water conserved. I question whether any alteration is necessary unless to find work for the caretaker.—A.W.P., 1/11/86. Mr. Morton or Mr. Adams, Forbes.—W.C.B., 1/11/86.

Mr. Bennett's evidence.

In company with Mr. Morton I made an inspection of this tank to deepen by-wash by 3 feet, as Mr. Dowling directs, would reduce the water conserved by about one-fifth of its total holding capacity. This I presume is not at all requisite, and again, to widen it according to Mr. Dowling's dimensions would be worse than useless as a means of escape for such storm-water as that referred to in his letter. In my opinion I do not think that any alterations or precautions are necessary for the safety of the tank. If the side slopes of embankments were kept dressed and in a better state of repair they would add considerably to its appearance, and also to the stability of the tank.—A.A., 13/11/86.

The Commissioner, B.C. Mr. Wood.—W.C.B., 15/11/86. Copy should be sent to Mines.—A.P.W., 15/11/86. Under Secretary for transmission to Mines.—P.W.O., 17/11/86. The Under Secretary for Mines.—J.R., B.C., 18/11/86.

Extract from Mr. Overseer Dowling's letter, 9 November, 1886.

* * * You will be pleased to hear that the by-wash which I have had widened by the caretaker acts well, and is equal to the overflow. The recent heavy rains proved it.

W. G. DOWLING,
The Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places.

Boro and Bunghill Tanks. (Page 101.)

I have nothing to add to what Mr. Wood has stated, except that the Mines Department first neglect the works, and then complain.—W.C.B., 17/4/84. Under Secretary, B.C. Forward to Mines.—F.A.W., 27/4/84. The Under Secretary for Mines.—J.R. Submitted.—A.B., 25/4/84. The Under Secretary for Mines. Do not the complaints of this Department refer to the construction of the works?—H.W., 28/4/84. Yes. Submitted.—H.W., 7/5/84. These papers may go to Mr. Doyle for his report.—J. P. ABBOTT, 8/5/84.

Appliances. (Page 263.)

Submitted.—A.B., 30/11/83. The Under Secretary for Mines. The Under Secretary for Public Works.—H.W., B.C., 3/12/83. The Commissioner for Roads.—J.R., 5/12/83. Mr. Woods, 6/12/83.

Mr. Gilliat says that without his being furnished with plan of the horse gear and steam pumps recommended by this Department, no comparison can be made by him as between them and his proposed double whip. The preparation of these plans will entail a very considerable loss both in time and money, and I would suggest as an alternative that Mr. Gilliat visit Messrs. Tangye Brothers' establishment in Bathurst-street, where he will see the pumps themselves. I would have made the suggestion before, but thought that when I named two well-known types of pump, as we recommended nobody having a sufficient knowledge of such machinery as to be competent to judge of the question could have required any further information.—A.P.W., 6/12/83. Commissioner for Roads.

Send Litho.—W.C.B., B.C. I attach engravings of "Special" and "Holman" pumps. They may, perhaps, answer Mr. Gilliat's purpose.—A.P.W. I now forward lithographs of the pumps proposed.—W.C.B., 12/12/83. The Under Secretary, B.C. Forwarded to my honorable colleague the Minister for Mines.—F.A.W., 14/12/83. The Under Secretary for Mines.—J.R., B.C., 14/12/83. Mr. Inspector Gilliat.—A.B., B.C., 19/12/83.

Ivanhoe Tank. (Page 172.)

Extract from Mr. A. W. Stillwell's Report on Ivanhoe Tank, dated 22 December, 1886.

"* * * The caretaker was lowering the dwarf fence rail of the troughing to 7 inches from bearer. This will prevent sheep watering on that side, practically curtailing the length of troughing one half for sheep. He said it was by the Mines overseer's instructions, and to facilitate watering of cattle, the rail having been found too high for them. It is of the same height as at the troughing in the district, and the raising of ground level along that side would have answered the purpose if there were any *bona fide* complaints—which I doubt."

Mr. Wood.—Should not alterations of this sort at the caprice of the overseer be prevented?—W.C.B., 24/12/86. Yes; I do not think, as we are responsible for these works, that this should have been done. The same levels suit in other places, and should do in this case.—A.P.W., 24/12/86. Under Secretary for transmission to Mines.—W.C.B., 30/12/86. Under Secretary for Mines.—J.R., B.C., 31/12/86.

Q. 4745, 4746, 4747, and 4748, and seq.

Chairman :—Are there any documents which apparently have been suppressed, and which should have been put in the Blue Book presented to Parliament, that might have thrown a somewhat different complexion on the case as it appears here?

Answer :—I cannot say that anything in the possession of the Mines Department has been suppressed; but there are letters and documents from the Roads Department which would throw more light on the subject, and such letters and documents I have given to the Secretary to the Commission. Some of the papers which I have given to the Secretary were in the possession of the Minister for Works and were only returned to me recently.

Question :—You think this is an *ex parte* statement and that rebutting papers might have been included in the book and were at the command of the Mines Department.

Answer :—I cannot say what was or was not at their command.

Question :—But could they not have asked for the documents.

Answer :—Yes, and it is usual for one Department to ask another for any papers that are required by Parliament and we received no such request.

Question :—Consequently this public statement is incomplete and might have borne a somewhat different complexion if these papers had been put with the others?

Answer :—Precisely.

Submitted

Mr. Bennett's evidence.

Submitted for the information of the Secretary for Mines; the annexed copy of a letter to the Works Department, initialled by Mr. Bennett, is I think a sufficient refutation of his statement.—H.G., 14/5/88. The Under Secretary. Submitted.—H.W., 14/3/88.

I think the mode in which these questions were put to Mr. Bennett is open to grave question, as they appear to come as from counsel for the Works Department, more than from a judge desiring to elicit the exact truth. But putting that aside I desire the Commission to read the accompanying papers which will show them beyond a doubt how wrong Mr. Bennett's replies were, and go to prove that the steps this Department took were of the proper character. I extremely regret the necessity of having to point out these things, but truth must be vindicated.—F.A., 14/5/88.

Department of Mines, Sydney, 30 November, 1887.

Sir, For return of old papers Tanks and Wells as specified.

I have the honor to request that you may be good enough to favour me with the return of the papers specified herein which are required in connection with the preparation of a Parliamentary return.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

The Under Secretary P.W., Sydney.

H.G. : J.R. See where the papers are.—W.F., 1/12/87. Roads.—J.R., B.C., 2/12/87. Mr. Wood.—W.C.B., B.C., 3/12/87. All papers in this office herewith; one has been previously sent on, and the balance as represented by the Mines numbers have no existence.—A.P.W., 12/12/87. The Under Secretary for transmission.—W.C.B., 15/12/87. P.W.O., 15/12/87. Under Secretary for Mines.—J.R., B.C., 16/12/87. Tanks and Wells.

| Tanks and Wells. | Forwarded to Under Secretary Works. |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| * 83- 14 | 7/10/84 |
| * 83- 220 | 17/2/83 |
| 83-1,549 | 7/12/83 |
| † 83-1,575 ..... | ..... |
| ‡ 84- 693 | 9/9/84 |
| * 84- 367 | 14/8/85 |
| 85-2,069 | 21/8/85 |
| * 85-1,750 | 27/1/85 |
| † 84-1,587 ..... | ..... |

* Herewith. † No such number. ‡ Asked for by Mines on a previous paper, and forwarded, 28/11/87.

The Chairman, Royal Commission *re* Tanks and Wells.—H.W., B.C., 15/5/88.

(P.W.P. 88-3,113.)

Royal Commission *re* Tanks and Wells,

Sir,

21, Queen's Chambers, Queen's Place, Sydney, 25 May, 1888.

Your communication, as per margin, has remained unacknowledged owing to the absence of the Secretary to the Commission.

The chairman desires to state that it must be manifestly unfair to take the evidence of the witnesses in an uncorrected state, until the witnesses have sent in their corrected evidence, and the Commission themselves have had an opportunity of reading and correcting their questions. The Commission cannot admit the propriety of making any comments upon the proof sheets as shown in the type-writing.

With respect to the mode in which the questions were put to the witnesses, the chairman objects to the Minister for Mines taking an isolated question without reference to what has gone before. As to the matter contained in the extracts quoted, Mr. Bennett had intimated to the Commission that the whole truth was not contained in the Blue Book presented to Parliament, and it was for the purpose of eliciting this information that the chairman asked the questions which appear to be so much objected to by the Minister for Mines.

Yours, &c.,
GEO. H. COX,
President.

The Under Secretary for Mines, Department of Mines.

Minute by The Honorable the Secretary for Mines.

(P.W.P., 88-3,257; 25 May, 1888, P.W.P., 88-3,113; 20 Jan., 1888, P.W.P., 88-3,256; 10 May, 1888, P.W.P., 88-2,788.)
5 June, 1888.

With respect to Mr. Cox's letter, it is generally understood that the corrections to be made in the questions and evidence by witnesses, and the members of a Royal Commission, are merely verbal. That the Commission are aware of this fact is, I think, evident from the attached letter from the Secretary of the Commission, received by Mr. Gilliat, with the first transcript of his evidence. The secretary says:—"I am instructed to state, at the same time, that in correcting the copy now forwarded you will be good enough to confine your supervision to the rectification of such clerical errors as may be observed. Nothing is to be eliminated, and nothing added, excepting where absolutely necessary to make your meaning more clear. The object, of course, in obtaining a shorthand note of the proceedings of Royal Commissions is, that the precise language used both by the witnesses and by the members of the Commission shall, as far as possible, be reproduced."

In view of this clear exposition I fail to see that any manifest unfairness has been committed by my minute since the meaning both of the questions of the Commissioners and the replies of the witness are abundantly clear, and the Commission have already laid down the rule that the precise language used both by the witness and by the members of the Commission shall, as far as possible, be reproduced.

With respect to the propriety of making comments upon the proof sheets, as shown in the type-writing, if they are not to be used for this purpose I am at a loss to conceive why they were supplied. More particularly as in the Commissioner's letter of 10th May, in reply to a minute of Mr. Gilliat's, requesting to know whether he should be allowed to reply to certain officers in the Department of Public Works, he is informed "that when he has had time to read the evidence of Mr. Stillwell and others the Commission will probably be prepared to accept evidence in reply."

It is I think only a fair inference from this statement to assume that the Commission did not at that time object to the propriety of making comments upon the proof sheets as shown in the type-writing. Mr. Cox further adds that, "the chairman objects to the Minister for Mines taking an isolated question without reference to what has gone before." I venture to think that, upon reference to the evidence, it will be very apparent that it was not upon an isolated question my minute was written, but upon a series of questions which led up to a distinct assertion by Mr. Bennett, that the Mines Department had not informed him of a certain fact, and which Mr. Gilliat replied by producing the letter in which this information was conveyed, which letter had been twice initialled by Mr. Bennett.

FRANCIS ABIGAIL.

To be forwarded to the President of the Commission. The Chairman Tanks and Wells Commission.—G.E.H.
(*pro* U.S.), B.C., 8/6/88.

[Enclosure No. 1.]

(P.W.P., 88-2,788.)

Royal Commission on Tanks and Wells,

Sir,

31 Queen's Chambers, Queen's Place, Sydney, 10 May, 1888.

I am instructed by the President of this Commission to acknowledge receipt of minute, dated 23rd April, from the Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places, calling attention to paragraph from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, and suggesting that a definite reply should be obtained from the Commission as to whether an opportunity will be given to submit a reply to the evidence of certain officers of the Department of Public Works. I have the honor to inform you that the Commission have yet to revise the evidence already received when that duty has been completed, and when you have had time to read the evidence of Mr. Stillwell and others, this Commission will probably be then prepared to accept evidence in reply.

I have, &c.,
HUGH MAHON,
Secretary and Shorthand-writer.

The Under Secretary for Mines, Sydney.

[Enclosure

Mr. Bennett's evidence.

[Enclosure No. 2.]

(P.W.P., 88-3,256.)

Dear Sir,

Public Works Office, 20 January, 1888.

I am directed by the Royal Commission *re* Tanks and Wells to forward to you a transcription of the note of a portion of your evidence taken recently before the Commission. I am instructed to state at the same time that in correcting the copy now forwarded you will be good enough to confine your supervision to the rectification of such clerical errors as may be observed. Nothing is to be eliminated and nothing added, excepting where absolutely necessary to make your meaning more clear. The object of course in obtaining a shorthand note of the proceedings of Royal Commissions is that the precise language used both by the witness and by the Members or the Commission shall, as far as possible, be reproduced. You will see that any elimination or addition excepting, as above-mentioned, would tend to defeat the object in view and might result in rendering the report anything but a faithful record of what had really transpired at the sittings of the Commission.

I have, &c.,

HUGH MAHON,

Secretary and Shorthand-writer.

H. Gilliat, Esq., Chief Inspector Public Watering Places, Mines Department, Sydney.

(P.W.P., 88-3,468 ; P.W.P., 88-3,256.)

Royal Commission on Tanks and Wells,

21 Queen's Chambers, Queen's Place, Sydney, 8 June, 1888.

Sir,

Referring to your letter of 5th instant, I have to point out that some misunderstanding appears to have been caused by the uncorrected evidence of the witnesses of the Works Department having been supplied to your Department without the sanction or knowledge of the Commission, which I omitted to mention in my letter of the 25th instant. The corrections made by the witnesses, and in the questions put to them, have necessarily been in some cases so material that it is apparent that conclusions should not be drawn from the evidence in its uncorrected state.

The corrected evidence will be reprinted and submitted to you for perusal, after which the Commission will receive any evidence you desire to tender in reply.

I have, &c.,

G. H. COX,

President.

The Under Secretary for Mines.

Minute by The Honorable The Secretary for Mines.

Department of Mines, Public Watering Places, 22 June, 1888.

(P.W.P., 88-3,673.)

THE President of the Commission states (P.W.P., 88-3,468), "the corrections made by the witnesses, and in the questions put to them, have necessarily been in some cases so material that it is apparent that conclusions should not be drawn from the evidence in its uncorrected state." On 20th January, 1888, P.W.P., 88-3,256, in a letter addressed to the Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places, the Commissioners instruct him as to the revision of his evidence in the following terms:—"You will be good enough to confine your supervision (? revision) to the rectification of such clerical errors as may be observed; nothing is to be eliminated and nothing added, excepting when absolutely necessary to making more clear. The object, of course, in obtaining a shorthand note of the proceedings of Royal Commissions is that the precise language used both by the witness and by the members of the Commission shall, as far as possible, be reproduced."

A copy of the notice, forwarded by the Clerk of Select Committees of the Legislative Assembly to each witness, with the draft of his evidence, headed transmitting evidence for verbal revision, is herewith attached. It directs that "in revising the answer a witness is only authorised to make corrections on the margin without in any way obliterating the original, and that in case you wished to make any material alterations or insertions in the substance or intentions of the evidence, you can only do so upon re-examination before the Committee."

It is usual I believe for Royal Commissions to follow the practice of Select Committees of the House, and that practice I think it will also be found does not countenance any material alterations of questions. The Commission may by a formal resolution expunge any of the questions and their answers, but the resolution to this effect must appear in their proceedings.

It is apparent that the Commission was aware of the importance of observing that the precise language used both by the witness and by the members of the Commission should be "reproduced" from the letter addressed to Mr. Gilliat and quoted above. But it is difficult to understand why a rule so exactly laid down with regard to one portion of the evidence should be so much relaxed when applied to the evidence of Mr. Bennett and his officers. It must further be evident that if the Commission make such material corrections in the questions the answers in the evidence will not be answers to the questions asked the witness, and the injustice of examining a witness upon oath sending him his answers to revise and for the Commission subsequently to revise their questions must be manifest.

In conclusion I may remark that as rebutting evidence on several points has already been forwarded to the Commission, if they decide to take the course indicated in this correspondence it will amount to an alteration in the evidence subsequent to the receipt of those rebuttals.

FRANCIS ABIGAIL.

Royal Commission on Tanks and Wells.

(P.W.P., 88-3,734.)

Sir,

21, Queen's Chambers, Queen's Place, 22 June, 1888.

With reference to your minute of 22 June, commenting on a statement made by the president of this Commission, to the effect that conclusions should not be drawn from evidence in an uncorrected state, I am directed to inform you that the Commission in revising the evidence discovered that many material alterations had been made by some of the witnesses, including officers of the Mines Department. The Commission desire to draw your attention to page 115 of the evidence where the word "knew" has been altered to "heard," and also to page 46 of the evidence where the words "good" and "yes" have been altered to "dry" and "not."

I am also directed to say that the Commission must decline to be dictated to by the Honorable the Secretary for Mines as to their method of conducting the inquiry, and repudiate the insinuation that they are actuated by any spirit of favouritism

I have, &c.,

HUGH MAHON,

Secretary.

The Honorable Francis Abigail, Secretary for Mines, Sydney.

Minute by The Honorable the Secretary for Mines.

Department of Mines, Sydney, 26 June, 1888.

(P.W.P., 88-3,735.)

THE objection made by me was to the statement of the chairman of the Commission that "the corrections made by the witnesses, and in questions put to them, have necessarily been in some cases so material." I have examined the revisions referred to in Mr. Gilliat's evidence, page 46, and certainly do not regard them as material, but clearly from the context a clerical correction. The alteration stated to have been made in my own evidence on page 115 is not to be found upon that page of the copy furnished by the Commission to this Department; the word "knew" does occur on page 116, but I fail to see that the alleged alteration would materially affect the evidence I gave. But if exception was taken by the Commission they should, I venture to say, have informed Mr. Gilliat and myself, to have enabled us to apply for a rehearing in case we desired it. I desire to assure the Commission that I had not the slightest intention of dictating to them; my object was to prevent them falling into an error that would have brought upon them public reprobation, and if they had acted as clearly intimated to this Department they intended to do with the evidence, it would have been so opposed to the general plan adopted in such cases that the public must have seen and would have required an explanation of it. I regret the Commission has not received my communication in the spirit it was made, but that will not prevent me doing my duty in connection with any communication coming from them to the Department of Mines.

FRANCIS ABIGAIL.

The Chairman Royal Commission Tanks and Wells.—H.W., B.C., 26/6/88.

Mr.

Mr. Bennett's evidence, Q. 4751.

Thursday, 14 June, 1888.

Present:—The Hon. G. H. Cox, M.L.C.; Major Penrose, R.E.; and J. C. Woore, Esq., P.M.

William Christopher Bennett recalled and further examined:—

Chairman:—Did you receive a letter from the Commission, forwarding to you a statement made by the Mines Department of the 14th May, 1888, that in your evidence a certain statement appears to the following effect: "It is unusual for one Department to ask another for any papers that are required by Parliament, and we received no such request"? To this statement the Mines Department have taken exception, and to bear this out they enclose a letter dated 10th November, 1887, showing that a letter had been written to the Works Department, requesting certain papers which were specified in that letter. And we have it here that, as far as the request contained in that letter is concerned, it has been complied with, by your giving all the papers in your possession:—

Answer:—Yes; I would like to read this letter:—

(353—29-5; 88—288).

Department of Public Works, Sydney, 28 May, 1888.

In reference to the papers from Mines, forwarded to me by the Tank and Well Commission asking an explanation of the evidence given by me—that this Department was not asked for papers.

To comply with order that copies of all papers, minutes, and reports, and all other correspondence between Works and Mines should be laid upon the Table of the House.

The Mines letter herewith is not to that effect, but asks for certain specific papers, the Mines numbers of which apparently have been only given, as no such numbers could be found in the registers of this office, and as will be seen herewith, a reply was sent forwarding such papers as could incidentally be traced, stating that if some idea of the subject matter of the others was intimated every endeavour would be made to trace them. No reply was received. Such an application giving the numbers of certain specific papers was never thought to refer to compliance with order that all papers should be sent, and was regarded in this office as a request for papers in connection with some of the many annual or other Parliamentary returns made out by the Mines.

I send herewith an example from the Lands Office of usual form asking for papers; no such paper was sent from the Mines.

The letter from the Mines, of 30th November, on the face of it bears out the inference that even if the papers were required for this return, the Mines only wanted such papers as supported their view of the case or they would have asked for all papers of the character defined in order of the House, and not for specific numbers.

I still maintain that the usual application was not sent, or I would have seen that the papers referred to in my evidence were forwarded. I since gave them to the Secretary of the Commission. They were in the possession of the Minister for Works until date stamped in blue, thus:—x

I now refer the Commission to those papers, and more particularly to Mr. Stillwell's report, which sums up a number of cases, the original papers of which can be produced, and which I do not forward, as only adding to the immense mass of documents already submitted.

I forward a copy of a memo. of mine, dated 8th February, protesting against the publication of the Blue Book in the way in which it was done, and in which I state that the compilation was without reference to this office; I think the original was sent to the Commission.

WILLIAM C. BENNETT.

To the Chairman, Tanks and Wells Commission.

Order to print tanks and wells papers on the Table of the House.

9 February, 1888.

Yesterday Mr. Mahon, Secretary of the Tank Commission, handed me a copy of a printed document purporting to be copies of papers passing between the Departments. This included the case against this Department, as stated by the officers of the Mines; also a most incoherent and untruthful letter of Mr. Earngey, a discharged officer of this Department, omitting several most important papers, amongst others my reply to the charges of the Mines Office and several papers by Mr. A. P. Wood in defence of the Department. I think it is unnecessary for me to point out to the Hon. Sec. for Public Works that papers compiled in this way, introducing letters foreign to the subject of the order, and omitting important documents which tell against the Mines, should not be sent forth to the public as officially correct.

The papers were compiled by the Mines officers without any reference to this Department, and I think a request should be sent to the Speaker to have the papers withdrawn until corrected by this office and the missing papers added.

W. C. BENNETT.

Submitted, 8/2/88.

As these papers have been printed and commented on by the Press, I do not think it advisable to take any steps for having them withdrawn as suggested, but if Mr. Bennett will furnish copies of the papers he refers to as omitted, I will lay them on the Table of the House as a supplement to those prepared by the Mines Department.—J.S., 8/2/88.

Mr. Bennett, B.C., 8/2/88.

I will, as soon as possible, collect the missing papers, but I would record my opinion that putting an *ex parte* statement of this sort before the public is unjust. With reference to the sweeping statements made by Mr. Earngey, I forward papers in his case, attached to which is a pamphlet by that gentleman, which I have to apologise for submitting as an official paper, and only do so as it is the best evidence as to the state of his mind as stated in my minute.—W.C.B., 9/2/88. Under Sec.

Q. 4752 and 4753.

Question:—Then you think the exception taken with regard to your evidence has not been borne out by the letters sent in by the Mines Department.

Answer:—Certainly not. I should give the same evidence now.

Question:—And you still assert that, to a certain extent, this Blue Book was *ex parte* and unfair to your Department.

Answer:—Yes, and I will quote one remarkable instance: In the case of Mr. Earngey, a discharged officer of the Roads Department, a letter was written by him and published in these papers full of grave accusations. This letter was never submitted to me for report, but was published at once in these papers. I have since forwarded a mass of papers to the Commission proving how totally unreliable is any statement of Mr. Earngey's for any purpose.

Question:—

Mr. Bennett's evidence, Q. 4754.

Question :—If you had known that these papers were about being published, and you had papers in your possession that would have thrown some light on the allegations, would you have sent them in?

Answer :—It was my duty to know that the papers were about being published, and that Parliament had called for them; but it was not for me to volunteer these papers, and I was awaiting the usual formal letter asking for them. I wish to hand in certain papers marked "Department of Roads and Bridges—consideration list," and I declare that the statements made in them are true to the best of my belief.

REPLY.

Mr. Bennett, when previously under examination, was asked the question (*see page 940 of his evidence*) "but would they not have asked for documents?" and he replied that "it was usual for one Department to ask another for any papers that are required by Parliament, and we received no such request."

In rebuttal of this statement a letter was submitted to the Commission in which Mr. Bennett was requested to return certain papers required for a Return to Parliament, giving our office numbers and the dates they had been forwarded to him, and bearing Mr. Bennett's initials on B.C. reply.

This statement he now qualifies by stating :—"That this Department (Works) was not asked for papers to comply with order that copies of all papers, minutes, and reports, and all other correspondence between the Works and Mines should be laid upon the Table of the House," adding that the "Mines letter is not to that effect." He, however, admits that he "knew the papers were about being published by the Mines but it was not his duty to volunteer these papers, and yet he states he regarded our request for papers for a Parliamentary Return as a request for papers in connection with some of the many annual or other Parliamentary returns made up by the Mines Department. From this it would appear that Mr. Bennett considers himself justified in disregarding an order of Parliament on account of the alleged neglect of another Department to furnish him with a formal intimation of what he acknowledges was his duty to know, and which as a matter of fact he admits he was fully aware of. With respect to the alleged neglect of this Department to inform Mr. Bennett officially I may point out it is the practice of the Principal Under Secretary to inform the various Departments of any order of Parliament; a letter to that effect was received by this Department, and as the Parliamentary order was for all correspondence between the Mines and Works it was supposed (perhaps incorrectly) that the Department of Public Works had received the same intimation. But in any case I venture to submit that a formal letter to this effect, which Mr. Bennett claims should have been addressed to him, proceeding from this Department, would have been unusual, and was not in accordance with the usual practice.

The order of Parliament applied equally to both Departments, and it was I think with perfect justice assumed that each Department would, through their respective Ministers, lay on the Table of the House their own papers. This Mr. Bennett however failed to do, although the opportunity was again offered him after the publication of the Blue Book by his own Minister. (*Vide evidence, Q. 4751.*) He again, Q. 4751, characterises our obedience to the order of the House as an *ex parte* statement, presenting only one view of the question. This is fully rebutted in my reply, page 614, to Mr. Bennett's previous evidence.

The other papers described by Mr. Bennett as missing are referred to in the last par., Blue Book, page 10; and Mr. Bennett's minute or reply, referred to in Mr. Gilliat's minute, page 11 of Blue Book, was with the same set of papers, and were supposed to have been handed to the Premier and mislaid. Every effort was made to trace them, as copies were unfortunately not retained in this office.

Mr. Bennett also states on Q. 4751 that such papers as could "be incidentally" traced were forwarded, and the Mines Department asked to furnish some idea of the subject matter of the others, and that no reply was received.

In stating that no reply was received Mr. Bennett is incorrect; the letter submitted by this Department to the Commission in which it was shown that the Department had asked for papers for a Parliamentary Return was dated 30th November, 1887; a reminder was sent to the Works Department on 10th of the following December, and on the 16th of that month a reply was received covering papers headed tanks and punts instead of tanks and wells, having no reference to the matter. These papers were returned, and attention drawn to the error, with a further letter written 28th December, 1887. To this a B.C. reply was received asking for a clue as to the subject matter of the papers, on 23rd January, 1888. It was then too late for these papers to be included in the Blue Book, and it was assumed they would appear with the papers submitted by Mr. Bennett in compliance with the Parliamentary order. The original papers, of course with all others mentioned, are at the disposal of the Commission.

Evidence of Thomas Pollard, Q. 4755 to 4760.**REPLY.**

Sufficient evidence has been received during the past week by this Department to show that Pollard's evidence as to the improvements of the water in the Holy Box Well is correct. In 1882 Messrs. Robertson, Wagner, and Co. were the lessees of this well, and early in that year informed me that they had no applications for water, and that their coach horses would not drink it. (*See Blue Book, page 76.*) At the expiry of their lease they declined to renew it. During last week the same firm have offered to lease the well at £72 per annum for five years. But while readily admitting the improvement in this water, I do not withdraw my expressed conviction that these brackish wells, where the caretaker has to cart his own drinking water, are not suitable for public watering-places, which are intended to meet the necessities of human beings as well as stock.

Mr.

Mr. Waugh's evidence, Q. 4762 and 4763.

Question :—Clare Station is dry country ?

Answer :—Yes ; we have had to go to great expense in making, first wells, and then tanks, because we found the wells unsuitable for profitably keeping sheep to grow wool. I think tanks are better than wells in this part where the well-water is brackish.

Question :—Do you think the Government expenditure on the Ivanhoe and Balranald Roads in connection with Public Watering Places has been judiciously spent ?

Answer :—Yes, as regards the tanks ; I have not seen enough of the wells to speak positively, but whether it is the fault of the caretaker not baling sufficiently or not, it is certain that the Dolmoreve well is not good stock water as supplied to the public. I think it probable that if baled regularly, and the service tank and troughing kept cleaned out often, it will keep it purer. I am a great advocate for constant baling and cleaning out of troughs and tanks in this country.

REPLY.

Mr. Waugh's letter, of 6th April, 1888, is given in full in reply to Mr. Wood's evidence (Q. 3322). In that letter Mr. Waugh says, amongst other things, "In my opinion the present spring of water will never in any way become fit for stock." He further urges that a tank may be made in substitution for the well. On 10th April Mr. Waugh called upon me personally and urged that this should be done ; but, upon my pointing out to him that a costly well and appliances having been constructed, I was disposed to obtain a contract for putting a deep bore at the bottom of this well, with the view of ascertaining if artesian water might not be obtained at a depth of 1,000 or 1,500 feet. This, I pointed out, if successful, would be an experiment of the greatest importance to the pastoral tenants in the district. In reference to this conversation Mr. Waugh addressed me a second letter, dated 11th April, withdrawing his former request for the construction of a tank. I may add that tenders for boring are now being called for, which will include within their operations this and the other brackish wells constructed by the Department of Public Works. My own opinion as to the suitability of these shallow wells in this district was given 13th January, 1880 (*vide* Blue Book, page 27).

Replies to evidence given by Mr. Assistant Engineer Wood, Roads and Bridges Department, before the Royal Commission re Tanks and Wells.

Mr. Wood's evidence, Q. 3295 and 3296.

Question :—It has been said of the Roto Well that * * *

Answer :—Perhaps it will be as well to take the most material case first, and Roto Well is first on the list. It has been said of the Roto Well that it is in close proximity to a waterhole in the Willandra Creek. In reference to that I may state that the site was selected by me when I made an inspection and a trip over the line. A report on the matter was submitted to the Commissioner, and by him forwarded to the Mines Department, and the sites mentioned by me in the report referred to was approved of by the Department, this site of Roto Well being one of them. It is now objected that this Roto Well has entailed a great waste of money on account of its proximity to permanent water in the creek ; in the statement made in this book over Mr. Gilliat's signature. I do not remember the fact of having seen the statement anywhere in Mr. Gilliat's handwriting.

Chairman :—Everything that comes from the Mines Office bears Mr. Gilliat's endorsement.

Answer :—At page 192 of the Mines papers we have Mr. Keighran, overseer of Public Watering Places, summoning a lessee for neglecting the condition of his lease, and Mr. Gilliat, in a minute upon Mr. Keighran's report, traverses the decision of the Bench in the case, and states—"The conditions were the same as when he executed his lease except that the Willandra Creek was then empty." I mention this as simply showing that there was no permanent water there at all, and that practically there is no permanent water in the creek, inasmuch as the water comes down there when the Lachlan is about two-thirds full, and would then run to waste if it were not for certain efforts made by the lessees ; but even by these efforts permanent water has not been made in the creek.

REPLY.

The statement made by this Department, that the dam near the Roto Well was dry at the date of the transfer of this well to the lessee, Mr. Evans, is here used as an argument that the water adjacent to the well is not permanent. My statement was made in error, inquiry showing that the dam was full at the time referred to, and has seldom been dry. But in any case, with a creek filling at a two-thirds rise in the Lachlan, irrespective of local rains, it may be questioned if it was necessary to sink a well at a total cost of £1,181 4s., when a dam costing probably less than one quarter of the sum could have been constructed. Page 205 of the Blue Book shows the receipts for 1886 to be 4d. ; in 1887, stock watered by the lessee, nil ; in 1888, stock watered by lessee, nil.

Mr. Wood further states the sites were approved by the Mines Department, "this site of Roto Well being one of them." The papers in connection with this matter were sent to the Secretary for Public Works on the 17th May, 1882—Tanks and Wells, 82-401, the only record in this office being a press copy of a minute of mine in which I state :—

"The points marked for sites and reserves on the run map herewith are very suitable in point of distance, and well arranged for future subdivision when the traffic demands it."

This it will be observed carefully avoids giving any other approval of the sites selected, beyond their being suitable in point of distance. My reason for this caution was that I had not at the time been over the road, or inspected the sites.

Mr.

Mr. Wood's evidence, Q. 3296, 3297, 3298, and 3299.

Mr. Wood states :—The next case is the Cobham Lake tank. It is objected to on account of the uncompleted works being submerged. Well, I consider the fact of these works being submerged as being rather an argument in favour of the selection which has been made of the sites, inasmuch as it proves the spot selected was the natural conserving ground, while the data that have been collected in regard to the falling of this lake proves that it is only at long intervals that the lake itself can be relied on for any comparatively permanent supply.

Question :—Are you aware that some of these lakes have been dry for many years after they have once become filled, that the water after resting for some time eventually becomes so salt that it cannot be used ?

Answer :—Yes.

Question :—Would not that apply to Cobham Lake ?

Answer :—No ; because the water would be prevented from resting to the extent which would allow it to become salt. The water in the body of the lake, when the lake is full, is quite fit for human consumption ; and the water is actually conserved within the boundaries of the embankments within the tank.

Question :—When the water rests, the last water which remained in the lake would go into the tank, and would become so impregnated with salt that it would not be fit for use ?

Answer :—I do not think so ; the conditions that existed at the time this tank was made do not exist now. The water is admitted into this tank by an inlet pipe, and the consequence is that we can shut it in if we find it necessary to do so. Consequently we can have the water in a state of greater purity in the tank than it would be if it were allowed outside in the bed of the lake, exposed and absorbing saline matter for a long time.

REPLY.

My report, dated 17th April, 1882, on page 248 of the Blue Book, states :—

“ The lake cannot be regarded as a source of water supply, as it may remain for long periods unfilled, and when filled must become brackish, after a short time, having no effluent. I have therefore to recommend that a well be sunk about 1 mile south from the public-house and a reserve of 640 acres notified around it, at the same time reserving the northern and eastern shore of the lake, so that water will be available for stock so long as they can drink it.”

The argument that the water conserved in a tank within the lake would not deteriorate, as the lake water does, will hardly hold good without further confirmation than Mr. Wood seems able to give. The inlet valve could not be turned off until the water was sufficiently low to reach the embankments, even if it is admitted that after a year or two's submergence the valve would be found in working order, and not choked with silt and drift. But why put a tank in a position where it must be submerged, and to a greater or less extent damaged.

Nor is it apparent why (although Mr. Wood asserts it will be so), the water should not become salt within the tank when it does so without.

Finally, if Mr. Wood's contention is correct, that the tank being submerged is rather to be regarded as an argument in favour of the selection of the site as proving that it is the natural conserving ground—why did he not place the tank in the deepest part of the lake at once.

Q. 3302.

Mr. Wood states :—As to the Dry Lake Tank, the same argument was advanced against it, that is, that it is submerged ; but that particular site, although not recommended by Mr. Gilliat for the immediate construction of a tank—of course, it is understood that Mr. Gilliat is an officer of the Mines Department—was named by him as being a place that would make a splendid site for a tank. One reason for constructing a tank there was that at the time of my visit special instructions were given to arrange for works along the road. The only watering place in the locality was in the hands of a private owner—a man by the name of Smith—and this man had the command of the water ; I thought it rather an injudicious thing that the public should be at the mercy of a man who, although he made professions that he would supply water at reasonable rates, still had the power in bad seasons to demand any rate that he thought fit, or to refuse water altogether. That tank, I may say, has been completely submerged, the embankments and everything else being out of sight, a state of things which according to the evidence of the residents of the district was never known before.

REPLY.

From an engineering point of view the site was never condemned. I say on page 247 of the Blue Book in reference to this place :—“ There is a water reserve of 3,200 acres, and a capital site for a tank *if it is ever required*.” But the fact of a site being so described is no explanation why the lowest part of the catch should have been selected. I further say on pages 246 and 247 of the Blue Book :—

“ There is a public-house here kept by T. G. Smith, who has three small tanks with a capacity of 7,670 cubic yards on his selection of 640 acres ; Smith has also sunk a well that yields, so he informs me, a good supply of fair stock water. * * * For the present Smith has gone to a good deal of expense to provide water for the supply of travellers, and I would suggest that so long as his charges are reasonable it appears unnecessary for the Department to incur the expense of a work here.”

Why should the Government compete with private enterprise ? The last paragraph of my report above quoted shows that I in no way advocated a tank here, and it does not appear that I approved of any special site in the lake as Mr. Wood infers ; the approval was a general one, and did not refer to the present site at all.

Mr.

Mr. Wood's evidence, Q. 3302.

Mr. Wood states:—Then there is the Booroorban tank on the road from Deniliquin to Hay. The objection to that is its proximity to a water-hole. That work was recommended by Mr. Gilliat in one of his annual returns and in his recommendation for works in 1882.

REPLY.

The objection to the Booroorban tank taken by Mr. Overseer Keighran was, first, its situation in a swamp, second, its proximity to the small dam constructed by the Works Department on the Pine Ridge Creek.

Mr. Wood is again in error. I did not recommend that work, *i.e.*, Booroorban tank, in one of my annual reports, and I have no recollection nor can I find any trace in the records of the Department of such a recommendation in 1882. On the 6th April, 1881, a recommendation was sent to Mr. Bennett that the excavation at the old Pine Ridge Dam should be deepened and enlarged to 15,000 cubic yards.

Q. 3305.

Question:—The next case is that of the Peri springs.

Answer:—I have never been up the road, so cannot say anything about that, but I have seen the Tarella tank since it was started, but the site of this I fixed myself. The objection to this tank is presumably that there is permanent water close by.

REPLY.

This site (Tarella tank) is admitted by Mr. Wood to have been selected by himself.

On 31st December, 1887, Mr. Overseer Tully reports:—

“This tank is situated in a water-course which, in heavy rains, carries an immense volume of water, and, as a consequence, the water has cut a deep byewash, and at present no water can enter the tank. This tank is not placed in a good position, as an excellent water-hole, known as the White Cliff Dam, is within 3 miles, rendering a public watering-place unnecessary here, as well as from its site rendering it liable to be washed away and silted up.”

Mr. Tully further states in evidence, Q. 2477:—

“In connection with the Tarella tank, when the contractor undertook the work, he found the opening would run the water down instead of up. He came to me and asked what he was to do. The Road Superintendent altered the inlet. The first flood that went by washed around the end of the tank. This is a foot deeper than inlet to tank.”

Mr. Quin also states in evidence in reference to this tank, Q. 1909:—

“My reason for objecting to the Tarella tank is that it is not required. When the excavation had proceeded some 7 or 8 feet I communicated with Mr. Bennett, personally, my opinion that the tank was being placed in an unsuitable position. I objected to it not because the catchment was not good, but because it was not necessary there at all. It was placed at a spot about 4 miles above Tarella station, and I had large dams near it, one of them being 3 miles beyond it. Both those dams were on the road side, and available to the public for ten years before * * * The two dams were only 8 miles apart, and the public had access to them at all times. I certainly did not deem it necessary for a tank to be put down there on account of these dams being within the boundaries of a stock route.”

Mr. Woore: Were the stock routes proclaimed then?

Answer: No, the stock routes were not proclaimed until quite recently, but a public road was there.

Chairman: Then the proximity of these dams to the public road made you think it was a waste of public money to proceed with the Tarella tank?

Answer: It did. When I went to see Mr. Bennett he told me in reply that the contract had proceeded so far that the compensation which would have to be paid the contractor would equal the cost of making the tank to the original depth.”

This evidence confirms what my memo. in Blue Book, page 256, states. From Mr. Quin's evidence it is apparent that Mr. Bennett himself did not appear satisfied with the necessity for the work, which was completed to avoid paying the contractor compensation.

That no necessity for this tank existed was fully brought before the Works Department in my report 17th April, 1882, yet they went to the further expense of erecting steam appliances.

Q. 3306.

Mr. Woore:—So that the Works officers were responsible for the actual spot chosen—where there was a good catchment?

Answer:—Yes. The Works officers were responsible for all constructive details, which includes the selection of the best and most efficient catchment within a reasonable distance from the point necessary to properly divide the stages of the stock route. The objection to the J.K. well is exactly the same, and it was placed in proximity to permanent water. At the time I selected the site I did not consider it was desirable to interfere with the water that had been conserved by the Crown lessee, more particularly in a district where water was more valuable than in any other part of Riverina. The lessees of the Wannaminta run offered to improve the works for the conservation of water at that particular spot, to allow travelling stock to water there on condition that he should be paid 6d. per yard for the earth-works involved in carrying out these improvements. It was decided or recommended by the Works Department that in the interests of the travelling public an independent watering place should be provided, and the decision was endorsed by the then Minister for Mines, Mr. J. P. Abbott, in the following minute, bearing date, 3/7/84:—“I think tenders should be accepted for a well, as by this means a more permanent water supply is likely to be had, and entirely independent of the lessee.”

Mr. Wood's evidence, Q. 3306 and 3307.

Mr. Woore :—Mr. Abbott was at that time Minister for Mines ?

Answer :—Yes. The same remark applies, as I have said, to the Tarella tank.

Question :—Does the minute of Mr. Abbott apply to that particular case, or does it apply generally ?

Answer :—It applies to that particular case, but the principle was applied generally. That principle has been a guide to the Department in all future cases. It covered our action. But there are no other cases except this at which it occurred at the time, with the exception of this Roto well. But I have proved, by Mr. Gilliat's own statement, that the creek was dry at the time the work was handed over to the lessees.

REPLY.

See my statement in regard to Roto well, Q. 3295.

My memo. in the Blue Book, page 217, upon which Mr. Abbott's minute was written, states the case fully, but I do not for one moment suppose that he intended to lay down a general instruction. Mr. Wood, however, states in his evidence, that the "principle has been a guide to the Department in all future cases. It covered our action; but there are no other cases except this at which it occurred at the time, with the exception of this Roto well." I venture to think that Mr. Wood is in error in taking this exception. Mr. Abbott's minute was written 3rd July, 1884. Mr. Wood, in his evidence, Q. 3295, states he "submitted a report to the Commissioner, who returned it to the Mines Department, by whom it was approved—this site of Roto well being one of them." My minute of so-called approval contained the following statement:—"The points marked for sites and reserves on run map herewith are very suitable in point of distance," and was dated on the 9th May, 1882, or two years and two months before Mr. Abbott's minute was written, under the sanction of which he now claims the site for Roto well was selected. And the papers, Tanks and Wells, 82-401, were forwarded to Mr. Bennett on the 17th May, 1882, with whom they still remain.

Q. 3310 and 3311.

Mr. Wood's Report on Road, Hillston to Carrathool.

Question :—Then Mr. Gilliat also came to the conclusion that the sites were proper ones, and that wells were suitable, and that water might be obtained at depths from 60 to 100 feet ?

Answer :—Yes; the local officer had a trial-shaft put down at the Burnt Stump, or Old Gunbar, and a sample of water was forwarded to the office. The trial-shaft was put down to a depth, I think, of 95 feet—I will not be certain as to the exact depth—and the water was approved of. It was never referred to the Mines Department, but the water was so good that I would not object to drink it myself, and on the strength of the sample the main shaft was sunk.

Question :—How far away was the main shaft from the trial-shaft ?

Answer :—Well, to the best of my recollection, I think it was about 100 feet, and the water we then obtained is, as we admitted, unfit for stock.

REPLY.

No objection was ever taken by this Department to any of the well sites on the road, Hillston to Carrathool, but simply to the quality of the water at Old Gunbar. Mr. Wood says the main shaft was put down 100 feet from the trial-shaft, from which a good sample of water had been obtained. It is remarkable that the trial-shaft was not utilized, as it is usually, and the main shaft sunk upon it. A contractor will enlarge a trial-shaft at a considerable reduction (say) at least 3s. to 4s. per foot. As upon the trial-shaft depends the letting of the contract, it is an ordinary practice most carefully inspected. The officer doing this should have baled out the water and sampled it, and obtained an approximate estimate of the supply. It does not appear that this course was adopted.

Q. 3317 and 3318.

Chairman :—In these other wells that have the reputation of being too salt even for stock, how were they sunk—does the same remark apply to them as to the Old Gunbar or Burnt Stump Well ?

Answer :—I do not admit the fact at all, Mr. Chairman. At the Holy Box well a trial-shaft was put down—I am now speaking from reports, I was not present, and cannot speak from my own direct knowledge—a trial-shaft was put down, and fair stock water obtained. The main shaft was then put down, and similar quality of water obtained. After transfer to the Mines Department, the well was condemned as being unfit for consumption by stock, and after the lapse of some time the Works Department started to put a tank down in the immediate vicinity to supply the public wants at that particular stage. After we started the work we applied to the Mines Department to be allowed to use material in top works to effect a saving in the construction of the works then in hand. When the well was handed back to the Works Department I instructed the contractor for the tank to have it thoroughly baled out in order to test the quality of the water. This was done; and on my reaching Wilcannia about a week afterwards I received a telegram from the contractor and the local Road Superintendent to the effect that the stock then passing had been successfully watered there. On the strength of this report the tank works were stopped, the well was further tested, further equally favourable reports were received, and ultimately the tank works were abandoned. Since then there has been a conflict of opinion between the two Departments as to whether the water is or is not fit for stock.

Question :—Of your own knowledge can you say that the water has since been used for stock purposes almost continuously ?

Answer :—No, not continuously; it has been used though.

Mr.

Mr. Wood's evidence.

REPLY.

Nothing more can be said perhaps than has been said by the oldest residents in the district. (See Blue Book, pages 84 and 85, where both sides of the case have been fully submitted.)

Mr. David Brown, at that time manager of the station upon which the well is sunk, says in evidence, Q. 1036:—

"I saw the water at the bottom of the shaft. * * I let down a billy or tin and brought up some of the water to try it. Although the water was said to be very good in the trial shaft, this water which was at the bottom of the shaft seemed not to be good stock water; * * the quality, as far as I could judge, was good enough for stock, but not good enough to take on a fair trial. My impression at the time was that the water was not good enough."

Baling has been insisted upon to improve the quality of the water. How is it that this well, after standing for so long a period in disuse—quite two years—was suddenly found to have drinkable water in it, and that now with constant baling it is so still unfit for human consumption?

Mr. Low, who is an experienced station manager, states in evidence, Q. 1096:—

"This water cannot be reckoned even good stock water, and it is perfectly useless for human consumption, thus unsuitable for the traffic. The troughing here has been renewed owing to being worn out or corroded by the water. Much salt can at any time be gathered about this troughing. Mr. Webb, at Kilfera, knows this public watering place well; he would not water stock at it. Owing to the quality of the water he considers it quite unsuitable for the requirements of the traffic. He has lost sheep at it, and has repeatedly advised drovers not to water their stock at this well, as they would certainly lose some."

See also Mr. Inspector Boulton's report upon this and the Dolmoreve well (Blue Book, page 93.)

It is urged that water unfit for human consumption is not suitable for a watering place, and that while sheep bred on saline water will drink it large stock will not.

Q. 3322.

Chairman:—What about the Dolmoreve and Willandra wells?

Answer:—I will take the Dolmoreve well by itself. I do not know where the line is to be drawn between what is good stock water and what is utterly bad stock water. I will simply instance the report made by one of the Overseers of Public Watering Places, who said:—

"I boiled some of the water and tasted it after it became cold, also made tea of it; in each of these cases it was quite undrinkable. With constant baling, however, I cannot understand why it should be unsuitable for stock. I gave this as my opinion to Mr. Lindsay, manager of Til Til station, who informed me that some of the wells that their sheep watered at were no better, if even as good as the Dolmoreve, and that if the Government would let him water his stock at it instead of baling and letting the water run to waste, he would gladly avail himself of it, and would not be afraid of his sheep being injured in any way from drinking the water. * * *

"In reference to the Dolmoreve Well, I would respectfully suggest that if the water as at present drawn is not considered by the general stock-travelling public sufficiently good for watering purposes, that the well should be constantly baled dry and boring rods used to deepen the present shaft on the chance of striking fresher water. * * * Of course I do not pretend to be an expert in regard to stock."

REPLY.

The report quoted by Mr. Wood is that of a temporary officer, who admits the water to be undrinkable, and thinks that with constant baling it might become suitable for stock, and he recommends boring, showing that he was not convinced of its suitability. Mr. John Waugh, of Clare station, in a recent letter, dated 16th April, 1888 (P.W.P., 88-2,126), says:—

"I have to invite your attention to the Public Watering Place on the stock route from Ivanhoe to Balranald, known as the Dolmoreve well, and especially to the fact that now the well is finished and the receiving tank and watering troughs complete it is found that the water is totally unsuitable for the purposes of watering sheep and cattle. I may say that this statement can be verified by a perusal of Mr. Lindsay's evidence given at the Balranald Land Board Inquiry in February last. It is my opinion that the present spring of water will never become in any way fit for stock. * * * If it were not for the kindness of the proprietors of Til Til station at many times in allowing stock and teams to water, this part of the road would be impracticable for want of water, and I sincerely hope you will give this matter your early attention in order that a ground tank may be made in substitution for the well."

Mr. Lindsay, of Til Til station, states in evidence before the Balranald Land Board in February last (P.W.P., 88-2,673):—

"The Dolmoreve Government well has only been finished about a twelvemonth; travelling stock have not required it and in its present state it is unfit for stock. Working might improve it. The caretaker gets his water from me for the use of his family and stock, and not from the well he takes care of. There could be a tank made on a fair catch."

After ten years experience it is surprising that Mr. Wood is not aware of where the line should be drawn between what is and what is not stock water. As chief executive officer for these works he should inform himself by testing with his horse. What a horse will drink is good stock water. And in view of what I think is generally admitted that these watering places are required for both human as well as stock consumption I fail to see how the report quoted by Mr. Wood in any way proves his case.

Mr.

Mr. Wood's evidence, Q. 3323 and 3324.

Question :—Then about the Willandra well ?

Answer :—Remarks have been made about this well before it has been finished. Objection is now taken to the site.

Question :—They state that this well was not asked for by the Mines Department ?

Answer :—This well has not yet been completed, nor handed over, and therefore the Mines Department have not any right to say anything about it. We have had a lot of trouble with this well on account of the drift, &c. As to the other charges in connection with this well, I think I can disprove them under another heading. It was stated by Mr. Gilliat in his evidence that only one work was recommended between Clare and Balranald (? Ivanhoe). He says :—“On the road from Balranald to Ivanhoe the water supply is required chiefly for carriers and their teams, and the works do not need to be on so large a scale or so close to each other as upon roads more frequently used by travelling stock. I am of opinion that if the proposed tank at Clare is completed, one other half way from Clare to Ivanhoe will be sufficient.” The statement is repeated at page 27 of the Blue Book before the Commission, yet in Mr. Gilliat's recommendation for works for 1884, which guided us in constructing these watering places, he recommends two works, both of 20,000 cubic yards capacity. One of these is 9 miles north of Clare, and another 10 miles south of Kilfera.

REPLY.

Mr. Wood's statement, that the Willandra well has not yet been completed or handed over, and therefore the Mines Department have no right to say anything about it, is somewhat remarkable. It is distinctly understood that these works are decided upon as necessary, and sites approximately fixed by the Mines Department. Mr. Wood's reply to Mr. Woore's question on Q. 3,419 distinctly admits this :—

Mr. Woore :—This point as to the necessity of the works has to be decided by the Mines Department ?

Answer :—Yes ; we simply construct.

The Willandra well was not recommended, nor the site selected, by the Mines Department.

I am quite aware of my recommendations as quoted by Mr. Wood, and these refer distinctly to two tanks between Clare and Ivanhoe, which were recommended by this Department. The Works Department, however, have constructed two tanks and one well between those places, or one more than was considered necessary.

With respect to the Willandra well, the first shaft and head-works, after costing £1,087, has now been abandoned, and a new shaft sunk alongside, the fate of which is described by Mr. Inspector Low in his telegram of 19th April, 1888 (P.W.P., 88-2,301) :—“Webb—Kilfera— informs me Willandra well again abandoned, owing to men being unable to get through drift.”

And since then a letter from Mr. Webb, dated 8th May, 1888, has been forwarded for the information of the Commissioners. He says as follows :—

(P.W.P. 88-3,229)

H. Gilliat, Esq.,—

Dear Sir,

Kilfera, May 8, 1888.

I was too hurried when replying to your query *re* the Ivanhoe tank to draw your attention to the Willandra well. I now wish to draw your attention to the following. This Willandra well was started somewhere about two years ago. The site chosen was within about 200 yards of the Willandra Creek, and alongside a station dam. The Government have now put down two shafts, timbered, centered, &c. The first well put down had whim, troughing, and tank complete. When the contractors got down 100 feet or so they struck drift sand. At their request I went down the shaft, and from the nature of the drift I told them it was impossible for them with the ordinary appliances to get down through it. They and two other parties tried it without success, and finally it became so undermined that the whole shaft shifted and was unsafe to work in. The Government, not content, called for tenders for another well to be sunk a few yards further away. The tenders are let, and contractor shifts whim, and sinks 100 feet, and is certain he can get down. The same result. He gets to the drift, and no further, works away until he destroys the bottom of shaft, and then leaves. This is at the present moment the state of the Willandra well. What I wish, with all deference to you, to point out, is, that the well should not be sunk at all. The water though good for stock that are broken in to it, is not suited for travelling stock, that the public would always water at our dam, that a good tank could have been sunk for half the money spent on the present works, on our boundary about 1½ miles south of the present well ; that there is a lot of valuable timber and iron now lying at the mercy of the travelling public. This timber I will either buy or draw to the home station and store for Government, if they pay expenses of drawing.

Trusting these few remarks may be of service.

I am, &c.,
R. C. WEBB.

Submitted for the information of the Secretary of Mines.—H. GILLIAT. The Under Secretary. Submitted.—H.W., 14/5/88. I understand that the members of the Commission *re* Tanks and Wells propose seeing for themselves some of the works. These papers might be sent them with the request that if at all possible they might inspect those mentioned in these letters.—F.A., 14/5/88. The Chairman of Commission.—B.C., H.W., 14/5/88.

Q. 3324.

Mr. Wood quotes :—The designs lately prepared for these works provide for a M'Comas water lift or chain pump. This is to be fixed in a timbered shaft, communicating by a timbered adit with the main reservoir. Tenders have been invited for some of the proposed works. It has been found that the cost of the timber work required ranges from £150 to £300.

REPLY.

Mr. Road-Superintendent Hanna's evidence on Q. 3715, where he states that he does not think a M'Comas lift could be erected under £20, shows a considerable discrepancy between his and Mr. Wood's estimates.

Mr.

Mr. Wood's evidence, Q. 3327 and 3328.

Mr. Wood states (Normanstone and Baloola Wells):—There is another point in connection with this. Mr. Gilliat states we did not put the wells on the sites recommended by him.

Question:—Of course there are places where you will not get water in basalt because the basalt overlies the dry country?

Answer:—Yes, and it did so in these two cases of Normanstone and Baloola. Mr. Gilliat says tanks were recommended here, yet here is his own report in which he recommends wells as against the recommendations of his officers for tanks.

REPLY.

Mr. Wood's recollection is at fault. Tanks were never recommended by me. I stated in evidence, Q. 179:—

Question:—What about the Normanstone and Baloola Wells?

Answer:—This is a case where three wells were recommended, and in each I defined on a tracing the exact points, &c."

The difference of opinion as to the sites would be at once settled if the Works Department would produce the large road tracing, which accompanied my report, with the sites for the wells marked on it.

The Baloola well has been sunk upon the shoulder of a hill when it should have been put on the alluvial. The formation of the ground would make it doubtful if the trap or basalt could be pierced.

This question has been more fully dealt with in my reply to Mr. Bennett's evidence, page 627.

Q. 3341.

Question:—The next case is the Milparinka well, which is said to have been put down in vertical slate formation?

Answer:—It is not alluvial, but it is not rock at all; but assuming that it has been put down in vertical slate formation, as we have obtained a good supply of water I do not think there is any reason to find fault, supposing that we agree to their first premise.

REPLY.

This well is not mentioned in the Blue Book, except upon page 6, where it was included by mistake in a list of watering places to which certain objections had been raised.

Q. 3346.

Chairman:—What about the Mena Murtee well?

Answer:—There was no distinct sanction obtained for this well, but I think it is fairly covered by the decision of the Minister for Mines in the case of the J. K. well. You will notice that on Q. 3307 of the Mines papers a minute from Mr. J. P. Abbott, then Minister for Mines, in these terms:—"I think tenders should be accepted for a well, as by this means a more permanent water supply is likely to be had and entirely independent of the lessee."

REPLY.

It is admitted there was no distinct sanction for this well, and it is difficult to conceive how Mr. Abbott's minute upon a special case can be taken as having a general application.

Mr. Wood has already stated, Q. 3307, p. 58, that although Mr. Abbott's minute was regarded by him as having this general application, it was only applied in one other instance, namely, the Roto well, yet he now claims that it was his justification for the site selected for the Mena Murtee well.

Q. 3348 and 3349.

Question:—Just give the facts in connection with the sinking of the well (? tank) (Ivanhoe).

Answer:—At the first outset the Department wished to put down a new well in the place of the abandoned well sunk in 1871. This course they proposed following on account of the known quality of the water in that well; but as the townspeople wished to use the water for drinking purposes, a good deal of pressure was brought to bear to have a tank sunk in lieu of the well. This desire was eventually acceded to, and a site chosen on the Ivanhoe to Balranald Road, about a mile west of the town. Then the townspeople in connection with the owners of the Kilfera pastoral holding, on which the site of the tank was situated, brought pressure to bear to have the site again altered.

Major Penrose:—After the work of sinking had been commenced?

Answer:—No; we had not commenced the work. Mr. Williamson, the leading townsman of Ivanhoe, was very anxious that we should have the site in his paddock, which he offered to part with to the Government on condition that he was allowed a much larger area—I forget the proportion—adjoining his ground to the northward, in addition to a certain sum to be fixed as the purchase money for 50 acres to be taken for the tank site. We then selected a site about one mile to the east of the town. Trial holes were put down, and the contract for the construction of the tank let. Between the time the trial holes were put down and * * *

Question:—

Mr. Wood's evidence, Q. 3350.

Question :—Without further reference to the Mines Department?

Answer :—Yes, I think so; but I am under the impression the papers would show that the Mines Department knew of it. Between the time of the sinking the trial holes and the arrival of the contractor on the ground, the lessees of Ticehurst run selected the site that we had chosen, and when the contractor arrived he was ordered off the place. After some little delay, and after further political pressure from the members of the district and local people, the site was fixed where the tank is now constructed. And in my letter on page 66 of the Mines papers which was referred to the Mines Department, this site was mentioned, and in a minute upon the same page, signed by Mr. Gilliat, it is stated :—

“The exception taken by this Department to a well at Ivanhoe has always been based on the ground that the subterranean water while good stock water, was too brackish for domestic purposes. 2nd. That any watering place constructed here would be required for the use of the township as well as for stock purposes. It was, therefore, submitted the watering place would be a tank, and within a convenient distance of the township. These conditions are, I think, fully met with in the site Mr. Wood has selected.”

I do not think there is anything else necessary.

REPLY.

A reference to page 66 of the Blue Book will show that the information of the final site for the Ivanhoe Tank was conveyed by Mr. Wood's letter of 10 March, 1885, in which he says the “question of site was ultimately settled by constructing the tank on the Village Reserve, which pleases Kilfera, Ticehurst, and the residents of the township.” Upon this my minute was written, stating that I thought the conditions were fully met with in the site Mr. Wood had selected.

I naturally assumed that as Mr. Wood stated that the tank was on Village Reserve, and the residents of the township were pleased, that no cause of complaint existed. But Mr. Wood's statements are not confirmed; the tank is placed upon the surveyed allotments of the township, and the townspeople are not pleased.

I submit an extract from a letter from George Williamson, Esq., J.P., of Ivanhoe, P.W.P. 88-3,237, dated 28 May, 1888 :—

“The general opinion of the residents was never in favour of the present site, although I said—and I daresay others said—that if it was absolutely necessary that the tank should be in the town, the present was the best available, but we were never in favour of the present site.”

Q. 3350.

Mr. Wood states :—“It has been stated by some witnesses who have been examined before the Commission that this particular site catches all the town drainage and renders the water unfit for human consumption.”

REPLY.

I would submit for the Commissioners' information that no such statement appears to have been made by the Department of Mines.

Q. 3362, 3365, and 3366.

Question :—There is another tank that is mentioned as having an injudiciously selected site—Gunnaramby—It is referred to in the evidence on page 60. “Gunnaramby Tank. This has been excavated in rotten copai ground which owing to the steepness of batters has fallen in to a very large extent?” * * *

Answer :—Copai is found in the best ground.

Question :—Are there any other tanks that we have omitted to ask you about and which you would like to refer to?

Answer :—In reference to this Gunnaramby Tank. It is fed from the swamp level through the inlet pipe with a valve and from the upper level, from the higher ground through the shoot. * * *

Question :—Is it not a fact that the soil of this swamp is very open and porous, full of cracks and that it is very difficult to collect water in it except after very heavy rains?

Answer :—In some swamps I will admit this is the case, but not others, it is just the reverse. The cane grass swamps form splendid catching ground.

REPLY.

Copai or gypsum is not considered the best, or even good ground for conserving water, its presence renders the water hard and bitter, and the water, as in the Gunnaramby Tank becomes a pale sea-green.

Mr. Wood is in error in stating that the water from the upper level is led through a shoot, it is carried by drains around the excavation to the shoot at the lower inlet pipe.

Mr. Yeo in his evidence, Q. 2637, states :—

“I would also wish to point out the great difficulty in the way the water is carried into the tank. It is by the silt tank on the one side and there is a lead from that silt tank around on top of the excavation to the other side to be carried into the flume. Consequently with the very loose open soil, the stuff is liable to be washed aside through the drain into the main tank. There was no protection to the sides and bottom till I had it made. I had a lot of gypsum stones collected and made a gypsum flume all the way. I pointed out this at the time I was taking delivery from Mr. Wood and Mr. Stillwell. Mr. Wood snubbed me and told me I was not there to criticise, but to take delivery of it in the condition in which it stood.”

See also Mr. Inspector Boulbee's evidence page 46 upon this tank.

It is a moot point whether cane grass swamps are good ground for catching water for conservation owing to the discolouration and the amount of clayey particles held in suspension. This swamp however, is not a cane grass swamp but one in copai soil, and in wet weather very boggy. Mr.

Mr. Wood's evidence, Q. 3368.

Mr. Wood states:—"Then there is the Polygonum Hut Well referred to at pages 277 and 279 of the Mines evidence. It is said, in the first place, that the water from that well is unfit for stock, if I remember aright. Well, the water in this well is not only fit for stock, but it is very fair water for human consumption."

REPLY.

On reference to Q. 1328 and 1340 of the evidence given by the Mines officers before the Commission, where Mr. Inspector Low is under examination upon the Polygonum Hut Well, it will be seen that he did not in any way refer to the quality of the water in this well, much less declare it unfit for stock. The fact, however, remains that it is not good stock water, and is unfit for human consumption. The caretaker and Cobb and Co.'s groom in charge of the mail change at this well, both cart water for their own use when the swamp is dry.

Mr. Low, on Q. 1096, states:—"Polygonum Hut Well: This water is quite unfit for human consumption."

Q. 3374.

Major Penrose:—Reference has also been made here to the Mulya (No. 5) Tank. It has been said that this tank has been constructed for about five years, and yet there is no water in it?

Answer:—I am not sure that that tank has yet been handed over to the Mines Department; if it has been handed over, it has occurred within the last month or two. I admit it is not a good site, but in that locality it is impossible to get a really good site. * * *

REPLY.

The evidence given by this Department is as follows. Mr. Inspector Mackenzie, on Q. 1645, 1649, 1651, of the evidence, states:—

"That tank has been put down over twelve months, and has never had more than 5 feet 2 inches or 5 feet 3 inches of water in it. There has been sufficient rain to fill it; it has been put on rising ground; the drains have been so formed that water will not run in; it is on considerably higher ground than that surrounding, and the drains are so constructed that the water runs back.

Question:—How does the water get in then?

Answer:—The water only flows in after backing some distance. There has been an alteration made lately in the drains for that purpose, and the water will, I believe, run into the tank, but we have had no rain since.

Mr. Woore:—Is there any other place that would have been a better site?

Answer:—Yes; within a quarter or half a mile of this place there is good hard red ground?"

Mr. Overseer Cotton, in his evidence, Q. 2779, states:—

"It has been constructed for over two years, and on one occasion there was a rainfall of 8 inches within a week over that portion of the country, and yet this tank did not fill. I am of opinion, therefore, that the catchment area of this tank is too small."

Q. 3375, 3376, 3377, 3378, 3379, 3380.

The Chairman:—Now with respect to faulty design and defective construction a great deal has been said here; in the first place we have been told that the batters of all these tanks are altogether too steep?

Answer:—There is a good deal of complicated evidence about that. I have read the evidence through, and there seems to be as many witnesses in favour of the steep batters as against them. The general opinion seems to favour the steepest batter consistent with the nature of the soil, and that is what we have endeavoured to carry out. I readily admit that in some of the older tanks, notably those in the Liverpool Plains, at Galathera and Boggy Creek, on the road between Moree and Narrabri, the batters, which are 1 to 1, were far too steep for the nature of the soil. But I am not aware of any other cases where tanks have suffered to any extent from the slopes that have been adopted.

Question:—That is a batter of 2 to 1?

Answer:—Well the batters vary from 2 to 1 to 1½ to 1, and on the Wilcannia and Mt. Brown Roads we adopted a 3 to 1 batter.

Question:—Then who has the discretion of fixing what the slopes shall be?

Answer:—The local officer. He is particularly instructed not to adhere slavishly to specifications in regard to this matter.

Question:—And after sinking the trial shaft has he the discretionary power to order a certain slope which from experience he believes to be desirable?

Answer:—Yes.

Question:—So that no hard and fast rule is carried out in regard to the batters to the tanks?

Answer:—No.

Question:—And never has been?

Answer:—No, never has been.

REPLY.

It is shown in evidence that the batters were as a rule from 1 to 1 to 1½ to 1. In July, 1887, the amended specifications, so far as we can trace, were changed to 2 to 1. It has always been urged by the Department of Mines that any hard and fast rule is wrong; the batters should be adapted to the soil; the use of 2 to 1 in all soil is just as objectionable as 1 to 1. The Boro, Bunghill, and others, besides those named by Mr. Wood, also the 35-mile, Box Creek, Youhl Plain, and Til Til Tanks, are all from 1 to 1 or 1½ to 1, and all in loose soil. The batters at the Gunnaramby and Clare Tanks, two of the latest constructed ones, are reported much cut away.

Mr.

Mr. Wood's evidence.

Mr. Wood now states that no rule for batters is slavishly adhered to, how then is the destruction of the batters of so many tanks to be accounted for except by want of judgment of the character of the soil.

Mr. Wood again says that on the Mt. Brown Road they have adopted 3 to 1 batters. I may state confidently that I have not yet seen a site for a tank where such a batter all round is required.

Mr. Wood also states that their officers are directed by circular not to adhere slavishly to specifications in regard to this matter.

Mr. Road-Superintendent Adams in his evidence, Q. 3841, 3842, states that any alteration he suggested had to be sent to the head office for approval, and that he never did anything without getting the sanction of the head office, and adds on Q. 3850, "I do not remember just now having received a copy of that circular." (See also Mr. Budd's evidence, Q. 2346.)

Q. 3399, 3400.

Question :—With regard to delay in payments, we have been given to understand that this is one of the reasons why contractors ask large prices from the Government?

Answer :—I am inclined to doubt that that can be any reason. There have been no delays in payments except in one or two trivial cases where final payments involving only small amounts have been concerned, and where there has been a hitch between the contractor and the local officer necessitating correspondence and a certain delay consequent thereon.

Question :—Well, we have it in evidence that one man was obliged to go through the insolvent court on account of the difficulty which he experienced in obtaining the balance of the money which was owing to him?

Answer :—I am very sorry to say that a great many of the contractors have become insolvent, but not from that cause. Neither can it be from the reason mentioned by the officers of the Mines Department that the contractors received too much money for the work which they performed for the Government.

REPLY.

Mr. Budd, a contractor under the Works Department, stated in evidence, Q. 2348 :—

"Yes; I was compelled by this delay to borrow money at very high rates, and on one occasion I was obliged by it to go insolvent. This was in the case of the Nullamut Tank; fully six months elapsed before I was able to get the balance of my money, and I was obliged to go insolvent; as soon as I got my money I paid all my creditors and following."

Mr. Wood admits with regret that many of the Works contractors became insolvent, but the evidence before the Commission and the returns given in the Blue Book, pages 213 and 270, by the Works Department of the cost of these works is perhaps sufficient to show that the insolvency is not occasioned by a too rigid economy on the part of the constructing department. It is, perhaps, unfortunate that Mr. Wood or the accountant of the Roads and Bridges were not invited to state precisely what delays do occur, and the longest periods contractors are kept waiting. This investigation, I think, would have been of great value.

Q. 3416.

Question :—We have had witnesses here who stated that in part of the Cobar district 10,000 yard tanks would be ample for all purposes. Mr. Cotton, an official of the Mines Department, said so, and I believe Mr. Chesney gave evidence to the same effect.

Answer :—These tanks were carried out under the Mines Department's recommendation that they should be 20,000 yard tanks.

REPLY.

This is distinctly incorrect as applying generally to the tanks in the Cobar district. Since the two waterholes Nullamut, Tindarie, Corella, Booroomugga, Muriel and Hermitage Tanks were all constructed without recommendations from this Department. Recommendations were made that the tanks between Cobar and Wilcannia should be 20,000 yards, as it was anticipated that this road would be largely used by stock and teams. Helman's and the Cuttygullyaroo Tanks on the Cobar-Bourke road, and the tanks on the Cobar-Louth road, were to the best of my recollection recommended at 15,000 yards. The papers are, however, with the Roads and Bridges.

Q. 3420.

Major Penrose :—Another allegation made with regard to these tanks is that square embankments have been put round when they might have been run out as wings to the hillside?

Answer :—Whenever such features were obtainable we ran out the embankments as wings to the high ground.

REPLY.

As instances where this has not been done I may mention in the Cobar district Shearlegs, Kerrigundi, and Booroodarra Tanks.

Q. 3421.

Chairman :—We find that instead of having tanks of 860,000 gallons capacity we have tanks of 3,000,000 gallons capacity?

Answer :—There would be no use in putting down tanks of 5,000 yards capacity. If you carried that down 18 feet it would be almost, practically speaking, an inverted pyramid. And without you go to 18 feet deep you cannot have permanent water.

REPLY.

Mr. Wood's evidence.

REPLY.

Numbers of tanks constructed by the Works Department are not 18 feet deep, amongst them the following:—

| Tank. | Depth. | Price paid per c. yd. | Tank. | Depth. | Price paid per c. yd. |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Girilambone ... | 15 ft. | .... | Beloura ... | 16 ft. | 1s. 6d. |
| Gilgai ... | 15 ft. | 1s. 4d. | Mulya ... | 16 ft. | .... |
| Shearlegs ... | 15 ft. | 1s. 9d. | Wicklow ... | 12 ft. 6 in. | 1s. 9d. |
| Priory ... | 15 ft. | 1s. 7d. | Boona ... | 17 ft. | 1s. 9d. |
| Keighrans ... | 16 ft. 6 in. | 1s. 7d. | Purnamoota ... | 10 ft. 2 in. | 1s. 6d. |
| Nymagee ... | 15 ft. | 1s. 9d. | Daydream ... | 10 ft. | 1s. 4d. |

The prices per cubic yard paid for these tanks are from a return made by the Works Department, and shown in the Blue Book, page 207. The depths of the tanks, therefore, would not appear to be such an important factor in increasing the prices as Mr. Wood argues. None of these tanks have hitherto been dry.

With reference to Mr. Wood's statement that a 5,000-yard tank is perfectly useless, Mr. Douglas, of Walla Walla Station, states (see a letter from him submitted at page 885 of Mr. Smythe's evidence):—"From 4,000 to 5,000 yards in this district (Albury) is considered a large tank, and quite sufficient to water 7,000 sheep daily through the driest year."

Mr. M'Kinney informs me that Mr. Horsfall, Widgiewa Station, on the Colombo Creek, one of the ablest business men in the district, is now putting down eleven tanks each of 5,000 yards capacity.*

These facts are mentioned as evidence of Mr. Wood's want of accurate knowledge, and in no way as showing that an excavation of that size would be sufficient in most cases as a Public Watering Place.

* Mr. Horsfall has since personally confirmed this to me.

Q. 3422.

Question:—That all depends upon the nature of the rainfall. In the Albury district they have a rainfall of 24 inches.

Answer:—To a certain extent it depends upon the rainfall, but it also depends upon the catchment. They suffered for two years down there from the drought, and there was not a drop of water to be had.

REPLY.

Mr. Douglas, of Walla Walla, states, in his letter (which is submitted), in reply to Mr. Smythe's evidence, page 87, that—

"Before the Walla Walla tank was made a spring existed and still flows across the main road from Jindera to Walla Post Office or township, about $2\frac{2}{3}$ miles south of same, at which spring a large number of the farmers drew their water supply for stock and homesteads. The Billabong Creek (within 3 miles of tank), also, has never actually been dry for very many years—the farmers and residents always being able to obtain water at it in any quantity during the driest season known for twenty-five years."

Q. 3424, 3425.

Major Penrose:—A 5,000-yard tank is a very small one in your opinion?

Answer:—Yes, very small, and perfectly useless.

Chairman:—As this Walla Walla tank was put there apparently for the use of the ordinary traffic, was it not sufficient, seeing that it was not on a stock route;—as this was not a very urgent work, and the rainfall much larger and less uncertain than at other places, I am inclined to think that the allegation, that unnecessary expense was incurred here, was somewhat borne out?

Answer:—Well, the tank we were recommended to construct was 15,000 yards. I should like to put these documents in evidence, as they show that the tank was not constructed at our instance:—

Public Tank at Walla Walla.

I was under the impression, from my knowledge of the district for which the tank is asked, that a considerable amount of both stock and ordinary traffic passes through the proposed site. I requested the local inspector, Mr. Mackay, to report as to this, and also to the places at which water is to be obtained on the road from Albury to Doodle Cooma (one of the cross country roads from the Murray to the Murrumbidgee) in the dry season of the year—Mr. Gilliat's report not having touched fully on these points.

Mr. Mackay reports that there is a large amount of general traffic on this road, but is unable (having only lately been appointed) to state the extent of the stock traffic; and he further says that there is no water in dry seasons available to the public except by sufferance on this stretch of the road, which is about 45 miles in length. It would seem, therefore, that the work applied for should be carried out, especially as it would also meet the requirements of the settlers who sign the memorial; and I would suggest that it be considered in the same class as the other works asked for on the roads from the Murray to the Murrumbidgee—the construction of which, however, should, I think, with Mr. Gilliat, give place in the meantime to the more urgent works in the outlying waterless portions of the Colony where the rainfall is much more uncertain and very much less.

If this be approved, Mr. Day, M.P., might perhaps be informed, and the papers forwarded to the Department of Works.

Stock Branch, 24/10/82.

A. B.

The Under Secretary for Mines.

I do not see that any action can be taken by this Department in this case. The Jindera papers which were given to the Mines some time ago are now required in this office.—W.C.B., 13/11/82.

Mr.

Mr. Wood's evidence, Q. 3425.

Alexander Bruce, Esq., Sydney,—

Sir,

Stock Office Albury, 12 June, 1882.

I have the honor to report that having visited Walla Walla, and inspected reserve No. 730, I would recommend that a tank of say, not less than 5,000 yards be excavated in the south bank of Petrie's Creek at one of two eligible sites between the Walla Walla road and the swamp, and that the earth taken from the tank be used to form two dams across the creek, one to throw the water into the tank, and the other to dam the water in the creek a few hundred yards lower down, where the bed of the creek is wider and deeper.

I would also recommend that the tank be enclosed with a secure sheep and cattle proof fence, and that pumps and troughing be fixed for watering stock, as if they are allowed access to the water, it would soon become unfit for household use.

Yours, &c.,

GEO. H. MACKAY.

I am unable to offer an opinion upon these papers before personally inspecting. I would recommend that the decision with regard to this application be suspended until my return from the west, when I could in three days visit the site proposed and ascertain the amount and character of the traffic to be supplied, and if it then appears desirable the work could be included in the Schedule of new works for 1883.—H.G., 16/6/82.

Alex. Bruce, Esq., Chief Inspector of Stock, Sydney,—

Sir,

Stock Office, Albury, 18 October, 1882.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your B.C., 12/10/82, attached to Mr. Gilliat's report on the application for a public tank at Walla Walla. I regret that I am quite unable to state what amount of stock travel by the route mentioned. But there is a large amount of ordinary traffic, and the Billabong Creek is the only point between Albury and Doodle Cooma where travellers can obtain water in summer time without being dependent on the owners of the adjoining freehold lands. And now the Billabong does not afford sufficient water for any considerable number of stock when accessible from the road in a ordinary dry season.

I am, &c.,

GEO. E. MACKAY.

Q. 3432.

Major Penrose :—Then is this published correspondence with reference to the Walla Walla Tank misleading and incomplete.

Answer :—Yes, in as much as Mr. Bruce's letter does not appear in it.

REPLY.

Mr. Wood puts in papers which he claims authorize the construction of this tank, all that I can trace is that Mr. Bruce while wishing for a tank agrees with me, that it should give place until the more urgent works in the outlying districts have been constructed (*see* my minute, page 144 Blue Book). On page 141 of the Blue Book, Mr. Bruce distinctly states that this tank was undertaken without reference to the Mines, and further adds that the same course was taken with Jindera, Black Swamp, Galathera, and Nymagee Tanks, and this minute is dated 28th October, 1884, or two years later than the paper put in by Mr. Wood, as authorizing the construction of the Walla Walla Tank.

The papers put in by Mr. Wood were not in our possession; were not traced in our search, or they would have been laid before Parliament. There was nothing misleading or incomplete, as far as our knowledge went; and had the Roads and Bridges complied with the order of Parliament, the papers would have appeared.

Q. 3431.

Chairman :—Referring to the published papers from the Mines Department, we see a letter here from Mr. Gilliat, stating that the Walla Walla Tank was unnecessary. He says in a report bearing date 9th October, 1882 :—

“ Bearing in mind the large expenditure required in the dry districts of the Colony, the comparatively good rainfall here and the trifling expense at which water can be conserved by the settlers themselves, and the fact that the construction of a tank here would be taken as a precedent and be followed by numbers of applications for similar works which would be convenient but not absolutely necessary for the well-being of the settlers, I am not prepared to grant this application.”

Answer :—I know that in a letter from Mr. Bruce, dated 24th October, 1882, Mr. Bruce recommends the Works Department to carry out this work on the same plan as others in the Murrumbidgee district.

REPLY.

Mr. Wood gives Mr. Bruce's minute on Q. 3425 of the evidence; but, as previously stated, I fail to see the recommendation it contains. It simply confirms my minute read by the Chairman, and quoted Q. 3431 of the evidence.

See also Mr. Bruce's letter in the Blue Book, page 141, in which he complains that this tank was constructed without reference to the Mines Department.

Q. 3438.

Question :—What is the relative cost of these pumps?

Answer :—The Holman pump, with horse-gear, is £49, delivered in Sydney. The cost of the special Tangye pump is £87 10s., with the boiler. The Amos & Smith pump, horse-gear, costs £52 or £53, and the steam pump £120. The cost of the Appleby pump is about £125.

REPLY.

If the cost of these horse and steam pumps is so small, what is the explanation of the cost of headworks given in the return made by the Works Department on pages 271 and 272 of the Blue Book, for “ machinery, troughing, and service tank,” where they range from £271. to £379, an average cost of £532, and this includes works where we are not aware if the final payments have been made.

Mr.

Mr. Wood's evidence, Q. 3443.

Mr. Woore :—Then there is the cost of harness, feed, and so forth for the horse?

Answer :—Yes; we have found that in the timbered districts, where we only erect steam-pumps, in regard to cost, these steam gear-pumps are cheaper than horse-pumps. The Mines Department are paying now (and we have had to do the same) their caretakers as much as 10s. per diem, while the men who take charge of the steam-pumps only receive from 7s. to 7s. 6d. per day.

REPLY.

Where horses are kept both horse and harness are found by the caretaker without expense to the Department, and where the paddocks are fenced no allowance for forage is granted.

Mr. Wood's statement with respect to the wages paid by the Mines Department to their caretakers is so misleading that I submit a list of the different rates and the number of men employed at each. Out of seventy-two caretakers it will be seen that five only receive over 8s. per diem, and two only 10s. per diem:—1 at £6 per annum, 2 at 3s. per day, 1 at 6s. per day, 6 at 6s. 6d. per day, 26 at 7s. per day, 3 at 7s. 6d. per day, 28 at 8s. per day, 3 at 9s. per day, 2 at 10s. per day; total, 72.

This rate of wages covers everything, no further allowance being made.

Q. 3462.

Question :—Then there is nothing for it but to allow the caretaker to retain his easy billet?

Answer :—No; nothing.

REPLY.

The intention of the Mines Department to lease these watering places appears to have been lost sight of; this is being done as fast as surveys are completed and notified, and fencing erected. The following memorandum gives a list of those leased and the rentals obtained, and a list is also given of those for which tenders are at present invited:—

Booororban, £85; Two Waterholes, £52; Boggy Creek, £78; Ledknapper, £110; 48-Mile, £50; Kerrigundi, £50; Booroomugga, £40; Crows Nest, £40; Berrigan, £20; Roto, £23; Gilgai, £30; Boorondarra, £50; Babinda, £40; Corella, £40; Yentabangee, £30; Goonery, £60; Pretty Pine, £40; Hovell's, £30; Girilambone, £10; 12-Mile, £57; Tom's Lake, £51; Shearlegs, £50; North Roto, £21; Dry Lake W., £35; Thorndale, £50; Lowesdale, £52; The Lake, £50; Claypan, £53; 18-Mile, £52; Muriel, £55; Youhl Plain, £40; Colombo, £50; Galathera, £126; Murray Hut, £20; Ford's Bridge, £80; Nullamut, £52 10s.; Walla, £50; Nevertire, £60.

The following are under offer:—Jindera, Peak, Brura, Keighran's, Cowrallic, Mount Elliot, Mowabla, Boona, Box Creek, Peri Springs, Cuttygullyaroo, Nymagee (let £100), Beloura, Pulletop (let £40), Wicklow, Glendon, 26-Mile, Priory, Tindarie, Curraweena, Ulong (let £40), Mombil, Tinda, Newell's Dam. Leased, 41; Under offer, 21.

Q. 3465 and 3466.

Chairman :—Is it not a fact that at all these public watering places paddocks are fenced in for the use of the caretakers?

Answer :—Yes; at most of the watering places paddocks are fenced in for the use of the caretaker or lessee.

Question :—Consequently if the caretaker or lessee chooses to allow horses and cattle in the owners must pay an agistment rate?

Answer :—Yes.

REPLY.

The fencing is not so much for the caretakers as to induce tenants to obtain better rentals, and as an inducement to rent. The caretakers, in cases where it is desired, are authorized to claim a rate for agistment, and the fees are paid to the Colonial Treasurer.

Q. 3467 and 3468.

Question :—Can you suggest any means of employing these men by which this army of caretakers can be made to earn their wages?

Answer :—Taking the average of the men, they are really earning their wages now.

Question :—In what way?

Answer :—Although a man may not have enough work to keep him constantly going during the whole time he is stationed at a tank, yet he has to be constantly on the watch. There is no necessity to employ young and active men. What these tanks want are men who are about half fit to go into the Benevolent Asylum; not men who are blind, but men who can go and dodge about like our maintenance men, patching up little things here and there. These are men who are past their prime, and are yet well able to do the work allotted to them. They could go about cleaning out drains, filling in ruts in the embankments, and fettling up the work done. Cleaning out the silt-tank is also a part of the caretaker's duty; and then in times of heavy rain they are on the spot, and if they are only watchful they can save perhaps in an hour or two what might be the value of their wages for the entire year.

REPLY.

Old men for caretakers.—These men are constantly liable to be called upon to perform exceptionally heavy work. As shown by the evidence given by the officers of the Works Department, they have to clean out silt-tanks, keep 5 or 6 miles of drains constantly clean from the effect of dust-storms or from silting after rain. The care of the fencing, embankments, and machinery; in addition to the service of the water, is quite sufficient to keep the most active man employed.

Mr.

Mr. Wood's evidence.

(*Mr. Woore* :—With regard to the caretakers' time not being fully occupied, might not that argument be applied to the police, who are sometimes whole weeks without having anything to do?

Answer :—Yes, I should think so.) I believe, although we are blamed for sticking to a hard and rule, if the Mines Department had not stuck to another hard and fast rule in regard to these lease areas, they could have done a great deal better with the fencing. Originally it was intended that only 200 acres should be fenced in, and stipulations were made out giving the caretakers certain rights. What I now understand is that the conditions have never been altered; and that although 640 acres have now been fenced in, there is no less inducement given to the caretaker or lessee than when the area was only 200 acres.

REPLY.

I do not understand to what this refers, but I am unaware of any stipulation giving caretakers certain rights. Caretakers are allowed to run a horse, and six sheep for rations, and in cases, if married men, a cow. The rights to tenants are fully shown in the Regulations, under which the lessee has no restrictions as to the use of his leasehold except to regulate the charges for water and to prevent overstocking.

Q. 3471 and 3472.

Question :—And the caretakers in most instances are able-bodied young men?

Answer :—Yes.

Question :—That being the case, how would the tanks fare when even able-bodied young men do not keep them in proper order; would they be kept in proper order by old men?

Answer :—Yes; because an able-bodied man is more independent than an old man. On the other hand, an old man will do work which would entitle him to be kept in his situation. These young men are rather fresh, and when they get a few pounds together it is a matter of perfect indifference to them whether they leave or remain on duty.

REPLY.

This is not our experience. We have very few resignations, and the registrar of applicants is far in excess of vacancies, fifteen resignations having occurred since January, 1886, and the majority of these were upon reduction of wages.

Q. 3475.

Question :—We have had various complaints from the Mines Department and from independent witnesses also that your fencing is excessively costly?

Answer :—You will excuse me for a moment before we drop the other subject. I have drawn your attention to Mr. Gilliat's approval to this very type of pump that we used. In his evidence before the Royal Commission for the Conservation of Water he states that the Tangye pump is one of the most simple and effective pumps he has ever seen, and that, with the few renewals in the shape of bucket leathers, it was such a pump as could be worked by any ordinary bush hand.

REPLY.

Unfortunately, Mr. Wood does not give the whole of my statement, which reads :—

“My view was to get the simplest gear, which was the double whip, but that was disapproved of, and the present Tangye pump substituted.

“Is that pump effective? Yes, it is an excellent pump; with occasional repacking it will stand very well, and is sufficiently strong to bear the rough treatment of the men we employ.” (See page 139 of the first report of the Water Conservation Commission.)

I also say on page 263 of the Blue Book, under date 1st February, 1884:—

“It appears that pumps are being supplied, and, the Department has been informed, are in some places already erected, so that before long practical evidence of their efficiency will be obtained. My own experience is so largely in favor of the simplest machinery that I have considered it my duty to urge the adoption of a form that can be easily repaired by the class of men usually obtained as caretakers.” (See also my reply to Mr. Bennett's evidence, Q. 3209.)

Q. 3477 and 3478.

Mr. Wood states:—Our instructions for these fences came originally from the Mines Department. Mr. Bruce, who was then in charge of this particular branch, recommended fences with six wires and a top rail for the tanks in the leasehold areas.

Question :—For the caretakers' paddocks as well as the tanks?

Answer :—Yes; for the lease area. Mr. Gilliat, in a letter of 16th October, 1883, recommends that the fences should be of a substantial character, and sheep proof; the posts to be not more than 8 feet 6 inches from centre to centre, and a top-rail where timber is plentiful.

REPLY.

This is so far correct; but the following important paragraph in my letter is not quoted, viz.:

“Seven wires, the two top ones of No. 6 gauge, where timber is not obtainable.”

Why does Mr. Wood defend the class of fence so warmly if the Mines Department is responsible, as Mr. Wood implies.

Mr.

Mr. Wood's evidence, Q. 3482.

Mr. Woore :—Was it the duty of the Public Works Department to decide what sort of fencing you were to put up, or did you act as in the case of the tanks merely to carry out the suggestions of the Mines Department?

Answer :—We acted to the best of our judgment on general lines. We were instructed to enclose certain areas of land. We had a certain type of fence recommended to us by the Mines Department, and finding that type too expensive, we adopted another that was less expensive and I think equally serviceable.

REPLY.

I maintain the type of fence even as now erected is more expensive than that recommended by this Department, and I fail to see where the expense has been lessened, bearing in mind the prices paid by the Works Department; and further, by his statement, Mr. Wood relieves the Mines Department of any responsibility in the cost of fencing by admitting that his Department had adopted another and a different type from economical motives. But perhaps the most conclusive reply to Mr. Wood is to quote the following specification for fencing, upon which I am informed he is now having tenders called* in the Silverton district, and which is a close approximation to the fencing we recommended.

Comparison is invited between the specifications submitted by the Works Department to the Commission as their standard specifications and the one herewith :—

“Amended Specification for fencing tenant's leases at Silverton, Daydream, Purnamoota, Rathole, and Thackeringa tanks.

“Posts to be 5 inches diameter smallest end (except Mulga, for which 4 inches diameter will be taken), 6 feet long, 20 inches in ground. Strainers every 25 panels 6½ feet long, 2 feet in ground. Corner posts 6 inches diameter, 7 feet long, sunk 2½ feet in ground, and securely strutted from top of post to foot of first post of each side, wires to be drawn through struts. Two posts for slip rails 8 inches diameter, 7 feet long, 12 feet apart, with 4-inch slip rails neatly fixed in mortices 3 inches deep, 3 inches by 4 inches. Posts 12 feet apart from centre to centre, seven wires, top wire No. 6, remaining six wires No. 8 steel. Two gate posts to be provided, 8 feet long 9 inches diameter, sunk 3 feet.

“Tenders to state a price per chain, also a bulk sum for the whole of the works.

“In all things not herein specified, contractors to be bound by the printed general conditions hereto attached.

“Time for completion of each work three months from date of agreement.

“Approximate length required at each tank, 400 chains.”

* The fencing has been let since the above was written.—J. W. B.

Q. 3485.

Question :—Mr. Low says in another place in his evidence that he would estimate the wire at £30 per mile and the posts and so forth at £26 per mile, which would make the cost just £56 per mile, and just exactly half what was given by the Works Department?

Answer :—It is a funny thing that Mr. Low—yes, he is the gentleman—in 1887 fared no better than we did. I think he called for tenders for a fence at Ivanhoe in connection with the lease area there, and for a similar style of fencing, which has now been erected, the tender he received was £100 per mile. He received another at £75 per mile, but that involved a modification of the design of the specification.

REPLY.

There can be no comparison such as Mr. Wood endeavours to institute. Mr. Low, at my direction, called for 22 chains or a ¼ of a mile of new fencing. No contractor would tender for so small a job at the price he would take for one ten or twenty times larger. But even by Mr. Wood's own showing the prices were below that given by the Works Department for the whole of their fencing at this place.

The tender of £100 per mile was for 4½ chains of the same specifications as used by the Works Department.

The tender of £75 per mile did not involve any modification and was for a fence of the same specification as used by the Works Department, except that the posts were only 2 feet in the ground. These tenders were excessive and were refused by the Mines Department, although £37 per mile less than that accepted by the Works Department. (See also Blue Book, page 129.)

Q. 3486.

Question :—Was the gauge of wire used suggested by Mr. Bruce?

Answer :—No; Mr. Bruce suggested a top-rail, but that was merely round the main works, the top-rail was also recommended by Mr. Gilliat.

REPLY.

Yes; but only where timber is plentiful. See my reply to evidence, Q. 3478.

Q. 3492.

Chairman :—Why did you use this exclusively heavy wire for caretaker's paddocks as well as for the tanks?

Answer :—Simply because the fence was required for cattle as well as for sheep; we thought a top wire would offer greater resistance and would be better safeguard. With a fine wire cattle would not be baulked in the same way as they would with a No. 4.

Question :—

Mr. Wood's evidence, Q. 3493.

Question :—Do squatters in fencing public stock routes use such heavy wire?

Answer :—No, I am aware they do not, but I think there is a great difference between the two cases. In one case you have a station paddock, supposing the stock route is fenced—and in a bad season station paddocks are little better than stock routes; in the other cases you have a special lease area where the caretaker is only allowed to put in a very limited number of stock, and where in all probability there is far better feed than on the stock route. Again, these fences are in close proximity to the watering places, and when cattle are being watered they rush about, perhaps being drafted, and consequently a stronger fence is required than would be needed under ordinary conditions.

REPLY.

Mr. Wood attempts to draw a distinction between public watering places paddocks and station paddocks. I think there can be no doubt, as a matter of fact, that station horse and cattle paddocks are liable to quite as rough usage as any T. L. paddock, and I have never heard of the use of No. 4 wire upon any station either in this Colony or Victoria, where No. 8 is looked upon as sufficient, but to be absolutely secure I recommended top wires of No. 6, two gauges heavier. See my letter partially quoted by Mr. Wood, evidence Q. 3478 and my reply.

The Works Department, however, without reference to the Mines, adopted the still heavier gauge of No. 4—and curiously Mr. Wood, in his answer to Mr. Woore's question, Q. 3482, says that "finding that type (recommended by the Mines) too expensive, we adopted another less expensive, and I think equally serviceable," or in other words Mr. Wood alleges that he adopted a heavier type of fence from motives of economy.

Q. 3493 and 3494.

Mr. Wood states :—There is one extraordinary thing that I would like to point out, that as far back as 1883, when I travelled with Mr. Gilliat to hand over some of these works to him, he expressed himself as perfectly satisfied with all the appliances and in fact with everything pertaining to the tanks, and in the presence of Mr. Cronin, the local officer at Deniliquin, he stated that nothing could be more perfect. Now we have to deal with an altered view altogether.

Question :—You think that Mr. Gilliat has grown wiser as he has grown older.

Answer :—It is possible.

REPLY.

The following extracts from my private journal will I think sufficiently traverse this extreme statement of Mr. Wood's. Mr. Wood is first in error in stating that he travelled with me in 1883. I met Mr. Wood by appointment in Deniliquin on 14th November, 1884. The first tank that was inspected by us in company with Mr. Overseer M'Cullough and Mr. Road Superintendent Cronin, was the Black Swamp tank. I quote from my journal :—

"I am very well pleased with it, Mr. Cronin, the constructing officer, deserves great credit; it is the best tank I have seen of the Works Department's construction."

On the 18th November, 1884, we inspected the Boooroorban tank. I quote from my journal :—
"Found on inspection the work at the tank connected with lifting machinery in a very slovenly state, and when we found this morning the water literally running out of the service tank, Wood said he would not ask me to take it over. We then started for the 16-mile Gums and found the pump there was jammed and would not work. Assistant Engineer Gordon at Hay, is in charge of these works, both at Pine Ridge (Boooroorban) and the Gums, and all the new work is of the most slovenly description. Even in the rails of troughing the tar has been put on over the bark. In one case the galvanised iron of the troughing has been nailed over the bark. The transfer of this withheld until put in working order."

On the 22nd November, 1884, I started to inspect Wooloondool well. I extract from my journal :—
"Found no horse to work the whim, although Gordon's assistant said he had arranged for one, consequently we were unable to test the supply and have to defer doing so until our return."

I then went on to the One Tree tank. I quote from my journal :—
"Found no horse waiting to work the pump. Service tank three quarters full and appears quite tight. The troughing and service tank are excellently finished, the pump well set, neatly covered in and worked readily with Wood and self at the arms. The wire of fencing has not been strained. No gate left for the admission of a horse to the pump (horse-power) and the old watering tank is left unfenced. Wood agreed at once to have these things remedied. The down pipe is buoyed with a cask, but the main tank is filled over the level, so that we could not examine suction joint or down pipe."

On 23rd November, 1884, I inspected the Quandongs. I extract from my journal :—
"Troughing good, and good height for stock to water at. Service tank about two-thirds full; groom reports it as leaking if filled higher. Wood is to arrange to have all service tanks filled on our way down. The wire of fence wants straining and two new wires rove, this is to be done also at One Tree. Gate for admission of horse to the pump. Fence to be carried clear of embankment of horse walk. The pump works easily, but the piston wants packing. The foot-valve is not on, pump not cased in, nor embankments graded around horse walk. The old watering tank is not fenced, the earth has been washed away from the posts of its wing fence. Altogether Mr. Gordon's work has been done in a very slovenly manner. Wood has promised to have all rectified at once."

On November 24th, 1884, I inspected Toms Lake tank. I quote from my journal :—
"We found this tank in an unfinished state, and Wood withdrew it from the transfer list."

I further extract from my journal :—
"From here (Toms Lake) on to the Lignum Hut with well and windmill not ready for delivery, then on to Mossiel tank. * * Inside drain too close to excavation, and earth piled far too near to edge. Service tank full and tight. Troughing full and tight, although badly nailed, having
no

Mr. Wood's evidence.

no lead washer under many nail heads; put in Keighran's horse, but he was awkward, and pump did not work well. Took provisional delivery. Wood engaging to see all things wanting made good, and to extend fencing to include silt tank to high level inlet, gates, &c."

Returning on 27th November, 1884, I quote from my journal:—

"Passing Quandongs, found nothing had been done towards filling service tank, and so we left it until Gordon arranges to have it ready for delivery. No foot-valve on."

28th November, 1884, I extract from my journal:—

"Found One-tree service tank filled, a little drip, the maintenance man reports it slow to fill. On reaching Wooloondool we found Gordon's man had one of the buckets jammed at the bottom of the well; after watching them trying to get it out we gave up and left it with the contractor and a man he brought out, and postponed transfer till it is in proper order."

On 3rd December, 1884, I left Jerilderie with Mr. Wood to inspect Berrigan and Murray Hut wells. I quote from my journal:—

"Murray Hut well, placed on site selected, depth of shaft 123 feet, depth of water 17 feet. The whim and all timber work of the best description. Horse walk well made. Capital shaft, double timbered, copper fastened all the way down. Head works excellent. Buckle plate iron service tank, 25 x 25 x 5 feet, on cement piers, painted grey outside, tarred inside. Troughing and fencing better than any I have seen yet—red gum and galvanized iron. Water first-class. Took delivery from to-day. Berrigan well is not quite completed, and is a sister work to the Murray Hut; these two works are most creditable to Cronin."

On the 5th December, 1884, I left Hay again to see if the 16-mile Gums tank pumping appliances were yet ready for transfer, with Mr. Wood and Mr. Gordon's assistant, Mr. Elkin. I quote from my diary:—

"After trying for two hours to get out the piston of the pump, Wood decided to send another to be fitted."

On 12th December, 1884, I went out with Mr. A. P. Wood to North Roto well. I quote from my journal:—

"We drove out 16 miles to inspect North Roto well, a very good piece of work, but the shaft has not been inspected, and the work is not ready for transfer."

On 13th December, 1884, I inspected the Roto well with Mr. Wood. I quote from my diary:—

"Workmanship, whim, and headworks strong, but of slovenly finish. Horse-arm badly fitted into spindle, and chamfered too much at bow end. Gudgeon cap too small on samson post or foot piece, giving too little bearing on samson post. Service tank-iron of lighter gauge than standard, nailed on without washers, and a good deal of timber unbarked. Wood-work fairly substantial, but not picked or neat. Troughing galvanized iron nailed without washers. Red gum timber side pieces very light, not more than half the usual dimensions. Sleepers 6 x 6 instead of 9 x 9. Joints not broken on sleepers, but loosely chocked with small blocks of pine. Several saw cuts in lengths filled up with slats fitted in and tarred over. The worst job I have seen. Fencing: sawn gum on the two-railed side; on the other, crooked round saplings fitted so low that sheep in many places cannot water. Shaft had not been examined by the inspecting officer; neither Wood nor myself will inspect with present wire ropes, and men refuse to work below with them. Wood has not asked me to take delivery, at which I am better pleased, as I should have been obliged to condemn the work."

On 14th December, 1884. I quote from my diary:—

"Left Hillston at 3.20 p.m. Inspected Crows Nest well. The work so bad Wood refused to ask me to take it over."

On 15th December, 1884. I quote from my journal:—

"I inspected and tested Old Gunbar well. I find whim and all headworks strong and substantial. Wire rope. Rope rides badly, with great friction on drum. One gin wheel requires raising."

"Service tank substantial, but leaking slightly on bottom, water very brackish; Keighran's horse refused to drink it. Troughing inferior. Light side timber indifferently levelled; good height for watering all stock; leaking slightly in places. Fencing strong, workmanship middling. Took delivery of Gunbar, subject to analysis."

On the same day I inspected the Dry Lake well. I quote from my diary:—

"Had a look at the Dry Lake well; buckets down the shaft (rope broken), and so withdrawn."

On 18th December, 1884, I again, and for the third time, inspected Wooloondool well with Mr. Wood, and tested the supply. I quote from my journal:—

"The timber work, drum, spindle and horse-arm poppet heads, &c., all good and substantial; bumpers want refitting, and alterations; the gin-wheels are on the same level, one requires raising; bucket valves, both defective and require replacing; buckets have only single lugs; battens require renailing in shaft. Service tank good and substantial; troughing ditto, but wants shoot from service tank. Water supply ample; with two hours bailing only lowered water about 18 inches; depth of shaft, 90 feet. Directed Keighran to put caretaker in charge with a horse."

The Commissioners will observe from these extracts that, of the fifteen works inspected, two in Mr. Cronin's district, the Black Swamp and Murray Hut, were taken over, and special credit given to Mr. Cronin. The Wooloondool well was also taken over, while the Mossgiel tank and Old Gunbar well were accepted provisionally. Thus, out of fifteen works inspected, five were taken over, the remainder were either condemned, or withdrawn by Mr. Wood, as not being in fit order for transfer. I am at a loss to conceive how Mr. Wood can reconcile his statement to the Commissioners with these notes from my diary, written at the time the works were inspected.

With reference to the Commissioners suggestion that "Mr. Gilliat has grown wiser as he has grown older," I beg to say that I trust I have, but that my judgment at the time was correct is proved by the fact that those works to which I gave special approval in Mr. Cronin's district, are the ones at which this Department has been put to no expense or trouble for repairs.

The extracts from my journal can be verified if desired by the Commission.

Mr.

Mr. Wood's evidence, Q. 3500 and 3504.

Mr. Woore :—Well, will you give us some information about this interference ?

Answer :—I know there has been a good deal of ill-feeling, particularly in the Hay district, in consequence of the reports that Mr. Stillwell, in the course of his duty, has been obliged to send in in regard to the neglect of the men employed under the Mines Department.

* * * * *

Question :—Is that all you have to say upon the subject ?

Answer :—Well, I think that that is the only district where this so-called friction with the field officer has been complained of.

REPLY.

Mr. Wood's admission that the Hay district is the only one where this friction is complained of, is at least suggestive that their officer is to a large extent responsible. While the tone and manner adopted by Mr. Stillwell in his written communications, and which is apparent in a very marked manner in the papers he read before the Commission containing allegations unsupported by a shadow of evidence, will perhaps afford the Commission a sufficient explanation of how the friction arose.

Q. 3505.

Question :—What did you find fault with ?

Answer :—With the utter neglect of public works. The drains were fouled and silted up, the pumping machinery was neglected, and worked without oil, and all the appurtenances neglected.

REPLY.

Mr. Wood's charges against the caretakers on his trip referred to, and the facts of each case after investigation will be found in the Blue Book, pages 240 and seq. He appears now to have added to them, as no complaints were made previously by him with respect to drains.

Q. 3506.

Question :—Was it the duty of a caretaker as a rule to clean out the silt tank, because there is a great deal of correspondence here about cleaning out the silt tank at Merri Merriwa ?

Answer :—Yes ; that is at page 167 of the Mines papers. Mr. Gilliat wrote a minute on a paper to this effect :—

“The cleaning out of these works will, I suppose, have to rest with the Works Department. No further action can be taken by this Department.”

This was in 1886 ; yet in 1887, when we cleaned out this silt tank, Mr. Gilliat states :—

“It is of course very probable, owing to the wet season, that the caretaker has been obliged to wait until the tank is dry enough to clean it out ; but it will be observed on S7-4648 that the contractor engaged by the Works Department is compelled to do the same. But the main point, which does not appear to occur to the officers of the Works Department, is that any proven neglect on the part of the caretaker can hardly be regarded as a justification for expending public money on a contract to do work that should properly be performed by a public servant ; and that a due regard for the Public Service would have led them to show to this Department that the caretakers duties were neglected.”

REPLY.

Here Mr. Wood endeavours to convert a minute of mine, on page 167 of the Blue Book, written upon the *cleaning out of the main tank at the 48 mile, reported to have 7 feet of silt in it*, into a contradiction of what I state in my minute on the Merri Merriwa silt tank. Merely reading the papers will show that they refer to entirely different matters. One is to the practical re-excavation of a main tank of some 18,000 cubic yards ; the other relates to the caretaker's job with a silt pit at the Merri Merriwa tank. So long as construction remains with the Works Department, the first is as clearly for them to undertake as the cleaning of a silt pit is for the caretaker. But I must express my surprise at Mr. Woods making such a statement in his evidence.

Q. 3495 and 3496.

Question :—There is another very grave charge made against your Department, and it is that you spend enormous sums of money in putting up gates that were utterly beyond the requirements, gates for instance to caretaker's paddocks in which there is neither ingress or egress except for the caretaker's own horse. Why was this done ?

Answer :—We have simply as I have said before acted under instructions. Some of the local officers will prove that Mr. Gilliat, on the very trip I am alluding to, referred to this very question, and recommended, I think at Cuttygullyaroo if I remember aright, that a gate should be put in. But there is nothing particularly expensive about this style of gate.

Question :—It cost £15.

Answer :—Yes, but these gates were not let singly, and you cannot pick them out of a tender.

REPLY.

Gates are always required, but not at £15 each. The question is why was it necessary to put up expensive 12 ft. gates and a double set of slip panels to paddocks which are intended chiefly for caretaker's or lessees stock. Or why erect 12 ft. gates for admission to the tank enclosure, as at Jindera, Daysdale, and Lowesdale (although Mr. Wood says it only occurred at one place in the Albury District), where no stock, except the caretaker's horse to work the pump is admitted.

It was frequently necessary for me to recommend that gates should be put in. In the extracts from my diary just previously quoted, Q. 3493, it will be found that at both Quandongs and One-tree tank that a gate was required to admit a horse to the pump. The

Mr. Wood's evidence.

The Assistant Engineer having made no provisions to enable a horse to enter without cutting the wires. The question of cost was never touched upon. As a matter of fact at that time I was quite unaware of what was being paid. With respect to the description of gates I have on more than one occasion pointed out to Mr. Wood, and different local road Superintendents that two 6 ft. gates instead of one 12 ft. would be both cheaper and more durable.

I am now informed that two 6 ft. gates are now being used at the new paddocks at Lowesdale and Daysdale.

Q. 3511.

Question :—There has been some complaint made about the greasing of service tanks, that a certain substance has been used which has so affected the water that stock will not drink it.

Answer :—I may state that the composition which we used was a mixture of tar, pitch, and tallow, in the proportion of one gallon of tar to one pound of pitch and two of tallow. This composition was recommended to me when I met Mr. M'Kinney, the Engineer to the Water Commission, down at Hay some time ago. He stated that the composition was a very serviceable one for the purpose, and on the strength of his recommendation we tried it. For the first few days it did produce a film upon the water, but the second water that ran into the tank has never been deteriorated in the slightest degree, as the composition became hard on the tank.

REPLY.

In reply to Mr. Wood's statement I beg to submit a letter from Mr. M'Kinney upon this subject :—

(P.W.P. 88-2599)

To H. A. Gilliat, Esq., Chief Inspector of P. W. Places, Mines Department, Sydney,—

Sir,

Mines Department, Sydney, 5th April, 1888.

I have the honor to bring to your notice that the Royal Commissioners who are investigating matters connected with public tanks and wells appear to be under a misapprehension regarding a report which I submitted to the late Royal Commission on the conservation of water. In the evidence of Mr. W. C. Bennett, Commissioner and Engineer-in-Chief for Roads, that gentleman pays me the compliment of mentioning that the idea of using a certain mixture for the preservation of iron was suggested by a report of mine on public works in Victoria. The words of my report were quoted by Mr. Bennett, and altogether no exception can be taken to the manner in which my name was introduced. Yet, judging from a subsequent question put by one of the Commissioners, it is clear that they obtained an entirely incorrect impression of my position in the matter. When Mr. Bennett mentioned that the use of the composition had been discontinued out of deference to the wishes of the Mines Department, one of the Commissioners added the remark, "Although it was recommended by their own officer." Now, in the first place, I wish to call attention to the fact that I did not recommend the composition referred to; I described it as having been used with success under certain conditions in Victoria. If I had had an opportunity of giving it a trial under similar circumstances I should have done so, but I have not had any such opportunity.

Again, the Commissioners stated not only that the composition had been recommended, but "by their own officer." As you are aware I did not enter the service of the Mines Department till more than a year after the report referred to was written; and since entering the Department, so far from recommending anything for use at Government tanks, I have not even seen one of them, and am therefore not in a position to state whether the circumstances under which the composition referred to in this Colony corresponded with the circumstances under which it was successfully used in Victoria.

I have, &c.,

H. G. M'KINNEY, M.I.C.E.

I may add to this statement that it will be seen, on the merest reference to the paragraph in the report of Mr. M'Kinney to the Water Commission, that the conditions under which the composition was reported as being used, are entirely different from those under which it was authorised by Mr. Bennett; in the one it was used in an open flume, and applied in hot weather, when the channel was not in use, the composition assuming a glassy surface, and not affecting the taste of the water. As employed by Mr. Bennett, it was applied to the interior of service tanks and troughing, being daily filled with water for stock, and in some cases for domestic use, and did, as repeatedly reported, affect the taste of the water.

Mr. A. P. Wood states in evidence, Q. 3511 :—

"This composition was recommended to me when I met Mr. M'Kinney, the engineer for the Water Commission, down at Hay some time ago. He stated that the composition was a very serviceable one, and on the strength of his recommendation we tried it."

He further states, in a minute dated 28th March, 1887 :—

"I may state the receipt was given me by Mr. M'Kinney as being one that produced a good coat for the purpose sought."

Mr. M'Kinney's letter does not appear to deal with these particular statements; he should, perhaps, be asked to reply to them.—J.W.B., 2/5/88. The Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places.

Forwarded to Mr. M'Kinney for any further remarks he may desire to make.—H.G., 3/5/88.

Mr. Wood's recollection of the facts in this case is certainly at fault. I met Mr. Wood at Hay a short time after the publication of the second report of the Water Commission, and lent him a copy of that report. I knew nothing whatever about the tanks on which the composition was used until I heard of them in connection with the present inquiry; and I certainly did not recommend its use under such circumstances. I have a tolerably accurate recollection of what took place when Mr. Wood borrowed the report from me, and I am almost certain that no conversation took place about the contents of it, and that the composition was not referred to.—H. G. M'KINNEY, 7/5/88. To the Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places.

It will be seen that Mr. Wood states distinctly that this composition was recommended to him by Mr. M'Kinney, in Hay, who informed him, "it was a very serviceable one for the purpose, and on the strength of his recommendation we tried it." This, however, is very different evidence from that of Mr. Bennett, on Q. 3257, who says, referring to the same composition, "I do not say it was used entirely upon his (Mr. M'Kinney's) recommendation, because the mixture was known to our Department long before."

The Commissioners will observe that in Mr. M'Kinney's postscript to the annexed letter, he states he is confident that he not only did not recommend the use of this composition, but also asserts that he is almost certain no conversation took place about the contents of the second Report of the Water Commission which had been borrowed from him by Mr. Wood, and where the composition and the way in which it was used

Mr. Wood's evidence.

used is reported, and finally the Commissioners will observe upon comparison of the ingredients that the composition which Mr. Wood asserts was recommended by Mr. M'Kinney is not the same either in the substances or in their proportions as that contained in Mr. M'Kinney's report to the Water Commission. Mr. M'Kinney's mixture was prepared in the following manner:—2 lb. tallow; 2 lb. resin; 1 gallon tar. Mr. Wood's mixture:—2 lb. tallow; 1 lb. pitch; 1 gallon tar.

Q. 3517 and 3519.

Question:—It was not a case of failure?

Answer:—No; they made a great deal here about our having paid a man £6 a week to do certain work. Well, this man makes periodical trips up the stock route, putting the horse-gear and other things into working order. He is a travelling mechanic employed by us, and as he was passing along he was instructed by the local officer to put this composition on the tank. There is no doubt that this man was paid £6 per week for his job, but considering it only took a day to do the work it was really much cheaper than sending a man a long distance to do it.

* * * * *

Major Penrose:—In this matter of putting composition on the tanks were the officers of your Department within their proper sphere?

Answer:—We considered we were within our proper sphere, because there had been a great many conflicting opinions expressed as to where the line of demarcation was drawn between the two Departments. We had been called in on so many occasions to effect trivial repairs that ought to have been carried out by the caretakers themselves, that we felt perfectly justified in adopting this course to protect public property.

REPLY.

The argument used by Mr. Wood to justify the employment of a man at £6 per week, namely, that it was cheaper to employ him than to send one a long distance to do this work, is not sound, as it was part of the duty of our caretaker to put on the coating adopted by this Department. Mr. Wood further says that his Department felt justified in taking this action to protect public property. He has, however, failed to show that there was any necessity for this protection, nor has any evidence been advanced by the Works to prove that it was necessary. (See Blue Book, pages 46-48.)

The Commissioners will observe that our objections were again equally against the use of an unsuitable composition that was entirely unnecessary and the employment of a skilled mechanic at a high rate of wages to do what the caretaker was both able and instructed to carry out where required.

Appendix 14.

Mr. A. P. Wood's minute upon the use of a composition for coating service tanks, &c., dated 28th March, 1887, was put in by him in evidence.

REPLY.

With reference to this minute of Mr. Wood's, the paper is now seen as given in evidence for the first time by this Department. By referring to the Blue Book, page 48, it appears that no reply was ever received from the Works Department to our letter of 24th February, 1887, protesting against the use of this composition.

Q. 3541.

Mr. A. P. Wood's evidence. Fencing T.L. areas, states:—But then if the matter had been left to the Lands Department, this extra mileage expense would not have been incurred, because the officers of the Lands Department would have the power to go beyond the stock route, and on to the Crown lands adjoining.

REPLY.

This practice was adopted at least a year ago, and I am under the impression the Works Department were informed of it officially.

Q. 3543.

Question:—It is stated that the head gear is all erected on the site of the well before anything else is done. Can you give us any information with regard to this?

Answer:—In the first place the contract is let in bulk as you have just stated. The contract includes the sinking of the well, and the erection of head gear, but the practise is not to allow the contractor to put up head works until the water is found, and its quality proved. Trial shafts are, as a rule, put down, and if they are not put down the head works have, except in one case, not been erected till the finding of the water. It is cheaper to let the whole work in a lump sum in this way, &c. * * *

REPLY.

I do not think it has been stated by this Department that "the head gear is all erected on the site of the well before anything else is done."

Our contention is stated in the following terms:—

"Faulty construction of wells, sinking, timbering, and centering of shafts, erection of head works, whims, service tank, and troughing before testing for supply and quality of water."

Nor have objections been raised to the letting of contracts in bulk for wells, but to the erection of the head works, &c., before the quality and supply of water has been tested. That this has been done is sufficiently shown by the head works at Old Gunbar, Holy Box, Willandra, Dolmoreve and Baloola, and J.K. Wells, at which there is either no supply or water unfit for human consumption, and in some cases quite unfit for stock.

Mr.

Mr. Wood's evidence, Q. 3544.

Question :—What instance is that you speak of where head works were allowed to be erected before the water was found ?

Answer :—I was referring to a case on the Mount Brown Road.

REPLY.

And yet Mr. Wood admits, Q. 3545 and 3549, this was done also at Baloola, and says that it would have been a decidedly preferable course to have adopted boring before sinking the main shaft.

Q. 3545.

Question :—That work has not been handed over yet ?

Answer :—No. It was stated by one witness that the Normanstone well was a case in point, but the Normanstone well had no head-works at all.

REPLY.

It does not appear that this Department has stated that headworks were erected at Normanstone. My evidence clearly referred to an individual case, and stated the well had been abandoned and headworks and skeleton of tank erected. I referred to Baloola. Normanstone is not yet abandoned.

Q. 3546.

Chairman :—But the whole question hinges on this,—is it desirable to sink wells until you have proved the water by putting down the trial shaft ?

Answer :—But we have sunk trial shafts. We did it at Gunbar.

REPLY.

At Gunbar it is stated to have been done 100 feet away from the present shaft by Mr. Wood's own evidence; but he does not say if trial shafts were put down at Dolmoreve, Baloola, Normanstone, Willandra, J.K., Mulga Valley, Beefwood Wells.

Q. 3550.

Question :—Now we have also had it in evidence that some of these wells have cost as much as £10 per foot ?

Answer :—I do not know where they are, except it be the wells which were put down at Tibboburra by the Mines Department, and which cost about £15 per foot.

REPLY.

The Tibboburra Well here referred to is not a public watering place. It was sunk by the warden for the goldfield by daily labour at the time of the rush, and long before the watering places recommended by this Department were undertaken by the Works Department—at a total cost of £8 Ss. per foot, through solid granite, including every expense for compensation, labour, tools, and camp.

Q. 3551.

Question :—Will you turn to the 2nd page of the *précis* of evidence. It is stated that a portion of the head-works of the Willandra Well were placed upon private property of the Kilfera run-holders ?

Answer :—That includes all the top works, whim, service tank, troughing, and so forth. It has been put in such a way as to lead to the conclusion that it is the same thing as the Holy Box. There was an encroachment on an old conditional purchase of Mr. Webb's, who did not actually know of the existence of this conditional purchase, according to his own statement.

REPLY.

Mr. Wood is again in error, what Mr. Webb did say in his letter to Mr. Stillwell is this (*See Blue Book, page 29*) :—

“I may here state that, until the surveyor surveyed the well reserve, I was unaware that the Government improvements encroached on our portion, otherwise I should have drawn your attention to the matter earlier.”

It is evident that Mr. Webb was perfectly aware of the existence of his own purchased property.

The revision of the word “existence” render this reply unnecessary.

Q. 3552.

Major Penrose :—Then it is said that the construction of this well was not asked for by the Mines Department ?

Answer :—I gave it in evidence on the first day that the Mines Department distinctly asked us for two works between Clare and Ivanhoe, but Mr. Gilliat now says that he only asked for one.

REPLY.

Mr. Wood is quite correct in stating that the Mines Department distinctly asked for two works between Clare and Ivanhoe, but unfortunately for Mr. Wood's consistency the Works Department have constructed three works—Willandra Well, Gunnaramby Tank, and Clare Tank. That the Works Department could not have been unaware of the wishes of the Mines Department is further shown on page 27 of the Blue Book, where I state, as far back as 1880, the reasons for my objections to wells :—

“On the road from Balranald to Ivanhoe the water supply is required chiefly for carriers and their teams, and the works do not need to be on so large a scale, or so close to each other, as upon roads more frequently used by travelling stock. I am of opinion that if the proposed tank at Clare is completed one other half-way from Clare to Ivanhoe will be sufficient. Remembering that the larger number of trial shafts sunk for wells throughout the district have resulted in obtaining water either salt or brackish, I consider the works best adapted at present for the water supply to be tanks, and judging by the numbers that have been constructed with private capital, my view appears to be confirmed by the pastoral tenant.”

See also my evidence on this matter, Q. 169.

See also previous evidence and reply to it on Q. 3324, of Mr Wood's evidence.

Mr.

Mr. Wood's evidence, Q. 3553.

Question :—Apparently they asked for tanks ?

Answer :—Yes, and we put down a trial shaft in the first place, where Mr. Gordon, the local officer, stated that good water had been obtained, and on the strength of that statement we put down a well, but we never bottomed it on account of having reached running sand or drift. Another well is now being sunk adjacent, and the head works utilised. The other shaft having been abandoned.

REPLY.

With respect to this new shaft referred to by Mr. Wood, I beg to quote the following telegram from Mr. Inspector Low, dated 19th April, 1888 (P.W.P. 88-2,301).

“Webb informs me Willandra Well again abandoned, owing to men being unable to get through drift.”

In addition to this I submit a copy of a letter from Mr. Webb, dated 8th May, 1888, upon this new shaft, the original of which has been already forwarded for the information of the Commission.

This letter is given in full in reply to evidence at page 27.

Mr. Wood's apology for this new shaft is based upon his allegation that the existence of good water had been proved. It is distinctly stated by Messrs. Webb, Low, and Yeo that the water is poor stock water, and unfit for human consumption.

See Blue Book, pages 30 and 31.

Q. 3555, 3556, and 3557.

Mr. Wood states in regard to the Wooloondool Well:—This well has been bottomed on good stiff clay. It was bored through that stiff clay and the bore-hole is now larger than it was originally, and is not choked by any closing ground. I admit that when the well is standing for any considerable time that the silt deposits will choke the bore. It is usually freed by putting a rod down it, which any man could do, but the putting down of a pipe would rather increase the evil because it would have a fixed and lesser diameter than that of the existing bore. In confining silt drift like that, I think it is almost impossible—indeed, I believe it is impossible—to keep the bore clear unless the well is in constant use and there is a current of water through the bore-hole.

Major Penrose :—As I understand you this bore has been sunk through stiff clay ?

Answer :—And the drift is above it. The water is artesian and rises above the level of the shaft.

Mr. Woore :—Is not this bore having been put through clay liable to get closed in ?

Answer :—Yes ; but it increases in size by the force of the water, &c., &c.

REPLY.

Mr. Wood's statement that the drift is above the clay is clearly an error, but perhaps occurred in transcription. The drift is below the clay and the water is sub-artesian and rises about 18 feet above the bottom of the shaft. I found when testing this well with Mr. A. P. Wood on 18th December, 1884, that the water made rapidly, and that two hours steady baling only lowered it about 18 inches. Constant baling, as recommended by Mr. Wood to keep the bore free, necessitates a continual daily and, I think entirely unnecessary labour of both man and horse, wear and tear of gear, and waste of water.

The choking of the bore is occasioned by the falling in of the clay through which it has been made and by the drift held in suspense while the water is being baled and subsequently deposited when the water is at rest.

Appendix A.

A plan and section of the pipe and floor that has been placed at the bottom of the well by this Department is herewith submitted for the information of the Commission, and our present reports show the well now has a strong flow of water.

Q. 3559.

(Précis of Mines Return).

Chairman :—I would ask you to look at page 4 where the Holy Box Well is referred to * * * * ?

Answer :—Perhaps I had better give you the whole history of this well. * * * * *

REPLY.

Mr. Wood's "whole history" is more correctly given in their own papers, Blue Book, page 74, and seq., when it will be seen that the well was commenced and nearly finished by their own officer, Mr. Higman, in 1878 ; the subsequent papers show the evidence furnished by the residents in the district, and Mr. David Brown, the manager of the station at that time, furnishes additional evidence before the Commission on q. 1037.

Q. 3560.

Mr. Wood states :—The Jumping Sandhill Well was said to be unfit for stock, but it has turned out to be the very best water in the district and the same may be said of the Lignum Hut Well.

REPLY.

Both the caretaker and Cobb & Co.'s groom residing at these wells are obliged to draw their drinking water some 7 or 8 miles.

Q. 3562.

Mr. Woore :—Might not the refusal of stock to water have occurred in this way, that the troughs and service tank were not kept clear of sediment. Then the water from the well would be affected by this sediment and the stock refuse the water. Do you not think that if the water were taken fresh from the well it would be more drinkable ?

Answer :—Yes ; Mr. Gordon says on page 86 of the Mines papers, that Parker informed him that Mr. Evans the manager of Canoble (station), said he would work the well during the summer months if allowed. Mr. Gordon adds that it might be well to let him do so in order that the efficiency of it might be established. And I know from hearsay evidence that Mr. Evans was anxious to get hold of this well himself. If the water were so bad I do not think Mr. Evans or any other station manager would be desirous of getting the well into his hands.

Question

Mr. Wood's evidence, Q. 3563.

Question :—What is being done with the well now?

Answer :—It is in charge of the Mines Department. When I visited it two years ago, I drank the water from the well and would not object to drink such water at any time on a pinch. It was brackish, but still drinkable. There is another statement that conveys a wrong impression that the well was over 90 feet deep and cost £1,000. That amount includes head works.

REPLY.

The remarkable part of this case is, that the water of the well should have improved in quality after a period of disuse extending over two years. Mr. Wood claims that constant baling should improve a brackish well, but in this case after the well was practically abandoned for two years by this Department it was found according to Mr. Wood to be good stock water and he could drink it, and that even now after constant baling it is so bad.

See also reply to Mr. Wood's evidence on this well, Q. 3317. No wrong impression as to cost was conveyed, in all cases where the cost of a well is given by the Works Department, it is assumed to cover head works, although the column for head works is left blank in the works return of cost given in the Blue Book, page 270.

The average cost of wells of this depth I venture to assert should not exceed, head works included, £700 to £750.

See also reply to Mr. Bennett's evidence on this well, Q. 3271.

Q. 3565.

Question :—Now about the Mount Manara Well, it has been said that the whim and head works were erected before the water had been tested?

Answer :—I can swear positively that that statement is not correct because the work was done under me in 1870, &c., &c.

REPLY.

This statement is made in the *précis*, and was an error on the part of the officer preparing it, the papers in the Blue Book, pages 94–96, will at once show this as the whole case is there given. The Works officer in the first paper confirms our views. The position chosen for this well would hardly have been selected by an expert. Mr. Wood states that the yield is, he thinks, 400 gallons per hour, on page 94 of the Blue Book is given Migman's and Mr. Cambridge's opinion, that the supply is very limited, and on page 95 the opinion of the Government Geologist. The supply was given to me by Mr. Cambridge and confirmed by Mr. Hay, at Mount Manara, at 2,800 gallons per diem instead of 9,600 as stated by Mr. Wood.

Q. 3570.

Question :—Now as to the Dolmoreve Well, does the same thing apply to that as to the Holy Box Well. It is said the caretaker here has to go 4 miles for fresh water?

Answer :—I have seen a report from one of their own officers, that the water is very fair stock water. It is stated by Mr. Gilman, acting overseer of Public Watering Places at page 111 of the Mines papers, &c., &c.

REPLY.

The question of the Dolmoreve has been fully dealt with in my reply to Mr. Wood's previous evidence on this case at page 26.

Q. 3577 and 3578.

Chairman :—As to this costly hutting for caretakers can you give us any information in regard to that?

Answer :—We were instructed by the Mines Department to have these huts erected. They recommended at the time two-roomed cottages, 24 x 12, with iron roof, floors, chimneys, and so forth, the cost of which was estimated by Mr. Bruce to range from £56 to £100, according to the part of the Colony in which they were erected. In the average, the cost of these works is considerable, but the Mines estimate does not embrace the three-roomed cottages, for which tenders were received, and plans and specifications issued by us.

Major Penrose :—Were your huts bigger than theirs?

Answer :—They were the same size, taking the front part of the main building, but there was a skillion room at the back of our huts which was not in the Mines. That being added on the recommendation of the Mines Department.

REPLY.

In the Blue Book, page 137, I state fully what seemed the proper course with respect to huts for caretakers. This was dated September, 1885, and was a final expression of our views :—

“I agree with Mr. Wood generally as to the use of iron in timberless country, and where carriage is dear, and in the use of half round pine in those neighbourhoods where it is to be procured. The two-roomed cottage will be sufficient, I consider, where there is long and costly carriage, but where the material can be delivered at a moderate outlay, I would suggest that three rooms may be given.”

See also my reply to Mr. Bennett's evidence on this matter, page 48.

Q. 3580.

Chairman :—With regard to the defective construction of troughing, which really means that the animals had a difficulty in getting to the troughs, can you give us any information about the original design as shown in your plan?

Answer :—The plan produced shows how the guard to the tank has been erected, and when the works were being handed over to the Mines Department, Mr. Gilliat expressed uniform approval of them. We, *i.e.*, the officers of the Works Department, do not pretend to have an intimate knowledge of stock, and we only acted on the opinions expressed by those whose speciality it was.

Maior

Mr. Wood's evidence, Q. 3581.

Major Penrose :—Was the design for the troughing submitted to the Mines Department in the first instance?

Answer :—Before we ever adopted it, I saw it on a station when travelling along the Hillston to Cobar road, I made a sketch of it on that occasion which I included in my report, as I thought it was a good idea. The report and sketch were sent on to Mr. Gilliat, and approved of by him, and when we handed over these works, which include this style of troughing, he expressed approval with a slight exception that the sharp edge of the rail which caught in the wool of the sheep should be trimmed. In these Mines papers, at pages 174 and 175, Mr. Gilliat expresses his approval of this troughing, and said that although it required a little alteration, the caretaker, if he was a man of energy, could do it.

REPLY.

My opinion on the troughing is clearly given, pages 174 and 175 of the Blue Book. The design was not objected to by me, but the faults of construction, by which stock were either prevented from drinking under or else over the rails. My expression of general approval is there contained, but I do not consider that any excuse for Mr. Wood's continuing to erect troughing with the same blunders for my caretakers to alter.

Q. 3593.

Question :—After these works were constructed, who would take care of them?

Answer :—The Constructing Department as I have said I would decidedly recommend that the revenue received from watering of stock should be collected, as was suggested some time back by the Stock Inspector at the time they were issuing travelling permits. That would free us entirely from any connection with the levying of tolls and rates.

REPLY.

Mr. Wood's scheme for collecting rates by the Inspector of Stock would compel the continued employment of caretakers at each work. The end the Mines Department is working for, is to have each watering place leased and returning at least some revenue.

See also reply to Mr. Cronin's evidence on this point, page 87, and to Mr. Stillwell's evidence, page 109.

Replies to Evidence given by Mr. Road-Superintendent Hanna before the Royal Commission re Tanks and Wells.

Q. 3608.

Question :—These allegations take the form of statements that the sites of tanks were improperly selected, that the construction was defective and costly, and so on?

Answer :—Yes; but some of the sites were selected by the officers of the Mines Department themselves.

REPLY.

I am not aware that the exact sites of any of the tanks were selected by the Mines officers. The Works Department claimed the right in all cases to define the exact site of both tanks and wells, and until July, 1883, the Mines had no voice in the selection of even approximate sites. See my minute (Blue Book), page 142. See also reply to Mr. Bennett's evidence, pages 46 and 47.

Mr. Hanna admits, Q. 3619, that "in all cases the Mines Department indicate the general position, and we choose the exact site."

Q. 3630.

Question :—Can you state what tanks are 3 x 1 in your district?

Answer :—Yes; I will give you a list of tanks that have 3 x 1 batters; I have not a tank in the whole district which has a batter of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1. The steepest sloped tank in my district is the 26-Mile, which has a batter of 2 to 1.

REPLY.

I have no hesitation in saying the 35-Mile and 12-Mile tanks had a steeper batter than 2 to 1. It was very difficult for me to stand upon the batters when the tanks were empty—they were at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1. See my reply as to 2 x 1 batters to Mr. Wood's evidence, page 30.

Q. 3679.

Major Penrose :—Is the tank (Cobham Lake) in a place where it is required for stock?

Answer :—Yes; I only shifted the tank a few yards away from the point where it was placed by the Mines Department.

REPLY.

It has been clearly shown by the Mines Department that their recommendation (Blue Book, pages 248 and 249) was for a well 1 mile south of the public-house, and it would have been desirable for Mr. Hanna, in view of our distinct statements, to produce the evidence upon which he founds the statement that the site was selected by the Mines Department. I distinctly deny that any such site was selected by myself or any officer acting under me. Mr. Hanna, however, makes the admission, Q. 3672, that he is "responsible for that site, and is prepared to meet any objections raised against it." See also reply to Mr. Wood's evidence, page 23. This important revision supersedes the reply.

Mr.

Mr. Hanna's evidence, Q. 3689.

Question :—A number of these places are objected to on account of their being alongside permanent water. There is one place we have had a great deal of evidence about: the Peri Springs, where a tank was excavated within a short distance of what was thought to be permanent water, and your Department has been blamed for an expenditure of money where there is no occasion for it?

Answer :—I have just been past that place, the Peri Springs. If the springs would be sufficient to meet all requirements of course a tank might have been dispensed with. But whether the springs would be equal to the strain upon them or not I could not say. And then there is the right of the station owners who have conserved water to be considered.

REPLY.

Mr. Hogarth's letter (Blue Book, page 34), and the evidence given by Mr. Quin (Q. 1867 to 1908) is perhaps a sufficient answer to this and the foregoing question. Mr. Hogarth says:—

"Peri Sandhills Tank I do not think you will ever be able to let, simply because it is within $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile of the Peri Springs; therefore I think putting a tank down in the present site a great waste of public money. Had the Government and station owners combined and spent, say, £300 on the springs they would have watered all the stock that ever came down the Paroo, and all the station stock the country would carry."

The great capabilities of these springs is, I think, fully proved, and that there is ample water for both travelling and station stock.

Q. 3707.

Question :—It has been objected that the construction of fluming where it enters the embankment is defective;—have you ever noticed any difficulty in this case?

Answer :—I have not experienced any difficulty. If I suspected a heavy rush of water from the tank in places that would be liable to a certain rush of water after a heavy thunderstorm, I would put a cover of 2 feet of earth to prevent the water from flowing over the chute, but it is very seldom that the water would go down so quickly as to overflow a 4 x 2 fluming.

REPLY.

No complaints were made in reference to fluming in Mr. Hanna's district, the chief complaints being in the Bourke and Cobar districts (see Blue Book, pages 145 to 152) where the flumes are 1 x 1 foot, and in cases defective in design.

Q. 3743.

Mr. Woore :—And public competition is invited in every possible way?

Answer :—Yes; and when tenders are considered high fresh tenders are invited, as was done in the case of the Day Dream and Purnamoota tanks according to specifications was £131 5s. per mile. It is our intention to invite fresh tenders, and to further modify the specifications in these cases.

REPLY.

The Mines Department received a tender from Messrs. Geddes, Prest, and Hocking, of Silverton, to erect all the fencing in the Silverton district in April, 1887, at £75 per mile. The specification was for Mulga posts 6 feet long, not less than 5 inches diameter at small end, 2 feet in ground, 10 feet apart, strainers every 100 yards; wires, top No. 6, others No. 8. This specification, with the exception of a modification by the Works Department in making the distance between posts 12 instead of 10 feet, and in sinking them 20 inches instead of 24, is identical with that now adopted by that Department, and which Mr. Hanna, on Q. 3755 estimates to cost from £100 to £110 per mile. (See papers herewith.)

(P.W.P., 883,424.)

Specification for fencing Tenant's leases at Silverton, Day Dream, Purnamoota, Rathole, and Thackaringa Tanks now adopted by Works Department.

Posts to be 5 inches diameter smallest end (except Mulga, for which 4 inches diameter will be taken), 6 feet long, 20 inches in ground; strainers every 25 panels 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, 2 feet in ground; corner-posts, 6 inches diameter, 7 feet long, sunk 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet in ground and securely strutted from top of post to foot of first post on each side; wires to be drawn through struts; two posts for slip-rails, 8 inches diameter 7 feet long, 12 feet apart, with 4-inch slip-rails neatly fixed in mortices 3 inches deep, 3 inches by 4 inches; posts 12 feet apart from centre to centre; 7 wires—top wire No. 6, remaining wires No. 8 steel; two gate-posts to be provided, 8 feet long, 9 inches diameter, sunk 3 feet.

Tenders to state a price per chain, also a bulk sum for the whole of the works.

In all things not herein specified contractors to be bound by the printed general conditions hereto attached.

Time for completion of each work, three months from date of agreement.

Approximate length required at each tank, 400 chains.

(P.W.P., 1,894, 2/5/87.)

Sir,

Department of Mines, Public Watering Places Branch,
Sydney, 2 April, 1887.

I have to request that you will be good enough to inform me of the amount of fencing required to complete each public watering place in your district.

Specifications should state number and brand of wire, dimensions of posts, distance from each other, centre to centre, and distance apart of strainers, and depth of each in the ground that you would recommend. Your estimate should state the cost of each item separately, with cost of carriage and erection added.

I have, &c.,

HARRY GILLIAT,

Chief Inspector, P.W. Places.

Mr. Overseer Crommelin, Silverton.

Mr.

Mr. Hanna's evidence, Q. 3743.

Mines Department specification for fencing at Thackaringa, Rathole, Silverton, Day Dream, and Purnamoota.

The size of the posts to be not less than 5 inches at the small end. To be 6 feet long and to be sunk 2 feet in the ground. The number of posts to be 528 to the mile, and to be placed 10 feet apart from centre to centre. One strainer to every 100 yards, and more if it be required. Strainers to be 7 feet long and 3 feet in the ground; stay to be used at every strainer. The number of wires to be six—five of No. 8, and one, or top wire, of No. 6. The brand of the wire to be White Cross.

| | Price. | Per mile. |
|--|--------|-----------|
| | | £ s. d. |
| Posts delivered on the ground at each place at 1s. 9d., or | | 46 4 0 |
| Digging holes and erecting posts, 4d. each, or | | 8 16 0 |
| Boring posts, 20s. per 100 | | 5 15 7 |
| Wiring-posts | | 2 10 0 |
| Wire No. 8 | | 16 17 6 |
| Wire No. 6 | | 4 6 0 |
| Carting wire to different places from Silverton | | 1 0 3 |
| Total... | | £85 9 4 |
| Reduced £10. (See public watering places, 87-1,879) | | £75 9 4 |

Telegram from Silverton Station, addressed to J. W. Boulton, Inspector of Public Watering Places.
REDUCE tender for fencing £10; total should be £75 9s. 4d. 28th April, 1887.

GEDDES, PREST, & HOCKINGS.

Q. 3749.

Question:—And in that country where there is a good deal of rock would not the sinking be pretty hard?

Answer:—Yes; the ground there is harder than usual. At the Day Dream they had rock and also at Purnamoota. Although the wire has only to be carted a short distance it has to come by road from Adelaide.

REPLY.

Mr. Hanna is evidently incorrect, since the rail has been open to Terowie ever since Silverton has been in existence, and for some time past the rail has been open to Broken Hill.
This reply is superseded by the revision of words.

Q. 3810 and 3811.

Question:—Is there a ground-plate upon blocks?

Answer:—Yes; the cottages rest upon little blocks about 4 inches in diameter. There is a light deal flooring, and one partition which goes up about half-way to the level of the wall. They have iron chimneys and iron doors, that is as far as I can remember.

Question:—What would you estimate would be the cost of a building like that.

Answer:—From £40 to £50 I should think.

Question:—Do you think that such buildings as they erected are suitable for human beings to live in in that country?

Answer:—No, I do not think they are suitable at all.

REPLY.

The blocks referred to by Mr. Hanna are Mulga blocks, not less than 3½ inches diameter at small end, which wood is practically imperishable. The diameter of blocks was lessened on account of the reported expense of larger sized ones.

It may be observed that iron is very largely used for houses in both Silverton and Broken Hill. Attention is also drawn to the fact that the use of iron was suggested by the officers of the Department of Works for the erection of cottages. (See Blue Book, pages 135 and 136.) The specifications and plan of the cottages in the Silverton District have already been furnished to the Commissioners, who will therefore be able to judge how far Mr. Hanna's description of them is correct.

Replies to evidence given by Mr. Road-Superintendent Adams, before the Royal Commission re Tanks and Wells.

Mr. Adams' evidence, Q. 3858.

Question :—Mulya Tank ;—do you know if this tank has been filled ?

Answer :—I was told by the caretaker that there were 12 feet of water in it at one time.

REPLY.

The record of the depth of water, since the date of transfer to this Department, is as follows :—

| 1887. | Depth. ft. in. | Rainfall. | 1888. | Depth. ft. in. | Rainfall. |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| December 17..... | 3 6 | } 3 in. | March 3..... | 4 0 | } 20 pts. |
| „ 24..... | 3 6 | | „ 10..... | 3 9 | |
| „ 31..... | 6 0 | | „ 17..... | 4 6 | |
| 1888. | | „ 24..... | 4 3 | | |
| January 7..... | 6 0 | „ 31..... | 4 0 | | |
| „ 14..... | 5 6 | } 1 in. 15 pts. | April 7..... | 3 9 | } 10 pts. |
| „ 21..... | 5 6 | | „ 14..... | 3 6 | |
| „ 28..... | 5 3 | | „ 21..... | 3 3 | |
| February 4..... | 5 0 | } 1 in. 10 pts. | „ 28..... | 3 0 | |
| „ 11..... | 4 9 | | May 5..... | 2 9 | |
| „ 18..... | 4 6 | | „ 12..... | 2 8 | |
| „ 25..... | 4 3 | | „ 19..... | 2 6 | |
| | | | „ 26..... | 2 3 | } 1 in. 30 pts. |

It will be seen from the foregoing extract from the records that in December last 3 in. of rain only ran 2 ft. 6 in. of water into the tank, and the rainfall of January, February, and May, 1888, each which exceeding 1 in. ran in no water.

Q. 3861.

Mulya Tank.

Mr. Woore :—So that the tank is not at all a useless work, as we have been led to believe ?

Answer :—No, I think the tank is right enough ; it will readily fill with ordinary rain by making the proper drains.

REPLY.

Certainly, no evidence to the effect of this being a useless work appears to have been given by this Department.

See Mr. Inspector Mackenzie's evidence, Q. 1648, where he states : “The tank has been put on rising ground. The drains have been so formed that water will not run in. It is on considerably higher ground, and the drains are so constructed that the water runs back. The water only flows in after backing up some distance. There is a better site within a quarter or half a mile of this place. I am confident from the rainfall this tank would fill if the drains were properly made.”

Mr. Overseer Cotton stated in evidence, Q. 2779 to 2783 :—

Question :—What is the name of the tank ?

Answer :—The Mulya Tank. As a proof of what I say, I may mention that it has now only about 9 feet 3 inches of water in it, or it had that on my last inspection. It has been constructed for over two years, and on one occasion there was a rainfall of 8 inches within a week over that portion of the country, and yet this tank did not fill. I am of opinion, therefore, the catchment area of this tank is too small.

Question :—Is it not a fact that the Road Superintendent in fixing the sites for tanks has to act in conjunction with the overseers of P. W. Places.

Answer :—Well, this is what we are told by the Watering Places Branch, but as a rule the Road Superintendents do never consult us. * * *

Question :—Could that faulty catchment area have been observed, in your opinion, by a man of ordinary intelligence ?

Answer :—I think so, because it has been handed over now to another Road Superintendent, who has been to a great deal of trouble indeed in getting a mile or more of drains into the tank. He told me he had very great difficulty in getting ground and utilising the catchment area, and running his levels so very low that they would be able to run the water in.

Q. 3932, 3933, and 3936.

North Roto Well.

Question :—What was the cost of the well, do you remember ?

Answer :—I cannot say just now. I think the cost was somewhere about £1,000.

Question :—But what was the cost per foot ?

Answer :—I think it was about £2 15s. per foot as far as I can remember.

* * * * *

Question :—Does that price mentioned include everything about the well ?

Answer :—No, only the timbering and shaft.

REPLY.

The cost of the well, as given in the Works return on page 270 of Blue Book, was £1,266 16s. 3d. The well is 167 feet deep, and at £2 15s. per foot would cost £459 5s., leaving a balance of £806 for whim, tank, troughing, &c., or rather more than we estimate the whole outlay at the well should have cost.

Replies to Mr. Road-Superintendent Coleman's evidence before the Royal Commission re Tanks and Wells.

Mr. Coleman's evidence, Q. 4014 to 4022.

Mr. Coleman states:—Of course the Mines Department are very particular when taking over the works to have the embankments all square and level throughout. They insist, when the works are being handed over to them, there shall be this extreme nicety and finish in the work.

Question:—After it has been passed by the Inspector?

Answer:—Yes.

Mr. Woore:—Can you mention any particular case where this has occurred?

Answer:—Yes; it occurred in connection with Mulga No. 5 Tank, on the road from Byerock to Brewarrina. This particular tank had been completed, but had not been taken over from the contractor by the Works Department. Previous to our visit with Mr. M'Kenzie, an overseer of Public Watering Places, the rain storm occurred and scoured the embankments, also causing a settlement in the top, and Mr. M'Kenzie would not take the work over, although I promised to make everything good. This was some six months ago, and the tank remains in our hands now.

Question:—Did this scouring that you mentioned seriously affect the tank in any way, or did it merely affect its appearance?

Answer:—It merely affected its appearance. The tank itself was in no way affected by it.

Major Penrose:—I notice that Mr. Waddell mentions this tank as having been completed for some time, but that it was not in order;—is that the explanation?

Answer:—Yes; while we were there the engineer broke the feed-pipe of the boiler. Everything else was in proper order. We guaranteed to fix up everything if they would take the work over, but they would not do so. The consequence of all this is that the Mines Department have lost over six months' revenue from the tank. I went over to this tank to effect a transfer. I approved of the works as carried out by the contractor, but after this the Mines refused to take it over.

Question:—Then, in your opinion, this slight damage to the feed-pipe would not have affected the tank as a public watering place?

Answer:—No; besides we guaranteed to put everything in working order. In fact, we would have had to do so.

Mr. Woore:—And why has this delay of six months occurred?

Answer:—The Mines officer never visited the place since.

Question:—Have you reported the tank as complete and ready to be handed over to the Mines Department?

Answer:—Yes; several times.

Question:—And have you had any intimation from the Mines Department, or from your own that they declined to take over this tank?

Answer:—No; and I do not know what reason they may now have for not taking it over. I had a memorandum the other day from the Mines Department asking when the tank would be ready to be handed over, and I replied that it was ready six months ago.

REPLY.

With reference to Mr. Coleman's statement in evidence, on page 49, "that the Mines Department are very particular when taking over the works to have the embankments all square and level throughout. They insist when the works are being handed over to them, there shall be this extreme nicety and finish." I beg to quote, for the information of the Commission, an extract from the instructions to overseers or inspecting officers, printed on page 26 of the pamphlet containing the Act, regulations and instructions:—

"VIII.—Inspection and taking delivery of new works.

"21. When instructed to take over any new public watering place from the Department of Public Works, the overseer will be careful to ascertain, by personal inspection and actual trial, whether the works are in good repair and working order, suitable for the speedy and efficient supply of the public requirements; and he will forthwith submit, for the information of the Chief Inspector, a full and correct report on such works on form C; to this must be attached, on form D, a statement of all items, and a receipt signed by both officers party to the transfer."

The Commissioners will see that these instructions are specially addressed to overseers, but since the appointment of inspectors, have been made applicable to them, and these gentlemen are instructed to carry them out.

With regard to the Mulga No. 5 Tank, my minute dated 30th November, 1887 (Blue Book, page 163), contains a full statement of the case to that date.

Mr. Mackenzie was aware of the delay that had previously occurred in effecting some necessary alterations and repairs to other works in Mr. Coleman's district (see Blue Book, pages 163, 164), and was on that account perhaps more particular in seeing that all appliances were in perfect order before taking delivery; but when inspecting, on the 24th September, 1887, Inspector Mackenzie distinctly states in the concluding paragraph of his letter that this tank (Mulga No. 5), "was not ready to take over at the time of my visit, but Superintendent Coleman has promised to have everything ready in a month's time."

No further communication having been received from Mr. Coleman, or the Works officers, on the 16th March, 1888, this Department inquired from the Works Department when the tank would be ready to hand over. Mr. Coleman replied, on the 3rd April, that it had been ready since October, 1887, and further

Mr. Coleman's evidence.

further added that, owing to defects, the transfer was not made in September, 1887, the date of Inspector Mackenzie's visit. This reply was forwarded from the Works Department to us on 10th April, 1888. On 12th April Mr. Mackenzie was wired to take over this tank without delay, and put a temporary caretaker in charge. On 17th April Mr. Mackenzie wrote from Walgett that, though the tank had been ready to hand over before he left Bourke, he had received no communication from Mr. Coleman to that effect, and that he had been unable to take delivery at that time, having been called to Sydney to attend the Royal Commission *re* Tanks and Wells. Inspector Mackenzie then proceeded to Bourke to perform his duty, but before fulfilling it, was compelled from private reasons to resign his appointment.

Mr. Coleman's allegation that the Mines Department have lost over six months revenue from the tank, can, I think, only reflect upon his own Department. If water was required by the travelling public, the rates might, and should have been, collected by their caretaker, as it has been done in other instances, and handed to this Department for transmission to the Treasury.

Q. 4039, 4043, and 4044.

Major Penrose:—It has been said that the inlet from the silt tank to the main tank is in many instances defective in construction and design. You will see in his evidence Mr. Mackenzie says in his report:—"In conclusion I wish to bring under your notice the state of inlet from silt to main tank, at some of the tanks in my district, which in many cases is a narrow cutting through the earth-works of embankments, which in times of flood keeps cutting away and filling in, and consequently all loose earth is carried into the main tank. This could be remedied by having the sides of the embankments logged or stoned, to prevent cutting the tanks. Where this is most required are, Hilman's Tank, Booroodara, and Mulga No. 5"?

Answer:—A great deal depends upon caretaker or lessee. In many cases this shoot is impeded considerably after rain; when once you get rain scouring takes place, and unless it is properly attended to at once the thing will continue. In other cases the caretakers put stones to prevent scouring; they do this in their spare time. A little care on the part of the caretakers would prevent any danger whatever, and would keep the shoot in proper order.

* * * * *

Question:—In cases where the ground is liable to scour away much, do not the Works Department protect it in some way?

Answer:—Yes; we cut out the drain, and board it over after making provision to prevent scouring in inlet shoot. What Mr. Mackenzie means here, is actual scouring of open drains, and I think in these cases it is necessary to put stones.

Question:—Should not this be done before it becomes necessary to hand the works over to the Mines Department?

Answer:—No; I do not think so, because it would not take them much trouble to do it.

REPLY.

I venture to think this upholds my objection, viz., faulty construction. Why should not a provision against scouring be made by the constructing officer before handing over to a caretaker, whom he subsequently condemns for neglect, when the damage done is the result of his own want of foresight. Mr. Coleman further explains that Mr. Mackenzie meant quite a different thing to what is stated in his report.

In regard to the last reply quoted, this appears to me an extraordinary view for the constructing officer to take, and confirms the opinion that if we are to be asked to accept the responsibility of so much preliminary work we may as well accept the responsibility of the whole. With respect to Mr. Coleman's opinion, that it would not give us much trouble to protect the shoots, I may add that it would give us much less trouble to take the whole responsibility and construction.

I may further add that the objection raised by this Department is that the design of these shoots is bad.

Q. 4046 to 4049.

Question:—Now, as to the excessive cost of construction of drains?

Answer:—I have no information on that subject.

Major Penrose:—What price do you pay for construction of drains?

Answer:—From 14s. to 15s. per chain; the cost averages from 10s. to 15s. per chain.

Question:—What are the sections?

Answer:—From 12 to 15 feet wide and 9 inches deep.

Question:—And is that the usual price for these drains?

Answer:—Yes; that is the usual price.

REPLY.

I maintain the cost is excessive for each chain of drains, 15 feet wide, 9 inches deep (the maximum quoted by Mr. Coleman). About 13 cubic yards are removed, and for this 15s. is paid. I have, however, no recollection of ever having seen either a 12-foot or 15-foot drain in the Bourke district. I consider the price paid about double what it is worth.

(See also Mr. Hanna's evidence *re* price of drains, Q. 3705.)

Mr. Coleman's evidence, Q. 4108 to 4110.

Question :—Have you ever found repairs were carried out by the Mines Department which you considered were unnecessary or detrimental?

Answer :—The only repair that I noticed was this alteration to the troughing.

Question :—That, I understand, has to be carried out by the Mines Department?

Answer :—Yes; on the Tindarie Tank they have altered the rail by placing it down the centre.

Question :—And the Works Department are carrying that out now?

Answer :—Yes; it was done as an experiment by the Mines Department.

REPLY.

This "experiment" is now being carried out at all the tanks in the Cobar district by the Works Department. Or, in other words, they have adopted the alteration we decided our caretakers should carry out under the supervision of the overseers; and are adding a further expense by having this done by contract.

Q. 4126.

Question :—Will you now tell us when you lay out the site for a tank what course you adopt?

Answer :—I test the lay of the country as to the catchment, and then I take general opinion upon it; but I use my own judgment, combined with general opinion. The people who have travelled the country for years ought to know the chief catchments. I then peg out what I consider a reasonable site of a catchment to fill the excavation. You cannot well take a long time in getting information; but I get what information I can from outside and take my own.

REPLY.

It does not appear that Mr. Coleman considered the use of a level necessary in his selection, but relies upon his judgment (which, I suppose, means his eyes), and general opinion, the result is the selection of the site of the Mulya Tank.

Q. 4140.

This statement of Mr. Mackenzie's read by Major Penrose was misreported; he spoke of the Bocoondara Tank, no Kerrigundi; so that Mr. Coleman's remarks do not apply.

Q. 4143.

Chairman :—Supposing a scheme were devised making it compulsory on drovers to pay for watering of their stock at the time of getting their permit to travel, would such a scheme be a good one in your opinion?

Answer :—It has always been my opinion that such a scheme would be a good one. It would do away with the necessity for keeping books. By not having to attend to this bookkeeping, the caretaker could be made more responsible, and it would give him more time to attend to his work.

REPLY.

This proposal would entirely upset the leasing of tanks, and making them revenue producing, and it would necessitate the continued employment of caretakers.

The last paragraph of Mr. Coleman's is in direct antagonism to Mr. Bennett and Mr. Wood, who both state that the caretaker has not enough to do.

Replies to Evidence given by Mr. Road-Superintendent Cronin before the Royal Commission re Tanks and Wells.

Mr. Cronin's evidence, Q. 4167.

Question :—Have you noticed much wash away in these tanks owing to the steep batters?

Answer :—Of course it would be called so, but it is merely a frittering away of the top soil on account of the water getting between the soil and the clay at a lower level than the natural surface of the ground. This slides to the bottom, and the tank forms its own batters.

REPLY.

Would it not be a saving of labour and therefore of money to give the tank batters their natural slopes at first?

Q. 4182.

Major Penrose :—With regard to this washing down of the batters, is not the duty of the caretaker to keep the batters up if he can?

Answer :—Most undoubtedly it should be.

REPLY.

I venture to think that after the Commission have inspected the Government tanks, they will be convinced that it would be impossible for one caretaker to keep the batters up. What has been done at the Black Swamp Tank is purely preventative of further injury. Fascines could not have been put in till the batters had begun to wash away.

Mr.

Mr. Cronin's evidence, Q. 4234.

Mr. Woore :—In the evidence of the Mines witnesses, it is said that gates of a very expensive character, and altogether too good for the purpose, are put up in caretaker's paddocks?

Answer :—With regard to the charge of the Mines Department that the gates are too costly, I think the onus, to a certain extent, rests with the Mines officers themselves. Because when Mr. Gilliat accompanied Mr. Wood to Black Swamp Tank in 1883 for the express purpose of taking delivery of the works which were completed, Mr. Gilliat spoke in a most favourable manner of the works at the Black Swamp Tank. And he made a special request that a gate similar to the one already constructed at the north-west corner of the works should be fixed at another corner of the paddock.

REPLY.

It is curious that Mr. Cronin should have made the same error as Mr. Wood in regard to the date of my inspection with them of the Black Swamp Tank. Mr. Cronin however is quite correct in saying that, when taking over this tank (17th Nov., 1884), I spoke in a most favourable manner of the work. I quote from my diary at that date :—

“After carefully inspecting the tank, I am very well pleased with it, Mr. Cronin, the constructing officer, deserves great credit; it is the best I have seen of the Works Department's construction.”

No mention is made of a gate in my journal, and all that I can recollect is that I made a request that a second gate should be erected for convenience of access. But I fail to see that my request for a gate is any justification of the price that is paid for it by the officers of the Works Department, any more than the application for a tank or a well would make the Department responsible for the tender that might be accepted by the Road Superintendent.

See also my reply to Mr. Wood's evidence on page 37 on this point.

Q. 4246 to 4252.

Major Penrose :—You stated just now that the Mines Department had erected a fence at a dam;—were fences at that time being constructed by the Works Department?

Answer :—I think so. I must say that this fence was constructed by the homestead lessee. The water flows out of the Yanko into the Colombo Creek, and at a point on a branch of the creek a dam was made. The Mines Department took it over, used it, and made a public watering place of a big waterhole at the back of it.

Question :—Can you explain why it was the Mines Department fenced this place when the Works Department fenced all the others?

Answer :—I can only account for it in a certain light. They were laying charges of extravagance against the Roads officers, though at the same time their own Department had been guilty of paying a caretaker 8s. a day for over two years at this watering place, when the revenue from it was only a few pounds per year. And they did this while there were people in the locality who were only too anxious to give a decent rental for it.

Question :—All I wanted to know was why the Mines Department fenced this one watering place (Colombo Dam) when you fenced all the others?

Answer :—Well the reason for that I really do not know, but as I have said at this dam a caretaker was placed by the Mines Department and kept there for two years at about 8s. per day when the place could have easily been let. To my knowledge people were anxious to get a lease of it. I know that similar things have occurred at the Pretty Pine Well near Deniliquin and at the Wangonella Well, 30 miles north of Deniliquin.

Question :—You say that all these places might have been leased at a fair rental?

Answer :—Yes; and in support of this statement I wish to hand in a letter from Mr. H. J. Poynter, of Wangonella, showing that the Government could have derived a revenue from this well by leasing it.

Dear Sir,

Yours to hand *re* Mr. Laing; he was appointed caretaker Government well, Wangonella, in September, 1886, at a salary of 8s. per day. I tendered for the well on 11th May, 1886. *Re* charge by Mr. Laing for stock, he used to charge 1s. per head per night; what he used to charge by the week I do not know—2s. 6d. per head I believe, but am not certain. I could not say what number of stock he used to have. I would be willing to give 2s. per acre per annum for the paddock and to keep a man there as well to keep everything in good repair.

I am, &c.,

H. J. POYNTER,
Wangonella.

Edward Cronin, Esq.

Major Penrose :—Was the tenant's lease fenced off at that time?

Answer :—Yes. It was being fenced.

Question :—Were tenders called for by the Mines Department?

Answer :—Yes, and about £70 was the highest bid.

Question :—How, then, do you account for the watering place not having been let?

Answer :—The highest bidder was the manager of a station who afterwards refused to take it up, having himself found water close by; but I believe there were other tenders a few pounds under his. They could easily have obtained a revenue of about £40 a year for it.

REPLY.

(P.W.P. 88-3,378.)

Copy of P.W.P. 88-2,899—Minute by Mr. Gilliat, 16 May, 1888.

Road Superintendent's evidence before Royal Commission on Tanks and Wells *re* leasing Public Watering Places.

The Royal Commissioners here question Mr. Road-Superintendent Cronin upon the subject of leasing the public watering places—a matter upon which Mr. Cronin has no knowledge. His evidence, therefore, gives an entirely mistaken impression.

Any

Mr. Cronin's evidence.

Any delay in leasing these watering places has been occasioned by the following circumstances:—

Section 3 of the Public Watering Places Act 48 Victoria No. 16, gives power to make reserves for the purpose of establishing public watering places, but section 2 gives the interpretation of reserves as all such places as shall be declared travelling stock and camping reserves.

Of these reserves for the purpose of travelling stock and camping there were but few in existence, and the Land Act of 1884, 48 Victoria No. 18, section 109, provides that such routes and camping places should be declared by the Local Land Board. It is, therefore, necessary, owing to the insertion of the word "and" instead of "or" between the words travelling stock * * camping reserves in section 2 of the Public Watering Places Act, that before a public watering place can be notified by this Department it must go before the local Land Board and be Gazetted as a travelling stock and camping reserve by the Department of Lands.

Tenders have been called for watering places before they were notified as such. It was evident the leases would not be legal instruments, and the Department decided to discontinue the practice until after notification by the Land Board.

Mr. Cronin's statement with regard to the wages paid at Colombo Caeek is equally inaccurate. Ashcroft, the caretaker was employed at 9s. per diem, to find horse and dray to snag the creek from 1st February, 1886 to 1st September, 1886. On the 1st September, 1886, the wages were reduced to 6s. 6d. per diem, at which rate they were continued until the dam was leased, on 17th January, 1888. Caretaker Lang's wages at Wangonella well are 8s. per diem, but for this he has to find horse and harness.

HARRY GILLIAT,
Chief Inspector, Public Watering Places.

Q. 4283.

Question:—It has been stated that a perfectly good whim can be put up for £50?

Answer:—Well I daresay a Chinaman could put one up for £30. There is no doubt a station owner could put one up cheaper than Government, but I do not think the expense of our whims could be lessened with advantage, as the work required of them is such as to necessitate a very strong and permanent structure, and of a different class to those in use on stations. In some instances I passed square timber because it would be easier on account of the long distance it had to be carted. Mr. Gilliat specially approved of the Berrigan and Murray Hut wells, referring particularly to the top works.

REPLY.

With respect to Mr. Cronin's statement I again quote from my diary written on the date these wells were inspected, viz., 3rd December, 1884.

"Whim and all timber works of the best description. Horse walk well made. Capital shaft, double timbered and copper fastened all the way down. The head works are excellent. Troughing and fencing better than any I have yet seen. These two wells are most creditable to Mr. Cronin."

I spoke advisedly as to their being the best finished wells that I had seen, but in no way did I give any approval of the cost at which they were constructed; that was a matter upon which I had no information.

The information since received is given on page 270 of the Blue Book, where the cost of the Murray Hut and Berrigan well is lumped at a sum of £2,225 15s. 3d.

Q. 4294 & 4295.

Question:—Now about the hutting for caretakers. It has been stated here that the Works Department were about to construct caretaker's huts at an excessive price which the Mines Department objected to, and the huts have since been erected by the Mines at about half the price which the Works Department usually paid.

Answer:—Well, that is not borne out by any work they have done in my district. In fact I think the hut erected at Wangonella will carry with it a great waste of money.

Question:—What did it cost?

Answer:—I can only go by what I have heard, that this hut cost about £48 5s. It is built of two rooms, with galvanised iron roof, covered in with weatherboards. The huts are altogether and in every way inferior to the huts we have erected in the Deniliquin district. * * * Comparing the design adopted by the Works Department with the design carried out by the Mines, I should say the hut put up by the Works Department is certainly worth double the other. The amount stated by the Mines Department of the erection of this hut might I think be added to it, the value of the caretaker's time, and cost of bricks which were obtained gratis. And yet the building is of a rickety nature, for if you put your hand against it, you would knock everything off the shelves, and it is hardly able to withstand the force of the wind.

REPLY.

The Mines Department made no statement that they could erect huts at half the price usually paid by the Works Department. In the Blue Book, page 137, the Mines distinctly indicate the class of hut that appeared most suitable, and on page 139, after having been invited by Mr. Bennett they expressed the opinion that the tenders in the schedule furnished by the Works Department were too high for the services required. The Mines Department expressed the opinion that £50 would be a fair average price. An extract from a letter from Mr. Overseer M'Cullough, under whose supervision the cottage in question was erected, dated 30th May, 1887, (P.W.P., 87-2,309) states:—"The house is in every way as good as those at the Black Swamp and Pine Ridge, and Mr. Cronin considers exceedingly cheap." Papers showing specification, cost and certified vouchers have been submitted to the Commission previously, showing that the cottage was not erected by the caretaker. The prices quoted (in Mr. Cronin's district) in the Works Schedule, Blue Book, page 138, are from £69 to £87 10s. Mr. Cronin considers that the cottages intended to be put up by him were worth double the price paid by the Mines, but no reason appears for paying double for what is not required for the service.

Mr.

Mr. Cronin's evidence, Qs. 4301, 4303, 4304.

Question :—Now with regard to the necessity for caretakers. Is it not desirable that lessees should be substituted for caretakers, and that the latter should be done away with in the management of the works?

Answer :—Where the works can be leased they should be leased without delay. * * *

The Chairman :—And the matter has been broached. At present the caretakers must be men of some skill, because they have to keep rather intricate accounts, but there has been a method mooted by which this could be done away with. This is to compel the drovers before they leave, and when obtaining their permits, to pay a certain sum for using water in the districts through which they have to pass, whether they used the water or not.

Answer :—Yes; I believe the idea originated with Mr. A. P. Wood, and that he mentioned it to Mr. Gilliat when at Black Swamp.

Question :—From your knowledge of the country do you think this desirable?

Answer :—It is undoubtedly the best course to adopt.

REPLY.

The practice of collecting watering charges on application for permits would entirely do away with the system of leasing, which is the object for which this Department has been working. Mr. Cronin commits himself to the approval of both courses, that of leasing such Public Watering Places as could be leased, and compelling drovers to pay for the use of water when taking out their permits. It must be evident that both courses are not practicable at the same time. The lessee could certainly charge a drover for any water obtained, in spite of his having obtained a permit to water. The principal objection to the plan suggested is that it would necessitate the retention of caretakers, while the practice which is gradually being carried out by the Mines Department, will place very shortly the great proportion of these works in the hands of lessees, and relieve the Government of further expense.

Replies to evidence given by Mr. Road Superintendent Smyth before the Royal Commission re Tanks and Wells.

Walla Walla Tank.

Q. 4333 to 4336.

Question :—What is your opinion with regard to the capacity of this tank,—do you think it is altogether too large for the purpose?

Answer :—I do not think it is. There is no use in putting down a tank unless you put down one of a respectable size. The only water within 3 miles of this tank is the Billabong Creek, and that gives out sometimes. It is a great God-send to the people in the neighbourhood, and there is a small township close by. This is the only water that is permanent, and when the creek dries up there is simply no water in the neighbourhood, and the inhabitants are entirely dependent upon it. Therefore I do not think the tank is in any way too large. There is a large swamp near the tank which has been filled this season for the first time in many years. There is now no more than 4 feet of water in it, and in summer the depth would not be more than 6 inches.

Major Penrose :—I notice in Mr. Boulton's report it is said, "The tank is almost surrounded by water. The creek which flows down to the tank is now running a strong wide creek (30 feet) down the byewash into the Walla Swamp, in which the water is now backed up within a few feet of the end of the trough. In view of the fact that the takings for stock watering here since the tank was made are almost nil, and that the water in the swamp will, in my opinion, last for two years or more, it is a matter for consideration whether any additional expense should be incurred at this place." * * *

Question :—You do not agree with what is said there?

Answer :—No, I do not; there is only 4 feet of water in the place, and that would not last through a dry summer. The evaporation would be at least half an inch besides the soakage. Now, with respect to the statement made in Mr. Low's letter of 26th July, and in his report, that has only connection with water running round the tank after there has been a rainfall of about twenty-four hours, which occurred about eighteen months ago. The cause of this was the bursting of Petrie's Creek above the site of the dam, a thing which could not have been foreseen.

REPLY.

The accompanying letter from C. H. Douglas, Esq., J.P., the owner of Walla Walla Station and chairman of the Albury Stock Board, is submitted, and appears to corroborate the views of this Department:—

(P.W.P., 88-3,086.)

James W. Boulton, Esq., Public Watering Places, Mines Department, Sydney.

Dear Sir,

Walla Walla, Albury, 23 May, 1888.

In reply to your letter of the 21st instant, I beg to bring before your notice the following facts regarding the Walla Swamp and Petrie's Creek which flows into same, and which also supplies the Government tank leased by myself and brother. The water now in swamp covers an area of nearly 700 acres, varying in depth up to 6 feet, and will, with the help of ordinary winter rain, last for at least two years before drying up, even should comparatively dry seasons set in. The swamp was so full that for three months during last spring it overflowed and flooded a large area of country, and made the roads in its vicinity on north-west side quite impassable, and has remained full all summer. Petrie's Creek, which fills it, ran nearly constantly all last winter, and continued to do so up to the end of last year. The bursting of a dam thereon in no way affected or caused its continued running; sixty dams bursting on a creek like it would not have been nearly sufficient to thoroughly soak the earth over, even the half area of said swamp. Before the Walla tank was made a spring existed

Mr. Smyth's evidence.

existed, and still flows across main road from Jindera to Walla Post Office or township, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of same, at which spring a large number of the farmers drew their water supply for stock and homesteads. The Billabong Creek also has never actually been dry for very many years, the farmers and residents always being able to obtain water at it in any quantity in the driest season known for twenty-five years, the distance from tank to Billabong being something under 3 miles. When the Walla tank was proposed I recommended a dam, the earth forming it to be taken from bed of creek; in fact, forming tank (say) 15 feet deep, which would have thrown the water back at least a mile, and could have given a splendid permanent supply at the small cost of £100. A fence placed round main tank and dam, 20 yards of troughing, and a little spouting, fed by a common Douglas pump, costing £4, would have been perfectly sufficient for all requirements. My proposal, I believe, was recommended by the then District Surveyor, Mr. Wood, of Albury. I may mention that, as one of the lessees of Walla Public Watering Place, over which nearly £2,000 has been squandered, and for which a rental of £50 per annum is paid, that from the commencement of lease until now—a period of eighteen months,—not a penny has been taken or water supplied, neither do I expect during the currency of the lease (five years) one farthing will be taken, as it is not likely that drovers and teamsters will pay for water when plenty can be had free a mile or so in any direction from said tank. From 4,000 to 5,000 yards is in this district considered a large tank, and quite sufficient to water 7,000 sheep daily through the driest year.

I am, &c.,
CHAS. H. DOUGLAS.

Q. 4338.**Hovell's Dam.**

Question:—Now, with reference to Hovell's Dam, it has been said there has been a great waste of money here by cutting a bye-wash through the rock when the natural bye-wash would have sufficed?

Answer:—Well, there was a certain amount of material required to form an embankment, and I saw no reason why we should not take it from the hole, and by making this bye-wash through the solid rock to get it there rather than elsewhere, possibly some distance away. We thereby made a much safer bye-wash than by letting the water run round the other way. And for this reason, that supposing the natural bye-wash had scoured out, as would most certainly be the case, the level of water in the dam would be lowered to a corresponding extent; supposing the creek were to come down and scour out 3 or 4 ft. deep, that would lower the water to a corresponding extent.

REPLY.

If a certain amount of material was required for the embankment, which I presume is the dam, I venture to think that the usual practice of obtaining it from the bed of the creek, and thereby increasing the storage capacity would have been the preferable one rather than going to the heavy expense of cutting a bye-wash through solid rock.

With respect to the use of rock or shale for a dam, the practice is so completely in defiance of all rules of hydraulic engineering that I must confess I am surprised it should be suggested by Mr. Smyth. The only place where such material could have been used with safety would be as pitching for the clay surface of the dam, and, if so used, the fact would still be evident. I am further informed by Mr. Boulton that the spoil from the bye-wash is piled in irregular heaps below the dam and on each side of the creek.

See Mr. Low's evidence, Q. 1172 to 1200, and Mr. Boulton's evidence, Q. 593 to 598.

Replies to Evidence given by Mr. Road Superintendent Stillwell before the Royal Commission re Tanks and Wells.

Q. 4407 to 4410.

Question:—Have any sites selected by you been objected to by the Mines Department as unsuitable?

Answer:—No; there has been no objection made directly to me, but I see in evidence that Mr. Low stated that Dowdigan was not a good site.

Question:—Why was the site of this tank alleged to be a faulty one?

Answer:—The objection was to the catchment—that it was not sufficient, in his opinion. I think it was Mr. Low or Mr. Boulton who said that.

Question:—Is it a fact?

Answer:—No; it is not. In my opinion the site is a very good one; and I may say that it was approved of by Mr. Cronin, who gave evidence here yesterday.

Question:—Is it the best site to be had, all things considered?

Answer:—Yes; it is at the junction of the stock routes, and is the best site we could obtain there. Certainly a better one might have been obtained further on; but it is the best site, and that satisfied all requirements.

REPLY.

Mr. Low said in his report which he read to the Commission, Q. 1096:—

“The site is certainly not a good one. A much better one could have been procured within half a mile. The present excavation will require a large outlay for drains, even if it can be filled with a fair rain. *Drains*: There were 50 chains 6 feet x 9 inches. Although there had been heavy rain shortly before my visit, there had run no water into silt tank; in fact, they never will, as both drains in some places were full of water and quite dry near to tank.”

Mr. Stillwell, however, practically admits Mr. Low's statement that a better site could have been procured when he says, “Certainly a better one might have been obtained further on”; and if, as Mr. Low states, the distance was only half a mile, which would not have effected the position as regards the stock routes, it is to be regretted that Mr. Stillwell did not give some more conclusive reason why the better site was not adopted.

Mr.

Mr. Stillwell's evidence, Q. 4412 to 4417.

Question :—We will take the Ivanhoe tank first; strong complaints have been made with respect to Ivanhoe tank, complaints which I presume you have heard of, or read in evidence.

Answer :—Yes; I may state first concerning this Ivanhoe tank that another site was first chosen about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles away from the township by Mr. Wood, in conjunction with Mr. Gordon. The land on which that site was situated was selected by the squatter who took it up as a conditional purchase. On account of this we were prevented from proceeding with the works. Another site had consequently to be chosen, and that in the township was adopted as the best alternative site.

Mr. Woore :—Was the township a surveyed township at that time?

Answer :—It was. At the time there was no objection on the part of the people. I spoke to Mr Williamson and others, and they concurred that it was a suitable site, and would be advantageous.

Question :—Was that the general opinion of the people in the locality?

Answer :—Yes; so far as I could ascertain it was. I heard nothing to the contrary until some time after the work had been in progress. The site in the township was the only one available without going below and getting the drainage of the town. At present we have no drainage from the town at all. It is on the stock route, at the junction of the roads Hay to Wilcannia and Balranald to Ivanhoe. It is also in a position where it affords a suitable supply for the township. In selecting the site I drove round and examined all the suitable places, and conferred with most of the residents. So far as I could ascertain all the residents concurred that it was the best site available. When the work was in progress I heard indirectly that the townspeople were raising objections to the tank on account of the obstruction it would cause in bringing stock through the township, and also because it occupied an area that might have been sold for business purposes. One of the drains to the tank was afterwards modified, so that the allotments in the township might be sold if necessary.

REPLY.

The Ivanhoe tank was selected and excavated upon the surveyed allotments of the township. Stock desiring to water have to pass along the main street to reach the troughing. The annexed statement, P.W.P. 88-3,237, from G. Williamson, Esq., J.P., of Ivanhoe, shows his impression of what was the general opinion of the residents in respect to that site:—

P.W.P. 88-3,237.

Comments on extract from Mr. Stillwell's evidence before the Royal Commission *re* Ivanhoe tank.

At the time of Mr. Stillwell's visit to Ivanhoe for the purpose of choosing site for tank the township was surveyed. Mr. Stillwell and Mr. R. C. Webb, Kilfera, came to me asking my opinion, and in response I went with them, showing what I considered a more suitable site than the proposed one in the township, namely, a flat situated about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the town, but which was at once put out of the question by Mr. Stillwell as being too far away. We did not visit the spot originally chosen by Mr. Gordon, and which could not possibly have been better chosen, as Mr. Stillwell knew it perfectly well.

The general opinion of the residents was never in favour of the present site, although I said, and I daresay others said, that if it was absolutely necessary that the tank should be in the town the present was the best available; but we were never in favour of the present site.

Mr. Stillwell chose the site and engaged men to sink trial shafts, and returned in two days to inspect the result, which in all cases was known to be unsatisfactory, the sand brought up being of a kind never known to hold water without much extra trouble in puddling, &c.

Some of the drains constructed I consider quite unnecessary, as well as positively dangerous, in cutting across three roads in two places each; and I remonstrated with Mr. Stillwell on the subject, and he then said he would have the drains filled in with stones at the crossing places, which was done.

Some of the drains are totally unnecessary in my opinion. The drain referred to as being close to Cobb & Co.'s stables is not now used, I believe. At present no drainage from the township flows into the tank, but as the northern drain runs through a great many surveyed allotments, there is nothing to prevent these allotments being drained into the tank should they ever be built upon, as is of course very likely.

I never heard that levels were taken in making any of the drains, and the northern drain, I should say, was defective from a point at the back of the police barracks to its termination, as the land has a downward tendency all the way, and I should think a cutting 3 feet deep would only make matters worse.

I do not think any loss of water was ever occasioned by neglect of drains, but might have been caused by some difficulty with the valve, but cannot see that any water should be lost before the tank is filled, unless the tunnel leading from silt-tank into main tank is not large enough.

I may say in conclusion that I believe none of the residents ever regarded the present site of tank with approval, but as it seemed our only chance of getting one at all, no one cared to actively oppose it. Also on my speaking to Mr. Stillwell on the subject of the drains, telling him that I believed that should any accident happen in consequence of their dangerous state, the Government would be actionable, he gave me to understand that having the tank here simply reduced the town to the position of a public watering place for stock, doing away with any claims we might have to its being recognized as a town. If such be the case I consider that it was only Mr. Stillwell's duty to have informed the inhabitants of the town of the probable consequences of having the tank in the township, seeing that many of us have gone to great expense and trouble in erecting places of business and improvements generally.

Ivanhoe, 28th May, 1888.

GEORGE WILLIAMSON.

Mr. Williamson's memo. further confirms the evidence given before the Commission by this Department and the statements made in Blue Book, page 187, with reference to the drains. I may also add that the situation of Ivanhoe, at the junction of the main roads from Hay to Wilcannia, Balranald, and Paddington, will probably make it always the centre of a considerable population.

Q. 4418 and 4419.

The Chairman :—Is it a fact that the road crosses these drains at a number of places?

Answer :—It crosses the drains to the south once, but that is some half-mile from the tank.

Question :—Is it true that the drainage of Cobb & Co.'s stables will flow into this tank?

Answer :—No, the stables are below the drain; a piggery too has been spoken of, but that is also below the drain. There are no residences or buildings of any kind above the drain; I am positive of this.

Mr. Stillwell's evidence.

REPLY.

The following extract from Mr. Williamson's memo. will, I think, show that Mr. Stillwell is in error:—

“Some of the drains constructed I considered quite unnecessary, as well as positively dangerous, in cutting across three roads in two places each, and I remonstrated with Mr. Stillwell on the subject, and he then said he would have the drains filled in with stones at the crossing-places, which was done. Some of the drains are totally unnecessary in my opinion. The drain referred to as being close to Cobb & Co.'s stables is not now used, I believe. At present no drainage from the township flows into the tank, but as the northern drain runs through a great many surveyed allotments, there is nothing to prevent these allotments being drained into the tank should they ever be built on, as is of course very likely. I never heard that levels were taken in making any of the drains, and the northern drain, I should say, was defective from a point at the back of the Police Barracks to its termination, as the land has a downward tendency all the way, and I should think a cutting 3 feet deep would only make matters worse.”

Mr. Yeo also states in evidence, Q. 2684, “The road crosses the drains of this tank in four places, which have been stoned at a cost of £16 10s. or £17 each.” (See also Mr. Yeo's declaration, Q. 4501.)

Q. 4437 and 4438.

Chairman :—Now it is said here with regard to the same tank (Pulletop) that the water-lifting appliances are placed in the most unsuitable site, &c. ?

Answer :—The water-lifting appliances are in the lowest ground on one side of the tank, and there is no danger whatever of the water flowing under or around, so as to create a scour. There have been heavy rains since, but there has been no damage done to speak of. The drains were cut and the water diverted round, by the caretaker sending it down the service-tank and troughs, creating a slight scour round the service-tank piers. The caretaker should not have done this.

Question :—I see a serious complaint that this bye-wash is not excavated ?

Answer :—No. This is not a dam, and we do not excavate bye-washes round tanks. There would be no use in it; and if at any time the tank was full, and we found it necessary to prevent a further inflow, the water could be taken down the channel in the creek, which would be to all intents and purposes a bye-wash.

REPLY.

This tank has embankments on three sides only, and the water from the catchment is intercepted by two main drains converging at the silt pit on the upper or open side. Mr. Stillwell admits that the water-lifting appliances are on the lowest ground, and, when the tank is full, that they are liable to be flooded by every successive rain, as pointed out by Mr. Inspector Low, in his report read to the Commission, Q. 1096, must be apparent. Our reports show there was a heavy fall of rain in December last which filled the tank and overflowed around its embankments, the flood water submerging the troughs and scouring under the service-tank, and completely filling the silt-tank with silt. The caretaker was directed to block the main inlet with sand bags, so that he could clean out the silt-tank. Before this could be done a further fall of rain occurred, and the tank again overflowed, being full to its utmost capacity. The caretaker did stop the main inlet; if he had not done so the flood-water would have found its way around the embankment, injuring them, as well as flooding the troughing. There are instances, of which this is one, when even at tanks some provision in the shape of a bye-wash for waste storm-water is necessary, more especially where the drinking and lifting appliances have been wrongly placed on the lowest ground, and are liable, with heavy rains, to be flooded. I am informed by the local officers that the distance of the creek in which the small dam stands, and which Mr. Stillwell suggests should be used for a bye-wash, is about 20 chains from the tank, and that during the heavy rains referred to the overseer intercepted the flood-water collected in the creek above this dam, and permitted it to escape by a cutting below. The course which Mr. Stillwell points out should have been adopted to prevent the main tank overflowing. It was done, but the tank still overflowed from the storm-water over the remainder of the catchment area.

(P.W.P. 88-3,886.)

I, WILLIAM JAMES ELWORTHY, do declare, to the best of my knowledge and belief, that at Pulletop tank, after the rain in the latter part of 1886, the tank very soon overflowed, and it became necessary to cut a small dam about 20 chains away, in the channel of a small creek, which dam was directing all the water into tank.

The tank was then very much overflowed, and has been so ever since. Every shower puts some water in the tank, and, for the safety of the embankments, it is a matter how to provide an exit for rain water instead of means to conserve it.

This Pulletop tank requires constant care, and the man in charge has to be up and down on any night of heavy rain in case of accident.

At Mount Elliot tank the new drains made by the Works Department have proved almost useless, and, until some heavy rain in January last, no water ran in them. The centre drain runs out north-east from the tank and parallel with the fall; had it been cut eastward, then it would have answered the purpose as the original drain along road does, and which road drains have filled and kept the tank full.

When Mr. Inspector Low visited the tank, just a year ago, the new drains never had been useful, and the caretaker can certify to same.

At Pulletop tank the hose, I believe was not taken away by Mr. Stillwell till after shoots were put in corners, and it would have required three or four syphons to carry off what water fell on the embankments.

I was at Mount Elliot just after heavy rain, and saw what a long time the hose took to run water off, and how much attention it required.

Declared before me, at Narrandera, this }
3rd day of July, 1888,—

J. W. LEES, J.P.

W. J. ELWORTHY,
Overseer of Public Watering Places.

Mr.

Mr. Stillwell's evidence, Q. 4439 to 4443.

Pulletop Tank.

Question :—Another complaint is about these embankments. It being said that they have been "created" with no regard to being level; in fact, at the corner opposite, water-lifting appliances, lowest being 2 feet 7 inches lower than the middle of embankments thus further endangering water-lifting appliances. It seems that the embankments are said not to be level, and that they are lower where they ought to be higher?

Answer :—They are not quite level, but I do not think it is at all the case that they are lower where they ought to be higher. There are inequalities along them here and there, and the maximum would be 2 feet at the highest and lowest point. The work was not abandoned by the contractor. He left the embankments in an improper shape, and I had the matter rectified at his expense, but the embankments were cut thoroughly level on top. There is now no defect except as regards appearance.

Question :—The contractor was mulct in expenses through his neglect?

Answer :—Yes; the cost of the rectification of the embankments was deducted from his payment.

Mr. Woore :—Why were not they levelled up in the usual way?

Answer :—Well, I thought it would be putting the contractor to an unnecessarily heavy expense. We are generally taxed with being too strict with these embankments.

Mr. Woore :—If the contractor had gone on and finished the work as it now is, would you have passed it?

Answer :—Yes; I would.

REPLY.

The embankments at this tank, as previously stated, are upon three sides only, and it is at the S.W. end on the low land where the drinking appliances have been placed, as admitted by Mr. Stillwell on Q. 4434, that the embankment is complained of by Mr. Low as being 2 feet 7 inches lower than at the centre, a point where, from the formation of the ground, the water stands the deepest, and where the greatest strain is put upon the embankment. Mr. Stillwell's statements however appear to contradict each other. He states: "He had the matter rectified at the contractor's expense, but the embankments are cut thoroughly level on top," and that there is "no defect except as regards appearance." And yet he previously states that "there are inequalities along them here and there, the maximum would be 2 feet at the highest and lowest points," and he further strengthens this latter statement by saying, Q. 4442, "Well, I should have passed this, although the embankments were not quite level, &c." Mr. Stillwell admits the fact that the embankments are not level at this tank, and this I may point out is the cause of the great scour and of their washing away during heavy rains. Mr. Stillwell further admits the contractor was fined the cost of the rectification of the embankments, that amount being deducted from his payments, but at the same time it did not appear to occur to Mr. Stillwell that the maintenance of those embankments in proper order, and the additional expense in this direction caused by their defective construction was cast upon this Department.

Q. 4444.

Chairman :—Now, with regard to the Mount Elliot Tank drains, it is said they have been constructed evidently with little or no idea of what is required of a drain. These drains have been excavated down the face of a hill, and although my inspection was immediately after heavy rains I could discover no trace of water having run into these nor waterwash. Had one of these drains been extended about half-a-mile it would have caught the water in a good natural water-course, which in any ordinary season would be quite equal to filling this tank, thereby saving the outlay for what is and will remain useless.

Answer :—These drains have proved useful. They were cut in an oblique direction on the line of flow to prevent the interception of the water. The ground is very flat, and a lot of water is lost in slight depressions in the ground. The tank has been filled repeatedly, otherwise the drain spoken of would have been extended, but I found it unnecessary to do so. The tank is filled now, and has been since its construction. Therefore, a further extension of that drain would have been an unnecessary expense.

REPLY.

Mr. Low, in his report read before the Commission, asserts this drain is cut straight down a hill. He was not, however, examined upon the point. If the drain had been cut obliquely to the flow down hill, as Mr. Stillwell states, it would have intercepted the water caught and have been of value. (See also Mr. Elworthy's declaration in reply to evidence *re* Pulletop Tank, Q. 4438.)

Q. 4445 and 4446.

Question :—Now, with respect to the Hulong tank drain, Mr. Low says one is here so constructed as to run water from instead of to main tank. This showed plainly at the time of my inspection, owing to water lying in different parts of the drain, which had been banked up to prevent water running from the main tank. Were this drain opened up, and main tank full, I feel confident it would run quite one foot of water out. This means that the Hulong tank drains would run the water out of the tank instead of into it to the extent of one foot?

Answer :—The only reply to be given to that statement is to flatly contradict it. It is not the case at all. I took the levels for these drains myself. The swamp consists of Gilgai holes. The drains are cut through the hummocks and the embankments, and across the holes. The water remains in these depressions, and, owing to the negligence of the caretaker, the embankments at times practically break away, and the water escapes into the swamp that should have run into the tank, and would have done so in the ordinary course of things.

Mr. Woore :—Is it owing to the negligence of the caretaker?

Answer :—Yes, that the embankments give way is.

REPLY

Mr. Stillwell's evidence.

REPLY.

In reply to Mr. Stillwell's flat contradiction with respect to drains at this (the Hulong) Tank, I give here (P.W.P. 88-3,210 and 88-3,209) the declaration of the overseer and caretaker, which, I venture to think, taken in connection with the papers in the Blue Book, on pages 185, 186, will, perhaps, render it unnecessary for me to make any further remarks:—

Hulong Tank.

(P.W.P. 88-3,210).

I, WILLIAM JAMES ELWORTHY, overseer of Public Watering Places, Narrandera, do solemnly and sincerely declare that, on the 15th July, 1886, I took charge of the Hulong Tank from Mr. Stillwell, C.E., Hay (the representative of the Works Department). There was no water in the main tank at the time. The silt tank had a good deal of water in it, but not sufficient to put any depth in the main tank. The drains, 140 chains, are shown on accompanying plan marked red. After taking possession of the tank, and placing a caretaker in charge, it was found that the level of drains was most uneven, so much so that the caretaker had in several places to cut them much deeper in order to get a fall to the silt tank. There was some good rain soon after taking the tank over, and the caretaker told me the whole of this water was lost, it having a tendency to run to a small swamp at head of drain J to K. (See plan). The caretaker therefore had to block up this drain near its intersection with drains G to H, and by this means added to several days labour in cutting through uneven portions of other drains; the water when very high ran into main tank. Mr. Stillwell, some short time after, was at the tank during a storm, and the caretaker swears that, in consequence of what Mr. Stillwell saw, he at once put a man on to open up the embankment and lower the flume several inches, to try and feed the main tank. The tank is excavated on slightly higher ground than the swamp adjoining, and on Saturday last, 19th instant, I inspected the tank, and found the water in main tank level with the bottom of the flume, and therefore 2 feet below the ground surface. The water in the silt tank was 5 inches below this level, and, therefore, before the main tank could be filled up, it would require at least 2 feet 6 inches of water in the swamp. The caretaker's statement (sworn) is attached hereto, with reference to the defective levels, and this added to my statement, also my letter of 25th October, 1886, and the confirmation of same by Messrs. Low and Boulton (inspectors), should leave no doubt on the matter. I do not consider any negligence should be attributed to the caretaker. He did a great deal of work in connection with the drains; and the fact of the flume being lowered and a number of extra drains made, should be evidence that Mr. Stillwell desired to remedy some defect which he found existed, when, after a great deal of rain, so little water went into the main tank. The plan of drains will be found on next page. I make this declaration conscientiously, believing the same to be true. As witness my hand, this 30th day of May, 1888.

W. J. ELWORTHY,

Overseer of Public Watering Places, Narrandera.

Witness,—

J. W. LEES, J.P.

Appendix B.

The declaration of the overseer and caretaker with respect to Mr. Stillwell's evidence is submitted for the information of the Secretary for Mines.—HARRY GILLIAT, 31/5/88. The Under Secretary. Submitted.—G.H. (for U.S.), 5/6/88. Seen. They might be sent to the Commission, *re* Tanks and Wells.—F.A., 7/6/88.

Hulong Tank.

(P.W.P., 88-3,209, with P.W.P., 88-3,210.)

28 May, 1888.

I, SAMUEL LEIGHTON, caretaker of Hulong Tank, do solemnly and sincerely declare that at the time I took charge of the Hulong Tank on 15th July, 1886, I found it necessary after the rain to make several alterations in the levels of the drains, in order to get the water to run into the silt tank, and from thence to main tank.

In the diagram of drains sent to Mr. Gilliatt by Mr. Overseer Elworthy on 25th October, 1886, it will be seen that Mr. Stillwell had had several new drains made to try and secure the water.

It is a positive fact that the drains originally made caused the water to run from instead of to main tank, and as a proof of this, Mr. Stillwell on one occasion, when he was at the tank during a storm, saw the silt tank full and no water going into main tank; shortly after this Mr. Stillwell found it necessary to have the embankments opened, and the flume, which is 12-inch pipe, valve lowered 12 inches to run the water into main tank, which action on his part should be conclusive as to the defective level of drains.

The actual work I did at drains is as follows:—Drain A to B.—Started at head of drain and channelled it a distance of about 50 chains, and when within 3 chains of the silt tank I had to deepen the drain 3 feet to get the water to run into silt tank. Drain G to H.—I had to deepen this 3 feet near silt tank, and I had to close drains J to K at its intersection with G to H, as its original level was 13 inches below that of the main drain.

The statement that I showed negligence in allowing the banks of drain to fall in is untrue; the only drain that ever broke away is one of the last constructed, which, after being repaired by me, has not broken away since; this drain is P to Q. I further swear that Mr. Stillwell gave me orders on several occasions to do certain works; amongst which were, 1st, to paint the boiler red; 2nd, to paint the supply tank; 3rd, to throw up embankments in drains; 5th, and on one occasion when I found it necessary to temporarily block drain G to H, Mr. Stillwell came along and made me open it; the consequence was that the water receded from silt tank to swamp instead of going into main tank as it should have done, and it was at that particular time Mr. Stillwell gave his labourers orders to lower the flume.

And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true. As witness my hand this 28th day of May, 1888.

Made at Whitton, this 28th day of May, 1888, before me,—

L. H. W. CASPERSON, J.P.

SAMUEL LEIGHTON.

Q. 4448.

Tom's Lake Tank.

Question:—Then this tank is not in the swamp, but on the edge of it?

Answer:—Yes; it is in the swamp necessarily to obtain a catchment.

REPLY.

It is perhaps only necessary to reply to this statement briefly; it must be apparent that water flowing into a swamp can be intercepted before reaching it; consequently it is not necessary to put the tank in the swamp to obtain a catchment, and I may add further that to do so where stock are to be continually watered in large numbers is not such a judicious course as placing it upon sounder ground, and intercepting the storm water.

Mr.

Mr. Stillwell's evidence, Q. 4449.

Question :—How did you arrange that the troughing was not in the swamp?

Answer :—The troughs are on the edge of the swamp and clear of bad ground, and stock going to the troughing can go down on sound ground.

REPLY.

Mr. Stillwell's reply conveys a wrong impression in saying the troughs are on the edge of the swamp and clear of bad ground. Mr. Boulton reports that the troughs are for the most part placed on made ground on the edge of the swamp and this has been banked up to the level of the troughs so that in wet weather it backs the water blowing from the road; this when cattle and sheep are watered becomes very boggy. The swamp is in black soil.

Q. 4459 to 4465.

Chairman :—The next case mentioned is the Box Creek and dam—are these in your district?

Answer :—Yes.

Question :—This is what is said :—“ One embankment here forming a dam would have been quite sufficient for requirements, instead of the large outlay for tank and dam. In this opinion I am borne out by Mr. Lindsay, manager Til Til station.”

Answer :—There is no dam here at all. The tank is constructed in the shallow bed of Box Creek. It has embankments round on four sides. The embankments have the effect of damming the creek.

Question :—Is it desirable to have tanks put in the beds of creeks?

Answer :—No; but in this case the country is very flat.

Question :—Then it is further said about the matter :—“ The embankments around excavation are of no practical use and must have increased cost of tank considerably. The site would have been a more favourable one and more water conserved had a simple dam been constructed down creek about $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile nearer to Thompson's Hotel.” I believe you have already explained about the embankments that they conserved water above the level surface?

Answer :—Yes; the water is thus conserved above the natural surface, if the valves are closed, when the tank is at its fullest and the water not allowed to go back again. These embankments also serve to protect the water from wind action.

Question :—What is the depth of this billabong?

Answer :—From a guess I should say from about 8 to 10 feet, and that would not be nearly sufficient.

Question :—So that a mere dam in this creek would not have been permanent?

Answer :—No, certainly not. It would not have provided permanent water.

Question :—Had it been selected $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile down would that have made a permanent dam?

Answer :—I think the depth of the creek is the same all along. I think it would be about the same.

REPLY.

The construction of a single embankment with the excavation in the bed of the creek instead of a large tank with four embankments would have met all requirements at much less cost. The water that may be conserved above the surface-level of the present tank cannot certainly exceed a few inches. The error committed was in constructing a costly tank with embankments on four sides in the bed of a creek when $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile lower down natural water-holes existed which by being deepened and the material used for a dam would have conserved an ample supply of water with a very great reduction in cost. The water-holes referred to last longer than any other natural water in the neighbourhood. Had they been excavated an additional 10 or 12 feet to obtain material for the dam it would have given a greater depth for a conserving area than the present tank. Mr. Stillwell in the same answer first denies that there is a dam here at all and in the next sentence says the embankments have the effect of damming the creek. I might ask what is a dam but an embankment that produces such an effect.

Q. 4484.

Chairman :—Can you give any other reason why the Government have paid more money for these works than the squatters?

Answer :—Yes; there are many other reasons, a contractor for a squatter has many advantages given him which we cannot offer. As a rule the squatter's contractor has grass and water free, but in our case it is quite the reverse. Our contractors occasionally in fact almost invariably have to use the wild cattle belonging to the station owners, who is anxious to get them broken in by the contractor. The squatter's contractor has every facility offered him for obtaining supplies at a low rate.

REPLY.

The assertion is so extraordinary that Government contractors have almost invariably to use the wild cattle belonging to station owners that I think it requires explanation. I fail to see what the Government contractor has to do with station owners or why he has to use their “wild cattle.” He may for his own convenience break in a few steers, but if the station owner is so anxious as Mr. Stillwell asserts to get them broken in, it is probable that he made satisfactory terms for doing so. It should be the duty one would think of the Road Superintendent to see that the contractor whose tender is accepted has a suitable plant when he undertakes the work. I am well aware that station owners very often make contracts by which they supply bullocks and plant, but in that case the work of excavation is done from 4d. to 6d. per cubic yard.

That station contractors obtain supplies at low rates is not in my experience at all the rule.

I never recollect having heard of a case where a squatter charged a Government contractor for grass, and they rarely and then only in severe droughts do so for water. I may perhaps question with the limited experience of Mr. Stillwell, admitted by him in Q. 4403, to be confined to seven tanks, his views on these points can be regarded as conclusive.

Mr.

Mr. Stillwel's evidence, Q. 4485.

Question :—Is that the case with the Government tanks ?

Answer :—Where we can do so we select a good season, but as a rule we cannot do so ; as a rule we have little discretion as regards that, because when a tank is ordered to be made it has to be made.

REPLY.

The facts are that the large proportion of tanks recommended for construction have not been completed within three or four years. The works on the Mount Brown Road were commenced in 1882, and out of nine only two are yet in the first six months of 1888 transferred to this Department, and this is not an isolated instance. Mr. Stillwel's statement, that " We have little discretion," can only apply to the pressure put on himself and similar officers by his own Department. Since it must be evident on a perusal of the Blue Book, that but little attention is paid to the wishes of the Mines Department.

Q. 4494.

Delay in payment to contractors.

Question :—Do you think this delay is worth taking into account by the contractor ?

Answer :—I think not, I think to a man of means, it does not stand in the way at all.

REPLY.

Mr. Stillwel's reply I think proves conclusively that the contracts issued by the Roads and Bridges, are available only to men with means. Equally good workmen, but who are dependent upon regular and prompt payments, are afraid to come forward. This throws out of the market all men who cannot afford to wait the delay for their money. This is the whole of our contention.

Q. 4498.

Question :—Is it a fact that these works have been taken by contractors, and sublet to others or subcontractors at a rate very much below the original rate ?

Answer :—I do not know that any tank works have been sublet, all was carried out by contractors themselves.

*Omitted
in printed
evidence.*

Question :—It has been said that many of the works have been sublet at a much lower rate than the work was taken for originally.

Answer :—No ; nothing of the kind has occurred in my district.

REPLY.

It does not appear in evidence that Mr. Stillwel has disproved what has been stated with respect to the subletting the fence at Ivanhoe, the following extract from a letter given in full in reply to evidence (P.W.P.) 88-4,335, Q. 4577, from Mr. John Hay, the owner of Mount Manara Station, affords additional information on this subject. And the following statement from John Hardie, Government contractor. Broken Hill, is also submitted.

Extract from Mr. Hay's letter.

I do not know the price of fence round the Mount Manara paddock, but Hardie, the contractor that excavated the tank offered to complete it for £80 per mile ; but Bevan, who got the contract from Government, said it was too much, and let it to another man for less.

Letter from Frank Hardie.

Sir,
In answer to your inquiry as to my offering to erect fence at Mount Manara Government Tank, I have to inform you that I offered to erect same in terms of the specification, and to the best of my recollection for about the sum of £80 per mile, which Bevan, the original contractor informed me by letter was too high a rate, consequently I did not get the work.

Yours, &c.,

FRANK HARDIE.

P.S.—I can recollect that I told Mr. J. Hay the price I offered to erect the fence for, and also told him of the reply I received from Bevan.—F.H.

Mr. Inspector Low, Public Watering Places, Silverton.

Q. 4500.

Question :—So that these so-called excessive prices have not at all events enriched the contractor ?

Answer :—I do not see how excessive prices can be obtained for works that are submitted to public competition.

REPLY.

And yet Mr. Stillwel accepts tenders for fencing and drains, which, he admits, are excessive.

In Q. 4508 of his evidence he states :—

" I am not quite sure the price paid was 15s. per chain for Ivanhoe drains, but I know that an excessive price was paid for the drains."

And in Q. 4558 :—

" *Question* :—You have not told us why you paid £112 per mile for fencing. Did you not think at the time the tender was received that the price was an excessive one ?

Answer :—Yes ; but tenders had been repeatedly invited, and we saw no prospect of our being able to get a lower tender, and the construction of the work was urged by the Mines Department, therefore we saw no alternative but to accept."

Mr.

Mr. Stillwel's evidence, Q. 4497.

Question :—I suppose that this was a season when a squatter would not have undertaken such a work ?

Answer :—Yes ; and we were compelled by the necessity of the case to do it.

REPLY.

Mr. Stillwel does not explain the necessities of the case which compelled him to construct a tank at Carowra in the midst of a drought.

Q. 4501.

Question :—Reverting again to the Ivanhoe Tank, it has been said that the drains leading into this tank were very faulty in construction as well as being excessively costly. I notice here, at page 187 of the Mines papers :—“The drains here have evidently been constructed with no respect as to what a drain is, for one drain for a good $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile running water from the tank another is brought along the road to Mossgiel, and cut up very badly both by stock and teams. The water from this drain overflows silt-tank, which is very small, and partly upon main road, and runs into Elliot Tank on opposite side of road, which water Elliot afterwards sells to the public ; another long drain runs through township allotments, which have been sold, and is now being blocked up.” Now as to defective level ?

Answer :—This applies to the northern drain. This drain had to be constructed about 30 chains and the scrub cleared. It was then found an advantageous extension might be made by making the cutting about 3 feet deep to a slight rise for 15 chains. Before the tank was handed over I set the caretaker to cut these drains, and when the tank was handed over the Mines officers discontinued this work, consequently that end or portion of the drain is ineffective. It was Mr. Yeo who did this.

REPLY.

Upon this statement I submit declarations from Mr. Inspector Boulton and Mr. Overseer Yeo, which, I think, will sufficiently traverse Mr. Stillwel's recollection. I may further call the Commissioners' attention to what Mr. A. P. Wood states in evidence, Q. 3357 :—

“*Major Penrose* :—Mr. Low, one of the Inspectors of Public Watering Places, says in his evidence about this tank :—*Drains*.—These are badly constructed, evidently with no intention of leading water to main tank, much of them running from instead of to the main tank. Two of these drain water from the tank ; the other runs parallel to the main road, overflows silt tank, and fills a private tank belonging to Elliot.”

[It will be observed that Mr. Low's evidence has been misquoted. He states that “two of these drain water from the township” (see his evidence, Q. 1096), and not, as quoted by Major Penrose, that “two of these drain water from the tank.” He, however, adds that much of the drains run water from the tank.]

“*Answer* :—As regards the state of the works at the time Mr. Yeo took charge of the tank, it is correct. But I am now giving evidence which it would be better for you to obtain from Mr. Stillwel, superintendent in that district. You will find, when you have examined him, it will be very easily accounted for.”

Mr. Wood here admits the statement is correct, but that Mr. Stillwel will easily account for it. This, I venture to submit, Mr. Stillwel has not done.

Mr. Williamson, J.P., of Ivanhoe, in his letter referring to Ivanhoe Tank, states :—

“I never heard that levels were taken in making any of the drains ; and the northern drain I should say was defective from a point at the back of the police barracks to its termination, as the land has a downward tendency all the way, and I should think a cutting 3 feet deep would only make matters worse.”

Declaration.

I INSPECTED the Ivanhoe Tank for the first time on 29th April, 1886, and on that date the drains to the tank were completed ; and no attempt had been then made by Mr. Stillwel to grade the northern drain by making the cutting 3 feet deep referred to. On the 16th October, 1886, the tank was transferred to this Department ; and on 23rd November, 1886, I again visited the tank, and on that occasion, when inspecting the drains, I saw the partially completed cutting, which was *not an extension*, but simply a deepening of the existing drain, about 10 chains, as nearly as I can remember, from its termination, and which Playford, the then caretaker, informed me had been commenced a short time before the transfer by Mr. Stillwel's man. Playford informed me that he had been directed by Mr. Stillwel to complete the cutting. Having in view the fact that some urgent work was required at the tank and machinery, I, and not Mr. Yeo, directed him not to touch it till he had everything else in good order.

This cutting, according to Mr. Stillwel's statement, will enable the water, from a depression or water-course beyond this rise, to be carried into the tank. This I think it will hardly do, as I am of opinion that the depression or water-course is of a lower level than the tank (see Blue Book, page 73).

I make this declaration conscientiously believing it to be true.

JAMES W. BOULTBEE,
Inspector of Public Watering Places.

Declared, before me, this 3rd day of }
July, 1888, at Sydney,— }
GERARD HERRING, J.P.

(P.W.P. 88-3764.)

Subject :—Drains at the Ivanhoe Tank.

Stock Office, Moss Vale, 25 June, 1888.

REFERRING to Mr. Stillwel's answer *re* the defective level of the northern drain, I desire to state that this drain was never extended beyond its original and present termination, and it was long after the first rain that put water in the tank that Mr. Stillwel deemed it necessary to cut the drain about 3 feet deeper for about 12 or 14 chains at the back of the police barracks. The caretaker then in charge for the Works Department was instructed by Mr. Stillwel to deepen it ; but, before it was half completed, the tanks, &c., were transferred to the Mines Department. Mr. Stillwel instructed the mines caretaker to continue this work, which he did until the arrival of Mr. Inspector Boulton, who instructed the caretaker to discontinue it, to effect some urgent repairs at tank, and not me, as stated by Mr. Stillwel, which can be seen from Mr. Boulton's report of 23/11/86 on the Ivanhoe Tank.

JAMES YEO,
Inspector of Stock, Moss Vale.

Declared, before me, at Moss Vale, }
this 27th June, 1888,— }
WILLIAM BRIDGE, J.P.

Mr.

Mr. Stillwell's evidence, Q. 4502.

Question :—Another statement is that the water overflows the silt tank and runs into Elliot's tank ?

Answer :—Well I visited the place shortly after that statement was made, and I found the loss of water was occasioned by the neglect of the upper drains; the water had overflowed them, and consequently overflowed the lower drains and escaped altogether. If proper attention had been given to the upper drains this would not have occurred.

REPLY.

Mr. Stillwell in no way disproves the statements given in the reports by the officers of this Department (Blue Book, page 150-151), which gives apparently a much more sufficient reason for the overflow of water into Elliot's tank. Mr. Stillwell explains that the water had overflowed the upper drains and these consequently had overflowed the lower drains. This, according to the accompanying letter from Mr. Yeo, the then resident overseer, is not the case :

(P.W.P., 88-3,671 ; S.B., 88-272.)

Sir, Stock Office, Moss Vale, 25 May, 1888.
Referring to your telegram of 23rd May, *re* water overflowing drains at Ivanhoe tank, I beg to state that at the time I reported the water backing up and overflowing into Elliot's tanks, it was solely owing to the smallness of the inlet pipe, which would not allow the water to get away as fast as the drains brought it into the silt tank. The upper drains overflowed on one occasion, when the water in the main tank rose to the level of the drains.

I have, &c.,
JAMES YEO,
Inspector of Stock.

J. W. Boulton, Inspector of P.W. Places, Sydney.

The water must have come with an extraordinary rush not to have been intercepted by the lower drains, and the overflow into Elliot's tank would appear to be more readily accounted for by the backing up of the water at the inlet pipe, as was stated to be the case.

The whole of this question is shown on pages 150-151 of the Blue Book.

Mr. Williamson, of Ivanhoe, states in his communication, which is given in full, in reply to evidence, at Q. 4417 :—

" I do not think any loss of water was ever occasioned by neglect of drains, but might have been caused by some difficulty with the valve ; but cannot see that any water should be lost before the tank is filled, unless the tunnel leading from the silt tank to the main tank is not large enough."

Q. 4508.

Chairman :—Now we have some very heavy charges made of the extreme and exorbitant prices paid for the drains at this tank. Here is what is said by Mr. Yeo :—

" The drain at the Ivanhoe tank was made by Messrs. Farrell and Gallagher, who received 15s. per chain, which was an exorbitant price, as stations in the district were only giving 3s. 6d. to 5s. per chain, and I might mention that a reliable person informed me at the time the contract was let that one of the contractors, while consulting his partner as to what price they should do the work for, said they should ask 7s. 6d. per chain, which he said would pay them well ; but this partner said as it is Government work let us ask 15s. per chain, which they did and got. I might also mention that the drain running from the north-east corner of main tank from a point about half a mile from the main tank should not have been passed by the Road Superintendent as it was never graded properly, and the water runs in the opposite direction of the tank. No tenders were called for the cutting of these drains."

Answer :—I am not quite sure that the price paid was 15s., but I know that an excessive price was paid for the drains. It is true that tenders were not publicly invited in the press, but on several occasions I endeavoured to obtain tenders locally. The newspaper published nearest to the place is 140 miles distant at Hay. I notified the matter at the post-office, Ivanhoe, and made it public, as well as I could, otherwise. I also endeavoured to obtain a tender from the contractor to the tank, and the lowest I could obtain from any one was from this man Gallagher. Lower prices might possibly have been obtained by waiting, but in that case we should have lost the first rainfall into the tank, and rather than entail the risk of this it was considered advisable to let the drains. Of course I cannot say anything as to what was said about the contractors first arranging to ask 7s. 6d.

REPLY.

Mr. Stillwell admits the drains were not let by public tender, and that the price was excessive. Mr. Yeo, in his evidence, on Q. 2676, confirms this statement. Mr. Hanna was getting drains done at 26-mile tank, 60 miles north, in the same kind of soil for 4s. 6d. per chain. (Blue Book, page 126.)

Q. 4516.

Mr. Stillwell states :—I think the man Farrell, one of the contractors, is now employed by the Mines Department as a caretaker. He is one of the men who, according to Mr. Yeo, conspired to get these exorbitant prices from the Government.

REPLY.

Mr. Stillwell has previously admitted that public tenders were not called for the construction of these drains, and therefore he can hardly be justified in accusing Farrell of conspiracy for asking a price which was accepted. Farrell was employed without any knowledge on the part of this Department, that he had been one of Mr. Stillwell's contractors, the fact having been ascertained subsequently, and since this inquiry has been instituted.

Mr.

Mr. Stillwell's evidence, Q. 4517 to 4519.

Chairman :—At page 184 of the Mines papers, in connection with Tom's Lake Tank, I notice the following statement:—"With reference to the main drain and the broken dam, the drain is, I should say, considerably over a mile long, from 12 to 14 feet wide, and from 3 to 5 feet deep."

Answer :—I daresay it is of these dimensions.

Question :—It starts from a watercourse and a wide low dam across this forces the water into the drain. The water will have, I think, to rise 3 feet in this dam before it enters the drain. From appearance, the water has been within an inch of flowing over the dam, the break which is a cutting in the solid earth, about 20 yards wide, evidently saving the dam, the bottom level of the drain being too high to carry the amount of water.

Answer :—That is owing to the drain being obstructed.

Altered in revised copy of evidence.

Question :—If this cutting or byewash is to be repaired I think the whole dam should be raised 2 feet for safety. The water will then flow down the drain to the place where the water has escaped into the swamp, and where I think the ground surface is lower than at the tank. The earth excavated from the drain is placed in irregular heaps without making a continuous bank, and it is between these heaps the water has made its way and cut down. The drain continues and ends abruptly about a chain from and parallel to the tank. A small dam throws the water by a small drain into the tank. I am informed the drain was originally an uniform size, but owing to the obstruction to the traffic was filled in. The main road, I must mention, passes between the drain and tank and follows the drain the whole way, and I am told that when the water comes through to the tank the space here was a perfect bog-hole. The original intention was, I suppose, to bring sufficient water down to fill up the embankments, and to do this I think it will be necessary to raise the dam and bank the earth along the low portion of the drain in a form that can be utilized as a roadway and to construct a culvert and open up the drain again. I found the drain scoured and cut, which, owing to the friable nature of the soil, is inevitable, but not so much silted. The caretaker informs me that he and a man were at work in the water, endeavouring to arrest the flow of water from the drain into the swamp, but were unsuccessful. The dam and drain also, I believe, are off the public watering-place, and the amount of water lodging in the dam militates against the tank, since the lessees cannot charge for water from it. Are these statements correct?

Answer :—I did not take the levels for the drains myself, but, to the best of my belief, the defect in the drain is not due to any fault of construction but to the want of proper maintenance. The drain is obstructed and silted up by vegetation.

REPLY.

Mr. Stillwell's reply is merely general; it does not attempt to refute any of the statements in Mr. Boulton's report, quoted by the chairman.

Q. 4525.

Question :—Does not the use of steam power necessitate a greater expense?

Answer :—No, I think not, because the cost of erection is less than the other.

REPLY.

A reference to the Blue Book, page 270, where the cost of machinery, service tank, and troughing is given by the Works Department, will show that upon calculation of the difference in the expense of the two types of machinery, the balance is in favour of horse gear by £26 10s. The following evidence, given by Mr. Wood, Q. 3443, appears to indicate also that horse gear is the cheaper type of machinery:

"The Holman pump, with horse gear, is £49, delivered in Sydney. The cost of the special Tangye steam pump is £87 10s., with boiler * * * The Amos and Smith horse gear costs £52 or £53, and the steam pump, £120. The cost of the Appleby pump is about £125."

Q. 4528.

Question :—But there would be no necessity for paddocks in case steam-pumps were used as horses would not be required?

Answer :—Certainly not.

REPLY.

Mr. Stillwell is apparently quite unaware of the object of these paddocks. They were decided upon with a view of inducing the leasing of the public watering places, and not merely for the convenience of caretakers' horses.

Q. 4538 to 4540.

Question :—Do you think that the specification for this fencing entails unnecessary expense on the Government?

Answer :—No; because I think that the fences required for these watering places should be more substantial than those used on stations. Our fences are virtually road fences, and the greater part of them are put up between the stock route and the paddocks, and are meant to keep out large stock as well as sheep * * * For instance, the fences round the paddocks require to be of a much more substantial character than station fences, because the fence round the paddock is practically a road fence.

Question :—But on one side only?

Answer :—But very often there are large stock in the paddocks, cattle as well as sheep; three sides of the paddock are on the stock route, and the other is leasehold land.

Mr. Stillwell's evidence.**REPLY.**

I do not at all admit Mr. Stillwell's contention that the T.L. paddocks have to resist so much more than a station horse paddock; but, as a matter of precaution, I recommended the adoption of No. 6 for a top wire in place of No. 8; but the Works Department not satisfied with this have used No. 4 for top wires and No. 6 for the remainder. (See also reply to Mr. Wood, page 37).

Q. 4541 and 4542.

Question:—What are the specifications of the fences put up by you, do they include a top rail?

Answer:—No. I will give full particulars if necessary. The posts are 9 inches x 3 inches, sunk 30 inches in the ground, 5 feet out; the panels are 10 feet long, with five No. 6 wires, and a top wire of No. 4 gauge. There are straining posts at intervals of twelve panels, and they are put 3 feet in the ground?

Question:—Do you not think it is quite unnecessary to have these posts 30 inches in the ground and that it increases the cost?

Answer:—I have had very little experience with fencing until I went down to that district, and I should say, judging from what I saw I did no more than was necessary for public requirements.

REPLY.

Mr. Stillwell is clearly incorrect in this reply, as one of the principal objections is that the fencing at the following works is without straining posts, viz., Gunnaramby, Clare, Boonoon, One Tree, Ivanhoe, &c. The specification quoted does not appear either to have been carried out with the Wooloondool fence, nor does he explain why in that instance six strains of barbed wire, were used to enclose the paddock; while Mr. Hanna, although approving of its use for a top wire, objects even to that on the score of expense. (See evidence, Q. 3739.)

Q. 4554 and 4555.

Question:—Was this omission of straining posts a concession to the contractor, or was it done by way of experiment?

Answer:—It was done as an experiment.

Question:—Has it tended to cheapen the cost of the work?

Answer:—In this case the contractor had straining posts provided, so that there was no alteration in the cost.

REPLY.

For an experiment, which any station holder in the district would have condemned as impracticable, I may remark that five paddocks, or approximately 20 miles of fencing, appears on somewhat too large a scale, particularly when the contracts were let by Mr. Stillwell's own admission as high at £112 per mile.

Q. 4558.

Chairman:—You have not told us why you paid £112 per mile for fencing; did you not think at the time the tender was received that the price was excessive?

Answer:—Yes; but tenders had been repeatedly invited, and we saw no prospect of our being able to get a lower tender, and the construction of the works was urged by the Mines Department; therefore we saw no alternative but to accept.

REPLY.

Mr. Stillwell produces no evidence of this having been urged by the Mines Department. The Department certainly asked, as a general rule, that the fencing should not be delayed longer than necessary; but I have no hesitation in saying that it would never have advised the acceptance of such a tender even with straining posts.

Q. 4562.

Mr. Woore:—From your own knowledge of the country, do you believe that the contractor's statements as to the distance which he had to draw timber?

Answer:—Well, not in all cases; but in these cases I do. Certainly in one case the contractor might have got the timber close at hand had he not been prevented by the lessee of the run. I mention this to show the conditions under which our fencing is done as compared with station fences.

REPLY.

The Commissioner for Roads has the power to enter upon any Crown lands to cut timber, and any person provided with a license to cut timber has also the right to enter upon any Crown lands or reserve for that purpose.

Q. 4567.

Mr. Woore:—Then he goes on to say: "This description of fencing is new to me, and I unhesitatingly condemn the same. In this opinion I am borne out by Mr. Brougham, of Ticehurst; Mr. Laird, of Mossiel; and Mr. Webb, of Kilfera, all of whom have had much experience in fencing and fencing timber in this particular district, neither of whom would erect fences without straining posts"?

Answer:—Well, I am not responsible for this, and as the work has not been handed over, they are criticising work which has not yet come into their hands.

REPLY.

Mr. Stillwell's evidence.**REPLY.**

All the tanks upon this road are in our hands ; the paddocks are surveyed by us for fencing. The Works Department, upon completion of fence, have no other course than to hand it over to this Department. Criticism under such circumstances does not appear to be misplaced. Application was made on 20th February, 1883, for the transfer of this fencing to the Mines Department. Upon the 27th Mr. Bennett replies that it was not considered necessary to formally transfer this fence. Prior, therefore, to Mr. Stillwell's statement in evidence, this fence was supposed by his own Department to be in charge of our caretaker. (See papers herewith.)

Copy Ivanhoe Tank transfer of fencing ; P.W.P. 83-1,181 ; P. Works, 88-1,307 ; P. W. Tanks and Punts, 88-111.

Sir,

Public Watering Places, Mines Department, 20 February, 1888.

I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to inform me upon what date the Department of Roads and Bridges will be prepared to hand over to this Department the fencing at the Ivanhoe Tank.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary for Mines.

The Under Secretary for Public Works.

Roads.—J.R., B.C., 22/2/88. Wire Stillwell.—W.C.B., 23/2/88. Wire sent. Resubmit when a telegram received.—A.P.W., 23/2/88. It was not thought necessary to formally transfer this fence. The Mines caretaker was on the spot.—W.C.B., B.C., 27/2/88. Under Secretary. Under Secretary for Mines.—J.R., B.C., 28/2/88.

In consequence of the reports upon the defective character of this fencing, I have urged that a formal transfer should be made. This, it appears, is not desired by the Department of Public Works. To save time, Mr. Low may perhaps be instructed to inspect and take charge of the fence, and notify to the local Roads officer that he has done so. Mr. Low should furnish a full report upon it. The Works Department may perhaps be asked what other fencing they have completed, when our officer can be instructed to take it in charge.—H.G., 9/3/88. The Under Secretary.

Submitted.—H.W., 12/3/88. Approved.—F.A., 13/3/88.

Q. 4576.

Question :—Statements have been made here by officers of the Mines Department to the effect that they would put up a sufficiently good fence for from £50 to £55 per mile, intending, no doubt, to show that the expenditure by the Works Department was excessive?

Answer :—I think these are merely unsupported statements. Mr. Low put it to the test once by calling for tenders, but he got no reply except one to do the work at £90 per mile.

REPLY.

Mr. Stillwell's statement is incorrect. Fencing has been done by this Department for £44 per mile at Colombo Creek. Tenders have also been received to fence at the following rates :—P.W.P., Wagga Wagga district, £35 per mile ; P.W.P., Walgett district, £57 per mile ; P.W.P., Silverton district, £75 per mile ; P.W.P., Cobar district, £42 per mile ; P.W.P., Bourke district, £38 per mile. The estimates received from the various overseers do not exceed an average cost of £52 per mile (see Blue Book, page 122). In regard to Mr. Low's calling for tenders, this question is fully dealt with in my rejoinder to Mr. Wood's evidence, page 36.

Q. 4577.

Question :—A statement has been made by one of the witnesses that the fence round Mount Manara paddock cost £120 per mile?

Answer :—It cost the same as the Ivanhoe fence, which was £112 per mile. I know the work was delayed for months, owing to the contractor being unable to get any timber at all. He could not get permission either to cross the paddock or to get water from the station tank, and the work was suspended on account of this.

REPLY.

The following letter, P.W.P., 88-4,335, from Mr. John Hay, the lessee of Mount Manara station, will perhaps correct any erroneous impression conveyed by Mr. Stillwell's evidence, as above quoted :—

Harry Gilliat, Esq.,

Dear Sir,

Re your letter of 25th May,—

Mount Manara, 12 July, 1888.

1. I do not know the price of fence round Mount Manara paddock, but Hardy, the contractor that excavated the tank, offered to complete it for £80 per mile, but Bevan, who got the contract from Government, said it was too much, and let it to another man for less.

2. The work was not delayed for want of water or timber, but was delayed because Bevan could not sublet the contract to his satisfaction. There was abundance of water, independent of station water ; in fact, he had no need to ask for water or permission to go through the run, because the tank is on the road-side and roads everywhere to Pine Ridges.

The posts were got on Marfield. It is possible Mr. Fartiere may have refused him permission to cart them at some particular time, when he was short of water. Mr. Fartiere told me he had refused some contractors permission to cart timber, but whether it was telegraph poles or posts I cannot say. Frank Hardy, who is excavating a tank for Government at or near Broken Hill, could give you the exact price he offered to do it for, as he was camped some months at the Mount Manara Tank, trying to get the contract to fence the paddock round the tank.

I should like to have been present when Mr. Stillwell was giving evidence. He ought to have named the station. In any case, I have stated the exact cause of delay in erecting fence.

Yours truly,
JOHN HAY.

(88-4,669, 4,835, 9/8/88).

Sir,

Department of Mines. Public Watering Places, Broken Hill, 4 August, 1888.

Referring to B.C. document 18/7/88 re Frank Hardy offering to erect fence at Mount Manara P. W. Place for Bevan, the original contractor, herewith returned, I have the honor to report that I have seen Hardy, who is somewhat in doubt as to the terms offered by him to Bevan, but Hardy is certain he stated correct terms of his offer and Bevan's reply at the time to Mr. Hay, Mount Manara station.

I enclose letter, 30/7/88, addressed by Hardy to me in answer to my inquiry as to terms of his offer.

Mr. Stillwell's evidence.

I have further to report that I have seen Mr. Fartiere, Marfield Station, upon whose property most of the posts for this fence were got. Mr. Fartiere distinctly asserts he never at any time put obstacles in the way of nor objected to contractor getting either posts or water, but, on the contrary, that he saw contractors and allowed them to get water at his private tanks. Mr. Fartiere has repeatedly promised to write me a letter to this effect, but has left here without doing so.

I have, &c.,
JOHN LOW,
Inspector P.W. Places.

The Chief Inspector, Public Watering Places, Sydney.

Sir,

Horse Lake, via Menindie, 30 July, 1888.

In answer to your inquiring as to my offering to erect fence at Mount Manara Government Tank, I have to inform you that I offered to erect same in terms of the specification, and to the best of my recollection, for about the sum of £80 per mile, which Bevan, the original contractor, informed me by letter was too high a rate; consequently, I did not get the work.

Yours, &c.,
FRANK HARDY.

P.S.—I can recollect that I told Mr. J. Hay the price I offered to erect the fence for, and also told him of the reply I received from Bevan.—F.H.

Mr. Inspector Low, Public Watering Places, Silverton.

The following letter from Mr. Fartiere, lessee of Marfield and Connulpie Downs is submitted:—

(P.W.P. 88-5,210.)

To the Chief Inspector, Public Watering Places, Sydney,—

Sir,

Connulpie Downs, Tibooburra, 15 August, 1888.

Your letter of the 2nd instant only reached me by last mail, *re* cutting posts on Marfield Run for Mount Manara Tank.

At time contractor started cutting posts there was no water on the run excepting my stock tanks, and they were not plentifully supplied, and the ridge where the posts were cut was close to a sheep tank that had just cost me nearly £300, having cleaned and batters cut down so that sheep could water at it without bogging, and I refused to allow bullocks to water, but gave permission if horses were used, they not doing the damage that cattle do on a sheep tank; and this was done, the posts were cut in the paddock both for Mount Manara Tank and the Banoona Tank, and I supplied water to them all the time the carting was going on, and the same for a very large quantity of telegraph poles that were also cut on the run; and, in connection with the posts, I was most annoyed to see the wilful waste of timber in a country where timber is so valuable. Owing to the size of the posts only the butts of the pines could be used and the tops left to perish, and what would have cut into some thousands of feet of useful sawn timber was rendered utterly useless.

As I will be returning shortly to Marfield, please address there, should further information be requested.

I remain, &c.,
CHARLES FARTIERE.

Q. 4579.

Mr. Woore:—At any rate this was the lowest you could possibly get the work done for after calling for tenders?

Answer:—Yes. With regard to the fence at Ivanhoe and the diverting of stock through the township which has been complained of, the plan was submitted to the Mines Overseer, Mr. Yeo, before the work was undertaken, and it was approved of by him. I have his approval in writing.

REPLY.

Mr. Yeo's reports appear in the Blue Book, page 126, and more particularly on page 129. Mr. Stillwell does not appear to have produced Mr. Yeo's written approval; but, in any case, his approval to have been of any value should have had the sanction of this Department. Mr. Yeo, however, denies that a plan was submitted to him or that he gave this written approval. (See accompanying papers.)

Extract from Mr. Stillwell's evidence before Royal Commission, *re* Tanks and Wells, Q. 4579.

“*Mr. Woore*:—At any rate, this was the lowest price that you could possibly get the work done for after calling for tenders?

Answer:—Yes. With regard to the fence at Ivanhoe and the diverting of the stock through the township which has been complained of, the plan was submitted to the Mines Overseer, Mr. Yeo, before the work was undertaken, and it was approved of by him. I have his approval in writing.”

Mr. Yeo. Please reply to this.—J.W.B., 17/5/88. Urgent. I beg to state that I never saw a plan of fencing at the Ivanhoe Tank, and I am positive that I never gave Mr. Stillwell my approval in writing.—J. YEO, 25/5/88.

Q. 4585.

Question:—Can you say anything about the other case, where you had been called on to remedy the most trivial matter which could have been undertaken by the caretaker, and which, it is said, showed utter ignorance or want of attention to his duties?

Answer:—Well, I want to read a report in reference to this case of the Box Creek Tank. There has been no co-operation whatever between the two Departments, and instead of co-operation we have had only conflict and collision. We have been trying to maintain the efficiency of the works in the interests of the public, but the Mines overseers and caretakers appear to be doing the reverse. That is my opinion and the inference which I draw from their actions. A joint control is perhaps in any case undesirable, but if there had been any co-operation on the part of the Mines officers, a *modus vivendi* might have been discovered, which would allow the works to be carried on to the public satisfaction. The object of these men appears to me to be to bring the works into disrepute, in order to get them out of our hands; and they have demoralised the contractors and many of the men by telling them they would have sole control of the works shortly. I would like to put in these documents in evidence:—

The Commissioner for Roads,—

Box Creek Tank.

Sir,

Hay, 16 November, 1887.

On visiting this tank on 9th instant, it was found to be full to berm level. The service tank, iron on concrete piers, was in good repair, but it contained little water. The pump, a Smith & Amos horse-power, was not in working order, and had been in this state upwards of two months. The caretaker not knowing what was the matter with it, and

Inspector

Mr. Stillwell's evidence.

Inspector Low, who had visited it in the interim, not being able to instruct him. No water had consequently been pumped, and the pumps were publicly reported as broken down, a failure, in fact. The Mines Overseer at Euston had, some time previous to my visit, reported to me that the pump would not act, and requested that I would send the travelling mechanic to repair it. As the mechanic was then employed at the other end, distant 200 miles away, I replied that he could not then go, but suggested that the caretaker be instructed to pack the pistons. On opening the cylinders I found the pistons were working loosely in them, failing to produce a vacuum, and consequently of course no water could be raised. I cleaned the cylinder and packed the pistons, and in half-an-hour from the time of my arrival, the pump was working in a perfectly satisfactory manner. There was no defect whatever in the pump, the failure in action being solely owing to want of attention in packing the pistons, the caretaker not knowing that this is occasionally necessary, as is the renewal of bucket leathers in other types of pumps.

The troughing at this tank is to be renewed, and the steel troughing, with timber for bearers, rail, &c., is on the ground, and its erection by the travelling mechanic will shortly be in hand.

The fencing of tenant's lease, 640 acres, is let. The wire is on the ground, and the posts out in the bush; hauling in will be started immediately.

With regard to what is above stated as to the pump, the case may, I think, be cited as fairly typical—not by any means as specially strong or exceptional—as showing the character of the supervision by the Mines officers. If the renewal of a bucket leather, or the repacking of a piston, is not the duty of a caretaker, what is? This man was willing enough to do it. I believe he was anxious to have his pump in working order. He assisted me with alacrity in doing so, but he did not know how to, and his overseer could not tell him. First, I am requested by the overseer to send my mechanic to do it, which would have been virtually wasting his time, and the £6 or £8 his trip would have cost. Next, the tank is visited by one of the newly appointed inspectors, supposed to represent the sum of the theoretical and practical knowledge of the Mines Department, who looks at the pump presumably as wisely as he can, shakes his head over it much as a doctor does when he fails to diagnose a case, and means the reverse to be inferred, says something indefinite as to the foot-valve, and departs, leaving his unfortunate caretaker as wise and as helpless as before. Lastly, on visiting the work, I have myself to do what an instructed caretaker would have done two months before in fifteen minutes, without any defect being heard of.

The Mines Department, at length apparently recognising what has been patent to everyone, viz., that their overseers or stock inspectors were incompetent, have latterly amended their supervision by the appointment of inspectors—officers, I believe, of a higher grade, and inferentially possessed of superior qualifications. It was one of these gentlemen who visited this tank, as stated above, and who has acquitted himself in a similar manner in other instances. It was another of them, now, I believe, stationed at Narrandera, who a few months ago went through the district in the happy confidence of youth and inexperience, with little or nothing in the shape of knowledge, either theoretical or practical, to give him pain,—criticising, amending, condemning. Amongst other suggestions he made, I remember a sapient one respecting the suction joint of this very Box Creek pump, but who failed apparently to discover, what was very obvious to most others, that it would have been conducive to better results, had his noviciate been passed previous to entering upon these duties, that at least a little rudimentary knowledge, which would have been acquired by a six months' apprenticeship as a caretaker, would have been a desirable preliminary.

A. W. STILLWELL.

REPLY.

Referring to the Mines officers, Mr. Stillwell states that the object of "these men" appears to him to be to bring the works into disrepute, in order to get them out of the hands of the Works Department; that they have demoralised the contractors and many of the men by telling them, they (I presume by "they" Mr. Stillwell means the Mines Department) would shortly have sole control of the works. Mr. Stillwell then continues that he wishes to put in documents in evidence; the paper put in by Mr. Stillwell has no charge or even reference to anything of the kind, but refers to repairs required at Box Creek. I venture to think that so grave an accusation against the overseers and caretakers of the Mines Department should not be allowed to pass without insisting upon Mr. Stillwell producing the evidence upon which he bases this statement, and naming the officers and men to whom he refers, that they may have an opportunity of proving it to be untrue.

With respect to the repairs required at Box Creek Tank, the caretaker informed Mr. Low, who was there upon his first tour of inspection, that the travelling mechanic of the Works Department had quite recently repacked the pump, acting under the impression that this had been properly done. Mr. Low thought he had traced the fault to the foot-valve, and as there were no means for lifting it at his command, he was obliged to leave it, giving instructions to caretaker to obtain ropes and complete repair. In this case I do not hesitate to admit that Mr. Low committed an error in not thoroughly overhauling the pump before he left it, and at the time I reprimanded him for leaving the tank before the appliances were in thorough working order. With reference to the concluding portion of Mr. Stillwell's paper I venture to think that it would be difficult for him to say or write anything that would more conclusively demonstrate his entire unfitness for the position he fills or would better illustrate the cause of the friction that has previously been shown existed only in his district.

Q. 4585.

Mr. Stillwell's letter, *re* foot-valve at Ivanhoe Tank is replied to fully in my rejoinder to the same subject on page 74.

Q. 4589.

Question :—An instance was mentioned in which a caretaker was ordered to clean out a silt tank, and it is said you came along and directed him to stop, saying you would get it done for him?

Answer :—I do not think such a thing occurred in my district. I do not remember anything about it.

Question :—The facts are referred to at page 57 of the Mines papers:—"It is of course very probable that owing to the wet season that the caretaker has been obliged to wait until the tank is dry enough to clean it, but it will be observed on 87-4,648, that the contractor engaged by the Works Department was compelled to do the same; but the main point, which does not appear to occur to the officers of the Works Department, is that any proven neglect on the part of the caretakers can hardly be regarded as a justification for expending public money in a contract to do work that should be properly performed by a public servant, and that a due regard for the public service would have led them to show this department that the caretaker's duties were neglected?"

Answer :—In this case the contract was let for enlarging the silt tank, and for making an alteration in the intake of the shoot. I told the caretaker that the contractor would be there in a few days to enlarge the silt tank, and that his cleaning it out would be needless. That was done, the contractor went out and enlarged the tank.

REPLY.

Mr. Stillwell's evidence.

REPLY.

The extract read from Blue Book, page 57, will, upon examination be found to refer to the silt pit at Merri Merriwa. A tank which is not in Mr. Stillwell's district, but in that of Mr. Adams' of Cobar:

As Murray, the caretaker at the Mount Manara Tank, has reported that he was stopped from cleaning out his silt pit by Mr. Stillwell's telling him that he intended sending a man to do so, and as Mr. Stillwell states in his evidence that he had let a contract for an alteration to the intake of the shoot and to enlarge the silt pit, it is probable that instead of the Merri Merriwa silt pit, he is referring to the Mount Manara silt pit, which was enlarged by Mr. Stillwell in October, 1886, two months before Murray was appointed caretaker, and ten months before Mr. Stillwell instructed Murray that he would have it cleaned out for him. The declaration of Murray attached, will show that Mr. Stillwell directed him not to clean out the silt tank, and that at no time during Murray's caretakership was any enlargement made to the silt pit, or was it cleaned out by Mr. Stillwell's contractor. The statement of the caretaker, Merri Merriwa Tank attached shows that Mr. Stillwell never visited that tank at all.

(P.W.P., 3,903, 4/7/88.)

Declaration by John Murray, caretaker, Mount Manara Tank.

I, JOHN MURRAY, caretaker of the Government tank, situated at Mount Manara, in the district of Ivanhoe, and on the road from Hay to Wilcannia, do solemnly and sincerely declare,—

1st. That Mr. Road-Superintendent Stillwell did direct me not to clean out silt tank and said that he would get it done.

2nd. I further declare that the silt tank has not been cleaned out by Mr. Stillwell's contractor.

3rd. And I also further declare that the silt tank has not been enlarged nor any alteration made to the intake of the shoot since my appointment here as caretaker in December, 1886.

Signed at Mount Manara Government Tank, on this 9th day of July, 1888,—

JOHN MURRAY,
Caretaker.

Witness—E. W. PROCTOR, Overseer, P.W.P., 9/7/88.

Declared before me, this 24th day of July, 1888, }
at Mount Manara Tank, Ivanhoe Road,— }

GEO. H. GOWER, J.P.

(P.W.P., 88-3,903.)

I, WILLIAM MORTIMER, caretaker at the Government tank at Merri Merriwa, situated on the road from Hillston to Cobar, do solemnly and sincerely declare :—

1st. That Mr. Stillwell never visited this tank, nor ever directed me not to clean out the silt tank.

2nd. I further declare that a contract to clean out the silt tank was let and the work supervised by Mr. Adam, of Cobar.

3rd. And I further declare that the silt tank was not enlarged further than that in cleaning it out it was made 6 inches deeper by the contractor, nor has any alteration been made to the intake of the shoot by anyone since my appointment here as caretaker.

Signed at Merri Merriwa Government Tank, this 14th day of July, 1888,—

WILLIAM MORTIMER,
Caretaker.

Witness—E. W. PROCTOR, Overseer, P.W.P., 14/7/88.

Q. 4593.

Mr. Woore :—What have you to say with reference to the charges in Mr. Boulton's letter referring to the Hulong Tank, dated 21st December, 1886, referred to at page 42 of the Mines papers :—

Sir,

Whitton, 21 December, 1886.

Referring to my instructions to visit Hulong Tank, I have now the honor to inform you that I did so and found that Mr. Road Superintendent Stillwell, after Mr. Overseer Elworthy had instructed the caretaker to coal, tar the boiler, &c., in accordance with your circular, 3rd September last, had issued fresh orders to the caretaker to paint it red and to apply to Mr. Elworthy for paint. Mr. Elworthy instructed the caretaker to prepare the newly dished top of the embankment for the reception of a shoot for carrying off the storm water and material for which Mr. Elworthy was supplying. These instructions were also countermanded, and a length of india-rubber hose, 2½ inch diameter, was supplied by Mr. Stillwell to carry off all the storm water from the four embankments. I need hardly say how totally inadequate this is, and must at the same time protest against such a useless waste of money and such a childish innovation that in the eyes of the travelling public so reflect upon the Public Watering Places' officer. I wish to bring this immediately and urgently before you, as I understand Mr. Stillwell is about supplying other tanks in his district with the same. A shoot of less than 1 foot across is perfectly useless, and is required at each angle. Actual experience, both at Hulong and Pulletop, has proved the folly of the 2½-inch hose, and caretakers have now definite instructions to proceed with shoots so soon as material arrives.

Answer :—I deny that I ever interfered with the instructions of the overseer.

REPLY.

The following is an extract from a declaration made by Leighton, caretaker of the tank in question, and already forwarded to the Commission in reply :—

I further swear that Mr. Stillwell gave me orders on several occasions to do certain works, amongst were : 1st, to paint the boiler red ; 2nd, to paint the supply tank ; 3rd, to throw up embankments alongside drains ; 4th, to level hummocks in drains ; 5th, and on one occasion, when I found it necessary to temporarily block drain G to H, Mr. Stillwell came along and made me open it. The consequence was that the water receded from silt tank to swamp instead of going into main tank as it should have done, and it was at that particular time that Mr. Stillwell gave his labourers orders to lower the flumes.

Mr

Mr. Stillwell's evidence, Q. 4594 to 4600.

Question :—What did you do ?

Answer :—I took out the rubber hose forming the syphon and gave it to the caretaker and instructed him how to use it ; but as he told me he had instructions from his overseer to put in the shoot I did not countermand these instructions, but took the hose away again.

Major Penrose :—Did you find this rubber hose effectual in that case ?

Answer :—I tried it at Mount Elliot and found it effectual there.

Question :—I believe there is a very small drainage area on the top of the embankment ?

Answer :—Yes, and you can make the drain to one or two points, as the top of the embankments are concave.

Question :—Do you think it necessary to have four shoots 1 foot across to carry off the water from the top of the embankment ?

Answer :—No.

Mr. Woore :—What is the width usually of the top of these embankments ?

Answer :—About 10 feet.

Question :—And that serves to drain off the water and prevent it from scouring down the sides.

Answer :—Yes ; this syphon that I used was quite sufficient for the purpose on a similar embankment.

Question :—And when the Mines officer complained of it, you took it away ?

Answer :—I did not interfere with the caretaker at all. The only inference I can draw from the action of the Mines officials with regard to neglect, and their reports as to the works being insufficient, is that they wish to bring the works into disrepute with the object of wresting control from the Works Department. That is the most simple explanation, and it is only a fair inference, though a very hard thing to say perhaps.

REPLY.

The top of the embankments are 10 feet wide, according to Mr. Stillwell. I am informed by my local officers that at Hulong, Mount Elliot, and Pulletop they are 30 feet wide, and are, on an average, about 150 yards long. This at Hulong gives 600 yards long and 30 feet wide, a catchment and lodgment area of 54,000 square feet ; and it was to take off the storm water from this area that a 2½-inch *perishable* india-rubber hose, misnamed a syphon, was brought by Mr. Stillwell. The objection taken by the Mines Department was that the hose was insufficient for the work. The following declaration made by Leighton, the caretaker of Hulong Tank, upon the matter is submitted :—

(P. W. P., 88-3,887.)

Hulong Tank, 30 June, 1888.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the rubber hose in question was given to me by Mr. Stillwell some time before you came out, and I told you that it was of no use, as it was too small to carry off the water. You made answer and said, "We are going to send ridging to the tanks"; but before the ridging arrived Mr. Stillwell came to tank and inquired of me how the hose answered. I told him it did not carry the water off fast enough. It was then I told him my overseer was going to send ridging to flume the water off at corners. He did not take hose away for some time after, for you and Mr. Boulton saw the hose and the flume had been down some time before Mr. Stillwell took hose away.

Made and signed at Whitton, this 30th day }
of June, 1888, before me,—

SAMUEL LEIGHTON.

LEWIS H. W. CASPERSON, J.P.

The following extract from a declaration, which is given in full in my rejoinder to Mr. Stillwell's evidence on page 62, made by the local overseer, Mr. Elworthy, is also submitted :—

At Pulletop Tank, the hose, I believe, was not taken away by Mr. Stillwell till after the shoots were put in the corners, and it would have required three or four syphons to carry off the water that fell on the embankments. I was at Mount Elliot just after heavy rain, and saw what a long time the hose took to run water off and how much attention it required.

Mr. Stillwell's conclusion, that the wish of the Mines officials was to bring the works into disrepute and wrest their control from the Works Department, is entirely unsupported by evidence, and, I submit, manifestly unjust, unless corroborated. The character of Mr. Stillwell's correspondence is so clearly shown, both in the Blue Book and in the evidence, that it is hardly possible to expect the officers or men of the Mines Department to feel much cordiality towards him.

Q^s 4603.

Major Penrose :—It appears that you suddenly found your works were subjected to elaborate criticism, when before you never heard anything against them ?

Answer :—Yes.

REPLY.

Mr. Stillwell's statement does not appear to agree with that made by Mr. Bennett in evidence, Q. 3033, where it is stated :—

Question :—“Since when have complaints been made in regard to faults of construction and with respect to badly chosen sites for tanks and wells ?”

Answer :—“Ever since the Mines Department got charge.”

And he again states, Q. 3042 :—

“Then from that day, for the last five or six years, there has been nothing but a continual fire of letters and complaints.”

Mr. Woore :—“By whom ?”

Answer :—“From the Mines people, through their Minister, to the Works Department. * * *”

Mr. Stillwell's evidence, Q. 4606 and 4607.

Question :—Mr. Low stated here that he would not trust himself on a wire rope ?

Answer :—Yes ; but I think the wire ropes are the best that can be used.

Major Penrose :—What kind of rope was this ?

Answer :—Galvanized steel rope, and I think they are $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in circumference. The breaking strain of such a rope is absurdly beyond anything that we ever put on them. As to a man stating that he would not trust himself on such a rope only shows his ignorance of the whole question.

REPLY.

Mr. Stillwell's statement as to the ignorance of a man who would not trust himself on a wire rope will, I think, on inquiry, reflect upon himself. I find in my diary that on 31st December, 1884, Mr. A. P. Wood and myself inspected the Roto well. I there state, "The shaft has not been examined by constructing officer ; neither Wood nor myself will inspect with the present wire rope, and the men refuse to work below with them. * * * I condemn all the wire ropes in use ; they have broken at the three Carrathool Wells and at Roto Well, while all the men refuse to work with them, and put on Manilla or hemp while in the shaft."

I have never known a well-sinker to put down a well with a wire rope ; Mr. Boulton informs me that he has never known of an instance. The ignorance, I venture to think, is on the part of Mr. Stillwell, whose experience in works of this nature, I gather from his evidence, dates only from the time of his appointment as Road Superintendent in the Hay District, three and a half years ago, during which time, unless I am very much misinformed, the only well-shaft that he has sunk are the ones at Willandra that have proved so singularly unsuccessful.

Q. 4605.

Question :—You know what the charges are with respect to the Dolmoreve Well ; and, if so, what have you to say to them ?

Answer :—Yes, I know them. I had a man there named Flynn. A bucket was lost in the well on 10th July. I cannot say whether the bucket was recovered or not, but on 8th August I reported that the travelling mechanic had stated that the well rope was broken, and that the centreing below the water level was forced out by a vessel or bucket. There was great difficulty, with the assistance of a man and horse, in lowering the water and effecting repairs and recovering the bucket. A new rope and bucket had been sent out. The breakage of the rope had apparently been occasioned by the end near the bucket being injured by the action of the water in the well, in which the bucket had been left suspended during intervals of baling. The bucket should have been raised out of the water. The mechanic also reported that on his first going to the well on this occasion he could obtain no assistance from the caretaker, owing to his absence at an inn 7 miles away, where he was drinking. The caretaker finally returned in a state of intoxication. The bucket had fallen full of water from the top of the well down to the bottom. The water in this well is pretty brackish, and the rope corroded. I told the caretaker this, and asked him to keep the bucket suspended out of the water.

REPLY.

A complete statement of this case is given in the Blue Book, pages 112 to 115. It will be seen that the caretaker was dismissed. A circular was addressed to all overseers (P.W.P. S6-3,623) on 21st July, 1886, by this Department, instructing them to see all buckets swung out of the water when in disuse.

Q. 4613 and 4614.

Mr. Woore :—Then it is in consequence of the incapacity of many of these caretakers that friction has arisen ?

Answer :—There is no doubt about it. The incompetence of the caretakers and of the Mines officials, who go away and leave things as they find them.

Question :—You wish us to infer then that some of the Mines officers are scarcely capable of putting things in proper order ?

Answer :—Yes, that is the only inference I can draw.

REPLY.

The whole of the correspondence published in the Blue Book in which Mr. Stillwell is concerned, and where the conduct of caretakers has been involved, will, I think, amply show that Mr. Stillwell's complaints have not been made with any attempt at conciliation, the want of which in the official intercourse he so deplures. The following cases may be referred to :—Woolondool Well, page 22 of Blue Book ; Dry Lake Well, page 23 of Blue Book ; Boonoona Well, page 229 of Blue Book ; One-tree Well, page 231 of Blue Book ; Mount Manara Well, page 236 of Blue Book ; Gunnaramby Well, page 246 of Blue Book. If Mr. Stillwell is correct, it is curious that in his district alone the caretakers and Mines officers are alleged to be incompetent and negligent. Mr. Stillwell's statements are general assertions unsupported by instances capable of proof or disproof, and I can only express my regret that he was not called upon to substantiate them. The cases quoted in the Blue Book appear to convict him of repeated errors, which he has not attempted to disprove.

Mr.

Mr. Stillwell's evidence, Q. 4615.

Extract from report read by Mr. Stillwell:—

"With few exceptions the men employed as caretakers are totally unfit for the post, ignorant of everything except the situation, and only alive to magnifying and advertising defects which, when they are not imaginary, are nearly always due to their own incompetence or negligence. Disreputable people have been put in charge."

REPLY.

It is not to be expected that all the men employed as caretakers will turn out competent and sober. The greatest care is taken as far as possible in their selection; when charged with incompetency or drunkenness a careful inquiry is at once made, and if the charge is sustained the man is dismissed.

Q. 4615.

Extract continued:—

"Disreputable people have been put in charge who, when such a small matter as the necessity for tightening the fence wires round a tank is pointed out, have said they were not sent from Sydney to work but merely to take charge, for a great part of the time have been absent drinking at the nearest inn, and from whom nothing but the most unblushing falsehood could be elicited. I have frequently found caretakers absent rabbiting."

REPLY.

As to the charge of not tightening the wires in the fence round the tank, it is presumed that the fence at the One-tree Tank is referred to. Mr. Boulton informs me that the fence was lifted and set back from the tank by Mr. Stillwell, and that he saw it a few days after the contractor left it in a disgraceful state; and Mr. Stillwell, who visited the tank later on, ordered the Mines' caretaker to strain up the wires which his contractor had neglected to do, and which Mr. Stillwell had failed to see done. The caretaker was then reported by Mr. Stillwell as negligent for having the wires slack. (See Mr. Boulton's minute, Blue Book, page 232, also Mr. Keighran's letter, page 233.)

Q. 4615.

Extract continued:—

"The man at the Lignum Hut Well, in addition to shamefully neglecting the wind-mill and pumps, thereby causing disrepair, keeps the mill idle to save the necessity of attending to it, allowing the service tank of embanked earth to be damaged by becoming empty and contracting. A travelling mechanic has to be employed by this Department to effect repairs that should properly devolve upon caretaker. He has sometimes to be sent as much as 100 miles merely to renew a pump bucket leather or some such trifling matter."

REPLY.

In regard to the Lignum Hut the appliances here were an experiment, and, I think, a failure. The whole thing has been a constant source of trouble, the bearings are worn and large, and will not hold grease. The pumping rods were made of American pine 2 in. × 2 in., and the caretaker had to exercise constant care in throwing the mill out of gear,—it not being a self-acting or self-regulating one,—lest a gust of wind should break the rods. This in spite of all his care constantly happened, until this Department supplied the hardwood rods, which the caretaker put in. The service tank was never to my knowledge empty or even half empty. The iron-work of the mill is all cast, and breakages occur, as must be expected. The mill is not self-reefing, and the type a poor one. Mr. Stillwell's charge is not, I think, supported by facts, and rests merely upon his own allegations.

Q. 4615.

Extract continued:—

"I have to send my assistant 50 miles, when the road was almost impassable, merely to put in a pin connecting the horse-works with the pump-rod, which took, I suppose, two minutes to do, and which the caretaker would not touch."

REPLY.

The caretaker's version of this matter has been already submitted for the information of the Commission, but copies are herewith:—

(P. W. P., 88-2,245.)

Sir,

I have been requested by Mr. Boulton to report to you the circumstances which brought Mr. Nicholson to repair pump at this place, and in compliance I now beg to state that the driving gear and piston-rod became disconnected by reason of the key that held them together working out, thereby letting the piston-rod fall down. I made several efforts to make the connection good again but failed, the wire I used in coupling them breaking at every effort. Seeing then that I could not do without assistance I wrote to Mr. Keighran on the matter. In a few days afterwards Mr. Nicholson came out here to see what was wrong. I told him what I did, at the same time telling him "if the machinery was my own I would repair it, but being cautioned so frequently about the danger of breaking it, I thought it best to let it alone," he replied and said "you have done perfectly right;" he applied the very same means which I did, that is, connecting them with wire, he remaining in the pump-hole to guide them fairly to their places, whilst I moved the power to raise the rod, in that way he succeeded in bringing them to their proper places, and putting the key in again, which he could not do unless he had some person to assist him; it took him altogether about three quarters of an hour. The above is exactly what occurred on the occasion.

The Chief Inspector of P. W. Places.

I have, &c.,
M. W. KELLY.

This is in reference to an allegation made by the Works Department handed in in writing to the Commission, *re* tanks and wells, and, upon which I was examined. See page 96, One-tree Tank, marked *.—JAMES W. BOULTON. Kelly is prepared to declare the truth of his statement.

This paper should perhaps be referred to the Chairman of the Tanks and Wells Commission in connection with previous papers on the subject.—H.G., 4/5/88. The Under Secretary. Submitted.—H.W., 8/5/88. Approved.—F.A., 8/5/88. The Chairman Tanks and Wells Commission.—H.W., B.C., 8/5/88. Read and returned.—G.H.C.

Mr. Stillwell's evidence

(4,341, 18/7/88.)

I, M. W. Kelly, do hereby solemnly and conscientiously declare that my statement made upon the accompanying paper, 88-2,245, is true, and I further declare that I was cautioned by the roads mechanic Jones not to interfere with the pump, but to leave it to him to do all repairs, such as repacking and screwing up, and at the same time informed me that my predecessor in endeavouring to repair the pump himself had broken a portion of it. I further declare that on several occasions I received orders from Mr. Stillwell, among them to empty out the service-tank at the Quandong, and clean it, also to break all the lumps on the embankments and level them. Mr. Nicholson directed me to clean away all the long grass and weeds from the troughing at the One-tree tank, which took me nearly two days. I further add that Mr. Stillwell was in the habit of giving me instructions when he visited the tank, but I am unable at this date to particularise them.

Sydney, 17 July, 1888.

Declared before me this 18th day of July, 1888, at Sydney;—

GERARD E. HERRING, J.P.

M. W. KELLY.

Q. 4615.

Extract continued:—

"I have known a pump to be partly taken apart and left so lying about the horse-walk for six weeks by the instructions of the Mines overseer, who gave out, as also did the caretaker that the pump was defective, and I heard it so spoken of by the public 50 miles away, and have myself put it to rights, so that it worked perfectly in half an hour."

REPLY.

The facts of the case are fully given on pages 229 and 230 of the Blue Book. (See Boonoona Tank.)

Q. 4615.

Extract continued:—

"Wells are frequently left without baling for weeks, causing the bore to become choked, when it is reported by the Mine's officials that the supply had failed."

REPLY.

The cases of the Woolloondool and Dry Lake wells are given fully in Blue Book, pages 21 to 26, and this statement is fully replied to in my rejoinder to Mr. Wood's evidence on page 43.

Q. 4615.

Extract continued:—

"Pumps have been reported repeatedly by overseers and caretakers ineffective, that they would not throw enough water to fill the service tank in less than two days, when a test has always shown they would do so in from six to eight hours, if fairly worked."

REPLY.

This it is presumed refers to Mr. Wood's complaint *re* the Boonoona tank. (See Blue Book, pages 245 and 246; also evidence given by Mr. Yeo, Q. 2732.)**Q. 4615.**

Extract continued:—

"Holy Box Well was abandoned by the Mine's officials, because as they gave out the water was unfit for stock. I found the appliances being destroyed by the public; put a man in charge, and made him draw water daily. When fairly tested the quality proved to be excellent. But the Mine's overseer at Ivanhoe still kept reporting it was bad, preventing the public from using it, and it was only after some persistence that this opposition was overcome, and they were induced to take charge of it. It is now one of the best wells in the district."

REPLY.

The case is fully stated in the Blue Book on pages 74 to 93. Mr. Stillwell's account is at variance with the records, and instead of being one of the best wells in the district, is, next to old Gunba, the worst.

Q. 4615.

Extract continued:—

"At Boonoona Tank some months ago, the Mines overseer had the valve opened and some 3 or 4 feet of water let out of the tank, because he said he thought the embankment was endangered."

REPLY.

The water was let out of the Boonoona tank after it had filled within a short distance of the top of the embankment, by the caretaker, and not by the instructions of any superior officer. The man acted to the best of his judgment in what he considered a case of extreme urgency. The loss of water in no way seriously affected the permanence of the supply or proved detrimental to the travelling public, and may have saved the tank embankment from destruction.

Q. 4615.

Extract continued:—

"And two days ago I found a similarly absurd waste of water, by direction of Inspector Low, at Clare tank, where the valve was left open so that the water might escape into the swamp. About 2 feet has been lost."

REPLY.

Mr. Low's action was upheld by this Department, the friable nature of the spoil in the embankment rendering them liable to crumble under water. No loss or detriment ensued to the public, nor was the permanence of the supply materially affected.

Mr.

Mr. Stillwell's evidence, Q. 4615.

Extract continued :—

" At Mt. Manara the overseer ordered all the water to be run out to waste out of the service tank, because a few of the foundation piers and the outer casing of cement scaled off at the edges. This was apparently done to substantiate a report that the foundations of the tank had failed and that it would have to be taken down, which I heard repeated all along the road. There was found to be no defect in the strength of the piers, and their appearance has been restored by the mechanic, about half a day's work."

REPLY.

Mr. Yeo, in reporting this matter and his action in regard to it, says :—

" State of supply tank in good order, except concrete piers, which are crumbling off, and I am of opinion they will give way altogether before long. I have instructed the caretaker to let off the water to reduce the weight."

A precaution until repairs were effected that any reasonable man would take. Had the work been faithfully done in the first instance there should have been no scaling off of the outer casing of cement as described by Mr. Stillwell. Mr. Stillwell also implies that reports were circulated by the Mines officers, but confines himself to assertion, and the Commission have apparently deemed it unnecessary to require him to substantiate it.

Q. 4615.

Extract continued :—

" Inspector Low has interfered with a contractor under this Department and ridiculed his work, fencing of lease areas, Whitton to Euabalong. The same gentleman has recently ordered my travelling mechanic to repair the service tank and well runners at Holy Box, &c."

REPLY.

The following extract from Mr. Inspector Low's declaration is, perhaps, sufficient reply to Mr. Stillwell's statement :—

" Mr. Stillwell does not inform the Commission what was the nature of the interference with the contractor, complained of at the Whitton tanks. With regard to the repairing the runners at Holy Box well, Mr. Low was notified by this Department, and effected the repairs himself with the assistance of the caretaker."

Sir,

Department of Mines, Public Watering Places, Broken Hill, 11 July, 1888.

Referring to Mr. Stillwell's evidence, *re* tanks and wells, page 906, I have the honor to state that I have upon no occasion interfered with contractors under Works Department, neither have I ridiculed the work of any contractor under that Department.

I have further to state that I have never interfered with, neither have I ordered Mr. Stillwell's travelling mechanic to repair service tank and well runners at Holy Box Well, and challenge Mr. Stillwell to prove that I have done so.

Mr. Stillwell in his evidence says, " On visiting them (Holy Box) to-day I find the tank holding well and runners in good repair "; but as I am unaware whether " to-day " refers to before or after I fixed runners, I am unable to answer him.

* * * * *

I am somewhat surprised Mr. Stillwell should admit runners did not reach the bottom of the shaft, thereby allowing, at any time water was scarce, an opportunity of buckets getting fixed. My experience in wells is perhaps equal to Mr. Stillwell's, at all events the finishing of wells, and it is somewhat new to discover in a well like Holy Box the runners should not reach the bottom. If any unnecessary expense was incurred, I fail to see how it can be attributed to any one but Mr. Stillwell himself, who from his evidence incurred that expense without his travelling mechanic inspecting same.

I have, &c.,

JOHN LOW,

Inspector Public Watering Places.

The Chief Inspector, Public Watering Places, Sydney.

I, John Low, Inspector Public Watering Places, do solemnly and sincerely declare that the before-written statements are true, and I make this declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true.

Made and signed before me at Broken Hill, }
this 11th day of July, 1888,— }
CHAS. CHAPPLE, J.P.

JOHN LOW,

Inspector Public Watering Places.

Q. 4615.

Extract continued :—

At Ivanhoe Tank this morning I also found the pump disabled ; Inspector Low, I was informed, being there at the time, although I did not see him. The foot valve of this pump had been sent quite needlessly to Sydney about a month ago. The pump the caretaker said worked well enough before, and it had during that time been idle, and stock, instead of watering at the tank, had to be taken to private tanks in the township. Now all that was required was a piece of ordinary fencing wire bent spirally for a spring for the valve ; any one could have put it in.

REPLY.

Mr. Stillwell is in error ; the foot valve was not sent to Sydney. The spring supplied with the machinery by the Works Department was made of the ordinary fencing wire, as described by him. This proved to be useless and failed to work, and it was forwarded to Sydney for the purpose of having a proper brass spring made. This Department has not had any notice until Mr. Stillwell's statement that stock were obliged to go elsewhere for water while the spring was being made, and there was no necessity that they should do so, as water could have been raised in the absence of the spring, as shown by Mr. Stillwell's own evidence.

Mr.

Mr. Stillwell's evidence, Q. 4615.

Extract continued :—

The overseer at Ivanhoe objected to the inlets at Gunnaramby Tank, and wished to insist upon an additional one; as this was not done, he gave out that the first heavy rain would burst over and destroy the tank batters. This has not proved to be the case.

REPLY.

That this has not proved to be the case is no fault of Mr. Stillwell's, since the preservation of this drain, which at the first rain cut so deeply as to cause alarm, is entirely due to the action of Mr. Yeo, the local officer of this Department, in having it pitched with copai stones. The stones were collected and the drain pitched by the caretaker with a great deal of labour.

See Blue Book, page 145, and evidence given by Mr. Yeo, Q. 2637.

Q. 4615.

Extract continued :—

The overseer at Euston objected to the inlet at Youhl Tank, and reported that an additional one was required. His caretaker was induced to pay a little attention to his drains, and the inlet asked for, which would have cost at least £100, was proved quite unnecessary.

REPLY.

The tank has filled during years of heavy rainfall, but in such dry country the object is to collect water from the lightest falls in any season, and to do this was the idea of Mr. M'Leod's report. Mr. Stillwell's estimate of the cost of an inlet is as liberal as the prices he paid for fencing and drains.

Q. 4615.

Extract continued :—

Inspector Low has interfered with a contractor under this Department and ridiculed his work, fencing the lease areas Whitton to Euabalong. The same gentleman has recently ordered my travelling mechanic to repair the service tank and well runners at Holy Box, &c.

REPLY.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Public Watering Places, Broken Hill, 11 July, 1888.

Referring to Mr. Stillwell's evidence *re* tanks and wells, Q. 4615, I have the honor to state that I have upon no occasion interfered with contractors under Works Department, neither have I ridiculed the work of any contractor under that Department.

I have further to state that I have never interfered with, neither have I ordered Mr. Stillwell's travelling mechanic to repair service tank and well runners at Holy Box Well, and challenge Mr. Stillwell to prove that I have done so.

Mr. Stillwell in his evidence says :—“On visiting them (Holy Box) to-day I find the tank holding well, and runners in good repair,” but as I am unaware of whether “to-day” refers to before or after I fixed runners, I am unable to answer him.

It would be information to know how Mr. Stillwell arrived at the conclusion “caretaker had let a bucket down lower than usual,” seeing the rope had not been altered; and if as he says it “was soon freed again,” the freeing might perhaps be attributed to a better knowledge of how to get a bucket unfastened than has previously been exhibited by employees of the Works Department.

I am somewhat surprised Mr. Stillwell should admit runners did not reach bottom of shaft, thereby allowing, at any time water was scarce, an opportunity of buckets getting fixed. My experience in wells is perhaps equal to Mr. Stillwell's, at all events the finishing of wells, and it is somewhat new to discover in a well like Holy Box the runners should not reach the bottom. If any unnecessary expense was incurred I fail to see how it can be attributed to any one but Mr. Stillwell himself, who from his evidence incurred that expense without his travelling mechanic inspecting same.

I have, &c.,

JOHN LOW,

Inspector Public Watering Places.

I, John Low, Inspector Public Watering Places, do solemnly and sincerely declare that the before-written statements are true. And I make this declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true.

Made and signed before me, at Broken Hill, this }
7th day of July, 1888,— }
CHAS. CHAPPLE, J.P.

JOHN LOW,
Inspector Public Watering Places.**Q. 4619.***Question* :—Were you in the habit of giving orders to the caretakers?

Answer :—No, not orders. I have pointed out omissions and neglect on their part and have offered them suggestions, but I never gave them what they could take as orders or definite instructions to do any work.

Mr. Inspector Low, in his report read before the Commission, states :—“That caretakers at Mossgiel, Boonoona, and Mt. Manara Tanks have reported to me, when asked why they had not performed certain duties, that Mr. Road Superintendent Stillwell had interfered with them in the performance of their duties as caretakers. In the former case ordering caretaker not to tar or interfere with slip-rails of T.L. fence; in the latter case, ordering caretakers not to clean out silt tank.”

The following declaration from the caretakers Mt. Manara, Boonoona, and One-tree Tanks are submitted in support of Mr. Low's statement.

Kelly's (caretaker, One-tree) declaration is given in reply to evidence on Q. 4615 in full.

Caretaker Murray's (Mt. Manara) declaration is given in full in reply to evidence on Q. 4589.

Caretaker Killick (Boonoona) overleaf. See also Inspector Boulton's declaration *re* drains Ivanhoe Tank, in reply to evidence, Q. 4501.

Copy of declaration made by F. Killick, caretaker, Boonoona Tank.

I, FRANK KILLICK, caretaker of the Boonoona Government tank, do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows, viz. :—

That about twelve or eighteen months since Mr. Road-Superintendent Stillwell visited the Boonoona Tank and instructed me not to clean out the silt tank as he intended to get some one to do it.

I further declare that the above is the reason that I allowed my silt tank to remain in the condition it was (viz., nearly full of silt) for such a length of time.

Taken and declared at Ivanhoe, this }
17th day of August, 1888,— }
GEO. WILLIAMSON, J.P.

FRANK KILLICK,
Caretaker.

Mr.

Mr. Stillwell's evidence, Q. 4630 to 4632.

Question :—Do you think it would be advisable for the Department that now has the maintenance to have also the construction of these works, or would not that create another Works Department and entail more expense?

Answer :—I should say that the work of construction had better remain with the Department whose officers are competent to construct as well as to maintain. It is doubtful whether the Mines Department have officers competent to construct the works.

Question :—But even supposing that they have, would it not as it were create another Department of Works and entail a great deal of expense to the country?

Answer :—As regards field work it might, but it would not as regards office work. The preparation of plans and specifications is all now in our hands.

Question :—It would mean another special Department?

Answer :—Yes.

REPLY.

The construction of tanks is not such a serious undertaking as Mr. Stillwell appears to consider. Each of the Inspectors in the service of this Department have probably constructed many more than Mr. Stillwell, who admits seven as the number he has been engaged upon; and by his own evidence affirms his want of knowledge of fencing, and his ignorance with respect to stock and their requirements.

Q. 4671.

Question :—It has been suggested that all drovers of travelling stock should at the time of getting their permit to travel pay for all the tanks they may pass getting to their destination, whether they use the water or not; of course in good seasons they do not go to the tanks, although the country has been to the expense of making them on their account. Now, do you think it would be a fair thing to make every drover who travels these routes contribute towards the expense of maintenance?

Answer :—Yes, most decidedly so; something of that sort would be a very desirable arrangement, and far preferable to the existing arrangements in every respect.

REPLY.

It may be pointed out that the suggestion that drovers should pay for water when they take out their permits is open to objections. It would necessitate the continued employment of caretakers, while the object of the Department is to lease the tanks. Further inconvenience would result when the drover, as is constantly the case, applied for permission to change his route, and in case of sheep travelling for sale claims would be made for a refund where the full journey was not completed, and great confusion would I think inevitably arise.

*Further Evidence of Mr. Road Superintendent Stillwell.***Q. 4786 and 4787.**

Question :—What steps did you take as regards the finishing of the work as left by the first contractor?

Answer :—We re-let the completion of the excavation to another contractor, and the then incomplete works were finished by day labour, such as the drains and embankments.

Question :—Was the work completed by day labour considered satisfactory?

Answer :—Yes; except in regard to the drains that were left in a very bad state by the contractor, not properly graded through the uneven swamp ground. I purposed getting them gradually put right by a man I had in charge there. This man was so employed when the Mines took the work over.

REPLY.

Mr. Stillwell gives no credit for the labour cast upon the Mines caretaker in grading the drains, what this amounted to (after we were officially informed by the Works Department that the tank was ready for transfer) will be seen on reference to caretaker Leighton's declaration given in full on page 864 in reply to Mr. Stillwell's previous evidence.

Q. 4788 to 4793.

Question :—Were the Mines informed of the incomplete state of the works?

Answer :—I rather think they were with regard to the drains, but not with regard to the inlet shoot, which I knew I should have to do myself by day labour.

Question :—Did the Mines Department make any demur at taking the work over in its incomplete state?

Answer :—Not so far as I can remember.

Question :—Did the Mines clearly understand that the flume would require alteration?

Answer :—I do not think so. It was desirable to alter flume, otherwise we should have lost a lot of water in the swamp before it would have run into the main tank.

Question :—By whom was the flume eventually lowered?

Answer :—By men working under me.

Question :—

Mr. Stillwell's evidence.

Question :—How long after being handed over to the Mines ?

Answer :—About a month. The work was not quite completed at the time of handing over. I handed over on the 13th July, 1886, and the fluming alteration was completed on 17th August, 1886.

Question :—Is it usual for the Mines to take over work incomplete ?

Answer :—Not usual, but sometimes done.

REPLY.

It is to be regretted that Mr. Stillwell did not produce the letter in which he thinks the Mines Department were informed of the incomplete state of this work at the date of its transfer. I am unable to trace any such paper in the records of the Department.

With reference to these Public Watering-places it was the practice of the officers of the Mines Department to decline to take delivery unless everything was in good order. This action was commented upon by Mr. Bennett (*vide* Blue Book, page 170) and the Minister for Mines at that time directed that the works when offered for transfer were to be taken over and defects made good by the Works Department. In practice this has not been found to be satisfactory, and that arrangement has since been superseded, but it was in force at the time of the transfer of this tank, and Mr. Stillwell should have been fully aware of the fact, as the arrangement was made in consequence of a difference of opinion between himself and an officer of this Department in connection with the transfer of another tank in his district.

Q. 4798 to 4802.

Question :—Is this drain through the centre of the swamp now effective ?

Answer :—No.

Question :—Could it easily be made so ?

Answer :—Yes, at no great cost. I think there is a misapprehension in regard to that drain on the part of the Mines Department officials. It is not intended to take water from the swamp, but as an aqueduct through the swamp conveying water from the higher ground the other side of the swamp. Also, the drain can never actually fill the tank to berm level until the swamp becomes full, when the valve can be closed and the water retained.

The Chairman :—Is this not an admission that the tank is placed on an improper site ?

Answer :—No ; the tank was properly placed on the edge of the swamp to obtain sound ground for the appliances and approaches to them.

Major Penrose :—To what level will the drains fill the tank without the swamp getting filled ?

Answer :—Roughly speaking, to about a foot below berm level.

The Chairman :—It was not because you saw water lying in the drains that you altered the level of the flume ?

Answer :—No ; it was one of the defects left by the original contractor, which had to be made good at his cost.

REPLY.

It is, perhaps, unnecessary to remark upon Mr. Stillwell's idea of an aqueduct through a swamp, but it must be apparent that contour drains intercepting the water from reaching the swamp would have been both cheaper and more effective. Mr. Stillwell is incorrect in assuming that the officers of the Mines Department were under any misapprehension as to his intention in constructing the drain which in his last evidence he calls an aqueduct, but they pointed out that this "aqueduct," instead of conducting water to the tank, as no doubt Mr. Stillwell had intended it should do, in reality ran the water away. The defective level of the inlet flume, which was subsequently lowered by Mr. Stillwell, but not—as the Commission will no doubt have observed—until after rain had fallen and made the true level of Mr. Stillwell's aqueduct apparent is, perhaps, the strongest evidence in confirmation of this. The tank in this instance is on higher ground than the body of the swamp through which Mr. Stillwell endeavoured to lead his aqueduct. It must, therefore, be evident that a large proportion of the water finding its way into the swamp cannot reach the tank, and must be lost by absorption and evaporation. The correct drainage for a tank in such a position was to have intercepted the water before reaching the lower ground by drains which would have conducted it direct to the receiving tank.

Q. 4807 to 4810.

Question :—Having visited a number of public watering-places in your district, we wish to ask you a few questions in regard to them. What is the cause of the water breaking out a new channel through the northern end of the embankment conducting the water into north drain at Tom's Lake Tank ?

Answer :—In my opinion it is owing to the drain being obstructed by the silt and vegetation. I have seen dead sheep in it, among other things, preventing the flow and causing the water to rise higher in the swamp or creek than was originally anticipated or provided for.

Question :—Are you aware that at present there is no drain leading into the upper silt tank ?

Answer :—Yes.

Question :—Why does this drain not lead water into the silt tank ?

Answer :—The drain has been dammed and the bank cut through, and the water led into the swamp instead of into the upper silt tank.

Question :—At whose instance was this done ?

Answer :—I cannot say positively ; it certainly was not at mine.

Mr.

Mr. Stillwell's evidence, Q. 4811 to 4814.

Question :—No use can now be made of the embankments of the tank to conserve water above to berm to any great extent?

Answer :—No; not more than a foot or two of the swamp is full. Fully 6 feet could be conserved over the berm if the northern drain had been left and maintained as originally constructed.

Question :—Did this damage occur to the upper drain while the tank was in charge of the Mines Department?

Answer :—Yes, most decidedly.

Question :—Have you ever known water to run down this drain to the upper silt tank?

Answer :—I have not known water to flow right through from the creek or swamp, but there is a small catchment above the drain from which water has flowed into the silt tank during my supervision, but the drain has not acted for the purpose for which it was intended since I have known it, and that is owing to its being obstructed.

Question :—Would this small catchment you speak of run water before the creek or swamp?

Answer :—Yes.

REPLY.

With reference to the large upper drain at Thom's Lake little more can perhaps be said than what appears in Mr. Boultree's report (*vide* Blue Book, page 184, with its accompanying sketch, Appendix I). Mr. Stillwell attributes the cause of the water breaking around the dam to the obstruction caused by silt and vegetation in the main drain. The much more probable explanation, and the one which is accepted by this Department, is that a riparian owner lower down cut a byewash to enable the water to reach its original destination, which scoured in the first heavy rain and formed a new channel. As a matter of fact, the dam was and is an illegal obstruction, and it must be apparent that the main drain would have to be filled up with more solid material than silt or vegetation before the water unaided would have cut its way through solid earth in the peculiar way it has done, and that is shown in sketch. The dam in the southern end of this drain was not made by the Mines Department. The offtake from the drain into the silt tank was filled in either by the Works Department or by teamsters during wet weather, the road crossing it, and the drain, when constructed by the Works Department, was left open, no culvert having been placed to enable traffic to get over.

Q. 4819 and 4820.

Chairman :—We visited the Willandra Well and found one shaft filled up and a new shaft a few yards off incomplete and apparently abandoned, and no water for travelling stock, with headworks all completed. What reason have you to give for this apparent extravagant outlay without any satisfactory result?

Answer :—The amount paid to contractor on account of this first shaft, whim, service tank, troughing, &c., was £900. The contractor failed to penetrate the drift, and got the shaft out of plumb near the bottom, and it was found impracticable to rectify it. This shaft was therefore abandoned and a new one sunk. Somewhere about £200 retention money was forfeited. The second contractor on the original shaft also failed, and received no payment whatever. The third contractor who sank the existing shaft also drew the timbering from the old shaft, removed the whim to the present site, and failing to carry the shaft down through the drift received only £52, so that the cost of the works up to the present time has been considerably less than that of the original contract, and I consider it still possible that the work may be completed and a supply obtained at a cost exceeding by very little, if any, that of the original contract.

Question :—What is the intention of the Works Department under the circumstances?

Answer :—To put a bore down from the bottom of the present shaft. We propose to stanch the bottom of the shaft with concrete, say, if we found a good supply at a lower level, such as has been found I believe in the adjoining station at Kilfera.

REPLY.

Mr. Stillwell's additional evidence with respect to this well throws a new light upon the relations between the Department of Public Works and their contractors, and tends to confirm Mr. Yeo's remarks on Blue Book, page 30. If the specifications are so drawn that the contractor receives nothing unless he bottoms a well, he is backing his luck or his opinion, and gets long odds in the form of a high price from the Government. The cost of these works is not surprising if this is the way in which they are let and tendered for. Such a practice will not I think be likely to terminate in pleasant relations between the Department and their contractors, and it is not surprising that Mr. A. P. Wood should find that contractors are not anxious to take up Government work. (See his evidence, Q. 3402.)

That Mr. Stillwell anticipates that he will be able to sink two shafts of 100 feet each, erect all the headworks of a well, whim, service tank, and troughing, take them down and erect again, and then bore for water to an uncertain depth and obtain a supply, and after all this complete the well "at a cost exceeding by very little, if any, that of the original contract," must, I think prove beyond all argument that Mr. Stillwell is a gentleman of great faith, or that the original contract must have been let upon terms of singular liberality. It is I think to be regretted that Mr. Stillwell did not state more clearly why a second shaft was sunk within a few yards of the first which had clearly demonstrated all that would be learnt of the character of the drift, nor is any explanation offered why, if the supply is hoped to be obtained from boring. The bore commenced at the bottom of the original shaft was not carried out without sinking a second, apparently at the expense of the contractor for the purpose.

The erection of headworks before a supply of suitable water was obtained is also left unexplained by Mr. Stillwell. Again, a slight discrepancy occurs in Mr. Stillwell's evidence upon the amount expended on

Mr. Stillwell's evidence, Q. 4819.

on the first shaft. He says (page 957):—The amount paid to contractor on account of this first shaft whim, tank, troughing, &c., was £900. On page 31 of the Blue Book it will be seen that Mr. Bennett in reply to our inquiry from the Secretary for Mines gives the cost of the original shaft up to date, *i.e.*, 24th October, 1887, as £1,087 5s. 8d. This is again corroborated in the return showing cost of tanks, wells, &c. (given in Blue Book, page 270), furnished by the Department of Public Works, 3rd February, 1888.

Memo.

DURING my examination before the Royal Commission, *re* tanks and wells, some portions of a report written by Mr. Stillwell, consisting of a series of allegations against the caretakers employed by this Department in his district was read to me by the President, and appear on Q. 860.

As I could not at the moment reply with any degree of certainty to the various charges, I said that I should like to have all the papers before me before replying, and I was under the impression that opportunity would be afforded me for that purpose. This, however, has not been done; I therefore beg to submit for your information written replies to these allegations of Mr. Stillwell's based upon my own knowledge, and on information received from the overseers and caretakers, and where papers are recorded in this office, bearing upon the questions at issue I attach them.

JAMES W. BOULTBEE,
Inspector P.W.P.

The Chief Inspector, P.W. Places.

I.

THE first case referred to me was Mr. Stillwell's allegation against caretaker Kelly, One-tree tank, that he had caused an unnecessary journey of 50 miles at a time the roads were almost impassable with water, to fix a key that had dropped out of the pump connections.

I personally had no knowledge of the case, but I interviewed Kelly and obtained a statement and declaration which has been submitted to the Commission, from which it will be seen that he first endeavoured to make the connection good before reporting it. The absence of any clearly defined instructions as to when the services of the Works Department should be called in to use is, I think, to blame. Caretakers have been instructed by the Works' officers not to meddle with the machinery, but to let them know. The condition of the roads at the time should be ample evidence that no necessity existed for the hurried journey of 50 miles so prominently mentioned. Kelly's record is a good one, and he has always endeavoured to do his work to the satisfaction of those concerned.

II.

THE next case read to me (see Q. 868), was a charge dated 25th November, 1887, against caretaker Young, One-tree tank, for having the wires in his fence round the tank slack, plunger stand fractured through carelessness in screwing it down, service tank not half full, and troughing containing liquid mud. This matter has been referred to in the Blue Book on page 231; I inspected the tank on 15th November, and I reported state of fencing, "Enclosing tank has been raised and moved out; is very badly strained (left so by contractor); wire is strained from corner to corner."

[This work had been lately completed by Mr. Stillwell's contractor, who had strained the wire from corner to corner (No. 4 gauge), with no intermediate strainers, a distance of about 160 yards.]

In my report of the same date I state that the machinery is "not satisfactory, and that the Works' mechanic is due on the Saturday following to put it in thorough order." The Works' mechanic did not keep his appointment which he made with the caretaker. A week after my visit the glands of the pump got broken, and the matter was referred to Mr. Stillwell. He, on 24th, sent in the complaint read to me, stating that he had specially sent out Mr. Nicholson, although his own mechanic was due at the place for repairs; and I would further draw attention to my minute on Mr. Stillwell's report, Q. 1036, and to Mr. Keighran, the local overseer's letter, and to Young's declaration. I may add that Mr. Young resigned his appointment in consequence of the treatment he received from the Roads' officers.

Minute by Mr. Inspector Boulton.

CARETAKER was desired by Works' mechanic Jones to leave troughs and tank alone, and not pump into them, as he would be down on the Saturday following to tar inside of tank and troughs and put pump, which had been some time out of order, right. Caretaker had key of housings on 17th November, 1886. The fencing round tank was only lately completed by contractors, and is in exactly the same state as left by them. Mr. Stillwell's assistants give orders, and Mr. Stillwell apparently reports our caretakers for carrying them out. I think his remarks on the ignorance and uselessness of caretakers employed by us quite uncalled for, and reflects upon the Mines' officers in a very undeserving manner; and I would again urge that all interference of Works' officers should cease when a work is transferred.

JAMES W. BOULTBEE,
Inspector of Public Watering Places.

Dear Mr. Boulton,

Hay, 22 January, 1887.

By same post as this I have forwarded to the Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places a statement from George Young, caretaker One-tree tank, *re* Mr. Stillwell's complaint, which statement was taken down by me just as the caretaker Young explained the matter. I certainly should have gone out and got you this explanation before the present date, but my eye (the good one) has been affected with swelling blight, so that I was pretty well handicapped, especially having a lot of official work to get through this month. I quite agree with you that we have just cause for complaint against Mr. Stillwell and his assistant, Mr. Nicholson's, interference.

You will observe in Young's statement, where Nicholson [came to him from the "One Tree Hotel," at 20 minutes past 5 a.m., and ordered him to get his horse and pump for one hour, he (Nicholson) giving no reason for the pumping, as the pump had been lately repaired and required nothing doing to it. I think if Mr. Stillwell looked after his own work it would become him better, as the fencing in of the tenant's lease will show (One-tree and Quandong fence), neither of which is completed. Besides, nothing has been done as regards the erection of cottages for caretakers now in Mr. Cronin's district. All these improvements have been completed long since. Then may I ask why or what is the cause of Mr. Stillwell not having done his likewise?

The wires in the fence at One-tree tank he (Mr. Stillwell) complains, are slack, and require tightening. I can tell Mr. Stillwell that they are now—fence and wire—in as good order as they were when he took over the work from the contractor. Besides, the wire being old, they would not stand straining; neither are there any posts left in the fence to strain them to. The old cask that floats the main pipe from the mud, that sunk on Wednesday last, and I suppose that he (Mr. Stillwell) will say that it is from carelessness of the caretaker. Now [if I recollect right, at the time of Mr. Gilliat taking this work over from Mr. A. P. Wood, he (Mr. Wood) promised to have these old casks replaced by proper buoys (painted). This promise has not been fulfilled at any of the tanks—Tom's Lake, Quandong, and One-tree.

While writing, a report has come in to me that the Dry Lake well has given out; so that I shall have to proceed there to-morrow, and get it in working order again by opening out the bore, which must have got choked. All this bother and trouble is caused by the shaft not having been sunk deep enough, but taken over from the contractor before the supply of water was obtained, and not leaving a pipe in the bore. Now I must conclude this rigmorole of a letter, as I am still unable to use both eyes.

Mr. Inspector Boulton.

I remain, &c.,
JOHN A. KEIGHRAN.

Mr.

Mr. Stillwell's evidence.

Statutory declaration made by caretaker George Young.

Sir,

One-tree Tank, 21 January, 1887.

Referring to Mr. Assistant Engineer Stillwell's report against me of the 26th November last, *re* the state of the One-tree tank and appliances at the time of his (Mr. Stillwell's) inspection, I have the honor to give a truthful statement which is as follows:—

On the 26th October last I took charge of the works here as caretaker. The pump was then in a disabled state, as can be proved by Mr. Overseer Keighran, who stated that he would report the matter to Mr. Stillwell, which he did, as a few days afterwards Mr. Nicholson (Mr. Stillwell's assistant) came out and partly repaired it, but could not put it in working order, as there was a leakage that he could not stop, and left it for the repairer Jones to put right, which he did shortly afterwards. The next visit I had from Mr. Nicholson was early one morning, twenty minutes past 5, rousing me out of bed, and calling me a lazy fellow, at the same time threatening to punch my head. He then tested the pump by having the horse worked for one hour, and found it working well, and made no complaint of the machinery being in a dirty state. The top gland was broken shortly afterwards through not being properly fitted on by the man who put it up, and not through any fault of mine.

The wires in the fence are considered slack. I think Mr. Stillwell should have seen to that part of the work before taking it over from the contractor, which was only a few days previous, and was in the same state as it was at the time of being handed over, and was in no way injured afterwards by getting slacker. One thing is, if the wires do get slack there is no straining-posts left to tighten them, the distance on one side from corner post to corner post being 100 yards.

The reason that the service tank was kept half empty was by orders from Mr. Jones, repairer, who said he wanted to pitch the inside, and wished to have no delay when he came to do it; in consequence of this the tank was not kept filled, otherwise it would have been. The key of the housing was not lost, but is still in my possession, therefore I cannot understand the reason, or why Mr. Stillwell makes these unfounded reports against me, as he appeared to be well satisfied with my work, not having drawn my attention to any part of the works that showed any signs of neglect.

The tank and all appliances are now in good working order, with the exception of the old cask that floats the main pipe and keeps it out of the mud. It has sunk in consequence of never having been painted.

Since my appointment here as caretaker I have found it a difficult matter to give satisfaction, on account of both Mr. Stillwell's and Mr. Nicholson's interference in the works.

Declared before me, at Hay, this }
3rd day of March, 1887,— }

I have, &c.,

GEORGE YOUNG,

Caretaker.

N. J. TREVINA, J.P.

The Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places.

III.

With regard to Mr. Stillwell's complaint, *re* the Pulletop Tank, I admitted in evidence that the lessee was an objectionable man, and that he had lost his lease. I would beg to point out that the construction of the bankment at Pulletop rendered them very difficult to preserve, and that the interference of Mr. Stillwell in supplying the 2½ inch perishable India rubber hose, to supersede the fluming provided by this Department, materially increased the difficulty and furnished a loop-hole for the tenant to endeavour to evade the conditions of his lease. Every endeavour was made by this Department to keep the man up to the mark. The whole case is fully shown—pages 42 to 46 of Blue Book. That Mr. Stillwell did interfere with Mr. Elworthy I have not the slightest doubt; his honesty and integrity are unimpeachable.

IV.

Re Hulong Tank.

Mr. Stillwell reports on 13th September, 1888, caretaker at his camp reading his newspaper, although his drains required attention. I made inquiry as to this and submit the papers in the case.

Extract from Mr. Assistant Engineer Stillwell's Report on Hulong Tank, dated 13/9/86:—

WHEN there on the 8th I found the caretaker absent, and have previously found him at his camp reading the paper while his drains needed attention.

A. W. STILLWELL.

Under Secretary for transmission to Mines.—W.C.B., 21/9/86. The Under Secretary for Mines.—J.R., B.C., 23/9/86. Mr. Overseer Elworthy.

Mr. Overseer Elworthy for report. Please to state what distance the caretaker's camp is from his tank, and carefully examine and report upon all the drains, machinery, and all appliances, and parts of the watering place. Ascertain and report the time of Mr. Assistant-Engineer Stillwell's visit.—H.G., B.C., 30/9/86.

Report attached.—J.W. Boulton, Whitton, 21/12/86.

Hulong Drains.

Sir,

Hulong Tank, Public Watering Places Office, Narrandera, 7 October, 1886.

When the first rain came after this tank was taken over it was found the drains were most uneven, and the water actually ran from instead of to the tanks. On my last inspection (15th September), I heard Mr. Stillwell had a few days previously inspected and had tested the machinery.

The caretaker had just finished painting the engine and pump and had given the service-tank one coat of paint, and it has subsequently had another coat.

When Mr. Stillwell found him absent the caretaker was on his way to Whitton to bring out some tools, &c., which I had sent him, and this trip was rendered necessary, as the agents refused to give up the goods until the carriage was paid (a rather sharp trick), so I told the caretaker to get them himself.

He has been levelling the drains, and got the water to run into tank, but advises me the new drains made by the Works Department are so low he will have to deepen the other drains for several chains to make them of service.

The caretaker's camp is 100 yards from tank.

I have, &c.,

W. J. ELWORTHY,

Overseer.

The Chief Inspector, Public Watering Places.

To H. Gilliat, Esq.,—

Hulong Tank, October.

Sir,

I am informed by my overseer I have been reported for being absent, for which I think I can explain to your satisfaction.

First, the tools which were lying at station had to be got to.

I sent in on the 5th of September for them, and had a cart; took cart back on the 8th of September. That accounts for my being absent on the 8th.

Mr. Stillwell passed the road from Whitton to tank, so could not find me at tank. As for attending to drains, you see by my returns that I was painting at that time.

Sir, hoping you will see that I was not absent on any other business but that of your Department,

I remain, &c.,

SAMUEL LEIGHTON,

Caretaker, Hulong Tank.

6th October, 1886.

332—P

Mr.

Mr. Stillwell's evidence.

Sir, Whitton, 21 December, 1886.
 Referring to the enclosed report, made by Mr. Road-Superintendent Stillwell, upon "the absence and neglect of duty on the part of Caretaker Leighton, I now have the honor to report, that from conversation with Mr. Overseer Elworthy and the caretaker, I find that Leighton was absent on the date specified, but was so under instructions from Mr. Elworthy, who directed him to go to Whitton, 9 miles away, for some tools that he had sent up. Mr. Stillwell met Leighton on his way in. In regard to the charge of reading the paper, Mr. Stillwell arrived there on a previous occasion at 1 o'clock, during Leighton's dinner hour. I inspected this tank on 21st December and found everything in excellent order, and that the caretaker has laboured hard to remedy the stupid errors of either Mr. Stillwell or his assistant in the levelling of these drains. Leighton has made the drain of some use. They were almost useless before. This is another of Mr. Stillwell's frivolous complaints, and they can only, I think, be avoided by the course pointed out in my other letter of this date. I do not consider Leighton's absence under his overseer's instructions, or the fact of his reading a paper at 1 p.m., any fault or neglect of duty whatever, and the very good order of all his works testify to his care and labour.

I have, &c.,

JAMES W. BOULTBEE,
 Inspector, Public Watering Places.

The Chief Inspector, Public Watering Places.

VI.

MR. STILLWELL'S report of 7th March was never submitted to this Department so far as can be traced. I have no knowledge of it and cannot reply to it.

VII.

REPORT (1st July) that caretaker was using shelter-shed for a house and boiler fire for domestic purposes.

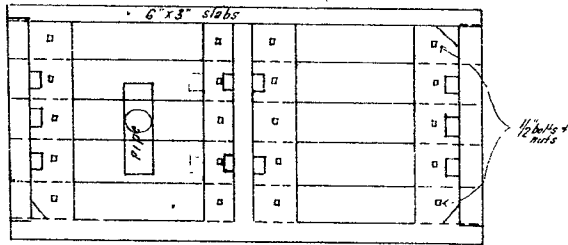
The caretaker's statement and declaration has been already submitted to the Commission on 8th March, 1888. I can add nothing more to it except to state that I consider the man quite justified in using the shed as he did. It was kept scrupulously clean, as also was the machinery. No harm ensued or was ever likely to.

Mr. Stillwell's report of 9th November, that for want of attention by the caretaker the drains had allowed a considerable quantity of water to run in to swamp instead of to the tank. There is no record so far as I can trace of this complaint having been sent to this Department, and I distinctly affirm that it is entirely due to the work of this caretaker that the tank fills so well as it does. I should like to ask Mr. Stillwell if the drains were properly graded when he took off the men he employed by daily labour to lower the flumes and grade them? This work he ceased when the tank was transferred, and it is submitted that the declaration of the overseer and caretaker, given in reply to Mr. Stillwell's evidence on page 92, show that the work of grading the drains was entirely done by Leighton.

[Two plans.]

APPENDIX A.

PLAN of FLOOR



LONGITUDINAL SECTION

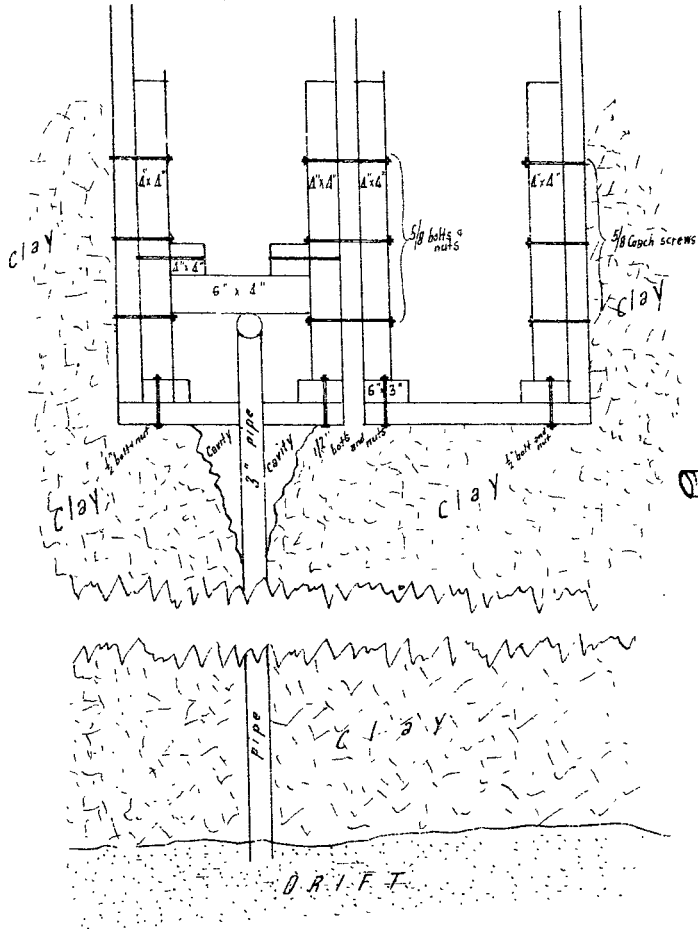
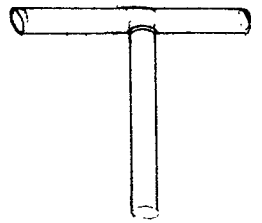


Diagram of T pipe



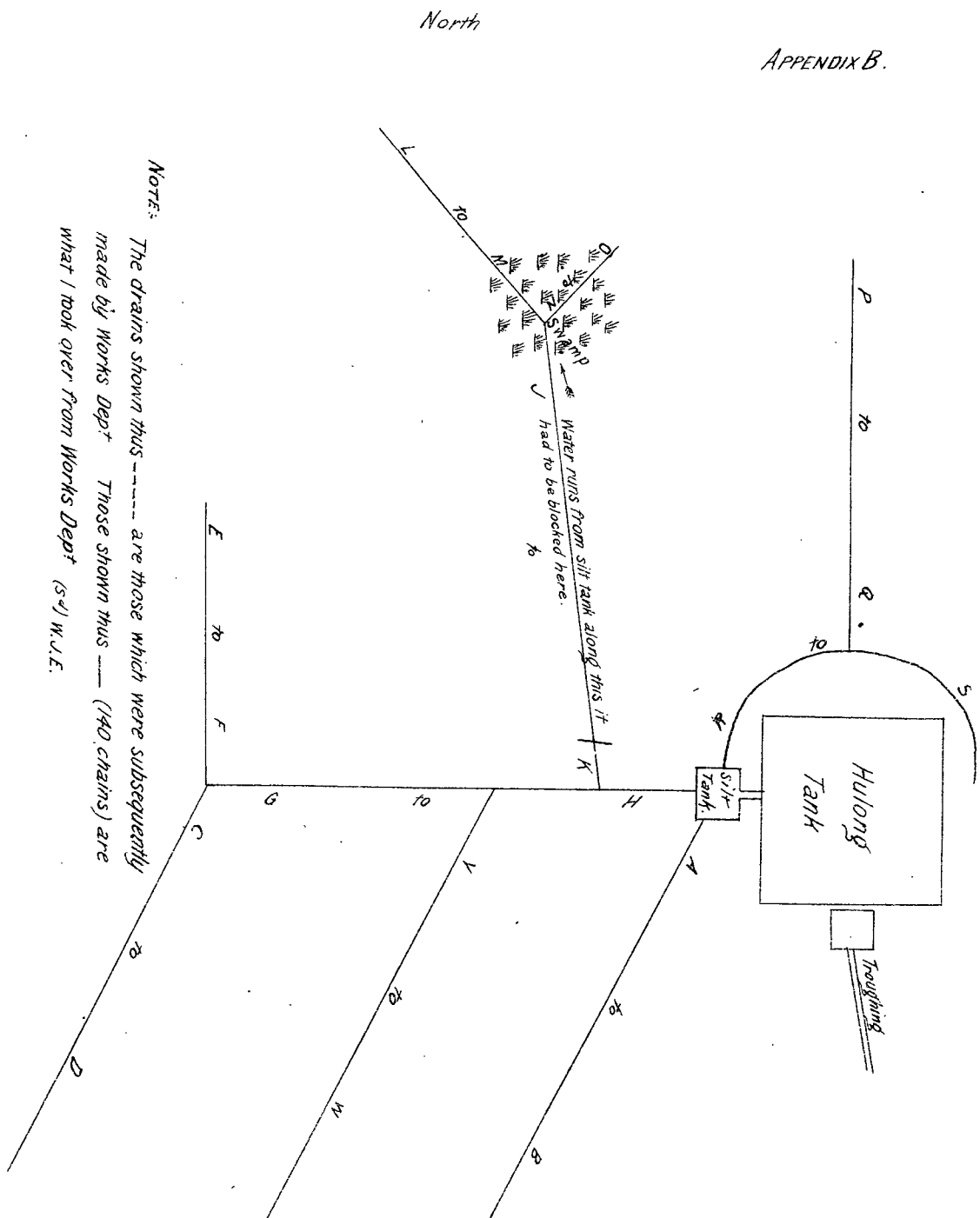
Plan shewing improvements to shaft & fixing floor & pipe in Bore hole at Wooloondool Well made under the direction of the Chief Inspector of Public Watering Places at a cost of £20.

(Sig. 332-)

Scale 2' to 30 Inch.

Road Whitton to Lake Cudjellico

APPENDIX B.



North

South

NOTE: The drains shown thus ----- are those which were subsequently made by Works Dept. Those shown thus --- (140 chains) are what I took over from Works Dept (Sd) W.J.E.

(Sig 332-)

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

PUBLIC WATERING PLACES ACT, 1884.

(REGULATIONS RESPECTING AGISTMENT OF STOCK.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 16.

[Laid upon the Table of the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales by the Secretary for Mines, a copy of the Regulations under the Public Watering Places Act of 1884, re agistment of Stock—In accordance with the provisions of the abovementioned Act.]

Department of Mines, Public Watering Places,
Sydney, 31st May, 1887.

PUBLIC WATERING PLACES ACT, 1884.

HIS Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to cancel Nos. 3, 9, and 49 of the Regulations of the 1st December, 1885, issued under the abovenamed Act, and to substitute the following in lieu thereof:—

3. All stock upon prepayment of the following watering charges shall be supplied with water, all persons in charge of travelling stock being required to show their travelling statement or permits. Tenants may water and depasture within their lease not more than 35 head of large stock, or 200 sheep; where both sheep and large stock are kept five head of the former shall be reckoned as the equivalent of one head of the latter.

9. The charges for water which the tenant or caretaker shall collect are as follows:—

| | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|
| Horses, per head | 0 | 2 |
| Cattle, per head | 0 | 1 |
| Sheep, per hundred or portion of hundred | 1 | 0 |
| Goats and pigs, per head..... | 0 | 0½ |

When water is required for domestic purposes or in bulk, the same shall be supplied at the rate of one shilling per 100 gallons.

Any other animals according to agreement between tenant or caretaker and the owner or drover.

Water Trusts.

49. Any public watering place may be placed under Trustees, subject to these Regulations and the following conditions:—

1. The number of Trustees may be three or five, as the Minister shall decide.
2. The Trustees must engage, and may discharge, a caretaker, who will be under their immediate control and direction, but his remuneration will be fixed and paid by the Government.
3. The Trustees shall see that the works, appliances, and appurtenances are kept in a thoroughly efficient state, and will, as the necessity arises, make requisition to the Minister for repairs.
4. The following charges will be made for water supplied:—

| | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|
| Horses, per head | 0 | 0½ |
| Cattle, goats, and pigs, per head..... | 0 | 0½ |
| Sheep per hundred and portion of hundred | 0 | 6 |
| Water for domestic purposes or in bulk per 100 gallons..... | 1 | 0 |

Any other animals according to agreement with Trustees.

5. All travellers, teamsters, and drovers entitled to obtain water at a public watering place shall, on prepayment of the charges prescribed by Regulation No. 9, be equally entitled at public watering places under Trustees.
6. All watering charges collected at public watering places under the control of Trustees shall be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

FRANCIS ABIGAIL.

[In lieu of similar notice of the 6th instant.]

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

PRICKLY PEAR DESTRUCTION ACT OF 1886.

(CANCELLATION OF REGULATION No. 2 AND ADOPTION OF AMENDED REGULATION.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 50 Vic. No. 2, sec. 23.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 24th August, 1888.

It is hereby notified, for general information, that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has approved of the cancellation of Regulation No. 2, including the sub-sections thereunder, hitherto in force under the Prickly-Pear Destruction Act of 1836, and has approved of the following Regulation in lieu thereof.

HENRY PARKES.

CLEARING LEASES OF LAND INFESTED WITH PRICKLY-PEAR.

2. The Minister may, pursuant to the above-cited Act, fix a minimum rent, and offer leases at auction, or may invite tenders for leases, subject to the following conditions and covenants, that is to say:—

- (I.) That the rent shall be paid annually, in advance.
- (II.) That the lessee will not assign, sublet, or subdivide the land demised without the consent of the Minister, signified in writing.
- (III.) That the lessee shall, within such period as may be fixed by the Minister, eradicate from the land demised all Prickly-pear growing thereon, and keep the land free from Prickly-pear to the satisfaction of the Minister during the term of such lease: Provided that the Minister may at any time permit the lessee to suspend the work of clearing, or grant an extension of time for clearing, upon being satisfied that such suspension or extension is warranted.
- (IV.) That the lessee shall, at the expiration of the term for which his lease is granted or on any forfeiture of the lease, surrender the demised land, and give peaceable and quiet possession thereof to the Minister, or to any person authorized by him.

- (V.) That the lessee shall keep in good condition and repair, during the continuance of the term of his lease, all houses, fences, wells, reservoirs, tanks, dams, and all other improvements of a permanent character on the land demised, whether erected, constructed, or made by such lessee or otherwise; and on receipt of notice from the Minister to repair any damage done to any such improvements, the lessee shall forthwith repair the same.
- (VI.) That the lease shall be liable for forfeiture—to take effect thirty clear days after notice thereof in the Gazette—if, in the opinion of the Minister, the lessee shall have committed any breach of, or shall have failed to comply with any of, the conditions of the lease.
- (VII.) That the Minister may at any time cancel any lease if the demised land or any part thereof be required for any public purpose.
- (VIII.) That the lessee shall have the right of ingress, egress, and regress to and from the land comprised in his lease, through and over any land lying between the demised land and the nearest public road or track.
- (IX.) In any case in which it shall appear to the Minister proper so to do, special conditions, in addition to the foregoing, may be attached to any lease.

[M.L. 88-7,351]

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

RABBIT NUISANCE ACT.

(REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE UNDER, SINCE 1883.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 13 November, 1888.

| Dr. | RABBIT ACCOUNT.—UNDER ACT, 46 VICTORIA No. 14. | | | | | | Cr. | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---------|----------------------------|---------|---------|----|---------------------|--------|---------|----|---------|---------|----|---|
| | Assessments. | | Consolidated Revenue Fund. | | Total. | | Total. | | | | | | | |
| | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. | | | | | |
| 1883 Payments | 489 | 18 | 9 | ..... |  |  | 1883 Receipts... .. | 35,899 | 14 | 9 | | | | |
| 1884 Do. | 69,405 | 19 | 4 | ..... |  |  | 1884 Do. | 44,757 | 8 | 0 | | | | |
| 1885 Do. | 46,925 | 18 | 4 | 88,127 | 16 | 5 | 1885 Do. | 37,463 | 10 | 10 | | | | |
| 1886 Do. | 40,200 | 2 | 5 | 127,434 | 8 | 7 | 1886 Do. | 40,023 | 17 | 9 | | | | |
| 1887 Do. | 47,518 | 2 | 0 | 161,228 | 0 | 6 | 1887 Do. | 41,173 | 4 | 3 | | | | |
| 1888 Do. to 30th September | 1,300 | 2 | 5 | 70,415 | 7 | 11 | 1888 Do. | 46,357 | 6 | 8 | | | | |
| 30th September, 1888— | £ | 205,840 | 3 | 3 | 447,205 | 13 | 5 | | 245,675 | 2 | 3 | | | |
| To Balance due by Assessment Fund to Consolidated Revenue Fund | | | | | | | 653,045 | 16 | 8 | | 407,370 | 14 | 5 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | £ | 653,045 | 16 | 8 |

The Treasury, New South Wales,
18th October, 1888.

J. PEARSON,
Accountant.

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

RABBIT SUBSIDIES.

(AMOUNTS PLACED ON THE ESTIMATES, 1887 AND 1888.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 5 December, 1888.

Minute by The Under Secretary for Lands.

THE Treasurer desires an explanation of the reason why the amount placed on the Loan Estimate for the rabbit subsidy was £201,000, and the amount now proposed on the Estimates for 1889 is only £88,000.

The Accountant.

See memo. attached.—V.C., 13/11/88.

S.F., 12/11/88.

RABBIT SUBSIDIES—1887 AND 1888.

THE amount placed on the Loan Estimates for 1888, to meet the Rabbit Subsidies was £201,000, which was made up as follows, viz. :—

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|----------|
| Subsidies, further sum—1887 | ... .. | £116,000 |
| Do do —1888 | ... .. | £85,000 |

For the year 1888 only £88,000 is wanted and that sum was included in the Draft Additional Estimates for 1888, but the amount now appears in the Estimates for 1889 under the heading of "Special Charges." The question naturally arises, how is it that this small sum, as compared with previous years is now required, more especially as the amount provided on the Loan Estimates was withdrawn?

The solution will be found in the following explanation: In June, 1888, the votes for 1887 were exhausted, and the vote for 1888, taken under the Temporary Supply Bills, was drawn upon to the extent of £49,997, leaving unpaid claims to the amount of £18,802. Of this sum, £7,495 was met from the Treasurer's Advance Account and the Special Account under the Rabbit Act. It was also estimated that claims were in the Rabbit Branch in course of examination, amounting to £47,552. These sums aggregate the total of £116,351.

At this time it was estimated that for 1888 the total claims would be approximately £135,000, but inasmuch as the vote for 1888 (£50,000) had been used for the services of 1887, it was but right that the vote for 1888 should be recouped, and that sum was added to the sum wanted for 1887, and the amount stated for 1888 was fixed at £85,000.

Since the estimate just alluded to was introduced, Mr. Garrett, then Minister for Lands, announced the determination of the Government to suspend the subsidy clauses of the Act, and such intention was given effect to on the 31st July last. As the estimate of £135,000 had been based on twelve months subsidy, it is now evident that with the altered circumstances it will not be required; but from the estimate supplied me by the officer in charge of the Rabbit Branch, I find that claims are in his hands to the extent of about £30,000, and that there were at the time of framing the estimate unpaid vouchers at the Treasury amounting to £58,000.

With respect to the sum of £30,000, it should be stated that possibly other claims may be sent in during the year, and probably reductions may be made in them as well as in those at present in the office.

Department of Lands,
13 November, 1888.

VICTOR COHEN,
Accountant.

1888-9.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CASUAL LABOUR BOARD.

(RETURN SHOWING THE WORKS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE CONTROL OF, &c.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 8 January, 1889.

RETURN showing the works carried out under the control of the Casual Labour Board, also the amount realized for Crown Lands, and the approximate value of the lands now available for sale, based upon prices recently realized at public auction.

RETURN showing the works carried out under the control of the Casual Labour Board, also the amount realized for Crown lands, and the approximate value of the lands now available for sale, based upon prices recently realized at public auction.

| | Acres cleared and under scrubbed. | Miles of Roads cleared. | Miles of Roads cleared and formed. | Miles of Roads cleared, formed, and made. | Bridges, Culverts, Drains, &c. | Remarks. |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Audley Road ..... | ..... | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 culverts | This road leads from the end of Military Road, at Loftus Platform, to the dam across the Port Hacking River, and then leads on to the Lady Carrington Road, and is greatly used by "tourists," and also the military when they have their encampments at the Park. |
| Bankstown Common | 88 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | This land when taken in hand by the Board was perfectly worthless as a Common, being covered with the very thickest of ti-tree scrub. The whole has now been properly cleared, and the Board recommend that 66 acres be sold, the balance being retained as a public park. This land will easily return £75 per acre. |
| Bankstown Park | 35 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | This was a very rough piece of land when the Board commenced operations upon it, but they have succeeded in converting it into a fine park, to the great benefit of the surrounding people, the whole area was cleared, drives made, and a swamp turned into a fine artificial lake, making it now a very valuable property. |
| Berowra | 463 | 19 | 10 | ..... | 12 culverts | 100 acres of this land, at public auction, realized £610, this being before the roads were completed. There are now 3,000 acres available for sale, which should readily realize £10 per acre. |
| Boulevard Road ..... | ..... | 1½ | ..... | ..... | ..... | This road leads from Illawarra Railway at Sutherland to a Government reserve at Huntsman's Hill. |
| Blue-gum Road ..... | ..... | 1½ | 1 | 1 | ..... | Opens up access through Crown lands from main Illawarra Road to Otford Railway Station. |
| Bulgo Road ..... | ..... | 4 | 3½ | ..... | The metal for this road is now quarried and broken. | This road leads from the Otford Station to the junction of the Waterfalls Road, through Crown and private lands, opening up some of the finest timber country in the Colony; since the road has been started two saw-mills have been set to work; the road also throws open 200 acres of Crown lands which will return £100 per acre. |
| Camp Creek Road ..... | ..... | 5½ | 3 | ..... | The metal for ballasting 3 miles of this road is now ready. | This leads from the main Illawarra Road to the coal mines at Helensburgh, and then through Crown lands, of which 3,840 acres are now available for sale, which should return £100 per acre, the price at which land is readily selling there. |
| Campbelltown-Eckersley Road ..... | ..... | 11 | 4 | 2 | ..... | Connects on to the Liverpool-Eckersley Road, and also to the Illawarra Road to Liverpool, giving direct access to the coast district, and passing through 10,500 acres of Crown lands, which it makes available for sale, and should return £15 per acre. |
| Cook Park, Sandringham | 50 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | This park is situated on the foreshore of Botany Bay, between Sandringham and Rockdale. It was originally comprised of sand hills of a very unprepossessing appearance, which the Board has had levelled down, entailing the removal of 200,000 cubic yards of sand; and now the place is one of the finest picnic grounds in the Colony, having a most beautiful sandy beach, with the level esplanade at the back. This resort is easily approached by tram from either Kogarah or Rockdale. |
| Coronulla Road ..... | ..... | 2½ | 2½ | ..... | ..... | This road leads from the Port Hacking Road, at the intersection of Woronora Road, to the Coronulla Beach, one of the finest pleasure resorts in Australia, and is also the direct highway to the noxious trades site at Kurnell. |
| Dobroyd | 80 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 stone-pitched drains, 2 crossings, 70 chains open drains cut in solid rock. | 30 acres of this land has been sold, bringing £4,500; the remaining unsold 50 acres will return £7,500. This land, when taken in hand by the Board to clear and subdivide, would not have realized £20 per acre. |
| Dural Road ..... | ..... | 5 | ..... | ..... | ..... | This road opens up direct communication between Dural and Hornsby Railway Station, and will be of great service to the settlers and the railway, besides improving the adjacent Crown lands 50 per cent. in value. |
| Eastwood Road ..... | ..... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ..... | Gives direct access to Eastwood Railway Station from Ryde, which proves of great service to the railway and the whole surrounding district. |
| Ervey Road ..... | ..... | 1 | 1 | ..... | ..... | Leads from the Port Hacking Road to the deep waters of Yowie Bay. |
| Flemington Road ..... | ..... | 2 | 1 | ..... | ..... | This road opens up communication between Flemington and Bankstown, coming out at the Liverpool Road, and is much used by travelling stock from the sale-yards. It joins Roberts' Road, which runs on to George's River. |

078

2

| | Acres cleared and under scrubbed. | Miles of Roads cleared. | Miles of Roads cleared and formed. | Miles of Roads cleared, formed, and-made. | Bridges, Culverts, Drains, &c. | Remarks. |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Elswick Creek, Leichhardt ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 450 cubic yards removed in diversion of creek; 150 cubic yards of rock quarried in forming creek; 80 cubic yards of ballast broken for lining; 60 cubic yards of concrete mixed and spread on bottom of creek. | A most useful sanitary work, the old creek being converted into a fine concrete channel with a good grade that carries off all waters and drainage from the surrounding neighbourhood. |
| Fox Ground Road, Thornleigh ..... | ..... | 3 | 3 | ..... | 1 culvert | Opens up direct communication to the railway for local residents who had to make a detour of 5 miles to get there, and is not only now of great public use, but a good feeder to the railway. |
| Field of Mars Common, Carlingford, and Beecroft. | 6,600 | 69 | 44 | ..... | 3 bridges, 29 culverts, 6 crossings | 697 acres of this land has been sold, realizing £70,300. The remaining unsold 5,903 acres should easily return £75 per acre. |
| French's Forest Road | 283 | 12½ | 9 | 9 | 6 stone culverts; 20 pipe culverts; 6 miles side drains cut, 15,000 cubic yards of metal quarried, broken, and used upon road; 6,000 cubic yards gravel spread on road. | This road throws open 10,000 acres of Crown lands, which, on the basis of sales of adjoining properties, should easily realize £50 per acre, and the road also leads direct to thousands of unalienated Crown lands beyond the population boundary, which will always command a ready sale. |
| Gordon | 3,412 | 13 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 430 acres of this was recently sold, returning £34,000. The remaining portions, by virtue of the improvements effected, and the proximity to the Pearce's Corner Railway, will no doubt easily realize £100 per acre, as it comprises some of the finest building views in the Colony, and some fine orchard land. |
| Heathcote | 430 | 6 | 6 | ..... | ..... | 203 acres of this land was sold, returning £8,235. The remaining unsold portion will easily bring £50 per acre. |
| Helsarmel Creek, Leichhardt ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 600 cubic yards of rock excavated in the bottom of creek; 250 cubic yards of earth; 150 cubic yards of ballast broken for lining; 30 cubic yards of concrete mixed and spread on bottom of creek. | A most important sanitary work. The creek is now all concreted, and, by having a good grade, carries off all drainage and surplus waters, which is a great boon to the surrounding inhabitants. |
| Hornsby | 356 | 21 | 15 | 8 | 6 culverts, 4 bridges, 14 pipe-drains, 6 paved crossings, 2 miles of side-drains. | These improvements not only open up access to the Hornsby Station for the residents of the surrounding district, but open up direct access to Crown lands, of which 100 acres were recently sold by auction, realizing £4,000. The remaining unsold portion will, no doubt, by reason of the improvements, return £50 per acre. This land, before the Board gave access to it, was not worth £1 per acre. |
| Hunter's Hill..... | 109 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | This land has been cleared, and left in order for a general cemetery for the parishes of Ryde and Hunter's Hill. |
| Johnstone's Creek, Leichhardt ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Excavating race, 400 cubic yards; excavating dam, 1,100 cubic yards; diversion of creek, 3,000 cubic yards; 3,000 cubic yards of rock quarried from bed of creek; 92 superficial yards of gutter; 100 superficial yards of facing; 3,750 cubic yards of stone lining; 1,750 superficial yards of concrete, mixed and spread; 1,000 cubic yards of metal, broken for lining; 1,000 cubic yards of spalls laid in bed of creek. | This is a sanitary work carried out on the boundary of Camperdown and Leichhardt, by making the old channel, which was nothing more than a fever-bed, into a concreted sewer, which carries off all drainage. |
| Illawarra Road, from Government Punt to Sutherland. | ..... | 4½ | 3½ | ..... | 4 pipe culverts | This is the main Government road, which was originally only a bush track, but has now been made from the Government punt to Sutherland 99 feet wide, and is in thorough repair for all traffic. |
| Illawarra Road to Liverpool ..... | ..... | 14 | 14 | 6 | 19 chains of drains cut, 3 bridges, 4 culverts | Opens up direct communication from Liverpool to the Southern Coast District, throws open for sale 10,500 acres of Crown lands, which should realize £15 per acre. |
| Leichhardt Park ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | The works carried out at this park consist of cutting down and forming roads and drives round the park, making a cricket oval, and otherwise generally improving the property. |
| Little Bay, Coast Hospital | 400 | ¾ | ¾ | ¾ | 80 chains open drains cut | The whole area has been cleared and matted, planted with grass and ornamental trees, wells sunk, roads made, dams cleaned out, and general improvements to the ground carried out. 100 tons of ironstone metal has been broken and stacked to keep the roads in repair. |

| | Acres cleared and under scrubbed. | Miles of Roads cleared. | Miles of Roads cleared and formed. | Miles of Roads cleared, formed, and made. | Bridges, Culverts, Drains, &c. | Remarks. |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Liverpool-Eckersley Road | | 4½ | 4½ | 2 | ..... | Connects the Campbelltown Eckersley Road to the Illawarra Road, and throws open thousands of acres of Crown lands, which are now available for sale, and which should realize a high figure. |
| Malvern Road | | 2 | 2 | ..... | ..... | Opens up communication from Illawarra Road to Port Hacking Road, being at present the shortest route to Government Reserves, and also to the noxious trades site. |
| Military Road | | 1 | 1 | 1 | ..... | This is a continuation of the Sutherland-Loftus Road, from the Loftus Junction platform to the military camping ground at National Park, and will stand all the heavy traffic that is likely to be put over, being one of the finest roads in the Colony. |
| Morrison's Road, Ryde..... | | 2 | ..... | ..... | ..... | This road leads from the old road to Ryde on to the township, and will be of great service to the residents, as it shortens the distance by one mile between there and Sydney. |
| Narrabeen, parish of Manly Cove ... | 4,500 | 65 | 19 | 10 | 9 wooden culverts; 9 stone culverts; 14 pipe culverts; 8 miles of side drains cut; 18,552 cubic yards of metal broken on roads; 16,392 cubic yards of rock taken out of cuttings; 287 cubic yards of stone quarried and dressed for culverts. | These improvements throw open 10,000 acres of Crown lands. At a recent sale of one subdivision here, 1,313 acres were sold by auction, realizing £29,000; and the remaining unsold portion will no doubt, by virtue of the permanent improvements made upon the ground, readily realize £30 per acre; and if the proposed tramway to Pittwater is carried out it will greatly enhance the value of this property. |
| National Park | 13,800 | 20 | 20 | 10 | 1 large dam at Audley for military purposes; 3 large dams upon other parts of the park; 2,500 superficial yards sea-wall in Port Hacking River; large breakwater made in Port Hacking River to prevent the sand from silting up in the channel; 6,000 sleepers were cut for the Centennial Park. | 1,050 acres have been matted and planted with grass-seed; 427 acres planted with ornamental trees; 4,000 seedling ornamental trees, reared and transplanted in different parts of the park; 60 acres of land manured with bone-dust; 1,000 tons of ironstone metal broken to keep the roads in repair; and other general improvements to the park, such as laying out the military encampment site, &c. |
| Otford Road | | 1½ | 1½ | 1½ | ..... | Leads from Otford Station to Main Illawarra Road, through Crown Lands, and opens up communication to the railway for the surrounding settlers. |
| Parramatta Roads, Ryde and Ermington. | | 10 | 10 | 10 | ..... | This portion of the road was, when taken in hand by the Board, in a most unsafe condition for traffic; but now it can be numbered as a "first-class" road, having been metalled and thoroughly repaired with new culverts, bridges, &c. |
| Port Hacking Road | | 4 | 4 | ..... | ..... | Leads from Government punt to the Port Hacking River. Is an old Government road with very heavy traffic. |
| Park and Ferrier Roads, Bankstown | | 3 | 2 | ..... | ..... | These roads give access to and from Auburn Railway Station and the township of Bankstown, passing by Government reserves. |
| Peakhurst Road..... | | 7 | 7 | 7 | ..... | Leads from Hurstville Railway Station to the Illawarra Road to Liverpool, and opens up communication to Government punt at George's River; also to Railway Station. Throws open 90 acres of Crown lands, which will readily return £55 per acre. |
| Prince Alfred Hospital..... | | | | | | General improvements in the grounds have been carried out here. |
| Rookwood | 1,100 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 300 acres of this land was fenced off for boys' reformatory; 42 acres held as Potts' Hill Water Reserve; 66 acres as a timber reserve; of the remaining 692 acres, 79 acres were sold by auction, returning £9,000; the balance should easily realize £150 per acre. |
| Roberts' Road, Bankstown | | 4 | 4 | ..... | 2 culverts | This is a continuation of the Flemington Road, leading the Liverpool Road to George's River, and is greatly used by travelling stock. |
| Rushcutter's Bay Park..... | | | | | | Drives have been made and the property otherwise generally improved. |
| Sutherland, Loftus Road..... | | 2 | 2 | 2 | ..... | Leads from Sutherland Station to Loftus and shortens the journey on the Illawarra Road by three-quarters of a mile, besides saving having to cross the railway twice. This road is the direct access to National Park. |
| Station-street, Sutherland..... | | ½ | ½ | ½ | ..... | Leads from railway station gates to the Illawarra Road. The Sutherland Station yards were also gravelled and put into order. |
| Sylvania Road | | 3¼ | ..... | ..... | ..... | Leads from part of Port Hacking Road to Port Hacking River. |
| Unwin's Bridge Road | | 2 | 1 | 1 | ..... | Leads from Canterbury to Tempe Railway Station, being an old Government road, which has been remade for the benefit of the surrounding inhabitants. |

1880

4

| | Acres cleared and under-scrubbed. | Miles of Roads cleared. | Miles of Roads cleared and formed. | Miles of Roads cleared, formed, and made. | Bridges, Culverts, Drains, &c. | Remarks. |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| University | | | | | | General improvements in the grounds were carried out. |
| Waterloo Road, Bankstown | | 4 | 4 | ..... | 1 culvert | Also a continuation from Flemington Road to George's River. |
| Waterfall, Garie Road | | 8 | 6 | 6 | 17 culverts, 14 bridges | From the Waterfall Station, through portion of the National Park, to the Lady Carrington Road, and then on to Crown lands at Garie, of which 200 acres are now available for sale, and will realize £50 per acre. |
| White's and Wentworth Creek, Leichhardt. | | | | | Cutting excavation in creeks, 9,350 cubic yards; 4,240 cubic yards of rock quarried; 2,100 and 1,500 cubic yards of earth filled into old creek; 1,750 superficial yards stone-lining; 1,500 cubic yards of metal broken for lining; 1,360 cubic yards of concrete mixed and spread; 1,790 superficial yards of stone wall. | This is a most useful sanitary work, and of great importance to the surrounding neighbourhood. |
| Woolwash Road, Campbelltown | | 1 | 1 | 1 | ..... | This road leads from Campbelltown to George's River, and has already proved of the greatest benefit to the inhabitants during the past dry weather, as it gives access to the river, which was impassable before. |
| Woronora River Road | | 9 | 5 | 4 | ..... | Is the connecting link that joins the other roads, to connect Liverpool, Minto, and Campbelltown with the Southern Coast District, and thereby throws open thousands of acres of Crown lands. |
| Woronora Road | | 3 | 1½ | ..... | 2 bridges, 5 culverts | Is the direct communication from Sutherland Station to the noxious trades site, passing by Government Reserves. |

TOTALS.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Cleared and under-scrubbed | 31,706 acres. |
| Roads cleared | 358½ miles. |
| Roads cleared and formed | 222 " |
| Roads cleared, formed, and made | 86¾ " |
| Bridges, culverts, &c. :— | |
| Bridges | 26 |
| Side drains cut | 18 miles. |
| Culverts | 185 |

AMOUNT REALIZED FOR CROWN LANDS.

| | acres. | £ |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Berowra | 100 | 608 |
| Como | 100 | 2,000 |
| Heathcote | 203 | 8,235 |
| Dobroyd | 30 | 4,500 |
| Field of Mars | 697 | 70,000 |
| Gordon | 430 | 34,000 |
| Hornsby | 100 | 3,856 |
| Narrabeen | 1,313 | 29,000 |
| Rookwood | 79 | 9,000 |
| | 3,052 | £161,199 |

CROWN LANDS AVAILABLE FOR SALE.

| | acres. | per acre ¹ | £ |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Peakhurst | 90 | 55 | 5,050 |
| Rookwood | 613 | 150 | 91,950 |
| Garie | 200 | 50 | 10,000 |
| Dobroyd | 50 | 150 | 7,500 |
| French's Forest | 10,000 | 50 | 500,000 |
| Gordon | 4,000 | 100 | 400,000 |
| Hornsby | 2,500 | 50 | 125,000 |
| Holdsworthly | 10,500 | 15 | 157,500 |
| Manly Cove Parish | 10,000 | 30 | 300,000 |
| Bankstown Common | 66 | 75 | 4,950 |
| Berowra | 3,000 | 10 | 30,000 |
| Bulgo | 200 | 100 | 20,000 |
| Camp Creek | 3,840 | 100 | 384,000 |
| Eckersley | 10,500 | 15 | 157,500 |
| Field of Mars | 5,903 | 75 | 442,725 |
| Heathcote | 227 | 50 | 11,350 |
| | 61,689 | | £2,647,525 |

JOHN DAVIES,
Chairman, Casual Labour Board.

Sydney, 12th December, 1888.

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1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE UNEMPLOYED.

(RETURN SHOWING ROADS CONSTRUCTED BY.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 1st November, 1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1 NOVEMBER, 1888—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

*Questions:—*6. MR. WALKER *to ask* THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,—

- (1.) Have the unemployed been at work on roads on the Holt-Sutherland Estate?
- (2.) What public roads have the unemployed been set to improve?
- (3.) Have any of the unemployed been used for the service of any Members of this House?
- (4.) Is it a fact that the unemployed have been engaged in constructing roads in and around the property owned by the Colonial Treasurer, Mr. R. B. Smith, and Mr. Withers?

Answers:—

- (1.) A number of men have been employed in clearing and forming public roads passing through a portion of the Holt-Sutherland Estate, viz., the great Illawarra Road, from the Railway Station at Sutherland to Government Ferry, at Tom Ugly's Point, Woronora, and Yowie Roads, from the Sutherland Railway Station to Government reserves.
- (2.) As per separate list attached.
- (3.) No.
- (4.) Public proclaimed roads have been formed and made through a portion of land owned by the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer and Messrs. R. B. Smith and Withers, Ms.P., for the purpose of giving access to Crown lands which were being cleared and roads formed, it being absolutely necessary to obtain roads through those gentlemen's property, which was the only means of securing direct communication from the Crown lands to Railway stations and main roads; the land for the necessary roads was given free by the property holders.

Main Illawarra Road, from Tom Ugly's Point to Waterfalls.
 Main Illawarra Road, from Sutherland to Liverpool.
 Eckersley Road, from Campbelltown to Liverpool.
 Bulgo Road, from Oxford Railway Station.
 Camp Creek Road to Helensburgh Railway Station.
 Waterfalls Road, from Waterfalls to Garie.
 Military Road, from Sutherland to Loftus.
 Woronora Road, from Sutherland to Government Reserve.
 Yowie Road, from Sutherland to Government Reserve.
 Peakhurst Road, from Hurstville to Government Punt on George's River.
 Waterloo Road, from Liverpool Road, Bankstown, to George's River.
 Roberts Road, from Liverpool Road, Bankstown, to George's River.
 Park Road, from Liverpool Road to Auburn Station.
 Road from Liverpool Road to Flemington Station.
 Kissing Point Road, Ermington.
 Parramatta Road, Ryde.
 Junction Road, Hornsby.
 Boundary Road, Hornsby.
 French's Forest Road, Manly.
 Greendall Road, Manly.
 Pittwater Road, Narrabeen.
 Wanganella Road, Dobroyd.
 Cowley Creek Road, from Station to Camp Creek Coal-mines.
 Pennant Hills Road, from Pennant Hills to Parramatta.
 Terry's Road, from North Ryde to Railway Station.

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE UNEMPLOYED.

(RETURN SHOWING APPLICANTS FOR WORK, FROM MAY, 1887, TO JUNE, 1888.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 13 November, 1888.

RETURN showing the number of Men who have applied for work to the Casual Labour Board, where they came from, and how dealt with, from 2nd May, 1887, to 30th June, 1888.

| Total number of men who have applied for work. | Where they came from. | Trades and Callings. | | | | | | Number of men for which private employment has been found by the Board at current rates of wages. | | Number of men on the various Relief Works. | | Number of men who were employed on the Relief Works that have found work without informing the Board of their destination. |
|--|---|--|---|---|-------|-------|-------|---|--|--|------------------|--|
| | | | | | | | | 30th June, 1887. | 30th June, 1888. | 30th June, 1887. | 30th June, 1888. | |
| 7,916 | <i>Australian Colonies—</i> Victoria 813 Queensland 524 New Zealand 503 Tasmania 55 South Australia ... 184 Western Australia 21 Fiji 11 Total 2,111 <i>Outside the Colonies—</i> England 781 Ireland 73 Scotland 75 Other countries ... 71 Total 3,111 | Brewers 1 Blacksmiths 140 Boilermakers 63 Butchers 66 Brassfinishers 15 Bootmakers 48 Bakers 80 Brickmakers 90 Bricklayers 70 Bellhangers 2 Blindmakers 3 Boatbuilders 4 Basketmakers 5 Bookbinders 8 Carpenters 369 Cabinetmakers 39 Chemists 10 Coachbuilders 37 Cooks 94 Coopers 20 Clerks 110 Confectioners 19 Candlemakers 6 Coalminers 134 Dyers 5 Drapers 40 Engine-fitters 68 Engineers 141 | Engravers 7 Farmers 37 Farriers 7 Firemen 108 Galvanizers 16 Gardeners 47 Grocers 44 Grooms 15 Gunsmiths 6 Grinders 5 Glassblowers 5 Hatters 5 Ironmoulders 101 Ironmongers 15 Inkmakers 2 Jewellers 12 Locksmiths 3 Labourers 4,494 Miners 177 Machinists 12 Millers 5 Painters 71 Printers 22 Photographers 4 Plumbers 42 Plasterers 77 Potters 3 Pattern-makers 8 | Piano-tuners 4 Quarrymen 81 Ropemakers 3 Riveters 7 Shearers 34 Sawyers 50 Slaters 18 Spinners 3 Smelter 1 Shipwrights 37 Sailors 395 Surveyors 2 Stonemasons 96 Saddlers 17 Stationers 7 Tobacco twistlers ... 37 Tailors 12 Tinsmiths 2 Tutors 5 Tanners 11 Undertaker 1 Veterinary Surgeon 1 Waiters 12 Wool-sorters 4 Wood-turners 8 Wheelwrights 6 7,916 | 2,024 | 5,677 | 1,312 | 3,952 | About 9-10ths of these were engaged to go into the country. The balance of 628 men were discharged from the different works for drunkenness, laziness, and other charges. | | | |

* In addition to this number the Board have assisted over 1,000 men through the various Municipalities by paying one-half of the daily wage while engaged upon Local Relief Works.

JOHN DAVIES,
Chairman.

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE UNEMPLOYED.
(WORK DONE BY—IN IMPROVING CROWN LANDS.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 13 November, 1888.

[Laid upon the Table in answer to Question No. 1 of 13 November, 1888.]

Questions.

MR. SEE asked THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,—

- (1.) The total sum spent upon the unemployed to date?
- (2.) The sum realised upon land cleared by the unemployed?
- (3.) The approximate value of land yet available for sale?
- (4.) How many men are there at present employed upon relief works?

Answers.

- (1.) £215,000.
- (2.) £162,000.
- (3.) RETURN of Crown Lands which will be available for sale upon completion of the roads to and through them, which are now being constructed by the Casual Labour Board, and the approximate amount they should realize, based upon the prices recently obtained for portions sold by public auction:—

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------------------------------|------------|
| Rookwood | ... | ... | ... | 600 acres @ £150 per acre... | £90,000 |
| Dobroyd | ... | ... | ... | 50 " 150 " ... | 7,500 |
| Beecroft .. | ... | ... | ... | 3,017 " 50 " ... | 150,850 |
| Hornsby... | ... | ... | ... | 2,500 " 50 " ... | 125,000 |
| Carlingford | ... | ... | ... | 2,895 " 75 " ... | 217,125 |
| Camp Creek | ... | ... | ... | 3,840 " 100 " ... | 384,000 |
| Heathcote | ... | ... | ... | 222 " 50 " ... | 11,100 |
| Gordon ... | ... | ... | ... | 4,000 " 100 " ... | 400,000 |
| Bulgo ... | ... | ... | ... | 200 " 100 " ... | 20,000 |
| Berowra... | ... | ... | ... | 3,000 " 9 " ... | 27,000 |
| French's Forest | ... | ... | ... | 10,000 " 50 " ... | 500,000 |
| Narrabeen | ... | ... | ... | 10,000 " 30 " ... | 300,000 |
| On Woronora, Liverpool, and Campbelltown Roads | ... | ... | ... | 20,000 " 15 " ... | 300,000 |
| Peakhurst | ... | ... | ... | 60 " 60 " ... | 3,600 |
| Como | ... | ... | ... | 22 " 50 " ... | 1,200 |
| Garie | ... | ... | ... | 200 " 50 " ... | 10,000 |
| Bankstown Common | ... | ... | ... | 66 " 75 " ... | 4,950 |
| | | | | 60,672 | £2,552,325 |
- (4.) 930.

1888-9.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE UNEMPLOYED.

(DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICES OF.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 11 January, 1889.

The Principal Under Secretary to The Chairman of the Casual Labour Board.

Sir,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 29 December, 1888.

I am directed by the Colonial Secretary to convey to you the views of the Government in respect to the heavy expenditures in support of that class of persons known as the "unemployed." These irregular expenditures have gone on far beyond what was contemplated at the beginning, and the amount to which they have reached is not only a serious drain upon the public revenue but is calculated to assist in creating an erroneous and a prejudicial impression abroad of the real condition of the country. It may be doubted whether at any time there has been in New South Wales relatively a larger number of persons who have found a temporary difficulty in obtaining employment than in other countries; but the Government of this Colony, from several mixed causes, has more readily than other Governments, afforded a forced means of employment which, however attempted to be directed to purposes of public utility, cannot be entirely divested of an eleemosynary character. The effect has been to draw a certain class from other countries, thus increasing the difficulty which it was sought to remove or diminish. Not only so, but in some cases the works opened by the Government appear to have induced men to desert the legitimate operations of private employers. This unhealthy state of things, so unnatural in a country where the most precious thing is trustworthy and well-directed human labour, if initiated mistakenly, cannot be continued by the perpetuation of fresh mistakes.

I am to say that, so far as Sir Henry Parkes can judge, the greater part of the work done by this class of men has been of solid value to the State, and he feels persuaded that the gentlemen forming the Casual Labour Board have done their best to direct this large body of labour to the best advantage of the public. Still he feels it to be his duty to give this positive instruction, that no public improvement, however undoubted, is to be undertaken where the effect would be to incidentally serve the interests of private proprietors, without the case being first specifically stated to him, and receiving his written approval on the part of the Government.

As already intimated, the system itself must be brought to an end. You will take the necessary steps to make known to the men that their services will be dispensed with in the following divisions:— One-third of their number on the last day of January next, one-third on the last day of February, and the remaining one-third on the last day of March. No fresh hands are to be taken on the works.

I have, &c.,

CRITCHETT WALKER,
Principal Under Secretary.

The Chairman of the Casual Labour Board to The Principal Under Secretary.

Sir,

Casual Labour Board, 82, Goulburn-street, Sydney, 31 December, 1888.

I have the honor, on behalf of the Casual Labour Board, to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 29th December, conveying the views of the Government with respect to the expenditure, &c., incurred in support of the "unemployed."

We will have much pleasure in giving prompt attention to the request of the Colonial Secretary in dispensing with the services of all men employed on the several works, so as to close them up by the 31st March.

This would have been realized at a much earlier period if public works had been authorized, as was contemplated when our Board was appointed, which would have been a natural means for absorbing the large amount of surplus labour which had been attracted here from other Colonies, and from all parts of the country, by an injudicious system, inaugurated by a previous administration, where unskilled labourers, whose rations, tents, tools, &c., were insured to them, and with wages not less than 6s. per day, were induced to leave private employ and flock to the city.

One

One of our first acts was to put a stop to this improper system, and to institute a system of piece-work and payment by results, and where day labour could not be dispensed with, the rate was reduced to 3s. 6d. per day; in consequence of such act the works ceased to be attractive, as they were prior to our appointment.

When we took over the charge of the "unemployed" there were on the several works 4,010 men, and during the period we have been in existence upwards of 8,000 men have passed through the books, and of this number about 2,400 were provided with private employment at the current rates of wages, and a large number, profiting by the temporary assistance afforded them, have been enabled to find employment in the ordinary channels of labor, and at the present time less than 1,000 men are now employed on the different works under the control of the Board.

Although a great expenditure has been incurred in directing this large body of labour, it will be seen that the work carried out in improving Crown lands subdivisions, the making of public roads, the beautifying of public parks, and other public works, that good and substantial value has been realized for the expenditure.

Your Board, since its appointment, has not undertaken the carrying out of any public works without first obtaining the reports from the Government officers and subsequently the approval of the Colonial Secretary (excepting those works initiated before their appointment).

We found it no easy task in directing so large a body of mixed labor, so that the best results might be obtained, and the prejudicial impression created abroad by the massing of large numbers of unemployed in the City, and the besieging of public offices, has been abolished by the action taken by us; this state of things will, in a measure, we think, revive on the closing of the several works under the control of the Board, in the absence of the authorization and opening up of public works which are urgently required as avenues for absorbing the large masses of unskilled labour at present only partially employed in the city and large centres of population. The Board is much pleased to find by tenor of your letter that their efforts have been appreciated by the Government.

I have, &c.,
JOHN DAVIES,
Chairman.

1888.

—
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

WORK OF UNEMPLOYED ON ROADS AT HORNSBY
AND HOLT-SUTHERLAND ESTATE ;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND

APPENDIX.

ORDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO BE PRINTED,
21 *December*, 1888.

SYDNEY: CHARLES POTTER, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

—
1888.

1888.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 11. THURSDAY, 15 NOVEMBER, 1888 A.M.

12. WORK OF UNEMPLOYED ON ROADS AT HORNSBY AND HOLT-SUTHERLAND ESTATE:—Mr. Walker moved, pursuant to Notice,—
- (1.) That a Select Committee be appointed, with power to send for persons and papers and to visit the ground, to inquire into and report upon the work of the unemployed in clearing, forming, and making roads through the property near Hornsby owned by Messrs. Burns, Withers, and R. B. Smith, and also those made through the Holt-Sutherland estate and other private properties, with power to sit during any adjournment.
- (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Copeland, Mr. Henry Clarke, Mr. McMillan, Mr. Melville, Mr. Street, Mr. Bruncker, Mr. Carruthers, and the Mover.
- Debate ensued.
-

And the House continuing to sit till after midnight,—

THURSDAY, 15 NOVEMBER, 1888, A.M.

Question put and passed.

VOTES No. 12. THURSDAY, 15 NOVEMBER, 1888.

4. WORK OF UNEMPLOYED ON ROADS AT HORNSBY AND HOLT-SUTHERLAND ESTATE:—Mr. Walker (*by consent*) moved, without Notice, That the Returns respecting "Roads at Hornsby," laid upon the Table and ordered to be printed on the 8th, 13th, and 14th November, 1888, respectively, be referred to the Select Committee on "Work of Unemployed on Roads at Hornsby and Holt-Sutherland Estate."
- Question put and passed.
-

VOTES No. 28. WEDNESDAY, 19 DECEMBER, 1888.

7. WORK OF UNEMPLOYED ON ROADS AT HORNSBY AND HOLT-SUTHERLAND ESTATE:—Mr. Walker (*by consent*) moved, without Notice, That the Return respecting roads through Holt-Sutherland Estate, laid upon the Table on the 13th December, instant, be referred to the Select Committee now sitting on "Work of Unemployed on Roads at Hornsby and Holt-Sutherland Estate."
- Question put and passed.
-

VOTES No. 30. FRIDAY, 21 DECEMBER, 1888.

4. WORK OF UNEMPLOYED ON ROADS AT HORNSBY AND HOLT-SUTHERLAND ESTATE:—Mr. Walker, as Chairman, brought up a Progress Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, and Evidence taken before, the Select Committee for whose consideration and Report this subject was referred on 15th November, 1888, a.m., together with Appendix.
- Mr. Walker then moved, "That" the documents be printed.
- Mr. McMillan moved, That the Question be amended, by the omission of all the words after the first word "That," with a view to the insertion in their place of the words, "the Report, with Evidence be referred back to the Select Committee for further consideration."
- Question proposed,—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the Question.
- Debate ensued.
- Privilege*:—Sir Henry Parkes, as a matter of *Privilege*, moved, That William Fitzwilliam Terry, 78, King-street, Sydney, whose name appears on the imprint of the *Australian Star*, be summoned to the Bar of this House to account for his possession of the Report of the Select Committee on the "Work of the Unemployed on the Roads at Hornsby and Holt-Sutherland Estate," which appears in the issue of that paper of this day.
- Debate ensued.
- Motion, by leave, withdrawn.
- Proposed amendment, by leave, withdrawn.
- Original Question,—That the documents be printed,—put and passed.
-

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1888.

WORK OF UNEMPLOYED ON ROADS AT HORNSBY AND HOLT-SUTHERLAND
ESTATE.

PROGRESS REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed on the 15th November, 1888, A.M., "*with power to send for persons and papers, and to visit the ground, to inquire into and report upon the work of the unemployed in clearing, forming, and making roads through the property near Hornsby owned by Messrs. Burns, Withers, and R. B. Smith, and also those made through the Holt-Sutherland Estate and other private properties, with power to sit during any adjournment,*" and to whom was referred on the 15th November, 1888, "*the Returns respecting roads at Hornsby, laid upon the Table and ordered to be printed on the 8th, 13th, and 14th November, 1888, respectively,*" and on the 19th December, 1888, "*The Return respecting roads through Holt-Sutherland Estate laid upon the Table on the 13th December,*" have agreed to the following Progress Report:—

Your Committee, taking into its consideration the possible early prorogation of Parliament, desire to present their report on the inquiry so far as it has been completed, such inquiry being chiefly confined to the roads made at Hornsby, and on, and in juxtaposition to, the Holt-Sutherland Estate.

2. The evidence discloses that at Hornsby a number of roads have been cleared and others formed by the unemployed, for which, in the interests of the public, there can be no sufficient justification, and roads have been formed and ballasted traversing private property, for which there was no precedent prior to the existence of the Casual Labour Board. Some of the roads and streets cleared and formed on the estate of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith appear on their subdivision plan, and their construction had been commenced by the owners prior to the advent of the Casual Labour Board.

3. Two witnesses—Mr. Oliver, ex-Under Secretary for Lands, and Mr. Deering, Metropolitan and Coast District Surveyor—condemn both the excessive number of roads as being beyond public requirements, and also disapprove of the superior quality of the work on some of the roads, as being chiefly calculated to benefit private individuals. While they approve of a limited number of roads, they would have had such roads cleared only for the purposes of access to Crown lands.

4. The cost of the roads at Hornsby, including the Government subdivision, was nearly £7,000, whilst the Government subdivision realized only £4,300 at the recent sale. It is admitted by one of the proprietors of the estate of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, that their property has become enhanced in value to the extent of at least £10,000 by the construction of these roads. It was also admitted that the work of the unemployed on this estate was done with the knowledge and approval of such proprietors.

5.

5. On the Holt-Sutherland Estate there are over 43 miles of roads on which the unemployed labour has been expended. Twenty-two roads have been completed, and authority granted for fourteen additional ones. The evidence discloses that there are only about fifty families living in the vicinity, and whilst reasonable ground may exist for three or four of the roads, viz., the Port Hacking, the Illawarra, and the Woronora roads, the remainder were not required for public purposes, but certainly add to the value of the land, and had been provided for in the subdivision of the estate. The construction of these latter roads was initiated by the Manager of the Holt-Sutherland Estate Company, and granted without sufficient inquiry as to their necessity in the public interest, nearly the whole of them having been laid off by the private surveyor to the Company.

6. Whilst work of a superior description has been done on the private lands at Hornsby and Holt-Sutherland, the Crown lands in their vicinity have generally been altogether neglected, and in every instance where work has been effected on Crown lands it has not been of that expensive character which has been carried out on the private estates.

7. There is evidence to show that there was abundance of work available for the unemployed in clearing and forming roads on Crown lands subdivisions, without resorting to the expedient of road-making on private property in order to find employment. Thousands of pounds have been expended on the roads through private land which probably would have been made by the owners in subdividing their properties, and which in some instances had actually been commenced.

8. It is advanced in the evidence as a justification for a number of roads on the Holt-Sutherland Estate that they give access to the National Park. The evidence shows that without these roads there is a Railway, a Branch Railway, and the Audley Main Road and others, which afford sufficient access thereto.

9. Your Committee has to report that, according to the evidence, the Casual Labour Board, in initiating its works, has transacted its business in a loose and reprehensible manner, and has allowed altogether too much power and authority to its chairman. No minutes of meetings have been kept since the first month; no audit of its accounts has taken place; and the chairman has authorized a number of roads to be made of which the professional members of the Board were absolutely ignorant when they were called upon to give evidence before your Committee, and they are of opinion that ministerial authority has in many cases sanctioned the construction of roads by the unemployed without sufficient necessity for the same having been shown.

10. That in view of the evidence taken before your Committee, they recommend to the Government that the Casual Labour Board be informed that it is undesirable in the interest of the public that the labour of the unemployed should be further utilised, except in the improvement of the public estate.

THOMAS WALKER,
Chairman.

No. 3 Committee Room,
Sydney, 21 December, 1888.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

FRIDAY, 16 NOVEMBER, 1888.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

| | | |
|---------------|--|-----------------|
| Mr. Walker, | \| | Mr. Carruthers, |
| Mr. Street, | \| | Mr. O'Sullivan, |
| Mr. Copeland, | \| | Mr. M'Millan. |

Mr. Street called to the Chair *pro tem*.

Entries from Votes and Proceedings appointing the Committee and referring the papers respecting roads at Hornsby, *read* by the Clerk.

Copies of papers *referred* before the Committee.

Resolved,—That Mr. Walker be Chairman of this Committee.

Committee deliberated.

Ordered,—That the Chairman make the necessary arrangements for the Committee to make a visit of inspection to roads at Hornsby on Monday next, and that J. W. Deering and W. M. Gordon, Surveyors, be summoned to attend the Committee in such inspection, and that the Under Secretary for Lands, the Secretary to the Casual Labour Board, and Colonel Wells be summoned to attend and give evidence on Tuesday next.

[Adjourned to Monday next, at a quarter to Ten o'clock.]

MONDAY, 19 NOVEMBER, 1888.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.

| | | |
|---------------|--|-----------------|
| Mr. Street, | \| | Mr. O'Sullivan, |
| Mr. Copeland, | \| | Mr. M'Millan. |

Committee deliberated, and then proceeded to Hornsby on a visit of inspection to roads made there by the unemployed.

TUESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER, 1888.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.

| | | |
|-------------------|--|---------------|
| Mr. O'Sullivan, | \| | Mr. Brunner, |
| Mr. Street, | \| | Mr. Copeland, |
| Mr. Henry Clarke. | | |

Frederick Wells (*Member Casual Labour Board*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness *handed in* copy of letter appointing Members of the Board; ordered to be appended. [Appendix A.]

Committee deliberated.

Ordered,—That David Houison and T. C. Hinchcliffe be summoned, and the Hon. John Davies, C.M.G., M.L.C., be requested to give evidence next meeting.

[Adjourned till to-morrow, at half-past One o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER, 1888.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.

| | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|
| Mr. Henry Clarke, | \| | Mr. O'Sullivan, |
| Mr. Brunner, | \| | Mr. Copeland, |
| Mr. Carruthers, | \| | Mr. Street, |
| M. McMillan, | \| | Mr. Melville. |

David Houison (*Member Casual Labour Board*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Committee deliberated.

Witness recalled and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

Committee deliberated.

Ordered,—That the Hon. John Davies, C.M.G., M.L.C., be requested, and F. O'Donnell and T. C. Hinchcliffe be summoned, to give evidence on Tuesday next, and that Mr. Deering and Mr. O'Donnell be requested to attend with the Committee on a second visit of inspection of roads at Hornsby on Monday next.

[Adjourned till Monday next, at a quarter to Ten o'clock.]

MONDAY,

MONDAY, 26 NOVEMBER, 1888.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.
 Mr. Henry Clarke, | Mr. Copeland.

Committee deliberated, and Mr. Clarke and Mr. Copeland then proceeded to Hornsby, where they were joined by Mr. Brunker, and made a visit of inspection of roads made there by the unemployed.

TUESDAY, 27 NOVEMBER, 1888.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.
 Mr. O'Sullivan, | Mr. Henry Clarke,
 Mr. Copeland, | Mr. Street,
 Mr. Brunker.

Chairman read letter from Secretary of the Casual Labour Board, stating that the Hon. John Davies could not attend to be examined, he being absent in Melbourne.

Chairman read letter from Mr. J. W. Deering, intimating that he could not that day personally attend, but that he had sent one of his officers with the papers relating to subject of inquiry.

Charles John Lester called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness *handed in* papers, relating to roads at Hornsby, application for special purchase of about 10 acres at Hornsby, and dedication of sites for court-house, police station, and public school at Hornsby; also plan of part of reserve 47, parish of South Colah, plan showing roads formed, &c., and litho. showing sale prices of Government Hornsby Estate.

Room cleared.

Committee deliberated.

William Matheson Gordon (*Government Surveyor*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Room cleared.

Committee deliberated.

Ordered,—That F. O'Donnell be summoned to give evidence next meeting, and that the Hon. John Davies, C.M.G., M.L.C., be requested to attend and give evidence on Thursday next.

[Adjourned till to-morrow at *half-past One* o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER, 1888.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Brunker, | Mr. Copeland.

In the absence of a quorum, the meeting called for this day lapsed.

THURSDAY, 29 NOVEMBER, 1888.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.
 Mr. O'Sullivan, | Mr. Henry Clarke,
 Mr. Street, | Mr. Brunker.

The Hon. John Davies, C.M.G., M.L.C. (*Chairman, Casual Labour Board*), called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness *produced* original letter of instructions from the Colonial Secretary to the Casual Labour Board.

Mr. Brunker objected to the course of examination of witness adopted by the Chairman.

Room cleared.

Committee deliberated.

Witness recalled and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

F. O'Donnell (*Overseer-in-charge of the Unemployed at Hornsby*), called in, sworn, and examined.

Room cleared.

Committee deliberated.

Ordered,—That J. W. Deering and T. C. Hinchcliffe be summoned to give evidence next meeting.

[Adjourned till to-morrow at *Two* o'clock.]

FRIDAY, 30 NOVEMBER, 1888.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.
 Mr. Brunker, | Mr. O'Sullivan.
 Mr. Carruthers.

T. C. Hinchcliffe (*Secretary, Casual Labour Board*), called in, sworn, and examined

Witness withdrew.

John W. Deering (*Metropolitan District and Coast Surveyor*), called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Committee deliberated.

Ordered,—That Mr. Deering be summoned for further examination next meeting.

[Adjourned till Monday next at *half-past Ten* o'clock.]

MONDAY,

MONDAY, 3 DECEMBER, 1888.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.

| | | |
|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| Mr. O'Sullivan, | \| | Mr. Street, |
| Mr. Copeland, | \| | Mr. M'Millan, |
| Mr. Carruthers, | \| | Mr. Henry Clarke. |

Committee deliberated.

Chairman read letter from Hon. J. F. Burns, intimating that he wished to give evidence, and requesting that other witnesses should first be called.

Chairman read letter from P. Anderson, late of Hornsby, volunteering to give evidence.

Ordered,—That P. Anderson be summoned to attend on Wednesday next.

The Hon. J. F. Burns attended before the Committee, and requested that Mr. James M'Keown, Forest Ranger, county of Cumberland, Mr. Charles N. J. Oliver, late Under Secretary for Lands, and Mr. Henry Gorman be summoned to give evidence.

Room cleared.

Committee deliberated, and ordered that Mr. M'Keown, Mr. Oliver, and Mr. Gorman be summoned to attend next meeting.

Ordered,—That the papers and plans handed in by Mr. Lester be appended [*Appendix B, and Plans 1 to 6*].

J. W. Deering called in and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

Committee deliberated.

Ordered,—That Mr. C. B. Dawson, surveyor, be summoned to give evidence next meeting.

[Adjourned till to-morrow, at *half-past Ten* o'clock.]

TUESDAY, 4 DECEMBER, 1888.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.

| | | |
|---------------|--|-----------------|
| Mr. Brunker, | \| | Mr. O'Sullivan, |
| Mr. M'Millan, | \| | Mr. Street, |
|  | \| | Mr. Copeland. |

Committee deliberated.

Ordered,—That a copy of the evidence, as printed, be supplied to the Honorable J. F. Burns.

C. B. Dawson called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Henry Gorman called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

C. N. J. Oliver (*late Under Secretary for Lands*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Committee deliberated.

Ordered,—That Mr. Oliver be summoned to attend for further examination to-morrow.

[Adjourned till to-morrow, at *Two* o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 5 DECEMBER, 1888.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.

| | | |
|-------------------|--|---------------|
| Mr. O'Sullivan, | \| | Mr. Brunker, |
| Mr. Henry Clarke, | \| | Mr. Copeland. |

C. N. J. Oliver called in and further examined.

Witness handed in plan showing Crown lands on western side of railway line at Hornsby station. *Ordered* to be appended. [*Appendix, plan 7.*]

James M'Keown (*Forest Ranger, County of Cumberland*), called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Committee deliberated.

Ordered,—That John Whitton, Engineer-in-Chief for Railways, be summoned, and the Honorable J. F. Burns be requested to attend and give evidence next meeting, that the Chairman make the necessary arrangements for Committee to inspect roads made by unemployed through Holt-Sutherland estate on Monday next, and that Mr. E. M. Burrowes, superintendent of unemployed at Sutherland, be requested to accompany Committee on such inspection.

The Chairman was voted the sum of £15 Os. 6d. to meet expenses attending visits of inspection by Committee to Hornsby.

[Adjourned till to-morrow at *Ten* o'clock.]

THURSDAY, 6 DECEMBER, 1888.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

| | | |
|-------------|--|-----------------|
| Mr. Walker, | \| | Mr. O'Sullivan. |
|-------------|--|-----------------|

In the absence of a quorum, the meeting called for this day lapsed.

FRIDAY,

FRIDAY, 7 DECEMBER, 1888.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.
 Mr. Copeland, | Mr. Henry Clarke,
 Mr. O'Sullivan.

T. C. Hinchcliffe (*Secretary Casual Labour Board*), called in, and further examined.

Witness produced pay sheets for work done by unemployed at Hornsby.

Witness withdrew.

John Whitton (*Engineer-in-Chief for Railways*), called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Committee deliberated.

Chairman read letter from John W. Deering, requesting a perusal of the evidence of certain witnesses, in respect of which he desired to offer further evidence, and Committee declined to grant Mr. Deering's request.

George Withers, M.P., called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Committee deliberated, and rescinded order for printing of papers, relating to application for special purchase of 10 acres at Hornsby, by Burns, Withers, and Smith; and the dedication of sites for Court House, Police Station, and a Public School, at Hornsby, and instructed the Clerk to return them to the Under Secretary for Lands.

Ordered,—That the Hon. J. F. Burns be requested to attend and give evidence on Tuesday next.

[Adjourned till Monday next, at half-past Nine o'clock.]

MONDAY, 10 DECEMBER, 1888.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.
 Mr. O'Sullivan, | Mr. Henry Clarke,
 Mr. Copeland.

Committee proceeded to Holt Sutherland Estate, and inspected roads made there by the unemployed.

TUESDAY, 11 DECEMBER, 1888.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.
 Mr. Henry Clarke, | Mr. O'Sullivan,
 Mr. Copeland.

Committee deliberated, and ordered that plan of roads at Hornsby, prepared by Mr. Deering, be appended. [*Appendix Plan 8.*]

By direction of the Chairman the Clerk read letter and enclosures from Engineer-in-Chief for Railways, respecting fixing of sites for stations on railway, Hornsby to St. Leonards. Ordered to be appended. [*Appendix C.*]

The Hon. J. F. Burns, M.P., called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Two o'clock.]

[Committee resumed at Two o'clock.]

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.
 Mr. O'Sullivan, | Mr. Copeland.

The Hon. J. F. Burns called in and further examined.

Witness handed in letter from Lands Department respecting certificate of title Bellamy's Grant, and copy of petition to Minister for Lands for Public Park at Hornsby. [*Appendices D and E.*]

Witness withdrew.

F. O'Donnell (*Overseer of Unemployed at Hornsby*), called in, and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

Committee deliberated.

Ordered,—That Henry Little, James Murphy, and E. M. Burrowes be summoned to give evidence next meeting.

[Adjourned till to-morrow at half-past One o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 12 DECEMBER, 1888.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.
 Mr. Copeland, | Mr. Henry Clarke,
 Mr. O'Sullivan.

Henry Little (*Surveyor, Casual Labour Board*), called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

James Murphy (*Manager, Holt-Sutherland Estate Company*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness handed in list of registered shareholders in the Company.

Ordered to be appended. [*Appendix F.*]

Witness withdrew.

E. M. Burrowes (*Superintendent of Unemployed, National Park District*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness *handed in* plan showing roads made through Holt-Sutherland Estate by unemployed, also tabulated statement respecting same.

Ordered to be appended. (*Appendix G and plan 9.*)

Witness withdrew.

Committee deliberated.

Chairman read letter from Principal Under Secretary, intimating that the Colonial Secretary had, in compliance with the request of the Committee, caused instructions to issue with a view to Mr. E. M. Burrowes inspecting and reporting on a road at Hornsby; and the Committee ordered that Mr. Burrowes be instructed by letter to inspect Boundary Road at Hornsby, and report on the practicability and probable cost of its being made suitable for traffic.

Chairman read letter from Honorable J. F. Burns respecting further examination of Colonel Wells and Mr. D. Houison, and examination of Mr. W. C. Bennett, Commissioner for Roads and Bridges.

Ordered,—That Colonel Wells and Mr. Houison be summoned to give further evidence next meeting.

[Adjourned till to-morrow at *half-past Ten* o'clock.]

THURSDAY, 13 DECEMBER, 1888.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.

| | | |
|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| Mr. O'Sullivan, | \| | Mr. Carruthers, |
| Mr. McMillan, | | Mr. Henry Clarke, |
| Mr. Copeland. | | |

D. Houison (*Member, Casual Labour Board*) called in and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

James Fletcher, M.P., called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Henry Thellusson Sanderson, C.E., called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Frederick Wells (*Member, Casual Labour Board*) called in and further examined.

Witness *handed in* Schedule of roads cleared or made under Casual Labour Board at Hornsby.

Ordered to be appended. (*Appendix H.*)

Room cleared.

Committee deliberated.

Witness called in and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

The Hon. John Davies, C.M.G., M.L.C. (*Chairman, Casual Labour Board*), called in and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

Committee deliberated.

Ordered,—That Mr. Davies be requested to attend for further examination next meeting.

[Adjourned till to-morrow at *half-past Ten* o'clock.]

FRIDAY, 14 DECEMBER, 1888.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

| | | |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| Mr. O'Sullivan, | \| | Mr. Carruthers. |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|

In the absence of a quorum, the meeting called for this day lapsed.

TUESDAY, 18 DECEMBER, 1888.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.

| | | |
|-----------------|--|---------------|
| Mr. Carruthers, | \| | Mr. Copeland, |
| Mr. O'Sullivan. | | |

Chairman directed Committee's attention to note on revision by Mr. Burns to question 2276 in his evidence, and Committee ordered that the Chairman add a note of correction.

R. Burdett Smith, M.P., called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Committee deliberated.

Chairman read letter from E. M. Burrowes reporting on probable cost of construction of Boundary Road at Hornsby.

Ordered to be appended. (*Appendix I.*)

The Honorable John Davies, C.M.G., M.L.C. (*Chairman, Casual Labour Board*), called in and further examined.

Witness *produced* plan of the National Park.

Witness withdrew.

Committee deliberated.

The Chairman voted the sum of £8 3s. to meet expenses attending visit of inspection by Committee to Holt-Sutherland Estate.

[Adjourned till Thursday next at *half-past Ten* o'clock.]

THURSDAY, 20 DECEMBER, 1888.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Mr. O'Sullivan, | Mr. Carruthers, |
| Mr. Henry Clarke, | Mr. McMillan, |
| Mr. Street, | Mr. Melville, |
| Mr. Copeland, | Mr. Bruncker. |

Entry from Votes and Proceedings referring return respecting roads through Holt-Sutherland Estate, *read* by Clerk.

Printed copies of paper *referred* before Committee.

Committee deliberated.

Chairman read letter from Mr. Withers requesting to be re-examined in order to amend his evidence in certain particulars.

Ordered, on motion of Mr. Bruncker, that the letter be received.

Mr. McMillan moved,—That the request of Mr. Withers be complied with.

Amendment moved, Mr. O'Sullivan,—That Mr. Withers' letter be appended to the evidence.

Debate ensued.

Amendment by leave, withdrawn.

Original motion put.

| Ayes, 4. | Noes, 4. |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Mr. Bruncker, | Mr. Copeland, |
| Mr. Street, | Mr. Melville, |
| Mr. McMillan, | Mr. O'Sullivan, |
| Mr. Carruthers, | Mr. Henry Clarke. |

The numbers being equal the Chairman gave his casting vote with the *noes*, and declared the question passed in the *negative*.

Ordered, on motion of Mr. O'Sullivan,—That Mr. Withers' letter be appended to the evidence.

[*Appendix J.*]

Chairman read letter from the Hon. J. F. Burns, submitting that Mr. Gregg, of Messrs. Richardson and Wrench, be examined respecting valuations of land at Hornsby, and that Mr. C. B. Dawson, be further examined.

Ordered on motion of Mr. Melville that Mr. Burns' letter be received.

Mr. Carruthers moved,—That Mr. Burns' request as regards the examination of Mr. Gregg be complied with.

Debate ensued.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

Mr. McMillan moved,—That no progress report be submitted by this Committee to Parliament until the whole of the printed evidence up to the present date be placed in the hands of the members of the Committee.

Debate ensued.

Question put.

| Ayes, 4. | Noes, 4. |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mr. Bruncker, | Mr. Copeland, |
| Mr. McMillan, | Mr. O'Sullivan, |
| Mr. Carruthers, | Mr. Clarke, |
| Mr. Street, | Mr. Melville. |

The numbers being equal, the Chairman gave his casting vote with the *ayes*, and declared the question as passed in the *affirmative*.

Ordered,—That the consideration of the Draft Progress Report be adjourned till to-morrow.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at *half-past Ten* p.m.]

FRIDAY, 21 DECEMBER, 1888.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Mr. Copeland, | Mr. O'Sullivan, |
| Mr. Henry Clarke, | Mr. Street, |
| Mr. Melville, | Mr. McMillan, |
| Mr. Carruthers, | Mr. Bruncker. |

By direction of the Chairman, the Clerk read the Minutes of Proceedings of yesterday's meeting. Committee deliberated.

Mr. McMillan moved,—“That no report, either progress or otherwise, should be submitted to Parliament until further time is given for due consideration of the very voluminous and contradictory evidence, the last portion of which has only just been placed in the hands of members of the Committee.”

Amendment moved, Mr. O'Sullivan,—“That in view of the reckless waste of public money now proceeding in connection with the operations of the Casual Labour Board, it is the duty of this Committee to at once present a progress report.”

Debate ensued.

Amendment put.

| Ayes, 4. | Noes, 4. |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Mr. O'Sullivan, | Mr. Carruthers, |
| Mr. Henry Clarke, | Mr. McMillan, |
| Mr. Copeland, | Mr. Street, |
| Mr. Melville, | Mr. Bruncker. |

The numbers being equal, the Chairman gave his casting vote with the *ayes*, and declared the amendment passed in the *affirmative*. Chairman

Chairman submitted draft progress report which was read a first time as follows:—

"The Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly, appointed on the 15th November, 1888, a.m.,—*'with power to send for persons and papers, and to visit the ground, to inquire into and report upon the work of the unemployed in clearing, forming, and making roads through the property near Hornsby owned by Messrs. Burns, Withers, and R. B. Smith, and also those made through the Holt-Sutherland Estate and other private properties, with power to sit during any adjournment,'* and to whom was referred on the 15th November, 1888, *'the Returns respecting roads at Hornsby, laid upon the Table and ordered to be printed on the 8th, 13th, and 14th November, 1888, respectively,'* and on the 19th December, 1888, *'the Return respecting roads through Holt-Sutherland Estate, laid upon the Table on the 13th December,'*—have agreed to the following Progress Report:—

"Your Committee, taking into its consideration the possible early prorogation of Parliament, desire to present their report on the inquiry so far as it has been completed, such inquiry being chiefly confined to the roads made at Hornsby, and on, and in juxtaposition to, the Holt-Sutherland Estate.

"2. The evidence discloses that at Hornsby a number of roads have been cleared and others formed by the unemployed, for which, in the interests of the public, there can be no sufficient justification, and roads have been formed and ballasted traversing private property, for which there was no precedent prior to the existence of the Casual Labour Board. Some of the roads and streets cleared and formed on the estate of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith appear on their subdivision plan, and their construction had been commenced by the owners prior to the advent of the Casual Labour Board.

"3. Two witnesses—Mr. Oliver, ex-Under Secretary for Lands, and Mr. Deering, Metropolitan and Coast District Surveyor—condemn both the excessive number of roads as being beyond public requirements, and also disapprove of the superior quality of the work on some of the roads, as being chiefly calculated to benefit private individuals. While they approve of a limited number of roads, they would have had such roads cleared only for the purposes of access to Crown lands.

"4. The cost of the roads at Hornsby, including the Government subdivision, was nearly £7,000, whilst the Government subdivision realized only £4,300 at the recent sale. It is admitted by one of the proprietors of the estate of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, that their property has become enhanced in value to the extent of at least £10,000 by the construction of these roads. It was also admitted that the work of the unemployed on this estate was done with the knowledge and approval of such proprietors.

"5. On the Holt-Sutherland Estate there are over 43 miles of roads on which the unemployed labour has been expended. Twenty-two roads have been completed, and authority granted for fourteen additional ones. The evidence discloses that there are only about fifty families living in the vicinity, and whilst reasonable ground may exist for three or four of the roads, viz., the Port Hacking, the Illawarra, and the Woronora Roads, the remainder were not required for public purposes, but certainly add to the value of the land, and had been provided for in the subdivision of the estate. The construction of these latter roads was initiated by the manager of the Holt-Sutherland Estate Company, and granted without sufficient inquiry as to their necessity in the public interest, nearly the whole of them having been laid off by the private surveyor to the Company.

"6. Whilst work of a superior description has been done on the private lands at Hornsby and Holt-Sutherland, the Crown lands in their vicinity have generally been altogether neglected, and in every instance where work has been effected on Crown lands it has not been of that expensive character which has been carried out on the private estates.

"7. There is evidence to show that there was abundance of work available for the unemployed in clearing and forming roads on Crown lands subdivisions, without resorting to the expedient of road-making on private property in order to find employment. Thousands of pounds have been expended on the roads through private land which probably would have been made by the owners in subdividing their properties, and which in some instances had actually been commenced.

"8. It is advanced in the evidence as a justification for a number of roads on the Holt-Sutherland Estate that they give access to the National Park. The evidence shows that without these roads there is a Railway, a Branch Railway, and the Audley Main Road and others, which afford sufficient access thereto.

"9. Your Committee has to report that, according to the evidence, the Casual Labour Board, in initiating its works, has transacted its business in a loose and reprehensible manner, and has allowed altogether too much power and authority to its Chairman. No minutes of meetings have been kept since the first month; no audit of its accounts has taken place; and the Chairman has authorized a number of roads to be made of which the professional members of the Board were absolutely ignorant when they were called upon to give evidence before your Committee, and they are of opinion that ministerial authority has in many cases sanctioned the construction of roads by the unemployed without sufficient necessity for the same having been shown.

Paragraph 1 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 2 read and considered.

Mr. McMillan moved,—That paragraphs 2 to 9 be omitted with a view to the insertion in their place of the following paragraph:—

"That in view of the evidence taken before your Committee they recommend to the Government that the Casual Labour Board be informed that it is undesirable in the interest of the public that the labour of the unemployed should be further utilised, except in the improvement of the public estate."

Question that the paragraphs proposed to be omitted stand paragraphs of the report,—put.

Ayes, 4.

Mr. Copeland,
Mr. Henry Clarke,
Mr. O'Sullivan,
Mr. Melville.

Noes, 4.

Mr. Carruthers,
Mr. McMillan,
Mr. Street,
Mr. Bruncker.

The numbers being equal the Chairman gave his casting vote with the *ayes*, and declared the question passed in the *affirmative*,

Motion

Motion made (*Mr. Copeland*) and Question,—That the following paragraph stand paragraph 10 of the Report,—put and passed.

“10. That in view of the evidence taken before your Committee they recommend to the Government that the Casual Labour Board be informed that it is undesirable in the interest of the public that the labour of the unemployed should be further utilised, except in the improvement of the public estate.

Motion made (*Mr. Melville*) and Question,—That the progress report as amended be the report of the Committee,—put and passed.

Chairman to report to the House.

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1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

WORK OF UNEMPLOYED ON ROADS AT HORNSBY
AND HOLT-SUTHERLAND ESTATE.

TUESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER, 1888.

Present:—

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| MR. WALKER, | | MR. COPELAND, |
| MR. BRUNKER, | | MR. O'SULLIVAN, |
| MR. HENRY CLARKE, | | MR. STREET. |
| THOMAS WALKER, Esq., IN THE CHAIR. | | |

Frederick Wells called in, sworn, and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] You are next to Mr. Bennett in the Department of Roads, and are, I believe, connected with the Labour Bureau? Yes; I am a member of the Board.
2. How long has the Board been in existence? Since the 2nd of May last year.
3. What are the functions of the Board in relation to the unemployed, so far as finding them work is concerned? Our first duty was to disseminate the unemployed. There were a large mass of them in Sydney, and our first duty was to get them out of town, the free feeding which they had hitherto been receiving being abolished. The first depôt to which we took them out of town was at the National Park. We were able to employ them there on work which was not immediately reproductive, but it was the only place where we could establish a depôt, and do something on the public estate until we could disperse them.
4. Had none of the unemployed been working at the National Park prior to that? Yes, but only in a desultory way, I believe.
5. Some of them were at the National Park before you joined the Board? Yes; but there was no large camp there such as there afterwards was.
6. Your first step was to concentrate them at the National Park? We wished to get them where we could place them at work under supervision, and where, if they did not work sufficiently to earn their rations, they would not receive them.
7. In carrying out this work, did you receive any instructions at all from the Government? Yes; we were instructed from the Colonial Secretary's Office.
8. What was the nature of these instructions? Well, there were our appointments, combined with the desirableness of making a depôt somewhere out of town, and the National Park was suggested.
9. Do I understand that the Government suggested the National Park as a depôt? Yes.
10. Did they issue any definite instructions as to the ultimate disposal of these men at the time you took office? No; it was understood that we were to dispose of them in the best way possible, in view of the public interest.
11. Then, from the time you took office, the whole management of the unemployed was in your hands? Yes, with the exception of receiving instructions and approval, and they came, in every case, from the Colonial Secretary.

F. Wells.

20 Nov., 1888.

F. Wells.
20 Nov., 1888.

12. In every instance then where you disposed of the unemployed in any special manner, had you to submit the matter to the Colonial Secretary? Yes; or the matter emanated from him—one or the other.
13. That is to say, you had no power to do anything without the Colonial Secretary knowing of it? Of course, in regard to the details of roads in connection with the subdivision of Crown lands, as at Gordon, Narrabeen, and Hornsby, for instance, we used our own discretion as to which roads we cleared, having the advice of the Government surveyor.
14. Do I understand, then, that in the case of the clearing of a road it was always necessary for you to submit the matter to the Colonial Secretary? Yes, if the road were a separate road, and away from the Crown lands subdivision upon which we were engaged.
15. But suppose the unemployed were working at a given point, clearing a road, you would then and there, without any further consultation with or notice from the Colonial Secretary, authorize another road to be made in the neighbourhood? Yes. We put them on to such roads as we considered best or necessary in the subdivision.
16. Will you give us an instance? Well, take Gordon, for instance. I have brought with me a map showing the design for the subdivision, and the works which have been carried out. I cannot speak of all the works, because I have not visited them all myself. Mr. Houison has dealt more particularly with that work. The design of which I speak is for a subdivision extending from the Hornsby railway station right through to the sea at Narrabeen. The alienated lands have the owner's name attached; all the other lands are Crown lands.
17. But will you speak more particularly with reference to the Hornsby District—will you give us particulars as to the work done there by the unemployed? Some of the unemployed were there, I think, when the Board came into existence.
18. Before you took office? Yes. I know that they were in the neighbourhood of Hornsby. I have prepared a statement which will be shortly added to the printed papers on the subject, which will explain the matter to some extent. It is a paper describing the way in which the Hornsby roads were cleared, that is, the roads which I understand form the subject of the inquiry.
19. Before you proceed to describe the paper further, I should like to have one point cleared up. When you took over the work of the management of the unemployed you found that there were a large number of them at Hornsby? Yes; in that neighbourhood.
20. Do you know if the lands upon which the unemployed were working at that time were private property or Crown lands? They were at work on the Crown lands.
21. Having them there at work on the Crown lands, had you authority, by virtue of your office, to authorize the making of roads by them on any private property there? Yes. I consider we were authorized to make any roads of access to the Crown lands which we thought advisable and advantageous.
22. You were limited to roads of access? Certainly.
23. You had no power to authorize the clearing of a road which was not distinctly a road of access? No; it would be contrary to all our instructions.
24. Then you were actually prohibited from making any roads beyond those which would give access to Crown lands? We prohibited it in our own office, and I am pretty certain that none were made.
25. Had you any instructions upon this point from the Colonial Secretary? We had no definite instructions of the kind; but we considered it our duty to expend the money only for the benefit of Crown lands.
26. Then, so far as I can understand, the matter was left entirely to your own discretion? I think in most cases—in fact, in nearly every case, all the roads cleared and the work done had been submitted for the approval of the Colonial Secretary.
27. I suppose you could, if you chose, have authorized the making of those roads without consultation with the Colonial Secretary? Well, if we were in a subdivision of Crown lands—take the reticulation of roads at the back of Narrabeen, for instance—we should not ask for authority in the case of every road. We should clear all the roads which we thought necessary in the subdivision. Of course the same would apply to the subdivisions at Gordon and Hornsby.
28. *Mr. Copeland*] In speaking of Hornsby, will you be good enough to let us understand whether you allude to the Government subdivisions or to the property of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith? Of course when I referred to Hornsby I referred to the Crown lands.
29. *Mr. O'Sullivan*.] When the Casual Labour Board took over this work at Hornsby, how many roads had been made by the Government under the supervision of Mr. Deering? I cannot say how many. Mr. Houison will be better acquainted with that branch of the subject than I am. I know a good deal of the clearing had been done in the region of the main camp, which was on the Stony Creek road, when we first took charge.
30. That clearing was on the Crown lands? Yes; I am under the impression that a good deal of scrubbing and road-clearing had been done.
31. *Chairman*.] Had there been any clearing or forming of roads on property there belonging to private owners when you took charge? There was a short piece of road leading from the Stony Creek road. That we immediately stopped.
32. I notice that all these plans and tracings have been submitted to the Honorable John Davies? Yes; they were addressed to him because he was actually the working and business head of the Board.
33. Had he the power to alter those plans and to say where roads should or should not go? I think not. He interfered scarcely at all with the direction of the roads. That rested with Mr. Houison and myself.
34. But had he the power to do so had he chosen? I never heard of his doing so.
35. *Mr. O'Sullivan*.] You say that all these plans were addressed to the Honorable John Davies? He never interfered with the roads at all—not as to subdivisions.
36. I understood you to say just now that you constructed only roads of access to the Crown lands? That is all.
37. Let me draw your attention to the road marked HHH in the plan shown on Appendix E of the papers;—do you consider that that road is absolutely required as a road of access? It was considered by Mr. Gordon to be a desirable road of access, and at his instigation it was cleared.
38. He is responsible for the road, then? Yes, and also for the boundary road marked I. I do not know much about those roads, but I am perfectly conversant with the others from Junction Road northerly.

39. Does this plan on Appendix E show the whole of the roads authorized on the Burns-Withers property? Yes; I believe so. It shows all the work which I know to have been done by the unemployed.
40. Then if any roads have been carried out by the unemployed other than those shown upon the plan they have not been carried out with the authority of the Board? Certainly not, as far as I know.
41. Would you be astonished to hear that there are some such roads? I have not seen them.
42. *Chairman.*] A portion of the road leading up from the Lane Cove Road to the Vanceville Road is not coloured red—what does that mean? The road was constructed along that portion by the Roads Department for a certain distance, extending it in a northerly direction to meet the work done at Junction Road and the Crown lands.
43. Turn your attention to the east side of the Hornsby Station—to the land running up from the Junction Road to the road marked A? No road has been cleared by the Board there, or if it has been done it has been done without any authority.
44. Would you be astonished to hear that the unemployed are working on that road? They have no right whatever to be working there. This plan is supposed to show all the work we have had in hand.
45. Have you entire control of the unemployed? Yes—the Board have.
46. Would it be possible for the unemployed to be working anywhere without the cognisance of the Board? Certainly they should not be, because the superintending officers report regularly to the Board what the men are engaged upon.
47. *Mr. Copeland.*] Is Mr. Gordon the surveyor under your control? To a certain extent he is; he reports to the Chairman of the Board.
48. Of whom is the Board constituted? It is composed of the Honorable John Davies, Chairman, of Mr. Houison, and myself.
49. You and Mr. Houison are the two professional men? Yes.
50. Mr. Gordon is a surveyor in the Lands Department also? Yes.
51. At the present time he is subordinate to yourself? Yes; he is carrying out the work under our direction.
52. Then for any work which he has carried out, you, as his superior officer, of course would hold yourself responsible? Yes; we have taken his advice in regard to anything which he has suggested as to where the men could be profitably employed.
53. I think you said just now that Mr. Gordon considered that the road marked HHH was necessary to give access to the Crown lands? I think you will see that he mentions it in the papers.
54. What is your opinion as to the necessity for constructing this road? Well, I think it is a very desirable road of access.
55. Notwithstanding the fact that it passes right through private property? Yes. I do not see that the fact of its passing through private property renders it any less valuable as a road of access to certain Crown lands. In order to reach the Crown lands it is necessary to go through private property somewhere.
56. Would it not have been a better policy to run the roads through the Crown lands themselves, instead of taking them through private property? Roads in many directions through the Crown lands were quite impracticable.
57. For what reason? There are very deep gullies running into the Cowan Creek. The road marked "Boundary Road" on the plan is purely impracticable on that account.
58. Would you be surprised to hear that the Committee were driven over the Boundary Road yesterday in a buggy, and that we did not find it at all impracticable? I do not think the Committee can have been on the portion of the road to which I refer. It would entail very heavy work.
59. Since you consider that road impracticable, how does it come about that it is already constructed, and that a portion of it is metalled? I am not aware of its being constructed. There may be a road for some distance; but I do not think it extends any length.
60. *Chairman.*] Is it possible that a number of roads can be constructed without your knowing anything of it? Roads might have been constructed out there without my knowing anything of the matter; but it should not have been done without an order emanating from the Board.
61. Can any one of the members of the Board authorize the construction of a road? The Chairman might authorize the construction of a road if he had the authority of the Colonial Secretary.
62. But could the Chairman of his own motion, without consulting you as a colleague, authorize a new work? Yes; he would probably inform me afterwards that it was being done.
63. Then, as I understand matters, he could, without consulting you in the first instance, authorize works which he might think necessary? Yes.
64. Then, in short, you would have no voice in the matter, excepting the approval of it when it was done? I might be spoken to about the work after it had been started; but in such a case the Chairman would probably have received instructions from the Colonial Secretary. Of course he would not wait either for myself or for Mr. Houison to be there. I am frequently away for weeks at a time.
65. And is Mr. Houison, to your knowledge, away for a similar period? He is frequently away. He cannot now attend the Board very regularly. He attends only now and then as a practical expert.
66. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Do I understand that you sit merely as advisers? Well, we assist to control the expenditure. We fix the price of work done, we set out work, and we see that our officers are doing what is correct from an engineering point of view.
67. *Chairman.*] Is it possible for you to authorize a work upon your own authority? No; I should never do so on my own authority.
68. But have you the power? No; I do not think I have the power. I should probably say to the Chairman of the Board, "Such and such a work is desirable, and had better be done."
69. But you would do that as a matter of courtesy, apart from your knowledge as to your own powers in the matter? I think I have no power to originate a work in the first instance.
70. You do not appear to be quite sure as to the limits of your power? No. Of course, if men were at work upon a subdivision of Crown lands, I should naturally direct any roads to be made which I might think it desirable to clear and open, but I should not think of authorizing work outside of the limit of the Crown subdivision.
71. As a matter of fact, you have not authorized any work on your own responsibility? No, except as stated.

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72. Of your own knowledge, has Mr. Houson done so? I do not think so. If it were the case of a Government subdivision, and I thought it necessary to alter a line from an engineering point of view, I might order it to be done.

73. Then you think you have power to alter a line of road without consultation with your colleagues? Within the Government subdivision, yes, after consulting the surveyor.

74. When the Board was appointed, how was the Chairman elected? He was elected by ourselves; neither Mr. Houson nor myself could give our time to it. It would be utterly impossible for either of us to undertake the duty.

75. You elected Mr. Davies Chairman of the Board? Yes.

76. You say that the Chairman has the power to authorize the construction of roads without consulting you? Yes. He has done so with the approval of the Colonial Secretary. I think that in every case in which he has acted he has had the approval of the Colonial Secretary.

77. How were your powers defined to you? I understood that I was to find employment for the unemployed, and to use them in the best manner possible. I will hand in a copy of my appointment, and you will then see for yourselves. (*Appendix A.*)

78. How did you arrive at the conclusion that you yourself had no power to authorize a new piece of work, while you felt sure the Chairman had that power? Because the Chairman is in constant communication with the Colonial Secretary; he receives his instructions from him.

79. The letters come to the Chairman? Yes.

80. But are not the letters and the instructions addressed equally to the Board? They are addressed generally to the "Chairman of the Casual Labour Board."

81. But Mr. Davies receives his instructions simply as Chairman of the Board? Yes.

82. Would not that of itself imply that he had no power to act of himself? No. It might be necessary at times to take action without waiting for the members.

83. Have you ever, at any time, by resolution or speech, given the Chairman to understand that in your opinion he has this power? No. The Chairman would inform us that he had received instructions for a certain piece of work to be done. I think in one or two instances I raised objections, and I subsequently found out that there were reasonable grounds for his action. I found out, moreover, that he was acting under direct instructions and in compliance with a petition which had been approved of by the Colonial Secretary. In every case I think he had this approval or instruction.

84. I want to make this matter perfectly clear. I understand from your answers that the Chairman has from the first had the power to initiate works without consulting you? If we were available he would probably consult us; but if we were not he would carry out the work and inform us after that a certain thing had been done.

85. If you were about you mean that he would have consulted you? Yes.

86. But if you were not present he would act without you? Yes; he would act, and inform us that the work had been started.

87. In what instance was it that you objected to a work which he had initiated? I forget now; it was in some trifling item. I suggested that it was perhaps not in his province to do it; but Mr. Davies was able to show me the Colonial Secretary's instructions, and I made no further objection. It was pointed out, I think, that the road was made under instructions to give access to Crown lands or for public convenience.

88. Had the Board any power to refuse to act upon the instructions of the Colonial Secretary? I do not think so.

89. You did whatever he ordered? If he instructed us to do a thing I considered that we were bound to carry it out. Our duty was to see that the labour was profitably employed, and that the money was not wasted.

90. I will put you a question, which you can answer or not, as you like: Supposing the Board thought that the instructions issued from the Colonial Secretary's Office were detrimental to the public interest, or involved a misapplication of public funds, would they have carried out those instructions? I do not think we would have done so without remonstrance; I feel pretty sure not.

91. You feel that they would have refused to carry them out? They would have remonstrated, and have pointed out that they did not consider the work advisable.

92. Would you, as a member of the Board, consider that you had no power beyond that remonstrance? I think I should have no further power.

93. Are you aware of any cases where, without a communication from the Colonial Secretary, work has been undertaken, and roads have been made? Only within Government subdivisions, where we have general instructions.

94. With reference to the roads at Hornsby which are not upon a Government subdivision, did the order issue in every case from the Colonial Secretary's Office? I believe the approval did, if not the order.

95. I am speaking now of the roads on the estate of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith? The roads H and I, to which I have already referred, were carried out upon Mr. Gordon's representation, but I think I gave recommendations with reference to the Junction Road and the Vanceville Road as long ago as 1885 or 1886.

96. You recommended both of those roads some years ago? When I say I recommended them, I ought to add, perhaps, that they never came before me officially. I was in conversation with Mr. Burns with reference to the Northern Railway, and, speaking with regard to the access to the Hornsby station, Mr. Burns said that if the Government would clear and form a road he would give them the land right through his property. That was long before the time of the unemployed. I think I was travelling somewhere up in the Hunter District when this conversation occurred, and we were talking of the Northern Railway at the time. The Roads Department had already made the Vanceville Road a certain distance, and whether the road was to be taken across to the station diagonally or the other way was not, I think, mentioned at the time.

97. What I want to understand is this: Were the roads marked H, I, B, C, D, E, and F authorized from the Colonial Secretary's Office, or were they made at the instance of the Labour Board? I think they came from the Labour Board. H and I at Mr. Gordon's recommendation. The others were the result of Mr. Houson's examination more particularly than mine. I knew the locality sufficiently to know that the Boundary Road was a very expensive road to make—in fact, that it was almost impracticable; but Mr. Houson specially examined the locality in order to see the best way of giving access to the Crown lands.

98. Do you recollect having any of these roads brought before you for consideration—I refer more particularly to the roads that are marked? Yes; two or three times when we first went to the camp. No one brought them before us that I know of; but they were brought up by myself and Mr. Houison. F. Wells.
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99. What roads are you referring to? The Junction Road and the roads B, C, D, E, and F.
100. Has there ever been a proposal that you are aware of, emanating from yourself or from Mr. Houison, to clear a road parallel with the railway line between the roads A and G? I am not aware of any.
101. Do you know whether such a work has ever been considered by the Board? No. I believe there was a proposal for a diagonal road made some years ago by Mr. Symonds, but it would not have gone to the station. I think it would have gone to the overbridge.
102. The road to which I refer is alongside the railway fence, parallel with the railway, between the Junction Road and road A? It may possibly have been made. I see it is not shown on the plan.
103. Has that been done without your knowledge? I am not aware of its having been done; it has not come before me.
104. It has not been considered by the Board, sitting as a Board? No. Our meetings are generally very short. We make a call at the office for an hour or two and talk over the work immediately before us, and then we separate.
105. Do you keep any minutes of your meetings? No.
106. In the absence of Mr. Davies, the Chairman, did you ever hold any meeting for consultation? Not in office; I have met outside on various subjects with Mr. Houison. We have gone together to different localities when we have had to take notes of the work being done.
107. Have you had meetings convened for the purpose of consultation in connection with any particular proposal? No. I think at first we had one or two appointed meetings, but afterwards the members of the Board would call in at the office and see Mr. Davies and see what business was proceeding.
108. Was no record of those meetings ever kept? There has been no record of those meetings that I know of.
109. There were no movers or seconders to anything done? No.
110. Look at the Boundary Road upon this plan. Has a proposal ever come before you to continue the Boundary Road to the railway line? I do not remember any.
111. Take a point about the centre of road B. Has any proposal ever come before you to make the road between the railway station and that road? Not that I am aware of.
112. Have you ever had a proposal brought before you for a street between the end of the road marked street B and street A? No; I never heard of any there. I do not believe any have been done by us there at all—in fact, I am nearly sure we have done none. If we have done any work there I should have been sure to hear of it.
113. Take the Junction Road between the railway station and G. There is a road running to the south. Have you ever had any consultation about a road there? I know of none there.
114. The road to which I refer runs north and south? I know nothing of it. The roads marked red on this plan are the only roads I know to have been constructed by the Board.
115. Look at the road, marked H, running out from the Lane Cove Road towards the north, and taking a turn into Burns Road. Has any proposal come before you to continue the road to the Lane Cove further to the north and into Burns Road? No; none that I know of.
116. Look at the road, marked H D, running right into the Boundary Road. Has any proposal ever come to you to make a road parallel with Burns Road some chains to the north? No; I know nothing of it.
117. Would it be possible for any member of the Board to have authorized roads of this kind to be made without your knowledge? It is possible, but not very likely.
118. Do you know Mr. O'Donnell? Yes.
119. Has he charge of the unemployed in that district? Yes.
120. If there are men working on any roads there they are under his charge? Yes.
121. Is he responsible to your Board? Yes; he takes his instructions from us. A certain amount of license is allowed him in Government subdivisions as to where he shall distribute the men for scrubbing and clearing; but that would apply only to Government subdivisions.
122. He himself can originate no roads? No.
123. He can employ his men only upon work which has been already decided upon? Exactly, on work authorized by the Board.
124. If there are men at work on portions of these roads, of which you appear to know nothing, under Mr. O'Donnell's supervision, from whom would he have received his instructions? I do not know. He has not received them from me. If Mr. O'Donnell has received them from any member of the Board, I think I should have been acquainted with them.
125. Does Mr. O'Donnell receive orders from any other source? No.
126. If he has received orders to employ men for clearing and forming these roads they must have come from the Board? Yes.
127. If such orders have come from the Board you know nothing about them? Nothing.
128. It must be the act of some member of the Board without consultation with you? The orders could have emanated only from the Chairman; but I cannot credit that they have been given.
129. Could they not have originated from Mr. Houison? No; he would not be likely to do that.
130. You are positively certain that the Board knows nothing about the roads I have mentioned? Quite, as far as I am concerned.
131. Would it not be possible for Mr. Davies to do these things while you were away? Well, he might have done so.
132. His taking the action would be equivalent to the Board taking the action, would it not? Yes, of course.
133. Then you are willing to admit that these works may have been authorized by the Board, in the person of its Chairman without your knowledge? It is possible, but I think we should have been informed of them—in fact, I feel certain of it.
134. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] If there are any men working on these roads now they are not working there by the authority of the Board? Well, I suppose that if the men are there they must be there under instructions from Mr. O'Donnell, who may have received instructions of which I am not aware.

- F. Wells.* 135. Do you know of a road running from the Noumea Estate at Campbelltown towards Hurstville? I do not know that particular road, but I know that work has been done at Campbelltown by the unemployed.
- 20 Nov., 1888. 136. Can you tell us the character of the great portion of the Crown lands to which access is given by these roads at Hornsby? It is poor barren land.
137. When do you think that the land is likely to be sold? Some of it has been sold recently.
138. But I mean some distance at the back of the Boundary Road, where we saw yesterday so much rock and scrub;—do you think this land will be sold within thirty years? I think a great deal of it will be sold.
139. Do I understand that you have no responsibility whatever for road J? Oh, yes, responsible for road J.
140. But not for H and I? They were done without my knowing it. They were considered desirable by Mr. Gordon. I did not know that they were done until I went over the Junction Road and saw them. It was pointed out to me that they were desirable as roads of access from the Lane Cove Road, and I fell in with that view.
141. If these gullies and other obstacles in the Boundary Road were known to exist, why was that road laid out? That is a question which only the surveyors can answer. They lay out roads in all directions, and some of them are very impracticable. In this case there are gullies which it would take an enormous sum of money to bridge.
142. *Chairman.*] In a memorandum of yours, dated 13th September, you mention a conversation with Mr. Burns in reference to granting access to the railway, in view of the line being opened to Hornsby, and you say that Mr. Burns stated his willingness to give the land? Yes.
143. What was your intention at the time, as far as you can recollect, in carrying the road to the railway-station? There was an absolute necessity to give access to the station. There was no access except by going along the Boundary Road or through Mr. Burns's land to get to the road the Department had already made.
144. Having formed the conclusion that it was necessary to have an access to the station, did you think that the road since constructed would be the nearest cut? Of course there might have been a diagonal road, but I doubt if they would have given us the land. I think we should have had to pay for it.
145. But if the road had been necessary, it would have been the nearest and best? The existing line accommodates a number of people, but the other would probably have been shorter.
146. When the conversation to which you have referred took place, did you meet for the purpose? No. I believe I was travelling with Mr. Burns in a railway carriage in the Hunter District somewhere. There was an accidental conversation, which, I think, was introduced by the subject of the Northern Line. The matter never came before me afterwards.
147. *Mr. Copeland.*] What salary do you receive in your position in the Roads Department? £700 a year.
148. I presume that you do not receive anything extra for your duties in connection with the Labour Board? I have received nothing yet.
149. Do you think that you are entitled to anything? That depends upon whether the Colonial Secretary considers that I have done my duty satisfactorily. I have no understanding at all. All that I know in connection with the matter is, that the Colonial Secretary stated in the House that, if the members of the Board did their duties satisfactorily, and managed to disperse the unemployed, and get rid of the trouble, he considered that they would be entitled to some reward for their services.
150. *Chairman.*] Have you any land in the vicinity? I do not own a foot of land in the Colony.
151. *Mr. Copeland.*] Can you state whether, had this land, known as Burns, Withers, and Smith's land, belonged to yourself, you would, in your position as a public officer, paid by the public to see that public money was properly expended, have dared to employ the unemployed in making roads through the property? If I had been a member of the Casual Labour Board, I certainly should have felt some delicacy in doing anything of the kind; but if the matter came before me in the Roads Department, I should have been only too glad to accept the land required for road as a gift instead of having to pay for it.
152. Was the question of constructing these roads through this private property ever submitted to the Colonial Secretary? I think it must have been. I am pretty sure of it.
153. Do you not know that it was? I do not know for certain that it was. I only know that access was needful. The first time we went up to the camp Mr. Koebke was supervising the clearing being done for Mr. Deering. I suggested that the first thing to do was to connect the clearings with the railway-station. It was then mentioned that the Boundary Road was impracticable. I had some knowledge of it before. I knew that the country was very rough. Mr. Houison went out, I believe, and closely examined it.
154. From your knowledge of the country, you believe that the Boundary Road is too rough for a continuous road right through? Yes; and the road would be too expensive.
155. Are you aware that it is already metalled, and that they are making the bridges upon it at the present time? I was not aware of that.
156. Do you know that the Committee drove over the road in a buggy yesterday? I could not have thought it, but perhaps you did not go far down.
157. Are you aware of a culvert existing in the Boundary Road? I am not aware of it.
158. Are you aware that they are making a second culvert there? There may be a small culvert near road C, and one near road B, but I do not think you will find any more.
159. Have you yourself been along the Boundary Road? No. I have been along part of it. Mr. Houison went specially to examine it. I think he has been along the whole of the line. He made a close personal examination.
160. If these Crown lands, a portion of which is shown on the plan, are so broken up, how is it that you have sold a portion of them? I do not know which is sold and which is not.
161. Would it not have been as easy for you to construct a road on the Crown land as lower down? I have been given to understand that roads leading north from the Boundary Road are already extended into the Crown lands.
162. I mean the road running parallel with the Junction Road. Would it not have been possible to use the

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the unemployed in making a road on the Crown land, instead of on the other side through private property? If the other road had been equally practicable that might have been done, but it was not an equally good road.

163. Do you say that of your own knowledge? I know that some parts of it were very much worse than the country lower down.

164. As an officer of the Department, would you consider the Boundary Road a bad road? Yes, certainly.

165. Is there any portion of it over which, without its being made, a buggy and pair of horses might not be driven? Yes; I am sure there is.

166. If the Boundary Road was so bad, would not that be a strong reason for the employment of these men in improving it? Heavy work of that description is very much out of their line. You can get them to do clearing and light forming with some advantage, but it is no use to put them on heavy road-work.

167. Your impression is that some of the roads on the Crown lands have been cleared? Yes.

168. Does it not appear reasonable that if the men had been able to make roads through the Crown lands they should also have been able to make this road at the junction of the Crown lands and private property? I do not see what advantage would attach to making this expensive road along the boundary, especially when we had the other road, that is, the Junction Road, given to us.

169. In making that Junction Road, would you not be very much enhancing the value of the land abutting on to it? I have no doubt we have done so.

170. If it had passed through this strip of Crown land, would it not have immensely enhanced its value? If we had adopted the Boundary Road we should still have enhanced the value of one of the frontages of the Burns-Withers estate and others.

171. But you would also have increased the value of one of the frontages of the Crown lands? Yes; but the cost of making the road would not have been worth it.

172. I understand you to say that the Crown land is so broken up that it is impossible to make roads? I do not say that it is impossible to make roads, but it is sufficiently rough to preclude us from making roads with the labour of the unemployed.

173. What is the use of making roads through this private property to bring people to country which is so impassable? The roads do not lead to wholly impassable country. There are tributary roads leading up from the Boundary Road on to the plateaux between the gullies.

174. Do you tell the Committee that you could not have given access to the railway by continuing the A road through the Crown lands? It would have been worse there; the gullies there are perfect precipices when you get more to the northward.

175. Would there have been no chance of continuing the street to the northward of Hornsby Junction? It would have been impossible.

176. Why? Because the gullies deepen so rapidly.

177. The Committee were unable to discover yesterday that this land was so exceedingly rough; but supposing that it is, what chance is there of the Government being able to sell it? That I do not know. As I have just pointed out, you can get access on to the plateaux between the gullies.

178. But there are no means of access through the Crown land? It would be very expensive to do it. In taking the Junction Road we came up to the head of the gullies as far as we could.

179. Are you not surprised to hear that the Committee had no trouble in driving along the Boundary Road? I do not think you can have driven along the road very far. You may go a short distance along from the railway-station end, but that is all.

180. Having regard to the road marked C and I, and connecting the Boundary Road with the Lane Cove Road, what necessity was there to construct road H? That I cannot tell. As I said before, I did not know that these two roads were cleared until I saw them. I found that they had been done upon the recommendation of Mr. Gordon.

181. Do you think there was any necessity to have four roads in this short distance between the Junction Road and road A, making five roads in all to the railway in a distance of less than three-quarters of a mile? I do not believe these roads had been constructed or cleared or even touched by the Board at all. I think that is a matter of private subdivision. I believe it has been done entirely by private people. I shall be very much surprised to learn that it has been done by the Board.

182. Are you aware that this road marked Burns Road, although not coloured on the map, has been metalled? Not by the Board.

183. Are you sure that it has not? No; but I do not believe that it has.

184. No authority was given by the Board, so far as you are aware? No.

185. Were you ever along that road? No; I have merely seen it from the end of the other road; then it was not ballasted.

186. Mr. Gordon is subordinate to the Board, not to the Roads Department; he is an officer of the Lands Department? Yes. Since the constitution of the Casual Labour Board he has been acting under the orders of the Board as far as our work is concerned.

187. Therefore he is subject to you? Yes. We took him over when Mr. Deering gave up charge. Mr. Gordon was managing for Mr. Deering.

188. Do you consider that Mr. Gordon's position warranted him in determining to construct any of the roads without the question being submitted to you as the professional officer of the Department? He would recommend roads to the Board as a matter of access. He would not undertake the works on his own responsibility.

189. *Chairman.*] Would he recommend it to the Board without recommending it to you, or without consulting you in the matter? I do not think he would have come to me. It was simply a matter of access—a matter of clearing. There was no engineering work in it. If there had been any work in it apart from the clearing it would have been left until Mr. Houison or myself had reported upon the matter.

190. *Mr. Copeland.*] You and Mr. Houison are professional gentlemen? Yes.

191. Whereas the Chairman of the Board is a non-professional man? Yes.

192. Do you not think it rather singular that the non-professional member of the Board should have decided upon these works without submitting them to the professional members of the Board? Whenever professional work has been required I think we have been consulted.

F. Wells.
20 Nov., 1888.

193. Would you not consider these roads work of a professional character? Hardly. The simple clearing could be done by the Superintendent on the field—that is, if the work were determined to be a right thing to do.
194. But would it not be a practical question for you to determine if the road were a right thing to construct or not? I think the surveyor would be as good a judge of that as myself. No professional work would be required. It was only a clearing. It was simply a question of the advisableness of making the road.
195. *Chairman.*] Who decides upon the advisableness? I presume the Chairman, on Mr. Gordon's recommendation.
196. *Mr. Copeland.*] I understood you to say that the first proposal in connection with these roads emanated from you in 1885 or 1886? I hardly know whether it was from Mr. Burns or myself. He told me that he was the proprietor of the land. I did not then know that Mr. Withers or Mr. Smith had any connection with it.
197. Which do you suppose was the first batch of these roads to be cleared? I should imagine the Junction Road, being the most essential, and the continuation of the Vanceville Road.
198. You know nothing about road A? No.
199. Is there any official correspondence as to the road emanating from your conversation with Mr. Burns in 1885 or 1886? No; we simply had a conversation. I had no official correspondence. If I had I should have recommended the matter at the time in the Roads Department. The first thing I remember is Mr. Ives' petition to get a road continued from the Vanceville Road to the Hornsby Station.
200. What is the date of that? I cannot say. It is since the establishment of the Board.
201. Is not the petition in the papers marked E the petition to which you refer? Yes.
202. What is the date? 11th November, 1887.
203. That is the first official communication you are aware of? Yes.
204. That is with reference to these roads through the property of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith? Yes, that is the first I know of. I thought at one time that there was a petition before, but I have looked into the records and I cannot find it.
205. Do you know whether the signature of George Withers asking for this road through the property of Burns, Withers, and Smith is the signature of one of the owners of the property? That I cannot say. I should think that it very likely was.
206. *Chairman.*] Do you know whether those signatories are living in the neighbourhood? I cannot tell you. I looked very little at the petition to begin with. I know that such a petition came in. It was sent on to us by the Commissioner to deal with, and we dealt with it.
207. *Mr. Copeland.*] You say that the Crown lands to which these roads are to give access are very barren? Yes; it is barren rocky land.
208. Is it more barren than the private land adjoining? No; I should think it was very much the same kind of land. I think it is very poor land, the whole of it.
209. Of course it gets rougher as you go to the northward. Do I understand that you are the chief officer in the Roads Department next to Mr. Bennett? Yes.
210. Can you tell the Committee what the probable cost per chain for grubbing and clearing these roads would be? In some parts perhaps it would cost from £4 to £5 an acre. I do not think it would go as high as £10 an acre in any case. In some places it might cost £8, but it certainly would not go £8 all through. I can supply you with all the information you require as to cost at a subsequent date.
211. The estimate you have given would be for merely grubbing and clearing the roads? Yes.
212. What would be the cost of forming the roads? About 15s. a chain.
213. Would that include the cutting of the drain and the whole forming of the road? Yes; I do not think it would cost more than that.
214. *Chairman.*] You are not speaking as, I understand, from accurate knowledge? No; because we pay these men less rates than we should pay under ordinary circumstances. We do not want the work to be too attractive; we want it to be somewhat punitive.
215. *Mr. Copeland.*] With reference to metalling? None of the roads have been metalled. Some of them have been ballasted with sandstone.
216. You do not term that metalling? No; it is only rough ballasting.
217. What would be the cost per chain for ballasting? It would probably run into about from £1 to £1 2s. a chain.
218. What thickness of ballast would that provide for? There would be about 6 inches of ballast—perhaps scarcely as much. I know that the roads are only very lightly ballasted. I can tell you the exact cost later on from our own books.
219. Does your estimate of £1 or 22s. include the procuring and breaking of the metal? If you were to include that I suppose the cost would be about £2 a chain. If ironstone were used it would be more costly, but I do not think there is any used there. I am pretty certain that there is only sandstone ballasting.
220. If one officer of your Department has estimated the work at £9 a chain, and another at £15 a chain, both of them are very wide of the mark? Yes; it would cost about £2, besides forming and blinding, say £3.
221. At the next meeting of the Committee, will you supply information as to what has been the actual cost of the grubbing, clearing, forming, and ballasting of the roads? Yes; I think I can give you the whole of that information.
222. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Granting that the boundary road would be costly to construct, would it cost more than the Junction Road and all the tributary roads together? A long way more.
223. Can you explain why the H road takes such a peculiar shape? I cannot explain that road and the I road. As I have already said, they were adopted on Mr. Gordon's representation. I was not aware of their being cleared until I saw that all the work had been done.
224. *Chairman.*] Are you aware whether the Boundary Road, the Vanceville Road, Burns Road, and the road marked HD would cut that portion of the Burns and Withers estate into a square block? Well, yes, a rectangular block.
225. Do these roads bound the estate? I do not know where Burns and Withers's boundaries are. I should imagine, however, that Burns Road was the boundary to Burns's property.

226. Are you aware whether any bridges had been made by the unemployed on any of the roads? There are culverts, I believe, on the Junction Road and on the Boundary Road. I cannot think of any bridge, and I do not know whether the culverts were done by the unemployed. Mr. F. Wells,
20 Nov., 1889.
227. Do you know if there are any bridges on the Burns Road? I do not think we have done any work on that road.
228. If it came to your knowledge now that the unemployed were constructing and making passable the Boundary Road, would your opinion be that a mistake had been made in constructing the Junction Road at all? If they could make a good road there, decidedly, but I am certain they cannot.
229. *Mr. Brunker.*] You said, I think, that from the time of the establishment of the Board instructions have emanated from the Colonial Secretary? Yes.
230. Is the Committee to infer that the whole of the work has been carried out under the instructions of the Colonial Secretary? I cannot say whether that is so.
231. I mean generally? Not in matters of detail. These we generally deal with ourselves upon our own responsibility.
232. Not under instructions from the Colonial Secretary? No.
233. I suppose it would be impossible for the Colonial Secretary to give instructions unless certain propositions were made to him? That I cannot say. I believe that we have obtained Ministerial authority for all the roads which we have made through private property. Mr. Davies, however, will be able to give you better information on this point. I saw a number of approvals yesterday in our own office. I was under the impression that all the work undertaken outside of Crown lands had received Ministerial approval.
234. But it would be impossible for the Colonial Secretary to say that certain work was necessary, in the absence of a suggestion from the Casual Labour Board? Of course he would not be aware of what was necessary.
235. You say that the unemployed were at work at Hornsby before you commenced there? Yes, under Mr. Deering.
236. If the land between road A and the Junction Road has been cleared, and if roads have been formed there, that has been done apart from instructions from the Casual Labour Board and from the Colonial Secretary? Yes; all that has been done there must have been done, I think, by private owners. I am not aware of any authority for roads there. There is no authority for any work in that block at all. I thought that the road along the railway might have been cleared by Mr. Deering. It was not done by the Board.
237. I suppose that the first consideration of the Board in making these roads was to give better access to the Crown lands? That was the only thing we considered. Of course we took into consideration to some extent the desirability of access from the Lane Cove Road to the railway-station.
238. Do the members of the Board consider that the expenditure which has been incurred upon these roads has increased the value of the Crown lands adjoining? Most decidedly. They would be almost worthless without access.
239. Are you, as a member of the Casual Labour Board, able to say whether the Board have had any communication with Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith; and, if so, whether any of these roads have been constructed as the result of that communication? I am almost positive that there has been no such communication. I know, so far as I am concerned, that since I spoke to Mr. Burns on the subject in 1885 or 1886, I have had no communication with him whatever on the matter. I feel pretty certain that Mr. Houison, upon whose recommendation the Junction Road was made, has not had any. I am nearly certain that no member of the Board has had any such communication.
240. As a matter of fact, so far as you can tell as a member of the Board, these roads have been constructed upon the sole responsibility of the Board? I think so, decidedly.
241. And under their advice and control? Yes.
242. As to this Boundary Road, you say that the inequalities of the surface are so great that it would be almost impossible to construct a road in that direction? Well, it would be too costly.
243. But not too costly if you had skilled labour? I think so—even with skilled labour. Mr. Houison will be better able to answer that question, because he made a close examination of the road.
244. Is it not a fact that with these men under your control you are not able to carry out such works as you could carry out under other circumstances? It is.
245. *Mr. Copeland.*] As a professional man, and as second in command of the Roads Department of this Colony, you say that it would be impossible to make a road fit for traffic in the direction of the Boundary Road? I believe it would be impracticable; or, at all events, if it were not impracticable, it would be much too costly. We should have to make a deviation at each of the gullies. We could not cross the gullies on the line of the road. We should have to make side-cuts down the gullies. It is not so bad at the station end. I am referring more particularly to the gullies further along.
246. Do I understand that as soon as you get away from the Burns property on to the Crown lands they become impassable? Yes; the further north you go the more precipitous the gullies become.
247. *Mr. Brunker.*] Can you tell the Committee what action was taken after the receipt of the petition of Mr. Ives? It was referred to the Casual Labour Board by the Commissioner for Roads. It was sent on, I presume, and approved.
248. Mr. Burns was communicated with by the Casual Labour Board? Yes; he was asked to give his consent to the making of the road, and he agreed to it.
249. *Mr. Copeland.*] The minute of the Casual Labour Board on the subject is dated 18th October, 1887? Yes.
250. And was approved of by Mr. Burns on the 19th October? Yes.
251. *Mr. Brunker.*] Were the propositions of Mr. Davies, with reference to the construction of roads, objected to any time by any other member of the Board? I am in doubt as to whether there was not some little matter in which we had a difference of opinion.
252. What road was it about? I do not know now, but it was not one of the Hornsby roads. Mr. Davies showed me that he had the Colonial Secretary's authority for the work being done. I am nearly sure that it was one of the roads on the Holt-Sutherland Estate.
253. Do you know whether a large area of the Crown lands at Hornsby have been subdivided? Yes; and a portion of the land has been sold.
254. It has been subdivided and is ready for sale at any moment? A large portion of it is.

- Mr. F. Wells. 255. The bulk of the Crown lands in that locality, I suppose? Yes.
- 20 Nov., 1888. 256. Do you know anything of the extent and character of the population about Hornsby? There are a great many fruit-growers about the Vanceville Road, and there are some settlers at the back.
257. Are the roads which have been made by the Casual Labour Board likely to serve the public? Yes.
258. They will more especially convenience the people in the surrounding locality? Yes; I think the roads H and I would be of service to the people on the Lane Cove Road going to Hornsby.
259. If the Crown lands are as rough as you describe, the means of access would considerably improve their value, as they would also improve the value of the private lands? Yes. I ought to mention that roads H and I are merely cleared.
260. I understand that some roads on the Crown lands are cleared? Yes.
261. You were speaking about the unemployed doing some work at Campbelltown;—is it not a fact that they were sent to various localities on condition of the municipal councils offering subsidiary aid? Yes. I know that some were sent to Wallsend, Campbelltown, Parramatta, Leichhardt, &c. The municipalities paid one half of the wages, and the Government paid the other half, to employ local labour.
262. *Mr. Copeland.*] You were saying that roads H and I were merely cleared? Yes; when I saw them.
263. Are you not aware that road H is ballasted along its entire length? No; I was not aware of that. When I last saw it it was only cleared. The only ballasted road I remember seeing was the Junction Road.
264. If a great deal of this road has been ballasted, and if a number of culverts have been formed in it by the unemployed, it has been done without the instructions of the Board? Yes; so far as I am aware, no instructions have been given. Some culverts may have been put in, because Mr. O'Donnell had *carte blanche* to put in whatever he thought necessary for the crossing of the creeks.
265. Although you are a member of the Casual Labour Board, you are not aware that culverts have been constructed along the whole of this road? No; I was not.
266. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] If Mr. O'Donnell has been authorized to construct culverts along this road, and if he has done so with the labour at his disposal, how is it that he is unable to carry out the work to which you have referred on the Boundary Road? Crossing the gullies on the Boundary Road is a very different thing from crossing the water-channels on a comparatively good road.
267. Have you seen some of these culverts? I have seen them on the Junction Road. They are not very big there.
268. Have you seen the culvert in the gully across Boundary Road near C road? I have not seen that.
269. *Mr. Bruncker.*] To whom was Mr. Gordon responsible for the work he carried out? He was answerable to us directly for the work. He would recommend and carry out certain work. He would advise as the surveyor engaged on the design for the subdivision of the land.
270. Was the Junction Road recommended by Mr. Gordon? Yes.
271. And approved by the Board? Yes.
272. Do you consider that a road constructed there is as beneficial to the Crown lands adjoining as a road constructed higher up would be? More so, on account of the nature of the ground. You get access by the tributary roads.
273. So far as giving increased value to the Crown land is concerned, you think that the construction of Junction Road is just as advantageous as the construction of Boundary Road would have been? Yes; I consider that the Boundary Road is an almost impracticable road.
274. Although the road gave increased value to the private land, the Board considered that they were acting in the public interest in carrying out the work as it appears on the plan? Yes, decidedly. If we could have got a diagonal road across the land it might have been shorter, but we should have had to pay for the land. If there had been no Crown lands to clear I should have recommended the Junction and J Roads.
275. *Mr. Copeland.*] Is it not rather a coincidence that the only points of access from the private lands to the Crown lands should be just on the division lines of this property? These lines of road were selected by Mr. Gordon to give access.
276. *Chairman.*] You can see no coincidence in it? No.
277. *Mr. Bruncker.*] Is it not true that these boundary lines are also the boundary lines of property belonging to Messrs. Brown, Harnett, Ebsworth, and others? Yes.
278. *Mr. Copeland.*] Was not that property included in the estate originally? Not that I am aware of.
279. Then how is it that the boundary, as shown on the plan, is all coloured yellow? I do not know. That is what puzzled me at first. Vanceville I know is an old subdivision. I do not know the boundaries of the Burns property. The plan also shows property belonging to Mr. Foster, Harnett (Edwards), and Want, I believe.
280. Would that be Mr. Justice Foster? Not that I know of.

WEDNESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER, 1888.

Present:—

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| MR. WALKER, | \| | MR. BRUNKER, |
| MR. CARRUTHERS, | | MR. M'MILLAN, |
| MR. HENRY CLARKE, | | MR. MELVILLE, |
| MR. COPELAND, | | MR. O'SULLIVAN, |
| | MR. STREET. | |

THOMAS WALKER, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

David Houison, Esq., called in, sworn, and examined:—

281. *Chairman.*] Are you a member of the Board called the Labour Bureau? Yes; I am a member of the Casual Labour Board. D. Houison,
Esq.
21 Nov., 1888.
- 281½. Have you been a member of the Board since its origin? Yes.
282. How long ago is it since the Board was formed? Since May, 1887.
- 282½. Can you tell us how you became connected with the Board? I know nothing further than that I was appointed with Mr. Davies and Colonel Wells.
283. Were you consulted before the appointment was made as to whether you would accept it or not? I was asked to take Mr. Darley's place. He was originally appointed, but was unable to undertake the duties, and he asked me if I would accept the appointment.
284. Before you were asked to take the appointment? Yes.
285. Are you a civil servant? Yes; I am connected with the Harbours and Rivers Department.
286. Do you know whether you were appointed to this position because of your connection with the Harbours and Rivers Department? I have no knowledge.
287. How soon after its appointment did the Board meet? At once.
288. At the office of the Board? Yes.
289. Have you held regular meetings since? No. We did at first; but our duties would not permit of our constantly meeting.
290. At the first inception you held regular formal meetings? Well, you can hardly call them formal; there were no regular minutes taken. I was in constant attendance at the office for an hour every morning when I was in Sydney, before going to my regular duties.
291. Were you there by yourself at these times? No; Mr. Davies was always there, and Colonel Wells sometimes.
292. Then you have no record whatsoever of any of your meetings? The chief clerk has a record of everything that has been done.
293. But I mean of any consultation? No; there was no regular record kept.
294. What was the nature of the instructions given to you as a member of the Board? I received such short notice—I only got a telegram last night—that I had not time to bring any papers with me, and there was no one at the office to-day.
295. What were your instructions, as far as your memory can serve you? I could not give the precise wording, and I would prefer not to say without giving the precise wording.
296. Of course, you do not always carry your instructions about with you; but you know what you can do, and what you are expected to do. When you took office, what was your understanding as to your powers and the limits of those powers? To find employment for the unemployed.
297. There was a general power given to you? I could not describe it now.
298. You state that your instructions were to find work for the unemployed? Yes. We took over the unemployed from those who had charge of them at the time.
299. What I mean now is, when you took over the unemployed had you any instructions given you as to the way in which these unemployed should be utilized? There were general instructions given.
300. Can you remember any limitations to those instructions? No; I cannot at present.
301. So far as your memory serves you, had you any power to dispose of those men according to your own discretion? Yes, we had.
302. As far as you can recollect, what work were the unemployed engaged upon when you took them over? Clearing, as a rule, and also upon roads.
303. They were working upon roads? Yes, and clearing.
304. *Mr. Copeland.*] Clearing Crown lands? Crown lands.
305. *Chairman.*] They were not in any particular district? They were scattered about.
306. In large numbers? Yes; there were a great number of them when we took charge.
307. What was the first effect of your taking them over—to concentrate them? To concentrate them at National Park as a depôt, to distribute them from there as the men were selected.
308. Did you call in any of those who were at work on any of the roads of the Colony? No; I do not think there were any called in.
309. Then, in concentrating them, where did you get your largest supply from? From Sydney streets.
310. Was your first task then to take them to National Park, and to distribute them from there, or did you send them direct from Sydney? Some went from there, and some went direct from Sydney afterwards.
311. In considering where the men that you had at your disposal should go, did you receive any instructions of any kind from any of the Government officers? In what way?
312. Well you had so many men at your disposal; you were intending to send them where they were most needed;—did you get any representations as to where they might be required from any Government officers? We had notice from the Roads Department if men were required in a particular district.
313. How did you ascertain that men were required in these districts? They forwarded us returns from the road superintendents. Copies of the reports referring to the works were sent to us with regard to the special requests.
314. That is from places where men were already at work? No; where men were required. We always had a statement as to the state of the labour market in these districts furnished to us by the Roads Department. It came from the head of the Department.
315. Did you issue instructions for the Roads Department to furnish you with these? No; we had no power to do so.
316. Then you acted upon the reports sent to you by the road superintendent? Yes. If the contractors required any men they wrote for them.
317. How did you make it known? It was advertised in the daily papers. 318.

- D. Houston, Esq.
21 Nov., 1888.
318. An in the subsequent disposal of these men have you had any communication from any Government source? Not that I know of.
319. In sending your men to any locality, did you submit your proposals to the Colonial Secretary? His approval was invariably sought before any men were sent anywhere.
320. When you say invariably, are there any exceptions? There may be. I could not say positively, because I was not constantly in the office. Mr. Davies was our executive.
321. You say that Mr. Davies was your executive? Yes; he attends to all requirements of the office, sees to all the papers, and everything.
322. Has Mr. Davies the power to dispose of men without consulting you or your colleague, Colonel Wells? He does, as a rule, consult us.
323. Have there been instances where he has not consulted you? Yes.
324. And when he consults you, does he convene you for the purpose? No; I am generally in. I call at the office every time I am in Sydney.
325. When you speak of "consults," you mean that he has some conversation with you when you call in casually at the office? Yes.
326. Does he ever talk with you outside the office, in the streets, on these matters? No.
327. Have you any knowledge of the work of the unemployed upon an estate owned by Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, at Hornsby? I could not localize the ground, but I know the roads at Hornsby; I have been over them all.
328. Have you been over the district shown on the map before you? Yes.
329. From whom issued the orders for the unemployed to clear and form these roads? I could not say positively about that.
330. Did they issue from you? From the Board altogether, I think.
331. Who has charge of the unemployed out there? Mr. O'Donnell.
332. What are the instructions from the Board to Mr. O'Donnell in the matter? He gets instructions as to what to go on with, what roads to clear; and after he has cleared these roads, as an expert and an engineer, I, or Colonel Wells, go on to the ground and point out any portion that may require slight ballasting to improve the roads or the grades.
333. What was the object of the Board in forming these roads? To get access to the Crown lands at the back.
334. Did you authorize any roads that are not simply to give access? No.
335. Does that map show all the roads constructed? That shows all the roads.
336. Is it possible that orders may have come from your Board that you are not aware of, and that roads may have been cleared of which you are not aware? I do not think so.
337. Look at the map before you. There is a road between the road marked A and the junction road, marked G, running parallel with the railway line, and bordering the railway line? I do not know of any road there.
338. You are not aware that that road exists? No, I have not been there for some months.
339. *Mr. Copeland.*] How long is it since you were there? Four or five months. It must be four months, at the least, since I was there.
340. *Chairman.*] If such a road has been formed, it has not been done by your instruction? I do not know anything about it.
341. If it has been done by the instructions of the Board, it is still unknown to you? I do not know anything of it.
342. Take the boundary road. Are you aware whether any instructions have been given to continue that road as far as the railway line? No, I do not know of any.
343. Have any instructions been given to construct a road to the north of that line, towards the railway? No.
344. Or to the south of it? No.
345. Or to construct a road running off Junction Road, between the first letter G and the railway line, to the south? No; I have not been out there for so many months that I cannot tell you.
346. If these roads were formed, you would consider them roads of access? Well, unless I personally inspected them, I could not say.
347. In making any of these roads what object had the Board? To get to the Crown lands, I suppose.
348. Would you consider the road H H D a road of access? Yes; that is one of the roads. There is a claim for compensation in respect to that road, I believe.
349. From whom? From Mr. Harnett, if I remember rightly.
350. Is that road necessary as a road of access when you have the road I C? Yes, certainly.
351. And the road J F? That goes to the boundary road; it is the principal road almost—the Vanceville Road.
352. Is the object of that road—the Vanceville Road—to give access alone? For purposes of access.
353. What was the object in laying out the Boundary Road? That road was almost inaccessible. When I went on to it at first I would not, as an engineer, go through with its construction because of the expense it would incur.
354. Are you aware that it is being formed as a road now? I think I put in a crossing on it at the first creek, but I would not go on any further with it.
355. Are you aware whether there are any unemployed working on it now? No, I could not say.
356. If there were any unemployed engaged on it, considering the existence of Junction Road, would you consider the work justifiable? I do not think they can make this road. I do not think it is possible to grade it so as to make it an accessible road for ordinary traffic. I have been over it. The other road beyond it again to the north is still worse; it is utterly impossible to make a road there. That is what they call the population boundary road, a short distance further north.
357. Are there any roads formed on the Crown lands? The Boundary Road is the only one I have been on yet.
358. What is the nature of the Crown land—is it good land; what is the character of it? It is not first-class land; there are portions of it pretty good, the rest of it is rather poor.
359. What do you think the comparative expense would be of making the roads B, C, D, E, and F, and the opening up of the Boundary Road—which work do you think would be the most costly? The Boundary Road would cost ten times more than the other. You cannot make a road there that would ever be used by traffic—the grades are too steep. It is right enough at the end near the Hornsby junction; but when you get more to the eastward it is almost impassable.

360. *Mr. M'Millan.*] What about the country further north? It gets worse and worse as you go north.
361. Then you could not make a road at all through the Crown lands? No. I stopped the Boundary Road.
362. *Chairman.*] Does it go as far as D? No; not as far as D—to the first creek, I think. There is a stone crossing there, which is the limit to which I went.
363. If the road goes as far as that, would you consider the road C a necessary road, considering that B opens into the Boundary Road? I think they are all necessary. They are all easy roads to make.
364. If the Crown lands are so poor, and it is impossible to make roads upon them? There is very good land at the back.
365. But it is impossible to reach the back portion? You can reach the whole of it through these roads. These are the roads to give access to it, between the creeks. You cannot cross the creeks from east to west; but you can go in between each creek, and that is the object of these roads. These roads would have to be taken up eventually to get access to the Crown land.
366. None of these roads are continued on Government lands? I could not say; but I have not been there for five months.
367. Would it not have been more to the improvement of the Crown lands to make roads on the Crown lands, instead of these other roads? You could not get to the Crown lands without these other roads.
368. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] You say that you held some meetings of the Casual Labour Board? At the first.
369. Do you remember how many? No; I could not say.
370. How long ago is it since you had a meeting there? The last meeting was about a week ago.
371. How many meetings have you held altogether? I have been there every morning for the first twelve or fifteen months.
372. But how often have you held regular meetings? I could not say.
373. As a matter of fact, until last week, you had had no regular meetings? No; I have not been able to attend at the office.
374. No minutes of the business have been kept? Well, of course we have our minutes in the office; but they are not like the ordinary minutes of meetings, they would be simply the records of the office.
375. During the absence of yourself and Mr. Wells, Mr. Davies would act as a kind of dictator? He does nothing without consulting us or letting us know. When we come into the office we see all the back papers and everything.
376. You act more in the form of advisers than as members of the Board? We act as experts,—to give advice. There is no engineering work carried on without our advice, and we visit the work before it is paid for.*
377. The Board is almost a fiction, practically? I do not think so.
378. From your experience of Crown lands and of the laying out of roads, do you not think it possible that the private owners of this estate would have laid out these roads without the Government doing the work? The work would have had to be done eventually, and if not by the labour under our command it would cost six times as much.
379. But they would have subdivided the land and made roads? I could not say.
380. As a matter of fact, you know they began one road called Burns' Road,—they had begun the construction of Burns' Road? Well, it was cleared, I think.
381. And the probability is that in the ordinary way of subdividing estates, as all private owners do, roads would have been constructed across it, in order to make the land more saleable? I do not know, I am sure. They might not have been opened up in the same positions.
382. What has been your experience of the subdividing of private estates? I do not know anything about it at all.
383. You have been present at land sales? No.
384. You do not know the method they adopt in cutting up streets? Yes; I know that.
385. Probably the same plan would have been carried out by Burns, Withers, and Smith? They might have done so.
386. Do you know who authorized the roads I and H? I cannot say exactly; I have not had access to any of the papers.
387. You never authorized them? I cannot remember it.
388. You cannot remember authorizing these roads? I cannot remember having authorized them.
389. Then if you cannot remember having authorized them, and Mr. Wells did not authorize them, who was the party who would have authorized them? Mr. Davies, I suppose, if they were authorized without our knowledge.
390. Did Mr. Davies consult you about the roads I and H? I cannot say without seeing the papers.
391. Have you any recollection? No, I have not. We have our own work besides to attend to.
392. How long ago is it;—about twelve months ago? I cannot say positively.
393. You say you know most of the roads on the Hornsby Estate? Yes.
394. There may be some roads there of which you have no knowledge? Yes.
395. You say you have no knowledge of this road running parallel with the railway? No.
396. Are you aware that there are half-a-dozen other roads besides these shown on the plan? No; I am not aware of any. The roads on the plan are the roads I have seen when I have been out there.
397. If the roads running down to B, C, and H have been constructed by the unemployed, and have the unemployed working upon them, who has authorized these roads? I could not say. I do not say that the unemployed have made them.
398. Supposing that they are there, and that they admit that they are unemployed, working under Mr. O'Donnell, who has authorized the roads? Probably Mr. Davies.
399. You say that all plans were submitted to the Colonial Secretary—plans of roads? No. All requisitions and representations by the residents were forwarded as a rule to the Colonial Secretary for his approval.
400. Do you know if this request for the road on the Hornsby Estate was submitted to him? I could not tell you.

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401.

* NOTE (on revision) :—To explain this more fully, sections and cross-sections of roads that were very difficult to make were prepared by myself, and handed to the chairman for the guidance of the superintendents, and to enable them to let the work in small contracts and have correct measurements of the work. I may name specially Narrabeen, Dobroyd, and Unwin's Bridge Road.

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401. In the ordinary way of business these requests would have been submitted? We generally do submit anything of the kind.
402. Then, probably, he would be the Minister who authorized the making of these roads? The Colonial Secretary is the only Minister they would come to.
403. *Chairman.*] In an answer given yesterday by Colonel Wells, he says that he was frequently away for two or three weeks at a time, and that you were away for a like period? There are times when I could not possibly attend to the duty.
404. Is the sole management of the Board, and the initiation and continuation of work, in that case left in the hands of Mr. Davies? During the time we are absent.
405. Whatever work is carried on you know nothing of? We are informed of it the moment we attend, and receive the whole of the papers.
406. *Mr. M. Millan.*] Everything in the way of roads, I suppose, has gone through your hands? Not the work of clearing or anything of that kind. I never interfere with that. Mr. Davies and the superintendent would look after that, and Colonel Wells or myself would probably look over the work after it was done.
407. Has the clearing of these roads on this estate not been brought under your notice as one of the experts on the Board? Yes. I think it was; at that time we were constantly meeting.
408. Speaking of the last six months, have these roads been brought under your notice as a Board during that period? Not for the last five or six months, I think.
409. I take it that a lot of work has been done there during the past six months? During the past five or six months I have had very little time to attend to the work of the Board.
410. But a great deal of expenditure for metalling and so forth has been incurred during that period, I suppose? No metalling has been done, only ballasting.
411. But a great deal of that kind of work has been done during the past six months? I do not think much has been done during the past six months. I think I saw pretty well the whole of it. I think I should be better able to give you the information you require after visiting the land with Colonel Wells, as I intended to do.
412. You disclaim any connection either with the initiation or the supervision of the laying out of these roads during the last six months? Well, at any time when I have called at the office I have spent an hour or two in looking over the back papers.
413. As far as the real management is concerned, except that it was in your power to see the papers, you have for all practical purposes had no direct connection with the work? Not during the last five months. I have been unable to attend to the work.
414. *Chairman.*] I suppose Mr. O'Donnell can show us what roads have been cleared, formed, and ballasted by the unemployed in addition to those shown on the plan? Yes; I think he would be able to give you all the information you require on that branch of the subject.
415. *Mr. Copeland.*] Do you keep no record whatever in the office of the Casual Labour Board? The secretary has a record of the correspondence and so forth. Everything is kept in just the same way as in other departments. As far as I have been able to see, this record is quite as accurate as that of any other department in which I have been.
416. In order to obtain information connected with this record it would be necessary to call Mr. Hincheliff? Yes; I should think so.
417. Do I understand you to say that the Boundary Road is quite impassable? Well, it is not exactly impassable, but it would cost a mint of money to make it; and when it was made the grades would be so steep that it would not be possible to work traffic over it.
418. Do you make that statement with due regard to the nature of the ordinary up-country roads? Yes. I myself examined this particular road in company with Mr. O'Donnell.
419. *Mr. M. Millan.*] As I understand you, the roads here must go north and south, it is not practicable to take them east and west? Exactly.
420. *Mr. Copeland.*] You said that this Boundary Road is impassable, and that the road further north, the Population Boundary Road, is utterly impracticable. Is this on account of the extreme roughness of the land? No; the depressions there are very deep, some of them fully 300 feet in depth. Running parallel to these gullies you get access to the whole of the country on the table-land.
421. If this land is so very rough, and irregular, and uneven, do you think it was worth while expending so much upon the outside land? The land at the top is good table-land, through between the creeks; but the gullies are precipitous and inaccessible.
422. You think there will be no approaches made across these particular creeks? Not from an engineering point of view. No one would ever sanction it.
423. Looking at the map, do you see a road marked A, which crosses the railway. Would not that road give you access to Crown lands? Not across the creeks. You cross the creeks directly you get on to the Crown lands.
424. So far as the land recently sold is concerned, would not the road A give access to it, and to the railway. Would not the road, in fact, give access to the land on both sides of the railway? Well, it would give access to a portion of the land.
425. And to the railway station? Yes; but it does not give any frontages.
426. Has it not been the practice in the Department to make their own frontages by subdividing the Crown lands, and making the roads on those Crown lands? I do not know. I have never belonged to the Survey Department.
427. Do you know of any instance, except what has occurred during the last few months, where the Government expended money in making the roads through private property instead of through their own Crown lands? I do not know of any case. I have been employed principally upon the main roads of the Colony when in the Roads Department; this is the first time that I have had any connection with work of this kind.
428. Supposing the Government had made roads through their Crown lands, do you think that the proprietors of this subdivision would not have made roads to connect with them? I do not know. They could not have made them so cheaply as we have made them.
429. You see this road marked A. Are you aware that between road A and the Junction Road it is all private property, belonging to Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith? I could not say.

430. Admitting it to be the case that that road was formed by the Government to give access from the Crown lands on one side of the railway to those on the other, making a bridge across the line, was it necessary, in your opinion, in the interests of the Crown, that other roads should be carried from the railway between A and G, making five roads in the space of (say) three-quarters of a mile? I have not seen any of those roads. D. Houston,
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431. If these roads are made—and, as a matter of fact, they are—would you consider it necessary, in the interests of the Crown, that the public money should be expended in giving access to this piece of Crown land? I do not think that the unemployed have done it.
432. If they had done it? I think not.
433. If the whole control of this work was in your hands, and you were responsible for it would you be inclined to pay men wages for constructing these roads through private property? I think not.
434. When you were given in charge of these unemployed, were there no roads to be constructed on which you could employ this surplus of labour, on subdivisions belonging to the Crown that occupied the same position that this private subdivision did? We had numbers of men engaged at other places; at Narrabeen, for instance, we had an immense crowd.
435. We have a number of subdivisions here, perhaps you could give me some information about them; take Beecroft and the Field of Mars; there is a large amount of Crown land on these divisions still unsold;—have you ballasted or formed any of those roads? That is all clearing.
436. Some are still uncleared? Yes.
437. Have you ballasted or formed any road there? They are all formed.
438. *Chairman.*] And ballasted? They are ballasted where the roads are soft. Ballast is not used as a rule where there is a good foundation.
439. *Mr. Copeland.*] Have you ballasted any of these roads at Beecroft and the Field of Mars by the Casual Labour Board? I could not say about Beecroft and the Field of Mars.
440. There is a subdivision of Crown lands at Harbord, near Manly, where a large amount of land is still unsold there? Yes.
441. Have the Casual Labour Board made roads there or at Heathcote, on the Illawarra line? Yes. We are making roads at Heathcote now.
442. I understood you to say just now that this is not metalling, that it is only ballasting; is not this metalling, or ballasting, or whatever you call it, what is generally used on the country roads? No. The ballasting is put on the roads prior to the metalling. It is a sort of foundation for the metal. It is the kind of ballasting we generally put on in places where the road is soft or sandy.
443. Were you in the Roads Department? I was for eleven years a first class road superintendent.
444. Do you not know of hundreds of miles of country roads which have nothing but this ballasting, with blinding thrown on to it? No; I never met with any in my eleven years' experience as a superintendent.
445. Were you ever on the road going to Copeland? No.
446. Have you been on the road between Grafton and the table-land? I made the Newton-Boyd Road, and I know that there is no ballast on that; it is all blue-metal. There is no sandstone in the district.
447. You said that for the last five months you had taken no active part in these works? I have been unable to do so.
448. Are you sure that the period is only five months, or would it be more than that? No; it was about five months.
449. Prior to five months ago you took an active part in the works? Yes; I did all the engineering as a rule.
450. I suppose that during the last five months your professional duties have interfered with your work on the Casual Labour Board? Yes.
451. So that this work has been left to Mr. Davies, who is not a professional man? He has professional men under him.
452. Who are they? He has as assistant superintendent Mr. McPherson, an engineer. I look upon him as a very clever fellow.
453. *Mr. Henry Clarke.*] What would be the cost of this ballasting per chain? It varies very much.
454. *Mr. Carruthers.*] What would be the average cost? About 3s. a yard.
455. Where do you get the ballast? We bring it from the road-side.
456. From whose land? From whatever land we are passing through; we generally ask permission to take it.
457. I suppose that the ballasting in this case then would come off the land of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith? Yes. As a rule we pay 1s. 6d. for getting and 1s. 6d. for breaking. I daresay it would cost from £2 to £3 per chain.
458. *Chairman.*] Do you think that would be a fair average? Yes. The ballasting is not continuous; it is only put in soft places; the road where it is good is left.
459. Is the material sandstone? Yes; different qualities of it. We generally use the hardest sandstone we can get.
460. *Mr. Street.*] When you first commenced work at Hornsby, were you informed to any extent as to what was the object of the forming of these roads? I understood that they were to give access to the Crown lands.
461. Was the Crown land there about to be brought into the market for sale? Yes. Mr. Gordon, the surveyor, recommended these roads. The land, I think, was all being prepared for sale.
462. Do you consider that the formation of these roads increased the value of the Crown lands? Most decidedly.
463. You think that the price of the Crown lands, to which these roads gave access, was increased? Yes. You could not get access without these roads. We should have had to take them eventually in order to give access to the land.
464. The nature of the Government land is too rugged to permit of your making a road from east to west? Yes.
465. Do the gullies increase in depth as you go northward from the boundary road? Yes, until they become quite inaccessible. What is known as the Population Boundary Road, is quite inaccessible from east to west. I doubt whether you could walk over it.
466. You have been asked some questions about roads in connection with land at Harbord, Beecroft, and the

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- the Field of Mars;—had you anything to do with the preparation of those properties for sale by the unemployed? I had nothing to do with it.
467. You are aware that they were prepared for sale by the unemployed? Yes.
468. Prior to their preparation for sale, was there not ample access to them by public roads? Yes. I think there was access to the whole of those lands.
469. Therefore it was not necessary to go through the adjoining lands of private owners to make roads of access? I am not aware of any being made in that way.
470. Therefore these lands cannot be compared in any way with the Crown lands at Hornsby? No.
471. *Mr. M. Millan.*] I suppose it was in view of the railway line principally that these roads were made—that is to say, the construction of the Pearce's Corner line brought about the idea of these approaches to the Crown lands? Yes.
472. That would be the direct line of communication with this part of the country? Yes.
473. *Mr. Brunker.*] I understood you to say just now that requisitions were made by the Colonial Secretary before any roads were made? As a rule.
474. What is the form of requisition? The papers are sent on for approval. The requisition would be from the inhabitants of the various districts.
475. Not from the Casual Labour Board to the Colonial Secretary? No. The papers which are sent to us are generally forwarded.
476. Is there no general form of requisition? Well, the communications which are received by the Chairman of the Board are forwarded to the Colonial Secretary for approval.
477. Was any such communication sent by Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith? Not to my knowledge.
478. The Colonial Secretary would not have any knowledge of the details of the work? No.
479. The fact of the matter is that the whole of the responsibility in connection with the construction of these roads rests with the Casual Labour Board? Yes. Our recommendations were generally adopted. Mr. Gordon, who had been with Mr. Deering, acted for us when we first took charge. He had been with the unemployed for some time previously, and he had a greater knowledge than any of us could possibly have.
480. I understood you to say that there had been a claim for compensation by Mr. Harnett in respect of a road at Hornsby? Yes.
481. *Chairman.*] When was that claim for compensation sent in? I could not say. I merely heard of it.
482. *Mr. Copeland.*] I suppose it is a mere rumour? I do not know the facts.
483. *Mr. Brunker.*] Do you know whether the whole of the land between the H and I road belongs to Mr. Harnett? I only know the owners from passing round the land with O'Donnell. He knew the whole of the owners, but I had no personal knowledge on the subject.
484. *Chairman.*] Had you ever a personal interview with any of the owners in that district? No; I never saw any of the owners there.
485. *Mr. Brunker.*] Have you at any time, as a member of the Board, been consulted by Messrs. Burns, Withers, or Smith, with reference to the construction or formation of any of these roads? I do not know Mr. Burns further than this, that I was once introduced to him by Mr. Davies. I do not know Mr. Smith at all. I knew Mr. Withers some years ago, but I have not spoken to him for years. I have not seen either of these gentlemen about the roads.
486. Have the men employed under the Casual Labour Board done any work except under the instructions of the Board? None; except the work under the municipalities. I think that some work has been done by them in nearly every municipality in the Colony.
487. *Mr. M. Millan.*] As far as you are concerned you know of no direct application from Messrs. Burns, Withers, or Smith to have roads made by the unemployed through their land? No.
488. *Mr. Brunker.*] Have any of the Crown lands in that neighbourhood been cleared? I know that some of the Crown lands have been cleared, but I do not know about the laying out of the roads.
489. What would be the cost of grubbing and clearing this land? About £7 per acre. That would be 10 chains. These roads are 1 chain wide. That would be £56 a mile.
490. What would be the cost of forming? About 12s. a chain.
491. Would that include the water tables? Yes.
492. What is the cost of the ballasting per mile? I do not think there is a mile of it on the land.
493. Is it ballasted from point to point or only in soft places? Only here and there.
494. In the worst places on the roads? Yes.
495. You could not say what would be the cost per mile for ballasting, because it is so unequal? Yes; just so. The ground is of a very rocky character, and in many places it would be cheaper to ballast over the rocks than to cut through.
496. What did you mean when you said that the approval of the Colonial Secretary was needed before the men were sent to any work? The papers are sent on, that is to say, if any requisition is received for a road it is sent on to the Colonial Secretary for his approval.
497. How is Mr. Davies the executive then? What I meant when I applied that term to him was that he did the whole of the office work for us. He is permanently there.
498. You are sure that the Boundary Road is impracticable? I do not think I used the word impracticable? I think it would never be utilized for a road even if it were made; because the grades are too steep.
499. You think in the interests of the public that the Junction Road should have been made, instead of the Boundary Road? Certainly, from an engineering point of view, because the Junction Road is always a good road.
500. *Mr. M. Millan.*] You think that the Junction Road should have been made in the interests of the future sale of the Crown lands? Yes.
501. *Mr. Henry Clarke.* How much of the Crown lands here do you consider good? Well, it is pretty good on the table-lands between the creeks.
502. If that is so, do you not think that a continuation of road A would have been sufficient to give access to the Crown lands? That would be quite impracticable for the reasons I have already pointed out.
503. *Chairman.*] Looking at the plan, do you consider that the roads coloured red are amply sufficient to give access to the Crown lands? I think so. The idea with regard to roads B, C, D, E, and F, is that a road should be taken up between each creek on to the better portions of the Crown lands.

504. If any other roads have been constructed, they are not, in your opinion, necessary to give access to the Crown lands? Any more than to give more frontages in opening up the land.
505. Take the bend in H road running from the Lane Cove Road—if a road were continued further to the northward, and if about 4 or 5 chains further on a road ran east and west intersecting, it would be a necessary road of access? I do not think so. These roads depend upon the surveyor laying out the roads. The roads shown give general access to the land.
506. And are amply sufficient? For opening up the land.
507. Have you any knowledge of the amount of clearing and road forming, which has been done by the Casual Labour Board upon this estate? I think there is about $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles, if I remember right.
508. If it has been stated that there have been only 24 chains of road forming, and 53 chains of road formed and ballasted, would that be a correct answer? The clearing, of course, is outside that. I think the answer you have read is about right. Mr. O'Donnell knows—he is the one who ought to know.
509. You would rely upon Mr. O'Donnell's statement? It can be easily verified in the office.
510. *Mr. Brunker.*] If Colonel Wells furnished and initialled the answer given by me in the House, and read just now by the Chairman, would it be likely to be correct? Yes.
511. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] You say that there are only $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles of road formation and ballasting on this property? I am speaking from memory.
512. Do you know the length of road I? I do not.
513. Do you know the total length of the Junction Road? No.
514. When you say $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles, you refer to the whole of the property here—to the property belonging to Mr. Harnett and others, as well as to the property belonging to Mr. Burns? I daresay there would be a greater length than I have given on the whole of the property.
515. As a matter of fact, is there not nearly 7 miles? No.
516. What should you make the distance approximately? $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles.
517. *Mr. Copeland.*] Do I understand you to say that no petitions have been presented in connection with these roads? I could not say that from memory.
518. You will find a petition among the printed papers—can you tell us whether the signature of George Withers to that petition, is the signature of George Withers, one of the proprietors of the Hornsby Estate? I could not say.
519. You will find that this document is sent from one official to another, and that it eventually finds its way to Mr. Burns from the Casual Labour Board with the following intimation:—"Enclosed herewith you will please find tracing of roads recommended to the Board by their local officer at Hornsby, to give better access to the adjacent Crown lands. Should yourself and partners have no objections to the opening of these roads marked A, B, and C, instructions will be given to have them commenced forthwith;" which are the roads referred to as A, B, and C? I think you will find that they are shown upon the plan on Appendix B.
520. Can you tell the Committee how any of the other roads have originated? I could not say.
521. You cannot tell us who authorized them and who applied for them? I could not say from memory.
522. You remember about roads A, B, and C? Yes, I remember Mr. Gordon's letter.
523. How wide are these roads ballasted? Generally 18 feet, but sometimes only 15 feet.
524. The roads are cleared a chain wide? Yes; when I first took charge they were forming them 40 feet wide; I reduced it to 30 feet and sometimes to 27 feet; in some cases we have ballasted only 15 feet wide, allowing just room for a dray to pass.
525. What is the cost of clearing? £7 an acre.
526. And of forming? It varies. Sometimes it is as low as 8s. a chain. Generally it would be about 12s.
527. What did you pay for the metal? About 1s. 6d. for getting, and 1s. 6d. for breaking.
528. You mean by the cubic yard? Yes; it runs about a cubic yard to the yard lineal.
529. The yard lineal would be about 5 or 6 yards in width? Yes.
530. And the ballasting would be about 6 inches thick? Yes; we put it on as thin as we can. It is in reality only a skin.
531. How do you calculate the cost of the culverts? They are tendered for, and the lowest tenders accepted. In some cases we have put in causeways.
532. You say that you do not know Mr. Burns? I was introduced to him once, and seeing him the next day I did not know him.
533. Did he ever meet you on the ground? I never saw him or any member of the firm on the ground. Mr. O'Donnell, our own officer, is the only person I ever met on the ground.
534. You are not in the habit of going there frequently? I go only when there is heavy work to do.
535. *Chairman.*] Where were you when you were introduced to Mr. Burns? I was in the street somewhere. I was with Mr. Davies at the time.
536. And Mr. Burns came up? Yes; I was simply introduced. I do not think I spoke to him.
537. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Let me call your attention to road H. Can you tell us why it is made in this peculiar dog-legged fashion? Mr. Gordon is responsible for that.
538. You cannot tell us any reason for that? No. We relied upon him greatly at the start as the officer who had been in charge. He knew the unemployed, and he knew the whole of the roads in the district. We were to a great extent dependant upon him for information in regard to the laying out of the roads.
539. You implied in answer to Mr. M'Millan that roads H and I might have been made to touch the railway? As a matter of fact they cross the railway.
540. Are there any stations or platforms at the end of these roads? Not that I am aware of.
541. *Mr. Brunker.*] Are the platforms and stations defined yet? That, I could not say.

D. Houison,
Esq.
21 Nov., 1888.

TUESDAY, 27 NOVEMBER, 1888.

Present:—

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| MR. BRUNKER, | MR. COPELAND, |
| MR. H. CLARKE, | MR. O'SULLIVAN, |
| MR. STREET. | |

THOMAS WALKER, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Charles John Lester, called in, sworn, and examined:—

- C. J. Lester. 542. *Chairman.*] Are you an officer under Mr. Deering? Yes.
543. You bring some papers here? Yes, five sets of papers and three plans.
- 27 Nov., 1888. 544. All of them relating to the lands situated at Hornsby on which the unemployed have been working? Yes.
545. What does each set of papers refer to? The first paper is Mr. J. F. Burns' letter to the Department *re* road-clearing work being done by the Casual Labour Board. The next refers to the reserve at Hornsby.
546. That is the Government reserve? Yes. The third has reference to a road through Bellamy's grant; the next to a reserve for Court-house and Police Station at Hornsby; and the next to a site for a public school at Hornsby.
547. What are the plans? One is a plan of part of reserve 47, parish of South Colah; the second is a litho. of a tracing forwarded to the Hon. John Davies, C.M.G., signed by Mr. W. M. Gordon, Government Surveyor; and the third is a litho. of the Government Hornsby Estate, with sale prices.
548. You know nothing further of the matter beyond these papers? No.

William Matheson Gordon called in, sworn, and examined:—

- W. M. Gordon. 549. *Chairman.*] You are a Government surveyor? Yes.
550. Under whose instructions are you now working—under general Government instructions? Under Mr. Deering.
- 27 Nov., 1888. 551. Was it under Mr. Deering's instructions that you surveyed the roads that the unemployed have been working upon at Hornsby? I never surveyed any of them, except one, then merely laying out about 5 chains of it with a compass.
552. Which road on the map did you survey? I believe it is marked E here.
553. The road from the Junction Road to the Boundary Road? Yes, I believe that is the one; I am not positive.*
554. At all events it is one of these running north from Junction Road to Boundary Road? Yes. I merely put up a compass on Boundary Road, and gave 5 chains for a start.
555. Do you know anything further about the other roads marked on the tracing? Those marked in red? 556. Yes—do you know by whom they were surveyed, and when they were surveyed? I do not know. I do not know whether they were ever surveyed. I do not know whether they are marked.
557. Your name is appended to the plan? Yes. This plan was compiled by myself from an inspection of the ground, not from a survey at all. I never made a survey except that I designed the Crown lands at the north. From what information I could get from our own office and the Lands Titles Office, I compiled this tracing so that it is not of course thoroughly correct as regards scaling. I generally, when any of my sketches are not made accurately, mention that it is a sketch-tracing—it is good enough for purposes of illustration.
558. Do you know anything of the origin of these roads, with the exception of the one marked E, which you surveyed? I do not know by whom they were surveyed, with the exception of A, which was marked by the Government surveyor. Previously to the roads being marked by Mr. Perdriau I had the instructions.
559. You know nothing about Junction Road? Nothing whatever as regards the survey.
560. How long is it since you compiled this sketch-tracing? This is my report of the 28th January. It must have been between the 26th and 28th January. I do not know whether I prepared one before that.
561. Is this the latest you compiled? Yes. I would like to state that I am totally unprepared for any evidence. I only arrived from Melbourne on Friday. I was recalled before my leave was up, and I have not had an opportunity to get anything together. Yesterday I tried to get the papers, but I found that Mr. Deering had them, and that places me at a disadvantage.
562. If you had possession of these papers, would you be able to state anything further as to the origin of these roads;—does your memory serve you to say whether you have any knowledge of the origin of these roads? No; but as to any additional evidence you might require, it might not be possible for me to give it, on account of not having the information, and being taken at a disadvantage.
563. Could you tell us, in the event of any roads not being shown upon this plan, who would have surveyed them? I have not the slightest idea of anyone having surveyed any roads since I laid out road E.
564. Would you say that this is the latest plan that there is of the roads in existence there? It is the latest I compiled, and contained only the road then existing.
565. You are not aware that anyone has compiled any since? I am not.
566. Would it be possible? Mr. Davies, the Chairman of the Board, used generally to send to me when he wanted a tracing compiled on the latest information.
567. You have given Mr. Davies the latest information? Yes, at the time of my inspection.
568. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] So far as I can gather from your replies, all that you are responsible for is the making of the tracing? As regards the plan.
569. But your name is attached to it? Yes; I made some recommendations in connection with the tracing.
570. Will you kindly state what roads you recommended? I recommended, if you will refer to Appendix A, that the roads marked A, B, and that part of Vanceville Road, which is marked C and F, should be cleared, and that the Junction Road, from the station through to Vanceville Road, should be ballasted. It was already cleared. The roads A, B, and C, were given by the owners of the land. 571.

* NOTE (on revision):—Having viewed the land since, I am positive about road E.

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571. You never made a recommendation about Junction Road, except that it should be ballasted? That is all.
572. Who recommended road E? Roads D and E* are mine also.
573. Will you kindly state why you recommended this road E on Appendix A in this dog-legged fashion? Only because it was the most practicable road laid down in the subdivision.
574. Road E is road H upon Appendix E; you recommended that road H should be laid out? I did not recommend that it should be laid out—it was already laid out. I merely recommended that it should be cleared.
575. Can you tell me who laid it out? I have not the slightest idea.
576. Did you have anything to do with road I? Yes, I recommended that also to be cleared.
577. Did you never recommend the laying of it out? No; I had nothing to do with it.
578. If neither you, nor Mr. Wells, nor Mr. Houson, recommended the laying out of these roads, have you any idea who did recommend them? I do not know who marked them out, and I have no idea who authorized them to be marked out.
579. You have no knowledge of the party who recommended the laying out of roads I and H? I am perfectly certain that I never heard of anybody recommending them.
580. Who first brought them under your notice? I was asked by Mr. Davies, Chairman of the Casual Labour Board, to proceed to Hornsby to see whether there were any other roads that could be cleared advantageously to the Crown lands, giving increased access.
581. And you think Mr. Davies laid out these roads? No; I do not think so.
582. Did he order the laying of them out? I could not say. I know nothing about the laying of them out.
583. We have a map here containing a number of roads that do not appear on your plan—will you kindly explain to the Committee how it is that your plan appears without these roads? The fact is easily seen. This plan of mine was prepared in January, 1888. Since that I have not been called upon to prepare any additional tracings or plans of the country. In fact, I have not been up there since 28th January, 1888.
584. At the time you drew up your plan it was correct? It was correct up to date.
585. Then the additional roads marked on Mr. Deering's plan have been constructed since you drew up your sketch in January, 1888? That has evidently been compiled from my tracing, from information since received.
586. If these roads are now existing there, they have been constructed since you drew up your plan, and that is the reason why they do not appear upon it? Yes.
587. You had nothing whatever to do with these additional roads? Nothing whatever.
588. *Chairman.*] Do you know anything at all about them? No.
589. Do you know that they exist? I have not been up there since. I went up once, up the Lane Cove Road and over the railway, to see Mr. O'Donnell. I did not see any of these roads until one Sunday, when I was asked to go up and pick out some allotments for some friends, and then I merely rode across the land diagonally.
590. Then you have not been up officially since January, 1888? No.
591. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Do you know who has been in charge of the men there? Mr. O'Donnell, I believe, has been in charge from the start of the works.
592. Have you any knowledge of Boundary Road? Yes, I know Boundary Road well.
593. Do you think that road is passable, or that it could be made passable at a moderate cost? No; I think it would be impossible to make Boundary Road; it would not be trafficable.
594. It would not pay for making? No, and it was a blind road leading from nowhere to nowhere.
595. You considered that, Boundary Road not being worth making, Junction Road was justifiable? Certainly at the time.
596. And the tributary roads from Junction Road, leading into the Crown lands, were justifiable? Most certainly.
597. Supposing the Government had not done this at all, and the proprietors of this estate had subdivided it and cut it up in the usual way, would not they have made these roads themselves? Well, I do not know, I am sure; that would rest entirely with their own surveyor. In designing the property they would design it to their best advantage.
598. Would not they lay it out with roads in such a way as to make it as saleable as possible? Most decidedly; but then, probably, they would not have given us the same access as we have now, because everyone of these roads are laid out to tap each spur between the gullies, and that is what we seek for in all our sub-divisions.
599. Bearing in mind the prospective population on the Crown lands would the owners of this estate not have laid their roads so as to serve the Crown property, and make their property more valuable? Well, private owners when they are subdividing their property do not give the Government the benefits we give them, as might be seen in the case of the late auction sales. At Gordon I recommended some roads two years ago, and offered to get them cleared, if the owners would give us the roads without compensation. Through some misunderstanding, however, in the Department, these roads were let slip, and the Government have had to purchase roads within 8 chains and 50 links† of each other. I may mention some of the roads in Archibald's block, where we gave access to the Gordon lands off the Lane Cove Road, to show that wherever we can get a chance of getting a road from a private owner previously to any auction sale, even though it be a couple or three years before one, we take it. I have had lots of this work at Narrabeen and Hornsby.
600. *Chairman.*] You are alluding to lands taken merely for the purpose of access to Crown lands? Yes; generally we get them through the Casual Labour Board. I ask the Casual Labour Board whether they will clear the roads before I ask the owners if they will give us the land without compensation.
601. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Allowing for all that, is it not probable that the owners of this estate would have laid out roads that must give access to the Crown lands? I do not know. The owners could have shut the roads against the Government. They could run them half-way, and debar us from all access, and the Government would then have to purchase or resume under the Parish Roads Act.
602. If they resorted to so extreme a step as that, would they not be injuring themselves by diverting the

* NOTE (on revision) :—E on Appendix "E" is similar to B on Appendix "A."

† NOTE (on revision) :—Speaking more correctly from scaling on plan, about 13 chains.

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the traffic that would naturally make their property more valuable? I have no doubt they would; but when a private owner is subdividing he knows that the Crown have lands above him or on one side of him, and if he thinks he has a chance of getting £100 an acre for the land, it is not likely that he will hand it over for nothing, as has been exemplified at Gordon.

603. *Chairman.*] Perhaps it may be just as well if you tell us whether you know anything of the boundaries given on Mr. Deering's plan of the property of Burns and Company? Mr. Deering's plan is only a copy of my own.

604. Are the properties shaded with green lines those belonging to Burns and Company? I have not the slightest idea. I cannot tell you a block that Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith own.

605. But if that is a copy of your plan? That may be a copy of my plan; but, as I said before, that plan is not correct, and those blocks are not correct.

606. But as a sketch, without giving strict accuracy as to measurement, is that correct;—is it approximately correct? The only part I know anything about is that piece of land near the station. I cannot answer for the others; I do not know who the owners are. Half of the road marked H, I believe, was given by Mr. Harnett.

607. *Mr. H. Clarke.*] Who instructed you to survey these roads? I never surveyed them at all.

608. You never surveyed them? Except merely to give a start to road E.

609. This plan is signed by you? It is signed as a sketch-tracing attached to the report. We generally state on a plan that it was surveyed by so and so between such and such dates.

610. Can you say you gave instructions to clear and form any of these roads? I only know the one road.*

611. Which one is that? Junction Road. That was done as a leading road, from which the others would be tributaries.

612. Does Junction Road go entirely through private property? Yes.

613. The whole of it? Yes.

614. Was it possible to get the road, marked A, into the Crown lands? It was impossible.

615. How far is the road made along the Boundary Road? I do not know; I have not been along there.

616. Is it practicable to make a road from the Hornsby Station along Boundary Road to the road marked F? You could make a road, but it would never be trafficable. You could not drive along it, the grades would be too steep, especially over Spring Gully Creek and the next creek. There are four gullies before you come to Bobbin Rock Road.

617. But could not the road be made, if you went to a considerable expense in doing so? It would take all the money that the Crown lands would ever bring to make that Boundary Road. Even then I doubt if you could make it over Lovers' Jump Creek.

618. If these lands are so barren, and there is such a difficulty in making a road, can you say why it was necessary to give access to it by making roads through private property? It was only to improve these lands, which are no worse than lands which have been already sold. Some of the lands on the top of the ridges are very good.

619. Have you any idea of the expense of making the roads through private lands? I have not any idea. I never went into the question of the expense of making roads. It is not in my line at all.

620. It is usual to clear, ballast, and form roads on private property? We have done it in many instances. The Casual Labour Board have done it.

621. *Chairman.*] Has it been done outside the Casual Labour Board? I do not know that we have ever done it. The only other formation we did was under Mr. Deering; we did a little ballasting here and there on the Field of Mars.

622. *Mr. H. Clarke.*] Has it been done by the Lands Department on any other occasion that you remember? I do not know that we have ever done it. We did a little ballasting here and there on the Field of Mars.

623. *Chairman.*] But that was on Government land—the Field of Mars? Yes.

624. *Mr. Street.*] Is it customary, when roads are required through private lands to reach Crown lands, for the owners of those lands to make those roads a free gift to the Government? It is not customary at all. I do not know of an instance where it has been done, unless we have promised them something.

625. Do you know of any sums of money being paid for lands for roads? Yes.

626. Will you give an instance of one? The road leading from Munro's south-east corner, 40-acre grant, on the Lane Cove Road, along the north boundary of Archibald's, and across the railway line to the Lane Cove Road, for which, I believe, £100 an acre was paid.

627. What area was that? Two acres. There was also another road about 8 chains and 50 links* below that, parallel to the same road, given to the Government on the understanding that an overhead bridge would be erected over the railway line, and they would give so much, I think £200, to assist in the construction.

628. *Chairman.*] Were there any special features in that, that you should require a road in that vicinity;—were there any other roads on the same land? There was a road recommended by me further south, and a much better road, and it would have answered instead of the latter road I referred to, a dead level road. The road I laid out was not a very practicable road; it would require a considerable amount of money spent on it, and it is right up the centre of a subdivision, or of an intended subdivision belonging to a company, and was made without any report as to the practicability of the road.

629. *Mr. Street.*] Then, within your knowledge, for all roads taken through lands belonging to private owners by the Government, to lead to Government lands, the owners in every case receive some consideration? Yes, every one that I can bring to recollection at the present time.

630. Either in the way of purchase money, or by formation? Yes; or by clearing and making.

631. I think you said you recommended the formation of these roads, D, E, F, leading to the Crown lands? The clearing of them.

632. What was the object of them? If you have visited the ground you will see that each of these roads give access to the spurs leading between these gullies, branches of the Cowan Creek, leading to the population boundary.

633. Would it be possible to get access to the table-lands without those roads? I think it is impossible. E is a main road, I think, as far down as the salt water.

634. Junction Road was already formed? It was cleared.

635.

* See note to
Question 599.

* NOTE (on revision):—I never gave an instruction to carry out any of the roads; it was recommendations only, and that recommendation was to ballast Junction Road; clearing was already done.

635. Can you tell us if D, E, and F, are of the slightest advantage to the owners of that private land? I hardly think so, because they cannot very well subdivide those blocks and make frontages to them. Their frontage will be to Junction Road, which they could have done very easily without. As far as I can see, they only require the one frontage. Even if they cut up the land into three or five acre blocks, they have strips abutting on to the Crown lands. I do not see what necessity there is for them to have these side blocks, except to give access to people at the back.

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636. Having got the frontages to Junction Road, the roads B, C, D, E, and F, are in your opinion not of the slightest value to the owners of this private land? I cannot say at the present time that there is any more value to them, because they have given them so close together. C and D, for instance, are pretty close together, but they lead, however, to different sides of a gully, if I remember rightly, but I am not positive whether these gullies are in their right places.

637. These roads having been cleared and formed, do you consider that they have given any increased value to the Crown lands? I should never have recommended them, had they not.

638. *Mr. Brunker.*] How did you first become associated with the business? With the unemployed?

639. Yes—with regard to this making of roads? I do not exactly remember the date.* I was working at Hornsby about the middle of October; I am not certain of the year. It was the October prior to when I went to Kurnell.

640. *Chairman.*] Was it prior to the coming into existence of the Labour Bureau? It was prior to that. Before I had anything to do with the unemployed at all I was marking and subdividing roads up here, and everything was left unfinished, in a state of chaos, when I was called away from there, without a moment's notice, by Mr. Deering, to go to Kurnell with 800 or 900 of the unemployed. From that date I have always been associated with the unemployed in some way.

641. *Mr. Brunker.*] You say you made no survey of any of these roads? None whatever.

642. That plan submitted is only a design you presented to the Casual Labour Board? Yes, a sketch tracing.

643. Made in the office? Not in our office—not in the Lands Office; in my own office.

644. You made no survey; you simply submitted a design? That is all.

645. Was that design acted upon? The recommendations I made were carried out.

646. Was any work carried out beyond your recommendations? I have not the slightest idea. I have not been up there for some considerable time. I have no idea about what has been done.

647. What was your object in preparing that design? I always forward a sketch of everything I do, to guide those who may be interested in what has been done, and I sent that tracing to Mr. Davies. I was requested to prepare the tracing for Mr. Davies.

648. You must have seen that these cross-roads were necessary? Most decidedly, or I could never have put them in.

649. I want to know what your object was? To give access from the road to the Crown lands.

650. And, knowing the locality, you believed that they would have that effect? I did most certainly.

651. You said that Boundary Road is not practicable; that you did not think it could be made available for traffic; if Boundary Road had been made and formed instead of Junction Road, is it not a fact that Burns, Withers, and Smith would have had the same frontage as they have now from the formation of Junction Road without having lost the land? Of course, they would have a frontage to Boundary Road.

652. If Boundary Road had been formed, would they not have had a frontage to it for their own land without the loss of the land taken for Junction Road? Most decidedly.

653. *Chairman.*] Do not they gain two frontages now? Yes; that is true.

654. *Mr. Brunker.*] Do you know what area is taken from Junction Road? I cannot tell.

655. Approximately? Roughly, I suppose there would be about 150 chains.

656. What is the width of the road? About a chain.

657. How much land would be there? About 15 acres.

658. What is it worth an acre? It is a very difficult matter to say. I suppose land up there is worth £120 an acre for orchard land.

659. You know the Vanceville Road? Yes.

660. Is that a public road? I do not know whether it is a public road in the meaning of the Act, although it was maintained by the Roads Department to a certain distance. It was cleared and formed to a certain distance, but I do not know whether that constitutes it a public road. I do not know whether it has ever been proclaimed.

661. Had you anything to do with the forming and metalling of these roads? Nothing, except as far as recommending that Junction Road be ballasted.

662. Did you recommend that any other roads should be metalled? Not to my recollection.

663. To whom did you make the recommendation? To Mr. Davies.

664. Have you seen the plan submitted by Mr. Deering this morning? Yes.

665. You see the roads that have been formed there? Yes.

666. From your knowledge of the locality, do you think that those roads which are shown are made essentially in the public interest? There is a lot of roads here I do not know anything about. Particularising them, I think I could manage to give a very good idea.

667. You know the locality as a Government surveyor, and having been over the land so frequently, you ought to understand the locality as well from the plan as if you were on the ground? Yes. Burns Road had evidently been made with the intention of connecting with the Bobbin Rock Road that comes across Pymble's grant. There are 30 chains marked cleared, running from H to E. Continued southerly, there is a road of 28 chains cleared, formed, and metalled, running from Junction Road to Peat's Ferry Road. That, I do not know anything of.

668. You do not know anything about the land adjoining? I do not know whom it belongs to. The roads running easterly from the Hornsby Station to the western extremity of Boundary Road, and also the roads between B and the Hornsby Station, I do not know anything of.

669. Is it probable that those roads were designed for the purpose of giving access to the Hornsby Railway Station? It would appear to me from this plan that they were.

670. From Pearce's Corner to North Shore do you know whether there are any platforms authorized? The only one I know of is a platform on the road marked H HH.

671.

* NOTE (on revision):—The date I since found out to be 1st November, 1886.

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671. Above the Lane Cove Road? Yes. That is the only one I know of along the line.
672. You said you had nothing to do with the survey? Nothing.
673. How did you localize the roads when you first went on to the ground? In the first instance, I got a tracing from the Lands Office. I produce my original. These black lines on the plan are in the original subdivision and plan in the Titles Office.
674. *Mr. Copeland.*] I believe you have made a good many subdivisions for the Government? Yes.
675. That has been your principal duty for a long time past? Yes.
676. Did you ever make any subdivisions on Government lands without providing the necessary roads for access;—in other words, did you ever make a subdivision without cutting the land up into blocks by means of roads intersecting it in all directions? No.
677. In point of fact you could not make a subdivision unless you made roads? No.
678. Can you tell us of any instance where any private company have made a subdivision without making roads;—in other words, is it possible for a private company to subdivide land without making roads? No.
679. That being the case, what necessity was there for the Government to provide these roads in subdividing private owners' land;—would not the private owners themselves have been compelled to make these roads? I think some of these roads were provided before the unemployed went there at all.
680. What roads can you specify which were not previously provided for in the subdivision? D H H, the whole length of Junction Road, and all those pieces running northerly from Junction Road, B, C, D, E, and the short piece north of the Vanceville Road marked F.*
681. You obtained the whole of these roads from the syndicate? I obtained some of them. I did not get them all.
682. Who got the others? As far as I can understand the Casual Labour Board got the others.
683. Is the road D H H the only road you obtained? I obtained that and the E road further to the right.†
684. Those are all you obtained? Yes.
685. From your knowledge of subdividing do you suppose that the private owners would have made these roads if you had not done so? They might have made roads, but they might have been made in a way that would not have suited us. The roads run out on to the middle of the spurs, and if they had been put 23 or 30 chains, for instance, to the east or west they would have run us into sidelings. The access then would not have suited us at all.
686. Would they not have had the sense to lay out the land in such a way as to make the roads continue yours, as it were;—in subdividing land do you not take all these things into consideration? I do, and I have often been taken to task for taking roads along private boundaries instead of the private owners giving half. You will find that this is the case in many subdivisions with which I have been connected.
687. Who gave the Boundary Road? That was designed by me in my subdivision of the Crown lands some years ago.
688. The Crown gave the whole of the Boundary Road? Yes; I will tell you how it came to be laid out if you like. When I first went out there there was some dispute about that boundary——
689. What I want to know is whether the Government charged the owners of this private land anything for giving them this frontage? It is only a designed road at the present time.
690. It is surveyed up as far as Spring Gully Creek? Yes.
691. And on the Government providing the Boundary Road they gave the owners of the private land the benefit of the one frontage? Yes.
692. I thought you said just now that the property-owners got no frontage benefit so far as Junction Road was concerned? Oh no, because, of course, they got the advantage of the second frontage.
693. Did they not get the whole benefit of 4 miles of frontage along the Junction Road? Well, yes, I suppose so.
694. In subdividing land, would it not be one of the objects of the owners to get as much frontage as possible? Yes; they always endeavour to do so.
695. In making the subdivisions, is it not to their interest to make as many roads as possible, so that they may multiply their frontages? Yes.
696. And in the case of the roads to which you have been referring, you have provided the owners of the private land at the public expense with a double frontage? Yes; that is very true, but we have to do it in many instances. We cannot help ourselves.
697. Can you tell us of many instances in which the Government have made roads through private property? We have made a lot at Narrabeen.
698. Can you give us any instances before the Casual Labour Board were brought into existence? No; I cannot call to mind at the present time anything of that kind.
699. Take the subdivision of Harbord? Well, we did there. You will perhaps recollect, Mr. Copeland, that you were down there, and that you objected to our making roads from Pittwater through private land. I think you had the work stopped, and said that you would make inquiries into the matter. The road was pretty nearly complete, but I do not think they did anything more to it after that time.
700. In the subdivisions at Beecroft and at the Field of Mars, did the Government make any roads through private lands? I cannot call to mind anything of that kind being done.
701. Then I think you can safely say that up to the time of the Casual Labour Board coming into existence the Government had not resorted to the practice of improving private lands in this way? It certainly has never been done to my knowledge.
702. You estimate the value of the land taken to form the Junction Road at £120 an acre? Well, I cannot flatter myself that I am able to give you a very accurate idea.
703. Do you know at what price the Government land at Hornsby was sold? I could not say.
704. I have a map showing that the land fetched from £30 to £70, or £100 an acre. Will you tell me at what you value the Crown lands to the eastward of Spring Gully Creek? The level land at the top of the ridges might realize as high a price as £50, and the rougher land would perhaps go at as low as £15.

705.

* NOTE (on revision):—Southernmost H on Appendix "E" was provided for by the owners.

† NOTE (on revision):—I did not obtain H H, and from what I now recollect northernmost H was cleared prior to my recommendation to clear southernmost H and part of Burns-street.

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705. If Mr. Deering estimated the value of the land at from £2 to £10 per acre, that would be too low? Yes; I should think so.
706. You said just now that the Boundary Road was impracticable;—where is it impracticable? Well, over the Spring Gully Creek, in the first instance. The next gully is very bad, and then there is another at the north-east corner which would be impassable almost.
707. Do you say that the Spring Gully Creek is impassable? Well, it would be possible to make a road there, but it would never be of use. As far as I can recollect, I have been on that road only once since it has been cleared.
708. You have had some experience of country roads, I suppose? Yes.
709. Have you had any experience in the making and laying out of roads there? No. I am not from my position called upon to give an estimate as to whether a road is or not a good one. All that I do is to lay out roads to the best of my ability.
710. What should you estimate would be the cost of cutting through the eastern slope of Stony Gully Creek? That is beyond my knowledge.
711. Would it be more expensive to make that cutting and to complete this bad piece of road than to clear, form, and metal the whole two miles of Junction Road? Yes. I do not think it would cost nearly as much to make the Junction Road—that is, as far as my knowledge goes. There is nothing difficult about the Junction Road. There is not a bad grade on it.
712. Where is there a bad grade on the Boundary Road except at Spring Gully Creek? Well, there is a good stiff grade from the eastern boundary of Bellamy's.
713. Is it not a good road from the railway to Spring Gully Creek? I have not been on the road myself for a long time. I was totally unprepared for this examination. I have not been there for nearly twelve months.
714. I understand that the Crown lands are too rough to permit of a road being continued through them from road A? Oh, yes.
715. If this land is so rough, where is the utility of the Government spending so much money in order to reach it? Well, we were endeavouring to improve the value of the Crown lands in just the same way that we did at Gordon.
716. To improve the private or the Crown lands? I have been from the first moved by a desire to improve the Crown lands.
717. Do you know of any other instance in which the Government have deliberately gone away from the Crown lands which it was desired to improve, and have spent the public money in the improvement of the private lands? Not on the north side of the harbour.
- 717½. You said just now that you were ordered to open up a road at Narrabeen belonging to private owners;—where was that road? It was through the property of Mr. James Wheeler and Miss Jenkind.
718. Did you submit your recommendation to Mr. Deering before carrying out the road? I do not quite recollect how it came about.
719. Were you ever authorized to take upon your own shoulders this responsibility in connection with the expenditure of public money? I certainly never did any work unless I had proper instructions. It is true they were verbal instructions, and I have nothing to show for them.*
720. Who gave them to you? Mr. Deering.
721. Did he tell you to make what roads you liked? When we gave up the unemployed he promised the Casual Labour Board every assistance in his power. He asked me whether I would do the same thing, and my willingness was expressed in just the same way. Colonel Wells and Mr. Houson were also told by Mr. Deering that if at any time they wanted me they could command my services, or words to that effect were used.
722. But is it the practice in the Department for gentlemen occupying the position you occupy to give orders on their own responsibility for the making of roads and the expenditure of large sums of public money without submitting the proposal to a superior officer? A lot of latitude was allowed me. When Mr. Deering first took charge of the unemployed he put me in charge of everything. I had charge of the men, and I used to give to Mr. Deering the cheques to sign, explaining to him what the expenditure was for. I used sometimes to order from £200 to £300 worth of tools. I did a great deal upon my own responsibility. When we gave up the unemployed Mr. Deering handed my services to a certain extent over to the Casual Labour Board for the carrying out of the rest of the work.
723. When you took upon yourself the responsibility of spending public money upon private lands, did you first submit the proposal to your superior officer? It was only recommendations which I made in the first instance. They had to be considered by the Board. Of course I did not submit the recommendations to Mr. Deering, because he was not in charge of the work. The Board asked me whether in the interests of the Crown lands such and such things were necessary, and as I had such a knowledge of the district I made recommendations.
724. You recommended to the Casual Labour Board that these roads should be opened up at the expense of the public? Yes, some of them.
725. *Mr. Brunker.*] And the Board confirmed your recommendations? Yes. The matters were known to Mr. Deering, of course. I had no interest in doing anything underhand or doing anything without Mr. Deering's knowledge. He is my superior officer.
726. I believe that a good many roads are now made of which you know nothing? Yes.
727. Therefore you cannot say who authorized them? I know nothing about them.
728. You were connected only with the Junction Road, with road HH, and with E road? Yes. E road will eventually be a main road through the Crown lands, past the population boundaries, to the water.
729. When you were expending this public money on roads, how is it that you did not expend it upon the Crown lands? That was already done—that is to say, roads were made through the subdivision.
730. Are these roads metalled and culverted? From what I can understand, the roads are made all through.
731. But are they metalled? I do not know.
732. It is your opinion, speaking as a Government officer, that it was better policy to spend the public money in improving the private estates than to spend it upon the Crown lands? That is not my opinion, and it is not what I have been led to do in anything I have done.
733. You thought it better policy to spend the money in making roads through the private property than
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*NOTE (on revision):—It was never in my power to expend public money whilst in connection with the unemployed.

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in making them through the Crown lands? I think it is a good thing, in some instances, to expend money upon roads through private estates. We know that the owners benefit, but we are seeking at the same time to benefit the Crown lands.

734. How will these particular Crown lands be benefited by the making of these roads more than a mile away? Well, if you were to close Bellamy's Road and these roads running northerly from the Junction Road it would be impossible to get in or out of the Crown lands.

735. No one proposes to close Bellamy's Road? I know, but I was just instancing it.

736. There was something intelligible in opening up road A? It would open up only a small section of the Crown lands.

737. Has the continuation of road A through the Crown land been metalled? Not that I am aware of. I have not been on the Crown lands since the roads have been cleared.

738. Was it necessary in making these roads not only to form and metal them, but to put culverts into them, in order to give the desired access to these Crown lands? I thought at the time that the Junction Road would be really a good back-bone road from which we could divert the traffic on to the Crown lands from the Lane Cove Road. The work on many of the other roads I do not hold myself responsible for in any way.

739. Then you take upon yourself no responsibility for the road down to the hotel, for instance? No.

740. In making these minor roads—the road along the railway from Junction Road to A road, and these other subdivision roads—do you think, as a Government officer, it was a proper thing to expend the public money in metalling them, with the object of opening up the Crown lands? Of course, as I said, I had nothing to do with them; but as far as I can see at present, from a glance at the plan, there does not appear to be much necessity for some of the work you mention.

741. Would you take upon yourself the responsibility of recommending the expenditure of public money upon these roads? No.

742. And, as a matter of fact, you did not recommend them? No.

743. You think that there is no necessity in the interests of the sale of Crown lands? Not as far as I know, unless it was thought necessary to continue the Boundary Road through to the station. That is all I can see.

744. Supposing you had employed twice as many men, and had made twice as many roads, would it not have been an additional improvement to the private estate? Yes. Of course the more you do, the better for the owner's land.

745. *Mr. Brunker.*] Have you had any experience outside the Government service as to subdivision? I have had some experience in Victoria.

746. Have any cases come to your knowledge where the adjoining owners have made a reserve of a foot or two of land, so that the adjoining parties should not have the advantage of the road? I do not know of any case where they have taken advantage of the Government in that way.

747. But you know that it has occurred in private subdivisions? Yes.

748. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Do I understand that the proprietors of the Burns, Withers, and Smith property have given fifteen acres of land? Yes.

749. Is that for the Junction Road alone? Yes.

750. And I suppose they gave other land for other roads? Yes.

751. The fifteen acres of land at £120 per acre would be worth nearly £1,800? Yes.

752. But would they not have had to give this land if they had been subdividing their own property and making their own roads? If they had made their roads prior to the subdivision of the Crown lands, and if a plan showing the Junction Road had been lodged in the Titles Office, it would have been to a certain extent a proclaimed road, although it would not have been dedicated to the public.

753. In point of fact they had a plan of the subdivision lodged in the Lands Titles Office? There is the original plan. It was put in there many years ago.

754. Did the original plan lodged in the Lands Titles Office show the roads now marked on your plan? No.

755. Can you tell us the inception of these roads. You say that they were laid out, and that you simply ordered them to be cleared and made? Yes.

756. How did they originate? That is more than I can tell you.

757. A number of them you did not find in the original plan? No.

758. *Mr. Brunker.*] I suppose there was no subdivision of the estate when you took action? No, except the old subdivision.

759. Does that apply to the whole of the land in this estate or to only a portion of it? It applies only to the south-eastern portion.

760. *Chairman.*] In answer to Mr. Brunker, you stated that you received a communication from the Labour Board asking your opinion whether such and such a work would be advisable? Yes.

761. You received a communication from the Board asking for your recommendation then? Yes, most certainly.

762. And your recommendations were made at the solicitation of the Board? Yes.

763. In whose name were those communications addressed to you? Mr. John Davies, the Chairman of the Casual Labour Board.

764. Are not the roads shown upon your plan the roads which have been carried out by the Casual Labour Board of most advantage to the owners of private property, that is to say, if they had had to make the roads would they have adopted a plan similar to that here shown, considering the way that Hastings-street, Smith-street, and Billyard-street run. You will see that Burns Road and Junction Road are parallel, and that the roads E, D, and C are parallel with the Vanceville Road. Would it not have been to the advantage of the owners of this property to cut up the land in this form? If I were a private surveyor, and were subdividing for the owners of this land, I doubt if I should put in B, C, D, E, and F. I do not see what benefit is to be derived by the owners of the property from these roads. There might be some benefit in B, but I cannot see any in C, D, and E.

765. *Mr. Copeland.*] But is there not a double frontage? It is not of much use, because they have the Boundary Road and the Junction Road. A road at the side of an allotment does not make it so much more valuable.

766. Would you get a connection between Boundary Road and Junction Road except by those streets? What I wished you to understand was that they would not be of much good to private owners who would have frontages to Boundary Road. A side frontage does not increase the value of a block materially.

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767. *Mr. Brunker.*] I suppose the loss of the land in making these streets would not be counterbalanced by the increased return from the frontage, that is to say, it would pay the owners better to have one road instead of three? That is my idea.
768. *Chairman.*] These private lands of Messrs. Burns, Withers, & Smith, will improve in value as the alienation of the Crown lands proceeds? Yes.
769. Ultimately I suppose there will be settlement further to the eastward of the Boundary Road. Will the roads of access to this settlement from the Junction Road increase the value of the private property? I should imagine so; I think E will be a main road giving access to the water frontages.
770. Take the north-west portion of the Crown lands—it has been alienated—if settlement had taken place there, what would have been your roads of access if C and D had not been made? Of course you are referring now to only a small portion of the Crown lands, but I quite agree with you that these roads will indirectly benefit the private owners. The more traffic you bring through a man's property the better for him.
771. In subdividing do you ever make the blocks more than a quarter of a mile square? Not in town subdivisions.
772. You put roads round blocks at every quarter of a mile? Yes, as a rule—but we are guided a great deal by the nature of the country.
773. But take suburban divisions? I am taking Harbord for instance.
774. *Mr. Brunker.*] Is it not a fact that the roads are made to suit the character of the country? Yes.
775. *Mr. Copeland.*] How is it that you make these roads so frequently if there is nothing to be gained by having a certain quantity of frontage. Do you not think that these private owners would have made the roads to which I have been referring for the sake of the frontages? I suppose they would try to get as much frontage as possible. Of course, a great deal would depend upon the size of the blocks.
776. Do not private owners invariably create as much frontage as they can by making roads? Yes, I suppose so.
777. Would it not have paid the owners of this property to make the roads leading from Junction Road to Boundary Road in order to get the extra half-mile of frontage in each case? I admit that B, C, and D, are pretty close together. I don't quite see what necessity there was for the whole of those roads. If E, D, and B, had been left, there would, as far as I can see, have been an equal space between each of them.
778. Would it not have been to the interest of the owners to make C themselves in view of the extra half-mile of frontage which it would give them? Yes, I should think so.
779. You think that on account of the frontage alone they might have been induced to make the roads? It is possible that they might.
780. *Mr. Brunker.*] I suppose that the value of the frontage would depend upon the character of the adjoining land? Yes.
781. *Chairman.*] You say that the roads leading from the Junction Road are roads of access to the Crown lands? Yes.
782. Assuming that the Boundary Road is good as far as the first gully, is more than one road of access necessary into that road? If the road were thoroughly level perhaps B and C would not be necessary.

THURSDAY, 29 NOVEMBER, 1888.

Present:—

MR. BRUNKER,
MR. H. CLARKE,MR. O'SULLIVAN,
MR. STREET.

THOMAS WALKER, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

The Hon. John Davies, C.M.G., M.L.C., called in, sworn, and examined:—

783. *Chairman.*] You are the Chairman of the Casual Labour Board? Yes.
784. Could you briefly tell us the formation of that Board, its origin, and how you came to be connected with it? Perhaps the letter of instruction from Sir Henry Parkes will give you all the information you require in that respect.
785. This is the original of a copy sent in to the Committee by Colonel Wells? Yes.
786. Had you any conversation with Sir Henry Parkes, prior to the reception of this letter, with reference to the formation of this Bureau? Yes, merely as to whether I was prepared to undertake, in conjunction with two other gentlemen, the carrying out in detail the information contained in that letter of instruction.
787. Did he seek your services by letter, or personally? By note first. I personally waited upon him.
788. That was the first you heard of the matter? That was the first.
789. In entering upon these duties, what was your first work? We found that the work at that time was already in operation, under the control of Mr. Deering. There were about 4,010 on the several works at that time.
790. Have you any recollection as to how these 4,010 men were distributed? The different works at that time were at Dobroyd, Gordon, Hornsby, Beecroft, Carlingford, National Park, Heathcote, and Waterfalls.
791. Were all these men under Mr. Deering at that time? Yes.
792. And the Board took them over? We took them over from Mr. Deering—the men and the works that were then in progress.
793. And you continued the work? We continued the work on, and we established a different basis to that which had been in existence prior to our taking the control of the unemployed.
794. Did you have any formal meetings to consider the work that should be carried out? Yes.
795. Have you kept any minutes of those meetings? Minutes of the first meetings were recorded; but the professional members of the Board—Colonel Wells and Mr. Houson, are both employed in different departments of the public service, one in Roads, and the other in the Harbours and Rivers Department, and frequently the whole three of us could not meet. Perhaps Mr. Houson would come in, and he would acquiesce in what was done, and subsequently Colonel Wells would come in, and it would be reported to him, and he would approve of it. Nothing was done without the general concurrence of the whole Board.

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796. When you say that nothing was done without the concurrence of the whole Board, do you mean that they concurred after any work was initiated, or that they were asked to concur before? They were asked to concur before.

797. Have there been any instances where they have not been present and you have initiated works on your own responsibility? Only very small works, where men have been employed, and it has been reported to us by the overseer or surveyor-in-charge that it would be well to continue a road in certain directions, or to make certain improvements on the road. That has been done because it was a matter of small moment; but in large works the whole Board has been consulted, and its approval obtained.

798. When you say large work, how would you define a large work from the work of laying out roads similar to these, B and H? If that was reported to us by our overseer or superintendent-in-charge, and if the surveyor, Mr. Gordon, who was a very intelligent officer, recommended it, we would approve of it.

799. But that is scarcely an answer to my question;—there is this road, D H, which might or might not be of some importance, I want to know what distinction you would make? A road like that would come under the control of the Board, but any small matters, such as clearing a road suggested by the Cumberland ranger prior to the sale to give access to the ground, we did without a general conference.

800. That is to say you did it? Yes.

801. Still your answer is scarcely clear as to what you would consider the difference to be between a work you should feel it necessary to consult with your colleagues upon, and one which you would feel yourself qualified to order to be done without consultation? Well, that would not be making, it would be clearing. I do not profess to have any knowledge about road making, that is a professional knowledge I do not profess to have; but the matter of clearing a road that has been already defined does not require any professional skill.

802. Do you lay the stress on the difference as to whether a road is really formed or only cleared? Yes, that is the distinction.

803. In the matter of clearing, you feel yourself entitled to order any road to be cleared? Not any, but small roads, and even then afterwards to consult my colleagues and inform them of what has been done.

804. Was it any good asking your colleagues approval after the instructions had been given? Well, it was so small a matter, and one which required immediate action. We had thousands of men seeking employment, the surplus labour of the city, and I was obliged to find employment for these men. The matter could not wait.

805. Do you not consider it a defect in the Board that you could not have colleagues who could co-operate with you? In a matter of this kind I do not think it was a defect. I had full power to act.

806. Who gave you that power? I had the general consent of my colleagues.

807. That is to say they authorized you to do as you did? Yes; in small matters of that kind.

808. How did they give you to understand that they intended a small matter like that to be undertaken? The only way that I can give you an illustration is, as I have already told you, that if a road had been already defined, and that road led into Crown lands, all that I could undertake would be that the roads might be widened or cleared.

809. Did they pass any formal resolution? No formal resolution; I had only their general concurrence.

810. Only general concurrence;—do you mean that you simply had a private conversation with each one in turn? No. We met in the office, and they gave me power in cases of that kind to exercise my discretion to a limited degree.

811. How many meetings have you had at which the three of you were present? I suppose a hundred meetings.

812. At which the three have been present? Yes.

813. Was it at a meeting at which the three were present that you were authorized? I think there were only two present, Mr. Houison and myself; but it was reported to Colonel Wells afterwards, and he concurred.

814. What you did then was to have a conversation with Mr. Houison, and you simply told Colonel Wells of what you had done? Everything was done in our office, so far as the Board is concerned.

815. Have you ever originated any works yourself, and then consulted Mr. Houison or Colonel Wells, whichever came to you first, and then the other afterwards? Certainly not.

816. State what was the course you adopted? The practice has been that papers or petitions are sent direct from the Lands Office, through the Colonial Secretary's Office, to our Board. We subsequently send the papers on that come through that way to our officers for report. If the report justifies us we recommend the work to be carried out for the approval of the Colonial Secretary.

817. You mean to say that you have originated no works without receiving a petition or instruction from the Colonial Secretary? And then upon the reports of our officers I will give you for illustration the Narrabeen subdivision. A paper comes from the Lands Department to the Colonial Secretary, recommending that the land should be subdivided, the roads cleared, &c.

818. *Mr. Bruncker.*] Was that since the establishment of the Board? Yes; since the establishment of the Board. That paper was sent on to us from the Colonial Secretary, the Board being under the Colonial Secretary. We then sent it on to our officers to report as to the advisability of carrying out the works suggested. If our officers report that it would be to the advantage of the public that the works should be carried out, we, as a Board, recommend that the works should be approved of by the Colonial Secretary in order that the Board may carry them out. That is the usual practice.

819. *Chairman.*] Then, in each particular instance, you have got the sanction of the Colonial Secretary? In every case, except in two or three cases where we took work over, initiated by Mr. Deering. We simply continued the works on that had been initiated by this gentleman, who had charge of the unemployed, prior to the formation of the Board.

820. What roads of those marked red on the plan before you, have been either continued or originated by your Board? You mean as to forming and clearing?

821. As to forming or anything;—you might briefly describe them to us? All these roads.

822. So far as your connection with them is concerned? Yes.

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823. Whether in originating, clearing, forming, ballasting, or continuing? Yes; we have had to do with all these roads.
824. What roads have you originated of these? Well, we have originated most of these roads, as you will find on reference to the papers. We obtained reports from our officer, Mr. Gordon, recommending that these roads should be carried out in order to give access to the Crown lands, which were worthless without this access.
825. You have originated most of them? Very nearly the whole of them, with one or two exceptions. "A" road was done by Mr. Deering, I fancy. I am not sure, but I think that was the road Mr. Deering cleared, and he cleared Boundary Road, which was found to be impracticable.
826. What roads of these did you open or originate on petition? The Bobbing Rock Road, not shown on the plan, and the extension of the Vanceville Road. The lower portion of that road had been cleared and formed four or five years previously to that, and we continued it on a petition from the residents and property holders that it should be continued in the direction on the plan.
827. Have you got the petition asking for the continuation of Vanceville Road? I think it is amongst the papers.
828. What other roads were opened by petition? Another road was opened, road I, to join the Pennant Hills Road, and to avoid a long detour to get on to that road. It shortened the distance about half-a-mile.
829. That road was opened by petition? Yes.
830. Was there any petition for the road marked C? I do not think there was. That was opened on the recommendation and report of Mr. Gordon.
831. Was there any petition for the road D H H? No; I think not.
832. Was there any petition for Burns Road? A deputation, consisting of Mr. Noonan, who is a property holder, and several of the local people, waited upon the Board, and made representations that it would be of very great public utility and a great convenience to the farmers if the road were continued.
833. Were there any petitions for the roads B, C, D, E, F? No; these were done purely on the grounds that you will find contained in the report of Mr. Gordon, and they were borne out by the professional members of the Board, Mr. Houison and Colonel Wells.
834. On the tracing which you have before you are all the roads which the unemployed have cleared or formed shown? No; I think not.
835. Will you look at this sketch by Mr. Deering, showing all the roads, do you say that that is accurate? That is accurate, I think.
836. Accepting this map to be correct, had you any petition to continue road E to the south to Burns Road? I am not aware that we had; but there were frequent representations made by deputations from people residing in the district.
837. Did any deputation wait upon you in reference to that road? I could not say positively that they did.
838. About 5 chains from the junction of this road with Burns Road there is another road running between it and H, and parallel with Burns Road? Yes; but it does not run in that form. By a mistake the men started to clear that road, but it was only partly cleared. It runs in a zig-zag manner.
839. It was cleared by mistake? They started to clear it by mistake.
840. Was it continued by mistake? I think the overseer overtook them before it was very near done.
841. It is completed now? I think not.
842. So far as clearing is concerned? Only in a very partial way, and it does not run in a straight line.
843. Who laid that road out? It was not laid out at all, that is where the mistake was made. The men who started the work commenced at the wrong peg.
844. For what cause was this small road of about 5 chains, between the road we are now talking about and Burns Road, made? That was in the same way made by mistake. Instead of clearing along road H H H they continued straight on; but you will find that the overseer-in-charge will be able to give you more detailed information. It is impossible for me to give you detailed information about these mistakes. I could not live on the spot and control matters of that kind. I can only give you information as far as the general workings of the Board are concerned, what our operations have been, and the reasons which prompted the Board to carry out these roads.
845. What reason had you for carrying out the road running to the south from Junction Road, a little to the west of road B? That leads to a railway platform.
846. Was that its object? Yes.
847. Had you any petition for it? We had representations from the people in the district.
848. What originated the road parallel with the railway, between Junction Road and road A? We were simply adopting a system that had been in operation before we took office. At the Field of Mars, Beecroft, and Carlingford, roads were formed and cleared all along the line, and we merely continued the same practice here.
849. When you say "cleared along the line of railway," do you mean along the whole length of the line? Yes. The same principle has been adopted.
850. How is it that this road does not come further to the south then—that it happens to be just between road A and Junction Road? Because of private property intercepting it.
851. Where—to the south? Yes.
852. Is not that private property it goes through? A portion of it.
853. Does not the whole of it run through private property? Yes; but it has only been cleared.
854. Are they not putting culverts there? I think one or two pipe-drains have been put in to carry the water off; but there has been no ballasting or formation.
855. When you say "cleared," does not that imply something more than the cutting off of the timber and clearing it? It implies that we are going to put in pipe culverts.
856. Is not anything else going to be done? There may be a little formation; but no metal ballasting will be put on.
857. Then it is more than cleared if it goes so far as to be formed? Well, it is very trifling outside the clearing.
858. There is a road shown on the map continuing Boundary Road to the railway line;—is not that through private property? I am not aware; it may be. I may tell you that I know very little about the holders of the property. I did not know a man who owned an inch of land in this district. It was not my duty to inquire.

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859. Did you get any petition for opening that road? Representations were made to us by property owners in that district; by a gentleman who was going to embark in a public business, and others, asking that the road might be constructed to Boundary Road.

860. To the south of this road, between it and Boundary Road, and parallel to them, there is another road;—did you receive any petitions or representations for that road? We got representations, I think, from the forest ranger for that.

861. What were his representations? That it would be an advantage to Crown lands.

862. How could those two parallel roads be advantageous to Crown lands? I do not see how it could be a direct advantage. They only led into roads leading into the Crown lands.

863. Was there any necessity to have these roads so close together? The Board thought that it was an advantage to have as many roads as possible leading into Crown lands.

864. Do they lead into the Crown lands? Indirectly.

865. In the same way any number of repeated roads would have the same arguments in their favour? Well, I suppose the whole of the roads in the Colony would. They have to go through somebody's land.

866. But if they had cut the whole of this land into small blocks the argument would have been equally good for any one of them? No, it would not.

867. What are the special advantages? The road comes out direct to the railway station.

868. Was not one sufficient? No; the greater the number the greater the advantage to the public.

869. How does this road give any better access to the railway station than the continuation of Boundary Road? You have got the advantage of another road. Two roads are better than one.

870. Does it in any way shorten the distance from any section? Yes.

871. Where from? From the Peat's Ferry Road.

872. Would it not be equally short to turn up Junction Road, and then along the road parallel with the line? Possibly; but it is far easier to go up this short road, and then along the road under discussion.

873. Do you consider that those roads in any way give access to Crown lands? Indirectly, yes.

874. Indirectly is very indefinite;—in what way? In the way I have described. They lead first to the railway station, and then to the Crown lands.

875. As a matter of fact, do they not lead the other way—from Crown lands? Well, it depends upon the way you are going. If you turn your face towards the Crown lands they lead that way, and so the reverse.

876. You say you know nothing about the owners of this land? Not any of them.

877. Do you not know that Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith own land up there? I knew it subsequently; I did not know it at that time.

878. Did you not know before you opened up a number of roads that they were the owners of that property? Only from official communication with them.

879. Before any of those roads had been opened out, did you not know that Burns, Withers, and Smith owned an estate there? I knew that they owned an estate in the locality; but I did not know that we were going through their land. If I had known, it would not have operated against our going through.

880. Did you not know that they owned the land through which these roads went? Not at that time.

881. Have you not been on the ground with Mr. Burns? Yes, with reference to the sale of the Crown lands.

882. Have you not been on the ground with him before the opening of these roads? No.

883. Before the clearing of the road from road A to Junction Road? No. I have been on the ground with Mr. Burns consulting him with reference to the sale of Crown lands. I suggested that the sale should be made on the ground. That is the only communication I have had with Mr. Burns.

884. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Were you on this property in company with Mr. Burns or any of the proprietors of this land? I have just stated that I was on the ground with Mr. Burns on one or two occasions prior to the sale.

885. Was this prior to the roads being laid out? No.

886. And it was after you received the official communication from this syndicate with regard to the roads? I received no official intimation from the syndicate.

887. I understood you to say just now that you had received only one official letter from them? We had only one communication from Mr. Burns. Mr. Gordon, the surveyor, recommended to the Board that application should be made to the private proprietors of the land through which roads had to go, for permission. In conformity with his recommendation the Board applied for permission, and we got a reply. That was the only communication we ever had from Mr. Burns on this matter—that they were willing to give us the land.

888. This visit you made to the land with Mr. Burns was subsequent to this letter from him? Yes; prior to the sale.

889. You said just now that the Casual Labour Board had held 100 meetings? Yes.

890. If any other officer has sworn that only a few meetings have been held and none recently, that officer is in error? It just depends upon what construction he put upon a meeting. If two members met I would call that a meeting. Two members formed a quorum.

891. Will you kindly explain how you met, and what you understood to be a meeting of the Board? If any one of my colleagues attended the office we regarded that as a meeting, because everything was then handed over to him, and his attention was directed to what had been done, or to what was about to be done.

892. Did you sit down and consult, and examine maps, and plans, and representations? Yes.

893. Did you keep any minutes? Only of the first few meetings. One minute will show you that I went the first month after our appointment, with Mr. Deering, on to the Hornsby lands, and conferred with him upon the works in progress.

894. Previous witnesses have sworn that there were only a few meetings held, you tell us 100;—I would like to know exactly what you mean by a meeting;—you said just now that minutes of only two or three meetings were kept? Yes; at the inception of the Board.

895. At your later meetings there was only a consultation with one of the members of the Board? Yes.

896. But in the ordinary sense of the word this was not a regular meeting? I call it a regular meeting. We met and performed the duties of the office.

897. Supposing we desired some evidence to show what had been done at the meetings, you would have no record? Only that Messrs. so and so were present on such dates. We can give you that in the diary; but it does not give you any minutes.

898. Then, as a matter of fact, we would have no evidence to appeal to show what business was transacted? No; it did not appear in the minutes. We simply met in that formal way, which I call a meeting, and in the diary the Board enter the names of those who are present.

899. Then the operation of this system seems to be that you meet these gentlemen as advisers? I performed the administrative part of the work, and they the professional part. I was simply the executive.

900. You were the executive of the institution, and these gentlemen only appeared now and then to give you advice? They appeared as often as their other duties would permit.

901. They appeared as advisers? They were equal with myself in every way.

902. What is the practical operation of the thing? I will give you one illustration. We had some sewerage works out at White's Creek and Johnson's Creek, and several works of that kind, which my colleagues, though they had authority to do these works, on the representation of the members for the district, and on a petition from the local residents, took exception to, and we sent in a remonstrance against having to carry them out. Still, the work was authorized, and we had to proceed with it.

903. Who authorized that work? It was authorized by the Colonial Secretary. I am only giving you that as an evidence that we have remonstrated against certain works my professional colleagues thought that it was not wise to undertake. We could not go astray in making roads or clearing lands; but a great undertaking such as the drainage of the whole of the Leichhardt district they thought was not to be attempted in piecemeal style, and a very strong remonstrance was sent in.

904. You told the Chairman that these roads on the plan originated by the representations of local residents? Yes; most of them, and, as I have said, also from our own officer (Mr. Gordon), and with the personal inspection of my colleagues, Mr. Houston and Colonel Wells.

905. You say that Mr. Gordon did originate some of these roads? Yes; they were done on his recommendation. I think the papers will show that. Of course, you could not expect myself to have a professional knowledge in a matter of that kind.

906. If Mr. Gordon has sworn that he did not originate, and only cleared these roads, and that he cannot tell how they did originate, he has made a mistake? I scarcely think he could make such a statement. I think his own reports to us will bear out what I have stated. There must be some misapprehension. I think the papers will disclose what I state.

907. Referring to the roads I and H, can you tell us who originated these roads? Road I was made on the representations of people who wished to save a detour of half a mile to get on to the Pennant Hills road to go to Parramatta. The representations were submitted to Mr. Gordon, and he reported on them. With reference to road H, there is a railway which goes right through this property, and this road is to give access to a platform and to the Lane Cove Road.

908. But is there a platform there? Yes, there is.

909. *Chairman.*] And the object of this road was to get to that platform? Yes.

910. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] If this road H was required to give access to the Lane Cove Road, why was it not taken straight through to Boundary Road? Because there is a gully which prevented them from getting across—a very steep gully, about 1 in 2—almost perpendicular.

911. But you cross two creeks now? Yes; but only very slight ones. In that case we would have had a very large expenditure. You can drive along the Boundary Road to this gully, but you will find it very steep.

912. The reason you gave just now for constructing some of these roads was that you had a number of unemployed in your hands, and that, therefore, you were compelled to give them employment? Yes.

913. Was there any reason why these necessitous men should not be employed upon any other work? The best work the men can be employed upon is on the roads, which are the property of the people, and give facility of access to Crown lands and railways.

914. Admitting all that, why were the men sent specially to this district? We had so many men that I had to distribute them everywhere, and utilize their labours as best we could in the public interest. Prior to my taking charge the men were simply knocking about, doing scrub work—work of no utility—and tens of thousands were spent without any result at all. We placed the men on a different basis altogether. We put them on as contractors, so that it would not destroy the dignity of labour, nor in any way degrade the men, or affect any of their fixed principles. They formed their own gangs, and took their contracts.

915. With reference to this T-shaped road, between road H and the continuation of E, cleared by mistake, who would be responsible for that mistake? I think our superintendent, Mr. O'Donnell; but then the man had a very large area of land to traverse to get to these different places, and men anxious to get to work would get to work and make a start before he could overtake them.

916. If road E was continued to the south on the representation of the property owners, that representation must have been made by Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, as they were the owners of the property? All this property to the east belongs to private owners, and there are no other means of getting to the station except by going through this property.

917. But how would they be served by Burns Road? That leads into Junction Road. To get to the station, they come along Burns Road, up the continuation of E, and along Junction Road.

918. Could they not go up H? They could have done that; but I do not think there could have been any objection to their having an additional road, because that gave us a direct line into the public estate.

919. Your object is that that road was laid out to serve the people in the east, to give them access to the station? Yes, and we wanted to continue it right through into the public estate. The Board thought that the more we had of these roads to tap the flat lands on top the better. They saw, and the officers recommended, that it would be a great advantage to have these additional roads.

920. Already having road J to give access to these people to Crown lands, and having road H to give access from the south, what was the necessity for constructing a road down the centre? That was the recommendation of Mr. Gordon. You will find the papers disclose that. There was a representation from the property owners in the district; but Burns, Withers, and Smith never waited upon us.

921. You say that Mr. Gordon authorized this southerly extension of road E? I think you will find it so in the papers.

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922. I am not talking about these tributary roads, which, for arguments sake we will admit were required; I am talking about the southerly extension of road E. As a matter of fact, Mr. Gordon knows nothing about these roads, and only holds himself responsible for the roads marked on his plan. He admits Junction Road, the roads B, C, D, and F, and the northerly part of road E, and he justifies it. What I want to know is why that road was continued to the south, to serve, as I can see, no one except the owners of the land? Burns' people had already cleared Burns Road, and on the representations of the people owning the land on the other side this road was continued in that direction.

923. But what was their object in asking for that? They said it was a nearer road for them to take their fruit and produce.

924. These men you say would come along Burns Road, and up the continuation of road E? Yes, the grade is better that way. They recommended that if that road was made it would be much easier for them to strike Junction Road at an earlier stage.

925. *Chairman.*] Would it not have been nearer for those fruit growers to go to North Shore? They did not so represent it.

926. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Directing your attention to the roads near the railway station, coloured a fainter red, none of these roads appear on the plan made by Mr. Gordon, and he appears to take no responsibility for them? They were done on the representation of Mr. O'Donnell.

927. What reason does Mr. O'Donnell give for constructing the road between the continuation of Boundary Road and Junction-street, and parallel to them? The representations made by local people.

928. What local people would be served by it;—what was the object in making it;—surely, as the head of the institution, you ought to have had some reason assigned? There is no road there, it is a clearing, and was partly done by the property owners before we touched it. You are asking me questions as though I was the overseer. I could not tell you these little details.

929. So far as you know, not being the overseer, you are not able to give a reason why these roads should be constructed? They have not been made at all. They were simply partly cleared by the owners before we took charge, and have been continued.

930. As a matter of fact, I may tell you that some members of the Committee have been over these roads, and there is no doubt that they have been cleared—whether they are metalled or not I am not prepared to say? They were cleared partly, about half-way, before we took charge, by the private owners.

931. Did you consider yourself justified in carrying out the work started by private owners without any object in view? We did it on representations we received.

932. *Chairman.*] But if the proprietors were already doing it, was there any necessity for you to take up the work? They were not doing it; it had been done. I am not so well-informed as the overseer is in the matter.

933. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Not being an overseer you cannot give an authoritative opinion? It is a very trifling matter. It is far better that the men should be employed in that work than in doing the work they were doing when we took office.

934. You have a pretty good knowledge, from what goes on around you, of the subdividing of property, the cutting up of estates; you have seen a good deal of it—the giving of fanciful names to streets, and all that kind of thing; you know that all this is done by the owners of the estates to make them saleable? Yes.

935. Burns, Withers, and Smith, having a private estate and being desirous of selling it, would they not naturally have carried out that plan of laying out the estate, if the Government had not done it for them? I cannot say. I am not responsible for what they might do.

936. Would it not be done in the ordinary way of business? I cannot tell. You and I might take certain courses, and Burns, Withers, and Smith, take quite an opposite one. I know what I would do with my own estate.

937. As a business man, if you owned this property, and desired to make it saleable in small lots, would you not have subdivided the estate, and laid out roads, and cleared them yourself? Yes; these people gave the land, which was of more value than the money spent on road-making.

938. *Chairman.*] But must not the roads always be given, even if the owners make them themselves? Quite so.

939. *Mr. H. Clarke.*] I think you stated that you got instructions to continue the work that had been originated by Mr. Deering? Yes; we got instructions to take up the management and the control of the unemployed.

940. From whom did you get your instructions? The Colonial Secretary. They referred to works in all directions, in about a dozen different places.

941. How much work was done by Mr. Deering previous to your taking charge of these people? Not a great deal. I think a portion of Boundry Road had been cleared, and some other roads.

942. Are you aware how many miles of roads are on the private property of Burns, Withers, and Smith and other owners? No; I have not had any calculation made of the mileage.

943. Nor of the cost? Yes; we have a knowledge of the cost.

944. What is the cost, roughly? I think the cost of the whole of the works through land we have since realized as the property of Burns, Withers and Smith, is a little over £2,000.

945. Is it usual, in making roads through Government property, to clear, form, and ballast? Yes. We have done it in almost all the estates. We have had to make better roads than we have made for Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith.

946. Are they on private lands, or on Government lands? On Government lands. If you go through the subdivisions we have cleared at French's Forest, Narrabeen, Gordon, and Dobroyd, you will find that we make as good roads as you can find out of Sydney, all through Crown lands, and a portion on private property.

947. Was it actually necessary to have all these roads marked red? Absolutely necessary.

948. For what purpose? To give access to the Crown lands. The Crown lands were bordered round with private properties.

949. Were there not some portions of these roads Crown lands;—take the road marked A? That road was cleared by Mr. Deering, and has an overhead bridge.

950. Would not that road give access to some portion of the Crown lands? Yes; but you would have these lands unoccupied which have realized splendid prices—£40, £50, and up to £70 and £80 an acre.

951. The Boundary Road goes at present as far as the first gully? Yes; you can go as far as that.
952. Why not continue this road on Government land, instead of on private property? It is impossible, because the gullies are almost perpendicular. Of course you could make a track, but not one for traction. The grade would be about 1 in 3, and it was represented by men who were competent to express an opinion—I do not profess to have any knowledge of road-making, or the construction of bridges, myself—
953. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] You mean to say that the road would not pay the making? It would be impossible, without spending ten times the money that we have spent upon these roads.
954. *Mr. H. Clarke.*] I have seen roads made over worse places than that? Well, of course, I am not skilled to give a professional opinion.
955. Could not a deviation have been made round this rugged part? It was reported to us that nothing would warrant our taking the road in any other direction. Our officers reported that all the money in the Treasury could not make roads there. And, besides, you have got to take another thing into account, we have not skilled labour. We have to take shoemakers, blacksmiths, engine-fitters, and all kinds of men, and you could not expect them to be skilled in that work.
956. If the country is so rugged, what is the good of making access to it? To sell the land; and the Government have sold a lot of it at very high prices. It is beautiful land. Of course there is a lot of broken country, but the table-land is beautiful country for orchards or residences.
957. *Chairman.*] You mean the part sold? Yes; but there is some good land farther away from the station.
958. *Mr. Street.*] I think you said that at the time you took charge of the Casual Labour Board there were 4,010 men unemployed;—how many are there at the present time? About 930; but it is only fair to qualify that answer by saying that if this bad season continues we will have a large increase.
959. Was any considerable portion engaged at day wages? Yes, the great majority.
960. At what rate? From 6s. and upwards.
961. Have you any men working at day wages now? Thirty or forty.
962. What wages? Three shillings and sixpence. These are mostly men who are not able to do contract work—cripples.
963. Junction Road and Burns Road give frontages to the private property of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith? Yes.
964. Can you tell us what advantage these gentlemen, having possession of the frontages to these two roads, can get from the roads B, C, D, E, and F, and the southern extension of road E? No advantage whatever.
965. Have they taken a large area out of their land? Yes, a very large area. There is from 12 to 15 acres of land in Junction Road, worth £120 an acre.
966. It was not necessary for their purposes to make the roads B, C, D, E, F, and the southern extension of E? Certainly not, not even for subdivision.
967. *Mr. Brunker.*] I suppose you have a knowledge of the value of property; at any rate, about Sydney? Yes.
968. Do you think that it is likely that a private individual, in subdividing his estate, would consider it to his interest to make a large number of roads when a smaller number would contribute to the same end? Certainly not.
969. A smaller number of roads would, of course, make the area given very much less, and increase the return from the sale very largely? Yes; it would leave a larger portion to sell.
970. As the number of roads increases, so the profits decrease? Yes.
971. So that in making a subdivision of this kind private owners would find it to their profit and advantage to have roads at equal points, taking a much smaller area from the whole? No doubt; and we would not have been justified in making these roads unless we got these concessions. What we wanted was to get into Crown lands.
972. The fact is that the owner of a private estate considers that he loses about one-fifth in roads for subdivision;—what is the proportion there? Very much larger. I could not tell you exactly without taking the scale and measuring; but it is very much larger.
973. So that the lost to the owners would be considerably greater by the course you have adopted? A great deal more. Junction Road contains from 12 to 15 acres, and would fetch at the lowest estimate £100 an acre.
974. In constructing these roads, what was the object you had in view;—I suppose you had one view for the whole of them? Our primary object was to get access to Crown lands; that was the whole of our object. We had no other object.
975. Have you any knowledge of the locality? I have been frequently there.
976. What is the extent of the population in and around this district? A very large population, because the district takes in a very large area—farmers, and people with orchards.
977. Would these roads give the population round access to Hornsby station? Yes.
978. And also to the Crown lands? Yes; there is a platform and a station on the Pearce's Corner railway to which they give access.
979. Had you any conversation, or were your operations influenced in any way by Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, during the whole progress of these works? Certainly not. I have not spoken to Mr. Withers for six years.
980. Were they influenced by any member of the Government? Certainly not.
981. Did any Member of Parliament attempt to use any influence? No Member of Parliament used any influence. We were actuated by no other desire than to put men on to works of a productive character, works of utility, which would give an increased value to the public estate.
982. What works were in course of progress when Mr. Deering surrendered his supervision to the Casual Labour Board? I think I have already mentioned them, in answer to the Chairman's question. National Park, Heathcote, Waterfalls, a portion of Gordon, Dobroyd, Hornsby, Beccroft, and Carlingford.
983. These works were all under the control of Mr. Deering? Yes; and in full swing at the time we took charge.
984. They are now under the supervision of the Casual Labour Board? Yes; but many are completed.

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985. Have the works which have been [carried out under the Casual Labour Board been of the same character as those which have been carried out on this ground? Yes; in fact, the work we have done in the Government lands, in the subdivisions we have had under our control, has been of a better character than this.

986. You were asked a question as to the character of the work that was undertaken without the authority of a full meeting of the Casual Labour Board, that is, that small works were authorized by individual members of the Board, and larger ones by the full Board. You have had some experience of municipal matters? Yes.

987. And is it not the general custom in all municipal matters to allow either one or two members of a Council to construct works up to a certain stipulated amount? Yes. Practically, in this case, I was the mayor, as it were, the executive head, and any small representation made by the superintendent of any of the works that I believed to be to the public interest in any way was attended to.

988. So that the custom adopted by you is the practice which governs municipalities generally? Yes; the uniform practice.

989. *Mr. H. Clarke.*] Do you say that the formation of these roads through the property of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith does not increase its value? Incidentally it does.

990. Does it improve it to a greater extent than the actual land they have lost? Of course, it would be only a matter of opinion. I do not think it does. You take 25 or 30 acres from them at £100 an acre.

991. The formation of these roads surely would improve the property? Of course, in every way, incidentally; all roads do that.

992. *Mr. Brunker.*] I should like to have some information with regard to the action of Sir Henry Parkes with reference to the Casual Labour Board;—you say that none of the works were carried out until the propositions were confirmed? All works initiated after our appointment were approved of.

993. Sir Henry Parkes could have had no knowledge of the details? No. They approved on the reports of the proper officers.

994. So that you received in each case first a report from the Government Surveyor, Mr. Gordon? Either from Mr. Gordon or from Mr. Deering.

995. Mr. Deering had nothing to do with it? As the metropolitan surveyor, he had to do with it, in making report on the subdivisions of the Crown land, which were sent to the Lands Office, and the Minister for Lands sent them on for the approval of the Colonial Secretary.

996. That is for subdivision? Yes; on large estates which had been cleared and roads formed through them. These reports were sent to us, and our officers would then report again, so as to make doubly sure that it was work that would warrant us in undertaking it, and if satisfactory, we would recommend it as a Board for the approval of the Colonial Secretary, and then approved, so that all work initiated by us had Ministerial authority.

997. Notwithstanding that petitions were sent in from local residents, was it the custom of the Board to make full inquiry through Mr. Gordon before authorizing the work? Through Mr. Gordon and Mr. O'Donnell; nothing was done without a report and full inquiry.

998. You know something about the country. What is the general character of it? It is rugged. There is a good table-land, with soil very rich and fine for fruit-growing, very suitable for orchards and homesteads.

999. Although you say that you have no professional knowledge, is it your opinion that the roads are being formed so as to fall in with the formation of the country? Quite. These roads open up about 2,000 acres of Crown lands for sale, and there is any quantity of Crown lands besides—thousands of acres.

1000. In answer to a question you said that no works had been initiated except by a petition from the Lands? I said that no work had been initiated by us unless it came from the Lands Office or by petition. These subdivisions of lands came to us from the Lands Office to the Colonial Secretary. They were then sent on to us. Mr. Deering recommended that these subdivisions and the clearing should be done at Narrabeen, French's Forest, and Dobroyd.

1001. Before you came into power? No, since. They were recommended by Mr. Deering. Mr. Garrett sent them on to the Colonial Secretary, and the Colonial Secretary sent them on to us. We still got our own officer to report upon them, and if he concurred with Mr. Deering's recommendation we recommended that the works should be carried out for the approval of the Colonial Secretary.

1002. One road you said was commenced five years ago? The Vanceville Road.

1003. That is a public road? A public road under the Roads Department.

1004. As a practical man, is it your opinion that this expenditure is in the interests of the public generally? Certainly. This land would not have been worth a five-pound note if it had not been for the roads made through it, and it will realize £30,000.

1005. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Frontage blocks are more valuable than blocks of land not served by roads? Corner blocks are the most valuable.

1006. Frontage blocks are more valuable than blocks not served by road? Oh, most certainly.

1007. Then the owners of this estate, if they desired to make their land valuable and salable, would have been likely to carry out a certain number of roads? Of necessity they would have to form a number of roads; but not roads like B, C, D, E, and F.

1008. Do you consider that if these roads had not been constructed by the Government, they would have formed a lesser number of roads than on the plan? Yes; in a different direction altogether.

1009. But still, though in a different direction, they would have given access to the Crown lands? I cannot answer that; I do not know how they might have put their roads. The greater part of their estate has no roads provided.

1010. You refer to the Vanceville Estate; that is now owned by other people? I thought Mr. Burns owned it.

1011. You said just now that they had given 15 acres for the Junction Road, and so many acres for other roads, and that the land was worth £100 an acre? Yes.

1012. Would it be worth £100 an acre if those roads were not made there? Of course, without access it would not be worth anything.

1013. Then if they have given the Crown an advantage the Crown have increased the value of their lands? That is incidental.

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1014. You said just now that it is usual for those who subdivide private estates to calculate on a loss of one-fifth? Yes; to give roads through.
1015. And you said that on this estate more than one-fifth had been given? Quite so.
1016. Do you mean to say that these roads represent more than one-fifth? Yes; a great deal more.
1017. Given 15 acres for Junction Road, and about 10 acres for each of the others, there would be 100 acres altogether in main roads that would represent a total amount of 1,500? I do not know what the area of the estate is. Unless I had the scale I could not tell.
1018. It is understood, I believe, that originally the estate was 1,600 acres, and they have sold the Vanceville Estate? I have been told there were 700 acres altogether.
1019. Do you think that more than 100 acres have been given for roads? I do not know what their land is, and I could not speak unless I knew whose land it was. Judging from this tracing here, I should come to the conclusion that more than one-fifth had been given by the proprietors for roads.
1020. And these roads do not include more than 100 acres? I do not know what the quantity is altogether. I am certain that if it was your land or mine we would not have cut it up in that form.
1021. But you admit that if someone had not done the work they would have had to do it? Not in that form.
1022. But in doing so, you would have to comply with Mr. Reid's law, and give away land to the public? Yes.
1023. In point of fact, if they had subdivided the estate, they would have had to give the land, as they have given it? They would have had to give the land for streets; they could not sell it otherwise.
1024. In an ordinary business way they would have laid out the land in rectangular blocks? Yes, so as to give them the best results.
1025. In doing that they must have given access to the Crown lands? I cannot answer that.
1026. You said just now that the Board always consulted Mr. Gordon about the roads? Mr. Gordon, Mr. O'Donnell, or one of the superintendents.
1027. Then you did not always consult Mr. Gordon? Mr. Gordon had not control over all the roads, only over a certain portion.
1028. Mr. Gordon has not been out there during the past twelve months? I think he has.
1029. If he swears that he has not been out there there must be some error? Yes.
1030. Mr. Houson swears that he has not been out there for five months, and Mr. Gordon for twelve months, and that therefore he knows nothing about the roads marked on the plan? I think if you look at his plan, you will see that at the latter part of the first month of the year he reported to us—and this is November—so that it cannot be twelve months since he was out there.
1031. At all events he said he had not been out on the land for that period? No; he drew it up from being on the land.
1032. *Mr. Brunker.*] You were asked just now whether land with a frontage was not more valuable than any other portion of land;—is it not a fact that everybody has a frontage in a subdivision? Of course.
1033. But of course there are some lands that have special value? Corner blocks, and those nearer the station, have greater value.
1034. That special value would apply in a case like this. Supposing that the road marked D ran along the top of a ridge, and that the allotments on each side ran into deep ravines, and that another road, say Junction Road, was on a plateau, would not the frontages to the latter road be worth double the value of those on road D? Three times as much.
1035. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] If corner blocks are most valuable, the more corner blocks you have the more valuable the land? Yes.
1036. And the more roads you make the better? Yes.
1037. *Mr. Brunker.*] Although a large area of land may have been given by the proprietors, from your practical knowledge can you say that that is not the form in which the land would have been subdivided by private owners? Certainly; it is not done as one would do with his own property.
1038. *Chairman.*] Referring to your document of authorization, I see that the Colonial Secretary says that there would be work to do in making tanks, works of irrigation, deepening water-courses, &c.;—have the unemployed been put on works of that description? No such works have been authorized.
1039. But are not these general instructions here? Yes; but still we have not been able to embrace them because there has been no work of that character.
1040. Have any men been put on the railways? Some men at Pearce's Corner.
1041. Did you at any time get any petition from the inhabitants of this district for the erection of a platform on the Hornsby line? I have no recollection of any such petition; it would not come within our scope; we are concerned only with roads.
1042. You have received no representation from Government officers? Not for the construction or erection of a platform, to my knowledge.
1043. How many visits have you made to the ground at Hornsby? I suppose I have been there about sixteen or twenty times altogether within the last eighteen or nineteen months.
1044. Have you seen all the additional roads marked on this plan—those coloured in a fainter red? I think so.
1045. Do you think that all these roads are necessary for the simple purpose of access? Yes.
1046. They are all necessary? All necessary. As I have said before, the Crown lands would not be worth a five-pound note unless these roads of access had been given.
1047. Would it not have been better to have made fewer roads; because it is clear, on your own showing, that they could utilize fewer roads there, and to have made the roads on the Government property on the other side of Boundary Road? I do not think so; because the more roads of access you give to Crown lands, the more value you give to this estate.
1048. But if, according to your showing, the value of the land has improved from being worthless to £100 an acre on Burns, Withers, and Smith's estate, by the making of these roads, would not the value increase in equal proportions on the Government side, providing you had access? I do not mean to say that our making the roads on the land gave it that value, I only gave you the value of the land.
1049. Did you not state that the land would be worthless if the roads had not been made? As far as the public estate was concerned, not these people's property. You misunderstood me. I stated that the Government land would not be worth a five-pound note without the access.

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1050. But prior to the Board, was it not the custom of the Government to form the roads on their own property, and then to make too many roads on private property? I never knew the Government to make any roads by unemployed labour other than public roads.

1051. In cutting land into subdivisions are you not obliged to make roads? The private owners of the land would have to do it.

1052. Have you made any roads on the Crown lands? Yes, they are all of them formed and made.

1053. Any of them metalled? Not metalled—no.

1054. Some of the roads to the south of the boundary-line are metalled? A little; but then I may say that all the material that came for the ballasting of these roads came out of the people's own property.

1055. You tell the Committee that those were not the roads that would have been made in the interests of private owners? I simply say that if it was my property I would not subdivide it in this way.

1056. As a matter of fact, have you not told us that some of these roads were commenced by private owners? The clearing of Burns Road was commenced before my time.

1057. And have not other roads you commenced been partly done? Yes.

1058. You have cleared roads already commenced to be cleared? Yes.

1059. Is not that an evidence that the owners would have made these roads? It is quite possible that they would have done so.

1060. But is it not an argument that they did intend to do it? Well, of course; it looked like it. It is an evidence that they had made a start.

1061. *Mr. Brunker.*] But you do not mean to say that the owners of private property subdivided the property in that form? No.

1062. *Chairman.*] But are not the roads B, C, D, E, and F, which are said to be not to the interest of private owners, absolutely necessary to give communication to their property from any population that may be settled to the north of Boundary Road? It is absolutely necessary to get to Crown lands.

1063. Supposing you were the owner of this estate, would you not, in laying out the roads to give access to the north, have in view the intersection of these gullies. For instance, you would not cut up a street leading into a gully; you would go further to the right? If it was my private property I would endeavour to form Boundary Road, and save the land.

1064. But that not being possible, would you not have gone to the east of the first gully—Spring Gully;—would you not have gone so the east of that? I would not be concerned about that, as long as I had roads to give me frontage.

1065. Would the roads be of use to sell the land if they did not continue to other roads? There are no roads there.

1066. But anyone cutting up land has a prospective population in view? They look to see what they can get in the market.

1067. But does not the prospective population increase the value in the market? It may do to some extent; but these roads you speak of were absolutely necessary.

1068. But are they not beneficial to the private owners? Incidentally. All roads you make will be that.

1069. Then the greater number of roads on private property the more value it will be to private property? The greater number of roads you have the greater advantage to the property. But if it was my property I would not have cut it up in that form. I would subdivide it in a form that would give me better frontages.

1070. But if you could get the roads made in that form without any expenditure of your own, you would consent to it? Yes; as these people did. But after all, one balances the other, the value of the land as against the work done on it. I would value the land more than the money spent.

1071. But then land must be given in any case, whether private owners make the roads or the Government make them, is not that a fact? Yes.

1072. And the more roads the greater the value of the property? The more roads the greater the convenience, of course.

1073. You tell us that you had your recommendation for these roads either from Mr. Deering or from Mr. Gordon? I think you will find that Mr. Gordon recommended about those roads. The papers will show it.

1074. Mr. Deering recommended none of them? Mr. Deering recommended one of them just at the time we took office.

1075. That was the road then being cleared—road A? Yes.

1076. Then Mr. Gordon has recommended all the rest? Yes; and the Board, that is Mr. Housion and Colonel Wells, have visited the locality and approved before anything was done.

1077. First of all came his recommendation? Yes.

1078. Then if Mr. Gordon said, in answer to this question:—"Can you say you gave instructions to clear and form any of these roads?" "I only know one road, that is Junction Road," and adds as a foot-note to make himself more correct, when revising this: "I never gave an instruction to carry out any of the roads; it was recommendations only, and that recommendation was to ballast Junction Road; clearing was already done";—that is not correct? No. You will find from his own reports that he recommended that all these works should be carried out, and we then got the recommendation of the Board, and the work was carried out.

1079. *Mr. Brunker.*] Is it not apparent to a business man that although these main roads—Burns Road, Junction Road, Vanceville Road, I road, and H road—might be beneficial to the owners of a private estate, these minor roads leading to the Hornsby Station are only beneficial to the Crown lands? Certainly.

1080. *Chairman.*] But is it not equally clear that the number of these roads—the road running parallel with the railway, the continuation of Boundary Road, and this T road, commenced in a mistake—is unnecessary for roads of access? I do not think so.

1081. Could we not have access to the Crown lands and dispense with a number of them? You could have had access with one road alone.

1082. But could we not have equal access without the T section? You would dispense with the whole of that. It is only cleared.

1083. And we could have equal access? The more roads you have there the better it is.

1084. For the people and the railway station? Yes; and for the public. The railways are the people's property, and the roads are the people's property, for all time. 1085.

1085. But you said just now that they are roads of access only? Access to the Crown lands.
1086. But considering the present state of population are these roads at all necessary? I think they are now; and taking your view of the prospective population, I think they are very wisely done.
1087. *Mr. Brunker.*] You know that the railway from Hornsby Station to Vanceville Road is in course of construction? Yes; and very nearly finished. It will be finished by the end of the year, I think.
1088. Is it not an advantage to the Crown lands that these roads—the Vanceville Road, the H road, the C I road, and the B road—will give access from the Crown lands to the Hornsby line at different points? No doubt. I have already stated that.
1089. And that being the fact, must it not naturally tend to increase the value of Crown lands? The greater the number of roads you have the more valuable they are.
1090. *Chairman.*] But instead of making so many roads leading to and giving access to Crown lands, when a fewer number would have done, would it not have been more conducive to the value of the public estate to have formed the roads on Crown property? No, it would not; because the Crown property is not worth anything without these roads of access.
1091. But is it worth anything without subdividing it, and forming the streets? So they are formed.
1092. But would it not have increased the value of these lands more by having the roads ballasted, as they are to the south? I have no doubt it would.
1093. From your experience, has not that been the course adopted by syndicates or by owners of property? I do not think they have ballasted the roads. They have generally only formed the roads. The roads are cleared to a chain wide, and formed to half a chain.
1094. Have you done that on the Crown lands? Yes.
1095. You have formed them? Yes; but not ballasted them.

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Frederick O'Donnell called in, sworn, and examined:—

1096. *Chairman.*] Are you the overseer in charge of the unemployed at Hornsby? Yes.
1097. How long have you been in that position? I have been there since the Board was first initiated. I suppose it is something like fifteen or sixteen months since I went to Hornsby. Altogether, in connection with the Department, I have been about three years and a-half with the unemployed.
1098. You went to Hornsby at whose instructions? At the Casual Labour Board's, when they came into power. Previous to that we went out by Mr. Deering's instructions. Then we got the Casual Labour Board's instructions to form a camp and stay there.
1099. What you mean is that you were working on the ground before the Casual Labour Board came into existence, and that you continued there by the instructions of the Casual Labour Board? Just so.
1100. What instructions did you receive from the Casual Labour Board as to the limits of your powers—what powers had you? I do not think my powers were very clearly defined, whether with reference to the Casual Labour Board or the other departments that I have gone through.
1101. Had you the power of originating any roads? No; I have not the power to originate any road. I can suggest, or do something of that sort.
1102. That is to say, you could recommend to the Board? I could recommend to the Board.
1103. But did you ever, of your own authority, commence to form a road? I believe we started Junction Road on our own authority. Having the men there, we had to do something, and it was started. We got a line along Junction-street; that was partly started.
1104. When you say we—? I mean the Department—ourselves working there.
1105. Was that before the Labour Board came into existence? Yes.
1106. When you say we, do you mean yourself? No; I had some authority.
1107. What was the authority? I believe I got it from Mr. Davies.
1108. Did you commence any road without authority from Mr. Davies, or from your superiors? No; I never did things of that sort. I might answer that at once. I have never started a thing on my own authority.
1109. You must receive instructions before you proceed to do work? Yes.
1110. Can you tell us how that road to the north of Burns Road and parallel with it was formed? It is what was termed the Mistake Road. We call it among ourselves the Mistake Road; that is, in camp. We had started along the road H H H to a point where there was a large tree, and we had instructions—from whom at the present time it does not come to my recollection—to start from a point in the continuation of this road E, and meet it, and an old fellow named Noonan was to show us the way; but instead of squaring it up, we ran across diagonally, so that we have termed it the Mistake Road.
1111. Then is the plan incorrect? Yes, as it is here. I can show you better by a little sketch I have here. The road goes down and then up again. It was a mistake on our part.
1112. Then these roads, as shown on Mr. Deering's sketch-map, are inaccurate—road E does not run straight? No, the plan is not right; it is only a sketch.
1113. That was a mistake originating with yourselves? Yes.
1114. But have you any other mistakes of anything like that character? Not that I am aware of.
1115. From whom did you receive instructions to construct the road parallel with the railway? From Mr. Davies.
1116. And these roads in the form of a T and the continuation of the Boundary Road? From Mr. Davies.
1117. And the road from Junction Road, near road B, to the south, leading to the hotel and platform? You mean across the railway.
1118. To the hotel? They were got from the Casual Labour Board.
1119. From Mr. Davies? From Mr. Davies or one of them. I know that I had instructions to do it, and I did it.
1120. *Mr. Brunker.*] I suppose the instructions from Mr. Davies would be from the Casual Labour Board? Yes, and in some cases the orders have been verbal.
1121. But the orders would then come from the Casual Labour Board? Yes.
1122. *Chairman.*] In carrying out your orders as to forming or ballasting, were exact instructions given to you as to the quality of the road you were to make, or anything of that sort? I do not know that they were. I was supposed to do the best I could.
1123. Was it left to your discretion? Well, of course, they were there to examine it and see if it was satisfactory. They never said anything to the contrary, and I took it to be right enough.

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- F. O'Donnell. 1124. But had you discretionary power to say whether a road should be simply cleared, or whether it should be formed? I only had the power to clear; then I got instructions to form and metal afterwards. I would not undertake to do anything of that sort.
- 29 Nov., 1888. 1125. Is the road running parallel to the railway formed? Yes; we are now forming it. It was partly formed before this inquiry commenced.
1126. You are now forming it? We have knocked off within the last few days. Since the answer was given to a question about the matter in Parliament the other evening, I had instructions to knock off the men. I left instructions on Monday, and I repeated them yesterday to the overseer in charge, to knock the men off until this inquiry was finished.
1127. That is, not to continue forming the road? Not to continue any work.
1128. Are any roads formed there in close conjunction with the railway, such as the continuation of Boundary Road? We formed Boundary Road.
1129. Is that road to the south of it, parallel with it, formed? No; that is only cleared. Then you will understand that these roads were cleared half-way through before we did anything to them. I suppose there were about 11 chains on each side. We cleared the continuation of Boundary Road, and formed it, and tried to make a direct road of it because it leads to Crown lands.
1130. You found half done already? Previous to our going to it it was half cleared.
1131. And the small piece of road running up from Junction Road? We did not do that; that is private.
1132. Did not the unemployed work on that small bit? No.
1133. Are the unemployed working at all on Boundary Road now? There have been none working on Boundary Road for some time—that is, on the continuation of Boundary Road, not further along.
1134. Have you not been working there at all? Not recently.
1135. How far along Boundary Road have you got the road good and passable? It is pretty fair until you come to this street here, D.
1136. Is it not good up to the first gully? Not up to the first crossing. At this gully we came to an impracticable road.
1137. You can drive up to road D? Yes.
1138. Are you cognizant of how much land is owned by Burns, Withers, and Smith there? I have an idea now; but I had not at the time I gave the return to Mr. Brunker, which I am sorry for. I tried to get the information as best as I possibly could at the time, and of course sent the return on with it.
1139. Is the answer then that you gave to Mr. Brunker incorrect? It was incorrect.
1140. That is to say, the second answer? The second answer was also incorrect, from the information we got.
1141. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] You say that you never carried out any work whatever without receiving instructions from Mr. Davies, or from the Casual Labour Board? No.
1142. Therefore, you could never originate any of these roads yourself? No.
1143. Could you tell us how much these roads have cost to make—the total cost? I can give it you approximately—£2,079 7s.; that is the total cost of the work round about; and the total cost of all the work done at Hornsby by the Board is £6,265.
1144. *Chairman.*] When you speak of £2,079 7s., you mean the work done on the Burns-Withers estate? From the information we have got since we would say it is round about and in close proximity to this property.
1145. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Have you any idea of the length of the roads made there, to the south of the Crown lands? Junction Road is about 2 miles, and the other road—Burns Road—about 1 mile 80 chains.
1146. Those two roads alone would come to 3 miles? Yes.
1147. Would 7 miles in length be too great for all the roads? All the roads together, so far as we have it approximately, are 8½ miles in length.
1148. Eight and a quarter miles represent all the roads constructed south of the Crown lands? All the roads; Government land is not included. That is private lands.
1149. Including road A, and south of it, what is the whole length? Eight and a quarter miles.
1150. I want to get the total length on the Burns-Withers property? About 3 miles—2 miles on Junction, and a mile on Burns Road.
1151. You say 8½ miles for all the properties. I want to know what is the total length of Burns' property? ———
1152. *Mr. Brunker.*] Have you got the length of each road; give us a rough idea? Burns Road is 1 mile; Junction Road, 2 miles; A road about 25 chains ———
1153. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] But there are 8½ miles south of road A. Deduct from that the roads on property other than that owned by Burns, Withers, and Smith; what is the length of those? This road I, leading to Pearce's Corner, we call a Government road.
1154. What do you call the H road? That we would also call a Government road. We would call the other roads on the Hornsby Estate about 8½ miles.
1155. What would you call the other roads, to classify them? They are on private property, so far as we know it at the present time.
1156. *Chairman.*] The roads on private property are about 8½ miles? Yes.
1157. On Burns, Withers, and Smith's estate 3½ miles? Yes.
1158. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Touching this extension of road E, not including the tributary portion, do you know who authorized it? Mr. Davies gave me instructions to do that.
1159. Did he state the object of it? He did not state the object of it, and it was not my purpose to question him.
1160. You got the instructions to carry out that road? Yes.
1161. And the same remark applies to the road running parallel with the railway? Yes.
1162. This road was carried out by Mr. Davies? Yes.
1163. And the road from the Boundary Road to the station by Mr. Davies? Yes? Eleven chains were already cleared. But to qualify this, I may say that Mr. Davies told me to clear this road parallel, to throw it up, but I am making a good job of it.
1164. Finding that the owners of this Burns, Withers, and Smith Estate had started these roads near the

the station, was not that an evidence that they were going to make them themselves? Of course it is evidence that they were going to construct the road, but it is not my place at any time to question any authority I may receive. F. O'Donnell.
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1165. How many men have you working out there now? At Hornsby alone about fifteen, but altogether I may tell you that at Hornsby and other places we have about 140.

1166. In the neighbourhood you have 140? Not in that neighbourhood alone.

1167. *Chairman.*] But fifteen men are on the roads on Burns, Withers, and Smith's estate? That is what I would term it now.

1168. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Referring to Boundary Road, are you not now constructing a culvert down near the gully, near road C? We are doing nothing now.

1169. I mean last week;—you were constructing a culvert where they are cutting out stone? That is at the end of the road. We are putting in drain pipes there.

1170. Where you are making that culvert is at the continuation of the Boundary Road? Yes.

1171. In point of fact you are not working any men on Boundary Road at the present time? Not at the present time.

1172. Although the road has been cleared, you have not been working men there for some considerable time.

1173. *Mr. Brunker.*] You say that when you commenced work at Hornsby you were under Mr. Deering's instructions? Yes.

1174. Until the Casual Labour Board came into existence? Yes.

1175. When did you commence work under Mr. Deering's instructions? I have not got the date, but I can tell you the quantity of work.

1176. I would like to know when you commenced there; how long before the Casual Labour Board came into existence? I think about a fortnight before.

1177. You have never commenced any work without instructions? No, I never commenced any work unless I got instructions to do it.

1178. Had you at any time any communications verbal or otherwise with the owners of property in that locality? They have never said one word to me. Although I have asked Mr. Burns about the deviation he has never said one word to me about the constructing of the roads.

1179. Could you define to the Committee the work carried out by private owners before you commenced work there at all? They had a portion of Burns Road cleared, about 30 chains, then they had two culverts on Burns Road, and they had some work done near the station, and about 11 chains on the Railway Road.

1180. I think I understood you to say just now that whatever work has been done on the roads intersecting this portion near the station, has been done by the owners of the private property? I think we had about 11 chains to do on each of these roads. A fair part of it was done privately, and also on the road leading to the station.

1181. You were asked just now by Mr. O'Sullivan whether the fact that these roads had been opened up by the proprietors was not evidence that they were going to construct the road, or only that they were going to construct them? They were cleared.

1182. Can you swear that they were going to construct them, or that this was only to define the roads—there is a material difference? It was cleared and stumped.

1183. I want to know whether it was simply to define the roads, or to construct them? I do not know; that is not for me to say, of course.

1184. *Chairman.*] Was the character of the clearing of such a nature as to make you suppose that they intended to construct roads there? I cannot go into the suppositions of people.

1185. *Mr. Brunker.*] You know something about the locality? Yes.

1186. You know the Thornhill subdivision;—those roads were stumped and cleared, but never made? They have not been done to the present time.

1187. Did you not find the same to have been done on the Hornsby estate—that this clearing had been done simply to define the streets, and show buyers where they were;—I suppose you know that after the sale streets like these are left, and never constructed at all? Very true.

1188. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Still these roads being cleared in the way indicated by Mr. Brunker gave access to Crown lands; if they had only been cleared access would have been given to the Crown lands by them? If they had been cleared through.

1189. *Chairman.*] You carried them through? We commenced where they knocked off.

1190. *Mr. Brunker.*] You completed what they commenced? Yes; however, it is a benefit to Boundary Road, giving an outside opinion, because it now leads right through to Crown lands.

1191. Do you think the work you have done has assisted to improve the Crown lands? Most undoubtedly. It would only have brought £5 an acre. I would have had a lot of money myself to pay more than £5 an acre for it.

1192. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] If this estate had been your property and you intended to sell it to the best advantage, would you not have laid out roads there, and cleared them in the way indicated by Mr. Brunker, in the usual way of subdividing estates? I do not think that is a fair question. I might put the roads different to what they are on the plan altogether.

1193. Granting that you would put them where you pleased, would you not have subdivided the estate and cleared the streets to give frontages and corner blocks? If I were going to submit it to public auction.

1194. You would have done so? I might have done so; but I am not to surmise what other people would do.

1195. *Mr. Brunker.*] Assuming that this estate was your own, would you have subdivided it in that form for sale? I am not sufficiently a surveyor to answer that question.

1196. Have you ever seen a property subdivided in that form for sale? No.

1197. *Chairman.*] Did you ever see property with gullies running through it in such a number, and requiring roads between the gullies like that before;—would not the peculiarity of that property, with those gullies running through Boundary Road, have a good deal to do with your decision in making your subdivision? That would have to be taken into consideration in dividing in every case; no doubt of that.

1198. *Mr. Brunker.*] Is the loss of that land, by way of roads, under this form of subdivision, much greater than it would be under an ordinary form of subdivision? ————

1199.

- F. O'Donnell, 1199. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] These roads have been laid out in the best way possible to avoid expense in constructing them? That is true.
- 29 Nov., 1888. 1200. To avoid gullies and steep places? Yes.
1201. Then the owners of this estate if they had subdivided and cleared roads—if you had been the owner of this estate you would have proceeded on the same policy? I daresay I would.
1202. Then, pursuing that policy, your plan would have been very similar to this? I cannot see that it necessarily follows that way. I cannot see what you are driving at.
1203. You admit that these roads have been laid down to the best advantage, and to avoid running through the creeks and gullies, and to avoid unnecessary expense in construction, and you admit that if you had been the owner of a private estate you would have proceeded on exactly the same policy? I daresay I would.
1204. Then your plan must of necessity be very similar to this, because you admit these roads to be constructed on a sound plan? Yes.
1205. Have you been in sole charge of the men during the last twelve months? I have.
1206. Has Mr. Gordon been in connection with you in this work at all? No; from time to time we received sketch plans from him.
1207. He has not been on the ground? He has been on the ground several times; but I have not seen him. He has been there quite recently, I forget on what occasion; but I was not there.
1208. *Chairman.*] And how long before that was it since he was there? It must have been some months since he was there. He and I are not the best of friends.
1209. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] And you do not throw yourselves in each other's way? No.
1210. Has Mr. Houison been up there within five months? He has been there once within the five months.
1211. Has Mr. Gordon been in command and in control of these works during the last twelve months? No.
1212. And Mr. Houison has not been in command or control of them during five months? No.
1213. *Mr. Brunker.*] You said just now that the object you had in view in making these roads was to give increased access to the Crown lands? Yes.
1214. Supposing you had not had that object in view? The Crown lands would have been no use at all.
1215. Would you have adopted the same form of subdivision. The land is very uneven on the surface, and you have formed the road so as to fall in with the inequalities of the surface? Yes; but I am giving you an opinion now. It is quite unnecessary to do so. I have got the instructions to do these things, and I have done them. When you come to ask me for a professional opinion—I am not a surveyor or could I give one.
4216. We only ask for a practical opinion with regard to the access. You say that £6,265 have been expended? Yes.
1217. And the cost of improving and making the roads on private property is £2,079, so that on the Crown land £4,186 have been expended? Yes.
1218. I think I have gleaned from your evidence that you have not an accurate knowledge of the owners of these properties? No, I have not an accurate knowledge of the owners.
1219. And you really do not know now whose properties you have intercepted? I would be sorry to take an oath and say whose properties they were.
1220. You really do not know? No, because we were never supplied with a district map.
1221. You have heard something of this property of Harnett's, but you really do not know to whom the land belongs? Now I have some knowledge. I thought at one time that Mr. Burns was interested about the land; but I could not say that authoritatively.
1222. Your want of knowledge of the private ownership of this land will account for the mistake you made in furnishing me with that report you sent to me the other day, and from which I furnished the House with a reply to a question? Yes; I think I have already acknowledged that.
1223. *Chairman.*] You say that £2,079 represents the amount spent on roads on private property? On what we consider round and about private property.
1224. Do you mean by private property the private property of Burns, Withers, and Smith? And other private owners.
1225. These roads running to the south of Junction Road are included in the £4,000 you mentioned? Yes.
1226. Do they not run through private property? Yes.
1227. Those roads running through private property are included in the £4,000? Yes.
1228. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] If you only spent £2,079 7s. on private roads, without including these running to the south of Junction Road, that amount has been spent on roads on Burns, Withers, and Smith's property, where have you spent the other £4,000? On all the Crown lands on the other side of the railway, and to the north of Boundary Road.
1229. That work is not shown on the map? The work would be on the other side at Peat's Ferry Road, where there are Crown lands, and three-acre blocks formed.
1230. It has cost £4,000 for one side? It has cost £4,000 for all the Government lands outside the private estate.
1231. *Mr. H. Clarke.*] Are those roads on the Government estate cleared? Yes.
1232. And ballasted? No, not ballasted.
1233. They are not ballasted on the Crown lands? No, merely cleared and formed.
1234. I noticed the other day when I was out that you had taken away a lot of undergrowth on Crown lands? Yes.
1235. *Chairman.*] Mr. Brunker just asked you, in reference to the roads on private property, would not the value of the land given more than compensate for the roads that were made;—as a matter of fact, does not the number of roads on that property increase its value? I should imagine it does increase the value; but you have to get access.
1236. But did you recommend any of those roads? Not that I am aware of.

FRIDAY, 30 NOVEMBER, 1888.

Present:—

MR. WALKER,
MR. O'SULLIVAN,MR. BRUNKER,
MR. CARRUTHERS.

THOMAS WALKER, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Thomas Cooper Hinchcliffe sworn and examined:—

1237. *Chairman.*] Are you the secretary of the Casual Labour Board? Yes.
- 1237½. How long have you occupied that position? Since the commencement of the Board. I think they started on the 2nd May, 1887.
1238. Are you in constant attendance? Yes.
1239. What are your duties in connection with the office? I have to look after all the correspondence, the records, pay all the accounts and wages, send the vouchers to the Audit Office, and all the incidental work connected with the office.
1240. What kind of records have been kept? The ordinary official records, the same as are kept in any other Government Department.
1241. Are there any minutes of any meetings that have been held by the Board? There are a few at the commencement. At the commencement of the Board we had only a small room, about 6 feet x 8 feet, at the Immigration Office, and the very scanty information here was put down by myself at the time or next day. The office was besieged by hundreds of men every day, and we had to answer all sorts of questions. After the end of May the Board said they did not want any minutes kept. They appointed Mr. Davies to do all the executive work, and the other two members of the Board being professional gentlemen were appointed to inspect and lay out the works and give professional advice.
1242. *Mr. Bruncker.*] Who were the other two gentlemen? Colonel Wells and Mr. D. Houison.
1243. *Chairman.*] After that you did not keep minutes? We recorded all the papers that came in and the work that was done.
1244. But as to the proceedings of the Board? No. Of course the papers would show what was done.
1245. You say Mr. Davies was appointed executive head;—was that at a general meeting of the Board? Yes; they were all present.
1246. Was it done by resolution? No; I do not think so. They seemed to talk matters over and agree among themselves.
1247. Did petitions or requests to have work done come to you as secretary? They were generally addressed to the Chairman. The Chairman opened all the correspondence, but in his absence I would open it. Then it would be entered in the record-book, and I would write any official communication that was required, and he would sign it, and it would be sent, perhaps, to the local surveyor for report, or to the nearest superintendent. When his report was received the Chairman would make a recommendation, favourable or otherwise, and send it on to the Colonial Secretary for his approval.
1248. Do you recollect how many full meetings of the Board there have been? I could not say.
1249. Have they been numerous or few? As I told you, after the first month Mr. Davies used to do the executive work. The other members would drop in occasionally, and ask me what was being done, and I would show them the papers. If the papers had gone out, I would show them the records. If they had any objection, I suppose they would communicate with Mr. Davies about it. They seemed to work very well together.
1250. Had you any petitions or requests for the making of roads on the lands near Hornsby? I could not tell that, because I did not take any more notice of that than of any of the others. I could only go by the report that is here. There are one or two petitions here.
1251. Are those one or two all that there are? All that I know of.
1252. Would you be likely to remember if there were more? I could not say. I would not try to recollect any particular paper; there were so many papers coming in; I suppose two or three thousand in the year.
1253. Have you any recollection when the formation of the roads commenced near Hornsby? No. Of course I had nothing to do with the executive management—only to do what I was told, principally office-work. I was paymaster as well as secretary, and that would take up all my time, being responsible for the money—as much as £5,000 on one pay-sheet.
1254. Had you anything to do with engaging the men? No.
1255. Do you know anything at all about the construction of roads at Hornsby? Nothing at all.
1256. You were never present at any meeting when these roads were discussed, to keep the records? No, not to keep any records. I might have been present when they were being talked of, but I do not recollect any particular meeting.
1257. Your attention was never called to them officially in any way? Only as it might appear here (in the papers). I see there is a letter in my name addressed to the Hon. J. F. Burns. That is the only one I see in connection with it.
1258. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] You say you have kept no minutes or records of what was done since May last? We keep the records, but these minutes were in addition to the records, because the Board met at first as an ordinary Board would meet; but after the first month the other two members arranged with Mr. Davies that he was to do the executive work, and they, when he let them know, or they received information from me, would superintend the outside or professional work, such as the making of bridges, roads, or culverts, or anything of that sort.
1259. What record could we get to find out who proposed and seconded or authorized any particular work? You would only find it from the papers, the same as in any other Government office; they would be initialled by the Chairman on behalf of the Board.
1260. Would it be correct to say that you have held thirty meetings of the Board? There have been a great number of meetings; there was no particular record kept.
1261. Would it be correct to say that there have been thirty regular meetings of the Board? About twenty-four I see here; for the first month they were held pretty well daily, except on Sundays.

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1262.

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1262. There were no regular meetings after May? No; the business they did would be shown on the papers. The Chairman would act for the three, and put his initials on as the head of the department.
1263. Would it be correct to say that there had been one hundred meetings of the Board? Not formal meetings.
1264. What do you mean by the meetings after May;—when one of the others dropped in to consult with Mr. Davies? Yes; they would drop in perhaps daily, perhaps once in two days; or one of them might be away for four or five days at his departmental work; then when he came back, he would come in to see what had been done.
1265. How long would they remain consulting with Mr. Davies? Sometimes a couple of hours.
1266. Do you keep all the applications that have been made to the Casual Labour Board for the construction of works? Yes; all the official papers are registered and stamped with a number, the same as in the other departments.
1267. Is there any means by which we can arrive at the cost of the different works? Yes; we have the total cost of each work.
1268. Have you vouchers for all the expenditure? Yes; at the Auditor-General's.
1269. Have you ever had any complaints from the men of unfair treatment? Numerous; but when we have investigated them, as a rule nine out of ten were without foundation.
1270. Have you had any complaints about their being unfairly treated by the contractors who supplied the provisions? Very seldom. I think the provision contract was about one of the best the Board ever had—most liberal considering the large number of men that would have to be supplied at short notice.
1271. Have you had any complaints from the men about money being kept back from them? Sometimes; but there would be a reason for it. Perhaps they had not finished their work. When the Superintendent went round, perhaps, he would say, "That stump must be taken out before you are paid;" and then when I went out to pay he would tell me to hold the money till it was properly finished, and then he would give me a memo. to pay the money.
1272. Do you remember a man named O'Brien, a sort of ganger down near Waterfall? Yes.
1273. Why was he dismissed? I forget. I could not tell you exactly, because I did not post myself up in anything with regard to the office. I thought this was only an inquiry about certain roads, and I do not know anything about the roads.
1274. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] The inquiry deals with the operations of the Casual Labour Board as well as the roads. Do you remember any complaints about sly-grog selling on the Holt-Sutherland estate? There was one complaint, I believe. Someone was convicted of sly-grog selling; but I fancy that was before the Casual Labour Board was appointed.
1275. You get all the petitions and letters? Yes; they are all kept and registered.
1276. Then if I were to ask you to produce the request for road H and road I on this plan, could you do it? All the petitions in reference to these roads they say are printed in these papers. I have been away; but these were handed to me as the papers in connection with it. Of course, without going personally through all the papers in the office, I would not know if there were any more.
1277. You say Mr. Davies was in the habit of opening all letters? Yes.
1278. And acting on the contents? He generally instructed me to write what we call a B.C. communication, and he initialled it.
1279. Mr. Davies appeared to be a kind of dictator of the establishment? No; what we would call the head of the department.
1280. He appeared to do things without regard to being kept in check by anybody else? I do not know; there was nobody there to keep him in check that I was aware of.
1281. He seemed to have the sole power? The other members appointed him to do that, they seemed to have thorough confidence in him. When they came and I told them what had been done, they said, "All right, Hinchcliffe." They always seemed quite content with what had been done.
1282. Was the effect of this understanding among them that Mr. Davies had sole charge of the Casual Labour Board, and called them in merely as advisers or experts? They would walk in any time they wished to. Of course they were professional men, and they attended to any work that required professional supervision outside. In the office they were not required, except occasionally they had to sign some documents to get money from the Treasury, or anything of that sort.
1283. These gentlemen were very often away for a week or a fortnight at a time? Colonel Wells had to go away visiting roads in the various districts.
1284. And Mr. Houison, too? Occasionally.
1285. During the absence of both of those gentlemen, would new works be gone on with by Mr. Davies without consulting them? No; I do not think they were both away at the same time.
1286. *Chairman.*] Has it ever happened? It might have happened; I could not say; I do not think so.
1287. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Did Mr. Davies give any reason for not wanting the minutes kept after May? No; they were no formal meetings. They met every day in May, and then the works got started, and Mr. Houison and Colonel Wells found they could not attend at any stated time daily.
1288. Did you keep a record of the consultations or meetings after May? Not after May.
1289. There is absolutely no guide whatever as to the number of times they met or consulted after you ceased to keep the record? Only by the papers.
1290. Which papers? The papers have to go through a certain routine that generally takes a few days, and they would be sure to come in before anything was actually done on the papers, and they would see what was being done.
1291. That would be no guide as to the number of meetings held? No.
1292. So that there is no guide whatever as to the number of meetings or consultations they held after May? No.
1293. I suppose vouchers for all the expenditure were forwarded to the Auditor-General's Office? Yes.
1294. And everything is kept in the proper manner? Yes.
1295. How would you settle these complaints about non-payment of wages and other liabilities? They would always be settled, either by the superintendent, or by the Board, if there was anything very particular. There was always a good reason for stopping any money, and it would only be stopped for a time.
1296. *Mr. Brunker.*] Who are the members of the Casual Labour Board? The Hon. John Davies, Mr. David Houison, and Colonel Wells.
1297. What is Mr. Brunner's business? I think he is an engineer in the Roads and Bridges Department.

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1298. And Colonel Wells? I think he is an engineer in the Roads Department.
1299. They are both Civil Servants? Yes.
1300. You say no records of the proceedings were made after a month? Only the papers which would show what was done. There were no formal meetings.
1301. The minutes were not kept in the ordinary way? No; the papers were all registered, and the action of the Board would appear on them.
1302. I suppose Messrs. Wells and Houison were treated as professional guides in carrying out the works? Yes.
1303. Did Mr. Davies, as Chairman of the Board, to your knowledge, exercise any powers beyond those which seemed to be in accord with his position? No.
1304. Were you present at all the meetings of the Board that were held at the Casual Labour Office? Yes; unless I was away paying wages.
1305. Generally? Yes; generally I would be there.
1306. What action would be taken prior to works being undertaken by the Board;—what would induce them to have the work carried out;—how would they gain the information that it was necessary? By letters being sent to the Board or to the Colonial Secretary by various Members of Parliament or by the local residents. The papers would be sent to the Board; they would recommend that the works be undertaken or otherwise; and the Colonial Secretary would approve of it or otherwise, and send the papers back.
1307. These letters all passed through your hands? Yes; through the office.
1308. Can you say whether any of these letters came from Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, asking that these roads should be constructed on their land at Hornsby? Not that I am aware of.
1309. Can you say;—you ought to be aware? The only letter with their name attached that I know anything about is the one giving the land to make the road. To the best of my memory and belief there was never any communication received from Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith as to making any road. A communication was made to them asking if they would give the land, and their answer is the only communication I am aware of.
1310. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Have you a list of the works carried out by the Casual Labour Board? I think it is in the office.
1311. Will you send it down? Yes.
1312. Have you a list of the applications made by Members of Parliament? I could get it from the records.
1313. Will you supply that, with special reference to the county of Cumberland? Yes; I think nearly all the works are in the county of Cumberland.
1314. *Mr. Brunker.*] The whole of the applications will be with the correspondence? Yes.
1315. You can produce them at any time? Yes; with a little time to search for them. Some of them might be in some of the other Departments.
1316. Then you will have the record of them? Yes.
1317. The papers are all numbered and stamped? Yes, in the usual way.
1318. *Chairman.*] Did ever Mr. Withers or Mr. Smith call at your office? Not that I am aware of.
1319. Were all the applications that reached your office forwarded on to the Colonial Secretary? Unless it was some very trivial matter.
1320. How would you define a trivial matter? Perhaps an application to increase a number of men from fifteen to twenty, or something small like that; when the Chairman would take the responsibility on himself.
1321. Would the clearing of a road be considered trivial? No.
1322. For every road that was cleared there was a consultation prior to its being cleared, either by letter or in some other way, with the Colonial Secretary? I think so.
1323. Are you sure? I am not exactly sure. Of course the Board has been in operation a year and eight months. I should think so myself.
1324. Were there any applications sent in for the clearing or formation of any roads that were not complied with? I believe so; I could not say for certain. I know there has been an application made to clear a common at Liverpool that has not been complied with. I believe several roads were applied for, but the applications were not complied with on account of being too expensive, or something of that sort.
1325. The common at Liverpool would be Crown property? Yes; public property.
1326. That has not been cleared? No. That is one of the cases I can recollect where an application has not been complied with. It has not been refused.
1327. Have you any record or accounts to show exactly how much has been expended on the property of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith at Hornsby? No; the wages sheet for Hornsby would come in in a lump sum—£250 or £300 for the fortnight. It would only show that such and such a gang was entitled to so much money. It would only be headed Hornsby.
1328. Then there is nothing to show exactly how much has been spent on property belonging to private owners? The local Superintendent might have the details; they are not put on the wages sheet.
1329. Do the papers show by whom any work was originated? No; not in all cases.
1330. You said the papers would show what was done;—would they show how such and such a road came to be initiated or originated, by whom it was authorized, and why it was authorized? I should think so. There is just one little item referring to these roads at Hornsby which perhaps would not be on the papers. It is in this minute book:—"28th May, 1887.—Board met 426, Pitt-street. Present: Mr. John Davies, F. Wells, D. Houison. Mr. John Davies, visited Hornsby in company with Mr. Deering, and approved of certain roads being laid out and formed." That, of course, would show there had been a consultation over roads in the district, and the Metropolitan District Surveyor had been consulted and approved of them; but there are no particular roads mentioned.
1331. Do you recollect now what Members of Parliament have applied for work to be done in any particular district? There are about sixty on one application—clearing the railway track to Kurnell.
1332. I mean in the matter of roads? I could not say from memory.

John Williams Deering, Metropolitan and Coast District Surveyor, sworn and examined :—

- J. W. Deering. 1333. *Chairman.*] You have had something to do, I believe, with the management of the unemployed? I had the unemployed for about nine or ten months; I think from about September, 1886, to May, 1887.
- 30 Nov., 1888. 1334. Did you have entire control of the unemployed up to that time? Yes.
1335. What work did you put them on during that time? Kurnell.
1336. What did you give them at Kurnell? Clearing.
1337. What kind of land? Government land.
1338. Did you put them on any private property, or roads through private property? Certainly not.
1339. Then after Kurnell? Field of Mars.
1340. What property was that? Government property.
1341. Any private roads leading to it or from it? No. I hesitated because I thought there might be a short piece leading to a railway station or something.
1342. But there was not? No; I think not.
1343. The clearing was all on Government land? Entirely.
1344. What other place? There was no other place?
1345. Did you have any of the unemployed working at Hornsby? They commenced a road over the bridge. They commenced to clear it just as I gave up the charge of the unemployed.
1346. That is the road marked A? Yes; I distinctly remember telling O'Donnell he had better complete it.
1347. That is the only road in the vicinity of Hornsby you authorized? It is the only one I authorized, and it is the only one I saw till the other day—Monday week.
1348. *Mr. Carruthers.*] Is that the road where the bridge is? Yes.
1349. I thought it was a quarter of a mile more to the south? We were going to take the road here (*points to plan*). There was a piece of Crown land between what we stated was Bellamy's grant and the other grants. It was not a very good road, and we made an exchange with the owners of this grant for this road A. I do not know whether we had a good position with regard to this piece of Crown land. In order to settle the matter, the owners said, "Do not claim this, and we will give you a road over that bridge." It was manifestly to the advantage of the Crown to accept the offer.
1350. You had no acknowledged right to that? No; there was a little doubt about the matter, and we made a very good arrangement for the Crown with the owner of that property by getting that road. They gave it freely.
1351. *Chairman.*] Who were the owners of this? Burns, Withers, and Smith.
1352. Then for this road "A" you gave them a piece of doubtful Crown land? Yes; unproven Crown land. I do not know whether we should have gained our case. The moment the offer was made I recommended the Government to close; it was so manifestly to our advantage.
1353. Did you recommend any other roads in the vicinity of Hornsby? I did not.
1354. Did you survey any others? I did not, nor cause them to be surveyed.
1355. There is a minute here :—

28 May, 1887.—Board met at 426, Pitt-street.

Present :—Mr. John Davies, F. Wells, D. Housion.

Mr. John Davies visited Hornsby, in company with Mr. Deering, and approved of certain roads being laid out and formed;—

- is that minute correct? I do not know what Mr. Davies did. The minute states what Mr. Davies approved.
1356. Did you approve of any roads? I did not approve of any roads. Mr. Burns asked me to go up with him and Mr. Davies on that occasion. I do not think it was an official visit. Mr. Burns was a very old friend of mine.
1357. Was Mr. Burns with you? He was. I never went up with Mr. Davies alone.
1358. Who was with you each time you went up with Mr. Davies? I went with Mr. Burns the first time.
1359. And who was with Mr. Davies the second time? Mr. Burns and Mr. Oliver, the Under Secretary for Lands.
1360. I suppose this 28th May was the first time? I could not say the date; it was about that time.
1361. To assist your memory, I may say that the Casual Labour Board came into office on the 2nd of May, and on the 28th of May there is this record of your being present with Mr. Davies at Hornsby;—was that the time that Mr. Davies and Mr. Burns were with you without any others? It must have been, if that minute is right as to date. I was never there but with Mr. Davies and Mr. Burns.
1362. In this instance, when it implies that you approved of any roads, is that correct;—did you approve of any roads on that occasion? If I did it was the roads through the Crown lands; and I think that is what we looked at on this occasion and the clearing of the reserve.
1363. Did you recommend or approve of roads being laid out or formed on private land belonging to anybody? I did not.
1364. Are any of those roads on the plan recommended by you? None except A.
1365. Have any of them been surveyed by you? None; nor seen by me until I went with Select Committee last Monday week, nor had that part of the ground been seen by me until I went with the Committee.
1366. From what kind of property does the road A go, and to what kind of property does it lead? It leads from Peat's Ferry Road into Crown lands.
1367. Is it private land to the west? No.
1368. It leads from and to Government property? Yes; there is a reserve there.
1369. Where? That little piece at the western side; it is not quite correctly drawn. I had it surveyed.
1370. Is it a Government reserve? Yes.
1371. Are there any roads leading to that reserve? Yes; Peat's Ferry Road.
1372. Did you recommend that as a reserve whilst you were in charge of the unemployed? No.
1373. *Mr. Brunker.*] You could not make it a reserve unless it was Crown land? Of course it was Crown land.
1374. *Chairman.*] You recommended the dedication of it as a reserve? No; it was a reserve. I recommended subdivision.

1375. Now, all these other roads that you see, are they all, in your opinion as a surveyor, necessary as roads of access to Crown lands? No; I should not say they were all necessary. J.W. Deering,
1376. Those shown on the plan you gave in with your papers? No; of course they are not all necessary. Nobody could say that. 30 Nov., 1888.
1377. *Mr. Carruthers.*] Are they beneficial as roads of access? Every road is beneficial to a certain extent—everything has a certain amount of advantage; but if you ask me would I have made them—I suppose that is it—I say decidedly I would not have made those roads.
1378. *Chairman.*] As a surveyor? Yes; having charge of the subdivision of Crown lands.
1379. In the interests of the Crown, you would not have made them? No.
1380. About how many of those would you designate as necessary? If you ask me what I would have done myself, I would not have minded clearing Junction Road, the road north from the church into Boundary Road, Vanceville Road, and I would not have minded clearing B, C, D, and E.
1381. *Mr. Carruthers.*] Why would you have cleared them? They lead into Crown lands. I want to say something more: I would not have minded clearing them, provided the owners gave the land free.
1382. *Chairman.*] But you would not have gone any farther? No; I would not have formed them. I would not have metalled them.
1383. *Mr. Carruthers.*] They have not been metalled, I believe? Well, call it what you like—ballasted.
1384. *Chairman.*] Would you have recommended the formation of that road alongside the railway station? No; I would not.
1385. Do you know whether that road is being formed or not? I saw something was being done to it the other day. It is being culverted, and it has been cleared.
1386. And it is now being formed? Yes.
1387. Now, take the continuation of Boundary Road to the road bordering the railway;—would you have recommended that to be cleared or formed or metalled? Yes; cleared only, provided always the land was given.
1388. Take the one to the south of that—the road running from B into the one bordering the railway station? The middle one?—no, decidedly not.
1389. You would not have recommended even the clearing of that? No; I would not.
1390. Then the road running southward from that into Junction Road;—would you have recommended that? I would not.
1391. The road running from H, parallel with Burns Road, about 5 chains to the north of it;—would you have recommended the clearing or forming of that road? I would not.
1392. Would you have recommended the road from Burns Road into E? No.
1393. Would you have recommended the continuation of H H, running from Lane Cove Road up to the road I have just mentioned through this little section? No; I would not.
1394. Do you consider that there are too many roads on this section south of the Boundary Road for purposes of access to the Crown lands or to the railway station? Yes.
1395. What benefit (if any) would be likely to accrue to the owners of private property from the multiplication of these roads? Well, it simply makes the roads for them through their estate. I suppose the value to the owners is the expenditure upon the roads.
1396. Would you consider that the giving of the land would be ample consideration for the construction of these roads? No.
1397. The forming of these roads would give more value to the land than they would lose by giving the land? Yes, beyond a doubt. It would not compensate for the expenditure.
1398. Whilst you were in charge of the unemployed, you have stated that it has been your object to employ them in making roads through subdivisions on Crown lands;—is it your opinion that if that course had been adopted with reference to these Crown lands to the north of Boundary Road it would have been more beneficial to the country than to make so many roads south of Boundary Road? Of course, beyond a doubt.
1399. If this expenditure that has been made on private property had been made on public lands, the Crown lands would have profited to that extent? Yes. I would not say to that extent—not to the full extent—but they would have profited.
1400. Of course there must be some roads of access? Yes.
1401. But after the necessary roads of access, if the superfluous roads had been put on Government land it would have been of more benefit to the country? Beyond a doubt.
1402. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Have you been over these Crown lands marked here for subdivision. Partly.
1403. What is the character of the country? Bad land; broken rocky country.
1404. Do you think the greater portion of it will be sold during the next ten years? No.
1405. Have all the lands worth buying been bought there already? Not entirely; there is a little fair land, but it is patchy.
- 1405½. How long did you have the unemployed under your care? From September, 1886, to May, 1887.
1406. During that time, did you ever lay out roads across private estates to give access to Crown lands? No; I think not.
1407. Were you ever approached by anyone with the request to do so? No.
1408. If you had had the unemployed when it was suggested that these roads should be laid out across the Burns-Withers-Smith property, would you have carried them out to the extent to which you see them on this plan? I would not.
1409. Are you aware that there are a number of roads in existence on the property not marked on the plan at all? They are marked on my plan.
1410. Not marked on the plan submitted to Parliament? Yes; I am aware of that—numbers of roads. I suppose the plan shows the roads proposed by Mr. Gordon, and that they have made roads since Mr. Gordon's report.
1411. *Mr. Carruthers.*] Do you know anything about other roads besides those that are shown? Yes; I have been all over them. The Select Committee requested me to produce a plan showing the roads.
1412. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Now, take Burns Road;—can you tell where that road leads to off the property of Burns, Withers, and Smith? I do not know where it leads to.
1413. Would you regard Burns Road, running from west to east, as giving access to Crown lands lying to the north of that road? Certainly not; that is exactly the reason that I object to these roads parallel to Boundary-street.

- J.W. Deering. 1414. Then the construction or making or forming of Burns' Road was not justifiable on the ground of giving access to Crown lands? I do not think it was; I could not possibly say so.
- 30 Nov., 1888. 1415. Take road E, running southerly on to Burns' Road, do you regard that as necessary to give access to Crown lands? No.
1416. Referring to the road running south from near the western end of Junction Road, is that required to give access to Crown lands? No; but I think it is only fair to state that it is not on the land of Burns, Withers, and Smith.
1417. And you have already admitted that the T-shaped road opposite was not required to give access to Crown lands? Not at all.
1418. What was the object of constructing this road parallel to the railway, and not taking it across Junction Road on to Peat's Ferry Road? I do not know anything about it.
1419. You do not know who made that road or who authorized it? I asked the men who were making it, and they said the Casual Labour Board.
1420. You do not know who authorized it? No.
1421. Do you think it was wise to take this road between those two points to Junction Road and leave it there? I do not think it was.
1422. Do you think it was a useful expenditure of public money? I do not.
1423. With regard to Boundary Road, have you any knowledge of the character of the country along there? Yes.
1424. Would it pay to make a public road along Boundary Road? No, it would not; it would pay to clear it, not to make it.
1425. Do you think it would be preferable to make Junction Road and the tributary roads than to make Boundary Road? Yes; I would have cleared them, not made them.
1426. *Mr. Carruthers.*] You do not understand the question. Mr. O'Sullivan says would you sooner make Junction Road and these tributary roads than make Boundary Road? I would not make either; they are both wrong.
1427. Suppose you had to make one or the other? Then, as a public officer, I would make Boundary Road. I would not make the other.
1428. Then, Boundary Road not being made, do you think sufficient access was given to the Crown land by the Church Road (I) and the Vanceville Road? Yes, beyond a doubt, and the road A.
1429. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] You consider the roads I, A, and J, justifiable roads to give access to Crown lands? Yes.
1430. In your opinion, all the other roads were unnecessary to give access to Crown lands? Well, I think it was right to clear Junction Road. I would not have minded seeing it cleared if they would give the land.
1431. Have you made any observations on the system of subdividing private estates? Yes; of course.
1432. Is it the practice of owners of private estates, when they want to make their land saleable, to cut the land up and clear the streets? Yes; clearing the streets pays, if it is a good estate.
1433. As a business man, if you had been the owner of this whole property and desired to sell it to advantage, would you have laid out and cleared a number of streets? Yes; I would have cleared the streets, but not have formed, metalled, or ballasted them.
1434. By forming and metalling the road, of course you increase the value of the property to that extent? I would not say to that extent exactly. Of course it would improve the value of the property considerably, and effect a sale.
1435. Then, do you consider that if the Casual Labour Board had not laid out and made these roads, Burns, Withers, and Smith, if they desired to sell their land to advantage, would have laid it out and cleared certain roads in the ordinary way of business? Yes; they would have done it without a doubt.
1436. And in doing that they must have given access to the Crown lands? No; because they need not take their roads right into Boundary Road; they could stop within 2 feet or a foot, put up a fence, and block us.
1437. Could not the Government resume those 2 feet and make a road? No; because you must resume for a certain purpose, and roads cannot be resumed under the Resumption Act, not being specified as a purpose thereunder.
1438. But you would not be resuming roads, you would be resuming vacant land that was an obstacle to the construction of a public road? Yes; but if it is for a purpose that is provided for by some other Act, you could not put the Lands Acquisition Act in force—not for roads or railways.
1439. *Mr. Brunker.*] Is there any other Act to give the power? No. The Parish Roads Act only applies where you go from a population to a population, or to a main road.
1440. *Mr. Carruthers.*] And it is only at the instance of the population you can open it? Quite so.
1441. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Is there no law on our Statute Book which would allow the Government to force a road through this 2 feet left there as a bar and an obstacle to the public? No.
1442. I mean, providing for compensation and everything else, provided the owners were treated fairly? No; we cannot do it.
1443. *Chairman.*] Would it not be to the advantage of the private owners to take it right through? Yes; quite so.
1444. In considering their own advantage they would have taken them right through? Yes.
1445. Did you never know of a case where the Government resumed private lands? Not for a road. They sometimes resume land for a public purpose, and then resume a road of access afterwards, and which the Lands for Public Purposes Acquisition Act allows.
1446. Then, if they saw that these proprietors were so unpatriotic as to leave an obstacle of 2 feet, would not they probably resume that land and put a road through it? I think it is likely enough that some steps would be taken.
1447. Apart from that altogether, do you think it is probable that owners of an estate like this would play so unpatriotic and selfish a part, and a part so detrimental to themselves, as to leave a narrow barrier between the end of their roads and the Boundary Road? Do you mean, provided they cleared their roads, and we would not clear ours?
1448. *Chairman.*] Under any circumstances? Yes; it is continually done.

1449. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Under these circumstances, considering that the effect of giving access to the Crown land would be to still further increase the value of their own land, do you think they would be likely to do it? Giving access to the Crown lands would, of course, improve their lands. J.W. Deering.
30 Nov., 1888.
1450. If the population were induced to settle on the Crown lands at the back of their property, would not the presence of that population give value to their land? Beyond a doubt.
1451. Would it not be an advantage in that case to have cleared roads of access to the Crown lands, in order that the population at the back would be able to cross the street? It would be an advantage to the population, and also an advantage to the owners of the estate.
1452. You admit that if the population were settled on the Crown land that would add value to the property of Messrs Burns, Withers, and Smith? Yes.
1453. Then, admitting that, and the probability that a little township would go up, with shops and stores fronting the street? Yes; but not there. The township would come here in their estate.
1454. Yes; but even so, the people settled on the Crown lands would naturally have to come there to trade; and with that probability before them, would it not be to the advantage of the owners of this property to give access to the Crown lands? Beyond a doubt, when the population is there.
1455. *Mr. Brunker.*] What population is settled round here, to the east? None at all.
1456. Is not that where we saw the orchards? No; it is a good deal further south. There is a population to the south, not a large population.
1457. Assuming that the population settles to the east and west of these lands, would not these roads of access give increased value to the Crown lands—increase the traffic to the railway? Yes; some of these roads—not all of them.
1458. *Mr. Carruthers.*] How could population settle on those Crown lands if you have no access to them? Of course it could not.
1459. Is it not a rule you recognize that, before you can induce people to purchase this land and settle on it, you must give fair access to your railway lines and main roads? Yes.
1460. You have had a great deal of experience in the sale of Crown lands in the metropolitan area? Yes; I have charge of it all.
1461. How far is Hornsby from Sydney by railway? About 12 miles from St. Leonards.
1462. What have been the best Crown land sales you have had during the last two years, within (say) 10 to 20 miles of Sydney? The Gordon sale, south-east from Hornsby.
1463. Was the sale at Narrabeen good? Yes, very good; but Gordon was better.
1464. Was the Narrabeen sale better than Harbord? Yes.
1465. Very much better? Yes.
1466. You sold a great deal of the Harbord land at the upset price? A good deal of it was left. We did not consider it a good sale.
1467. You considered Narrabeen a very good sale? Yes; a good sale.
1468. At Harbord you did not do very much in the way of clearing roads or land? We cleared the roads.
1469. Did you clear them to anything like the extent you did at Narrabeen? Yes; what there was of them.
1470. Is it not the fact that the unemployed were working for months at Narrabeen? They were making a road (the French's Forest Road) and metalling it a leading road right through—towards Pitt-water.
1471. They made other roads of access to that—cross roads? I do not think they metalled any.
1472. Ballasted them—gravelled them? No; I do not think they ballasted any. They cleared them and cut side trenches.
1473. Is not Harbord closer to Sydney and Manly Beach than Narrabeen? Yes; from 2 to 3 miles—it varies.
1474. Narrabeen was the better sale? Yes; on account of the proposed railway, projected since the Harbord sale, which will sell better than Narrabeen when next offered.
1475. You remember the sales that took place at Como? Yes.
1476. There is a water frontage there? The sale (on the ground) went too low. We can only account for it by the wet day. Still, every lot was sold, though the attendance was small.
1477. There were no roads made to that whatever? No.
1478. Do you know that after you sold at Como, the unemployed made roads there—from Como to the Woronora River, and to Sutherland Railway Station, and to Heathcote? That was not by my orders; I only cleared Como.
1479. But do you know it? I do know of the Heathcote and Hurstville Roads since made, now you mention it. I gave orders to have Como cleared, and only cleared.
1480. And after the sale, one or two roads of access were made? They might have been promised by the auctioneer, if it is so.
1481. Do you know that Sir George Innes, one of the purchasers, sold at a very considerable profit after the roads were made? Yes; I have heard so.
1482. Do you know that Mr. Myles M'Rae bought there and sold at a very considerable profit? Yes; I have heard so.
1483. Does not that enable you to form an opinion that the making of these roads increased the value very considerably, and that the Crown lost through not making them before the sale? Those roads you are speaking of are through Crown lands. The Como prices were too low for the reasons stated.
1484. Now what are the sales at Heathcote? Good.
1485. What was the average price? Some of the town allotments went very high; I cannot remember.
1486. Are you aware that a considerable portion of Heathcote was sold at £12 and £13 an acre? I cannot remember.
1487. Are you aware that contracts were let beforehand, and that the cost of clearing that land for sale was over £12 and £13 an acre? Yes; that is the more distant of the suburban lands. It was cleared by the Casual Labour Board, but should not have been done at all.
1488. Was the sale of Crown lands at Hornsby a good sale? Fair.
1489. What were the average prices realized? About £40 an acre, I think.
1490. You are sure it was not £78 an acre? That was the highest.
1491. Do you remember the best Como brought? I think about £30 an acre.

- J.W. Deering. 1492. Water frontage and all? Yes. It went too cheaply altogether, as already stated.
 30 Nov., 1888. 1493. About 11 miles from Sydney? About 13; but then you have to take a boat from the station to get to it.
1494. Supposing I were to offer to drive you on to it? Yes, now you could, by going a long way round through Peakhurst, since the Upper Punt across George's River has been re-established, and since the sale.
1495. You attribute the failure of the sale at Como to the fact that there were not the same facilities to get to the land that there are now? Partly; but then at Heathcoate we cleared the land, and we sold it in parts only for what it cost to clear.
1496. How many miles is that from Sydney? Twenty.
1497. And some of that went for £12 or £13 an acre? Yes; but we cannot account for land sales. Sometimes there is an excitement for land sales, and then again you may make your best endeavours and people will not buy.
1498. Is it not the fact that the sales at Narrabeen and Hornsby are the two best sales the Government have had? Yes, for outside lands.
1499. On the two occasions when you visited this locality with Mr. Burns, is it not a fact that you visited merely the Crown lands? Yes; the reserve near the public school site.
1500. Mr. Burns did not take you over his land? Not at all, except the land crossed by the road "A," at the railway bridge.
1501. You confined your attention solely to the Crown lands? Quite so. I do not know what we did exactly. We did nothing in particular.
1502. The object of your visit was to go to the Crown lands? That was on the second visit, beyond a doubt. I am speaking of the first visit. I went up with him as a friend, I understood, on the first occasion.
1503. Then you went officially? No; I do not think I did. I think I went up with him as a friend. He asked me to go with him, and I asked no questions. He asked me if I was disengaged on Saturday, and I went up.
1504. You spent that time inspecting the Crown lands? Yes. I certainly did not look at any of his private lands. We went and looked at the land where the bridge is. That is what we went to look at. We had very little time there. We went to look at this reserve on the first visit. I did not look on the first as an official visit, but the second was undoubtedly.
1505. You stated that, while you consider roads A, G, the Junction Road, I, and J, which of course include C and F—while you consider those justifiable, in your opinion, you would not have made the others? No; and I would only clear those mentioned.
1506. Now, suppose you had to purchase those roads, what was the price of land at the time? I think the land is worth about £40 an acre.
1507. You would have had to pay £40 an acre for those roads? Yes; I think we should have got it for that.
1508. Do you know what it has cost to clear those roads per acre? I know what it is worth.
1509. As it has been done, we are told it would cost £7 an acre? Yes; that is very reasonable if they took trees out 12 inches under the surface.
1510. If you did not go below the surface you could get it done for £2 or £3? For £4.
1511. As you have seen it done, is £7 an acre a fair price? Yes.
1512. *Mr. Brunker.*] Is not that a big price? It is quite enough. I thought about £6, but did not wish to be too critical.
1513. *Mr. Carruthers.*] You stated in your evidence that you would have cleared these roads if the owners gave these lands free? Yes.
1514. Now you say the value you would pay for the land is £40 an acre, and the equivalent you would give the owner is £7 an acre? Exactly; I expect to make something out of it for the Government. That is the way I work. Then we proclaim that road, and it gives a frontage to the estate.
1515. You would be doing justice to your employers? Exactly; I serve the Government exactly as if they were private individuals.
1516. And getting the best of the bargain? Exactly.
1517. Now, I know you speak as an officer looking at a normal state of affairs; but considering that the Government had a large number of men unemployed, for whom they had to find relief work, do you think they lost anything by the bargain in this case in getting roads G, I, F, J ballasted while they were on the spot, after getting the land given to them free—so getting perfect access to the Crown lands—considering the cheap labour, and the necessity to find employment for this labour? I think the Government lost by it, beyond a doubt.
1518. In what way? We did not get the money back that was expended on these roads, and never shall.
1519. You say that, despite the fact that it has been the best sale you have had? That has not been the best sale. I said the Gordon sale was the best. I was rather disappointed about this sale. I did not think it was a particularly good sale.
1520. You said before that the Narrabeen and this were the two best? So they were, as regards outside sales; but Gordon is a suburban subdivision virtually.
1521. What did this land fetch? About £40. Some we could not sell at all.
1522. £78 was the highest? Yes.
1523. What was the lowest? £25, I think. (*Refers to lithograph with selling prices marked.*)
1524. Where do these roads come in? (*Witness indicates approximate position of roads.*)
1525. Do you notice that where you have marked the road C coming in, the price obtained is the highest in that block? Yes; but it was not because of that exactly. The reason that fetched such a price was because it has such a long frontage to the Boundary Road.
1526. You do not give any credit to the fact of there being a good made road facing it? Not very much.
1527. If it is no benefit to the buyer of that lot, can you tell me what advantage it is to the people through whose land it goes? Of course it gives them double frontage all the way.
1528. There remains the fact that this land brought £65 per acre; the next block, facing the same road, £61 per acre, and the other blocks diminish in value down to £41? Yes; but there are different elements there.
1529. Now take the block where the next road, D, comes in;—do you notice that this block fetches £33 per

per acre; the next blocks to it, although they are closer to the station, drop to £25, £29, and £27? Yes; J.W. Deering. but that is not the reason why. The reason that fetched the money is that Boundary Road is made and King Road is not. 30 Nov., 1888.

1530. Nevertheless here is this road made to that limit, and yet this fetches £60? Yes; but the best of the land is on the top of the hill. Some of the other did not fetch so much because of the rocks. (*Refers to plan.*)

1531. Do you know that Burns and Withers sold some land on the other side of the railway line? Yes; in the Hornsby Junction estate, at 20s. per foot to £3 10s. per foot, near the railway station.

1532-3. Are you sure they did not sell some on the same side as the Government land? I do not know; I was not aware that they had.

MONDAY, 3 DECEMBER, 1888.

Present:—

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| MR. WALKER, | MR. STREET, |
| MR. O'SULLIVAN, | MR. CARRUTHERS, |
| MR. M'MILLAN, | MR. COPELAND, |
| MR. HENRY CLARKE. | |

T. WALKER, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

John William Deering recalled and further examined:—

1534. *Mr. M'Millan.*] Mr. Gordon is your officer, is he not? Yes.

1535 He seems to have had a good deal to do with the initiation of these roads, if I understand aright? J.W. Deering. It seems so from the papers. 3 Dec., 1888.

1536. How was it that Mr. Gordon, being an officer in your Department, should do anything in the matter without its going directly or ultimately through you? He should not have done so; it was very wrong of him to do so.

1537. You are, I believe, in the position of head surveyor to the Metropolitan District? Yes.

1538. And every officer in that district is under you? Yes.

1539. For how long did the period extend during which Mr. Gordon was acting, or is acting, on his own account, instead of acting directly through you? I can judge only by the papers. I see his letters now for the first time.

1540. But 'speaking roughly? I see there are four of his letters in the papers at various dates, from October, 1887, to May, 1888.

1541. Are you not supposed to have a more or less accurate knowledge of the movements and works of your officers? Yes.

1542. You say you know nothing, except from reference to Mr. Gordon's letters, of what he has done in the matter; surely, during the eight months to which you have referred, you have some knowledge of the work occupying Mr. Gordon's time as your subordinate officer? You see he might easily have written any one of these letters without my having any knowledge of it.

1543. Mr. Gordon is an officer under your supervision; he is engaged on certain work, and, by the rules of the office, he should report to you, you being responsible for him;—how could he be so long employed on work of which you knew absolutely nothing? He was not employed exclusively on this work during the period I have named. All I say is that he wrote these four letters during this period. He was not employed by the Casual Labour Board from October, 1887.

1544. What I want to get at is this: Mr. Gordon did a certain amount of work as your officer in connection with this Hornsby Estate through the Casual Labour Board;—how is it that he did work of this kind without you having any knowledge of it. I take it for granted that you ignore, as far as you are concerned, and that you disclaim any responsibility for it? Yes.

1545. How can you ignore work done by an officer in your own Department for whose action you are directly responsible to the Minister? I can only say that these letters are unwarranted.

1546. Was Mr. Gordon not employed by the Casual Labour Board under Mr. John Davies? No; he was not. I protested against Mr. John Davies writing to Mr. Gordon. Mr. Davies wrote to him recently, and I protested officially against his letter.

1547. Did not Mr. Gordon do some work in his position as a Government officer in connection with these roads? You are rather emphasising what he did. Of course he knew the country intimately.

1548. You know now that Mr. Gordon was employed by the Board—that he had something to do with it? I did not know till I saw the papers.

1549. You know now? I know now.

1550. How could an officer under you be spending his time doing certain work without you having some knowledge as to how it came about? He was not spending much time at it. I know, as a matter of fact, that he could not have done so. He could not possibly have done so without my knowing it. He sends me a progress journal every month. You must bear in mind that it would not take a very long time to write any of these letters and to make these proposals.

1551. He had no right, without instructions from or without the letters going through you, to take the initiative in any work of this kind? He had not. I may say that I reprimanded him for writing this letter of 28 January, 1888.

1552. *Mr. Street.*] Had you at any time charge of the unemployed? Yes.

1553. When? From about September, 1886, to about May, 1887.

1554. Can you tell us how it was that you gave up charge of the unemployed? I found that I could not carry on my duties as district surveyor and carry on the "unemployed" work as well, and resigned the latter.

1555. Who succeeded you in your charge? The present Labour Board. Sir Henry Parkes asked me to be on the Board, but my official duties were too heavy.

1556. How were the unemployed paid during the time you had charge of them? By contract.

1557. All? Well, there were, of course, a few whom we could not pay by contract.

1558. Were any large number employed upon day labour? No; very few.

1559. On what description of work did they engage? Well, clerks, storemen, and making culverts. They were paid at day rates. 1560.

- J.W. Deering. 1560. What rate of wages were paid to them? I gave one of the men 6s. a day; he was a ship's carpenter, and a skilled labourer.
- 3 Dec., 1888. 1561. Do you know the position of the Boundary Road dividing private roads from Crown lands? Yes.
1562. It has been said that it is very difficult and expensive in its formation? In one place.
1563. The Boundary Road being difficult of formation, do you consider it necessary to form the Junction Road in order to get communication with the station? I would have cleared it, but I would have formed nothing.
1564. This would have enabled the private land to take advantage of the features of country? Yes.
1565. That being so, what advantage was it to the private owners that roads B, C, D, E, and F should be constructed? Well, it would give them cleared roads and additional frontages.
1566. But it seems to me that they did not want it? Of course they did.
1567. What for? For the subdivision of their property. You see that this land would be cut up into much smaller allotments than shown on lithograph, with roads running east and west.
1568. *Mr. Carruthers.*] Is it a fact, with regard to the Narrabeen land sale, a lot of roads leading to that estate were formed by the Government through private property—French's Road, for instance? French's Forest Road is a public road, that is the difference.
1569. What do you deem a public road? A road proclaimed under the Act.
1570. That is what you as a surveyor deem a public road? Yes.
1571. Are you aware that cross roads from French's Road have been formed to the Narrabeen Estate through private property;—Wheeler's, for instance? Yes; I know Wheeler's Estate.
1572. Are these cross roads formed to give access to the Narrabeen Estate? I would not have formed it.
1573. But are you aware whether it has been done? No.
1574. You have not observed it? No; the cross roads were not done by my suggestion.
1575. *Mr. M'Millan.*] Is it not a fact that the natural way of getting up on the Government land at Hornsby is north and south, the gullies rendering it impossible to take the roads east and west? Yes.
1576. I understand that the land is so full of gullies and creeks, that in opening up the property it is necessary to take roads from north and south? Yes; but not so many as have been made.
1577. But speaking generally? Yes.
1578. I take it that the Crown land is not so different to that of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, that it might ultimately get into small subdivisions? That is not so.
1579. There are great natural obstacles in the way of forming the Boundary Road? Yes.
1580. Taking for granted that Pearce's Corner line is constructed, would not the natural way to get to the Crown lands be from that direction instead of coming straight on from Hornsby? Yes, partly.
1581. It follows that it would be necessary by various means to open up communication on that line to various points of the Government land? Yes.
1582. Suppose you owned the Government land yourself, and you wanted to make a mutual arrangement and simultaneous settlement of both your land and the other land, would you not feel inclined to make arrangements for roads to be constructed pretty much as these roads have been constructed? No; I would not.
1583. Then how would you get the benefit of access from Pearce's Corner Railway? I would not offer to spend £5,000 in order to get £4,000, land included.
1584. But speaking generally, would you not try to arrive at some arrangement with your neighbours on an equitable basis for the opening up of the roads through yours? Without doubt.
1585. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] But you would not spend £5,000 to get £4,000? No.
1586. Do you consider that the value which the Government have given to this property is greater than the value they have received? Yes.
1587. *Mr. M'Millan* has asked you whether you would not endeavour to come to some arrangement with your neighbour for the making of these roads; but suppose you saw that your neighbour was doing these roads himself, would you step in and relieve him of the work? No; I do not think so.
1588. Roads have been commenced upon the estate by Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith before the Government commenced constructing any? I believe so.
1589. *Mr. M'Millan.*] If I understand your evidence rightly, it is more against the number of roads made than the advisability of some? I admit the advisability of some being cleared.
1590. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Taking up that line of argument, and admitting that some roads should be cleared from the Pearce's Corner line to the Crown lands, do you admit that four roads running in that direction are absolutely necessary? Certainly not.
1591. You say that you did not authorize Mr. Gordon to work for the Casual Labour Board? I did not, and I objected to it the moment I knew of it.
1592. If Mr. Gordon undertook work under their instructions he did wrong, and should have received his instructions from you as Metropolitan Surveyor? Yes.
1593. Did you think it your duty to interfere with Mr. Gordon's work, knowing that he would be authorized to construct the roads by Mr. Davies, who represented the Colonial Secretary? I did not know that at all.
1594. You were not conscious that Mr. Gordon was doing this work? Not till I saw these printed papers.
1595. *Mr. Street.*] You say you do not consider all these roads necessary;—which would you have dispensed with? I would rather say the roads I would have cleared, for brevity. I think, in view of the convenience of persons coming from Sydney, the Vanceville Road should have been cleared, provided the owners would have given the land; I would clear a road to give access from the Pennant Hills; I would clear the Junction Road along its whole length, provided always that the owners would give the land; I would also clear the extension of Boundary Road westerly to the station; road A I think I cleared myself.
1596. If you would have cleared only those roads, by what means would you have given the purchasers of Crown Lands access to the good land between the gullies;—for instance, road B would lead up to a lot of good land according to the evidence we have taken? I would clear all the tributary roads from Junction Road. My great objection to the roads through this private estate consists in the formation, ballasting, the side drains, and the culverts.
1597. *Mr. M'Millan.*] But you do not object to the clearing? No.
1598. *Chairman.*] Are you now speaking of all the roads? I am speaking of those I have just enumerated.

J.W. Deering,
3 Dec., 1888.

1599. *Mr. Copeland.*] You object to the other roads altogether? Yes.
1600. Have you any reason to suppose that if the Government had not cleared the roads through this estate the owners themselves would have cleared them? I am sure they would.
1601. Is it not a fact that the laying off of the roads really forms the subdivision? It forms the back bone of the subdivision.
1602. In every case you know of, have not the owners of private estates laid out the roads and cleared them? Yes; so far as I know, in any valuable estate.
1603. Were not these roads through the Burns, Smith, and Withers' estate laid off and surveyed before any Government expenditure was made upon them? Yes.
1604. The whole of them? Yes; by Mr. Dawson I believe, the surveyor to the Burns' estate; I am not sure that all of them were laid off but some of them I am sure were.
1605. And your experience leads you to believe that the owners of these private lands would have cleared the roads at their own expense? There is no doubt about it.
1606. That applies to the roads on the whole estate? It does; still they might have done it in their own time.
1607. You did not survey any of these roads? No.
1608. You have no intention of recommending that the Crown lands to the eastward of the Government subdivision should be put on the market immediately? No.
1609. They are very rough? Yes; some of the Hornsby Government estate, near the railway, is not yet sold, we could not sell it at £10 an acre.
1610. Then there was no immediate prospective benefit to the Government resulting from the making of many of these roads? No; the making of the roads was wrong, there is no getting away from that.
1611. You have been out on these roads on several occasions? Yes.
1612. Did you go out officially or unofficially? I went out with this Select Committee, that was my first visit.
1613. But you have been out on to the land before? Yes; but not on to the roads, I was never over Burns' land before.
1614. What was your object in going out there? If I remember rightly I went out with Mr. John Davies in connection with the reserve.
1615. Did anyone else accompany you? Mr. Burns.
1616. Had you any roads through the portion of Crown lands on the western side of the railway now forming the reserve? No.
1617. That land was formerly Crown land subdivided with the object of sale? It was designed; I do not think it was subdivided; I do not think it got so far as that.
1618. Do you remember the area of the reserve? Twenty-seven acres.
1619. That was designed for a subdivision? It was.
1620. Did you make or form any of the roads? No.
1621. Or metal any? The land was never subdivided. The subdivision was stopped.
1622. Have any roads since been made on that side of the railway on what now forms the reserve? I think not.
1623. You recommended that that subdivision should be sold? I did.
1624. But it was afterwards not sold? It was not.
1625. But it was made into a reserve? It was.
1626. At what do you estimate the value of the land near the railway? £1,000 or £1,200 perhaps.
1627. How much is contained in the portion of the reserve near the railway? Twenty-seven acres. Some of it is very precipitous. There are 10 acres of good land, and those 10 acres would be worth £3,000. They adjoin the Public School and Court-house sites.
1628. Did not the Public School and Court-house sites form part of the reserve? They did.
1629. Before it was made a reserve? No; before it was subdivided.
1630. This 10 acres which you estimate to be worth £3,000 was, with other lands, subdivided by the Crown for sale? Yes; but not marked on the ground.
1631. But the sale never took place, and the land was reserved? Yes; that is so.
1632. Can you say when it was reserved? In 1887.
1633. While Mr. Garrett was Minister for Lands? I think so.
1634. Is it not a fact that I previously refused to make a reserve of it? By reference to the papers now before me, you refused to do so on the 7th December, 1886. Your minute is to this effect: "Mr. Burns, M.P., may be informed that sufficient provision has already been made for reserves in this neighbourhood; but should the public interest require further provision to be made at present, I see no reason for withdrawing the portion referred to from subdivision." I may say that I reported against Mr. Burns' application.
1635. For what purpose has the land been since reserved? For public recreation.
1636. I understand that 4 acres are taken out for a Court-house reserve, and that over 2 acres were taken out for Public School reserve? Yes.
1637. And the balance of the 10 acres has since been formed into a recreation reserve? Yes. I ought to explain that the Court-house site was on the other side of the road.
1638. But the Public School site was a portion of the 10 acres? No; I think you misunderstand; the 10 acres was beyond that.
1639. The 10 acres valued at £3,000 has been made into a recreation reserve, and, in addition to that, reserves of the areas I have named have been made for the Court-house and a Public School respectively? Yes; the Court-house is on the eastern side of the Peat's Ferry Road, not on the eastern side of the railway; I daresay it amounts to 4 acres.
1640. Have any roads been made through these reserves since they were proclaimed? Not that I am aware of.
1641. You are aware that the employment of these men in making roads was simply to take them off the labour market? I understood so.
1642. Had you no Crown lands subdivisions upon which this labour could have been judiciously expended in the making and forming of roads, take Harbord for instance? Oh, yes; and we had the whole of the Field of Mars.

- J.W. Deering. 1643. You would have had no difficulty in finding employment for any number of unemployed in making roads through Crown lands subdivisions? None whatever; there were 4,300 acres of land unsold at the Field of Mars. The Casual Labour Board might have used the unemployed out there.
- 3 Dec., 1888. 1644. It is said in the debate in Parliament that I had to do with the starting of the unemployed in making these roads; you have had charge of the papers I believe? They have come to me officially from time to time.
1645. As the Metropolitan District Surveyor you would know to what extent I, as the then Minister, had to do with the opening of these roads? You had to do with the A road only.
1646. What was the extent of my connection with the opening of that road? As Minister, you approved of the exchange of a strip of land to the north of the grant, for the road going over the bridge to Crown land.
1647. The road is from Crown land to Crown land? Yes.
1648. What is approximately the length of it? Half a mile.
1649. Had I anything to do with giving instructions for the opening of these other roads? No.
1650. Can you find the papers;—I myself cannot find the papers showing that I had to do even with the road A? I do not see the paper; but I know that it was so.
1651. You were asked whether the private owners would benefit by subdivision roads from Junction Road—how many acres would those allotments contain? The land would not be sold in those large-sized allotments, as shown on lithograph.
1652. Would it not be necessary to even further subdivide the land, and to have an additional number of roads? Yes.
1653. You were asked whether it was not a fact that roads had been made through private land at Narrabeen—do you consider it justifiable that these cross roads should have been made at the public expense? I do not approve of making these roads at all through private land. Clearing is a different thing.
1654. You do not object so much to the clearing of the land for the roads? No; provided the owners give us the land.
1655. But in cases where the owners of private land are going to subdivide, would it not be preferable to leave them to clear their own roads, while we employed the unemployed in clearing the Crown lands subdivisions? I should clear only one or two of the leading roads.
1656. But you would clear those roads if you knew that the owners of the land were going to clear and subdivide? Well, I don't know; they might not clear in time for our sale.
1657. And in a case of that kind you would consider it justifiable to clear the roads? Yes.
1658. Will you state the nature of the obstacle in the Boundary Road preventing it from being made a passable road? The moment you leave the present subdivision and cross the creek you come on to a wall of rock. It is between the roads D and E.
1659. But it is sandstone rock? Yes.
1660. Would there be any difficulty in cutting through that rock and filling up the gully? You could greatly improve the road by a large expenditure of money.
1661. Which would have been the largest expenditure, the making good of that one bad place in the Boundary Road, or the expenditure which has taken place upon the whole of these roads on private property? If the money expended on the making those roads had been expended on the Boundary Road, you could have made a very good road of it. I think it would have made it a very passable road for £2,000. You would have to cut off the top, and run it down into an embankment.
1662. What, roughly, has been the expenditure upon the whole of these roads on private property? They have cost £5,000 if they cost a shilling.
1663. Has not road A been extended through the Crown land subdivision? It has.
1664. In point of fact, Crown land to which access is given by the roads E and F is unfit for subdivision at the present time? It is not advisable to subdivide them at present.
1665. I suppose those lands are comparatively worthless at the present time? They are not worth £10 an acre.
1666. And you have no idea of recommending that those lands should be put upon the market at present? Not for some time to come.
1667. I presume we have plenty of land already subdivided of a superior character which could be put into the market to supply any demand? Oh, yes; we have much better land than that.
1668. Can you give us any information as to the area of Crown lands subdivisions available in the same neighbourhood? We have a lot of land further on than that. We have 5,000 acres subdivided to the east of it; it is a better quality of land. I left the worst to the last.
1669. This land you look upon as the worst? There cannot be any doubt about that.
1670. In addition to this, what area of land have you at Harbord unsold? 270 acres.
1671. What area have you at Beecroft and Field of Mars? 4,300 acres, and in addition to 4,300, Narrabeen and Gordon.
1672. Upon the whole of this land you could have employed the whole of the unemployed in metalling and forming roads? Yes; but I object to metalling even on Crown lands—it does not pay.
1673. At all events the men could have been employed in forming the roads there? Yes.
1674. The roads were surveyed? Yes.
1675. Your experience is that the expenditure of labour on these subdivisions would have enhanced the value of Crown lands, and the Government would have been recouped? Yes, I think so; if the roads were cleared and culverted only.
1676. You think the Government would have been recouped in the wages of the unemployed so engaged? I do not think they would have been recouped, but the increased receipts would have gone towards it, and effected a sale of the lands.
1677. Do you think that the Government would have been recouped in making these roads through the properties of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith? No honest man can, I think, honestly say so.
1678. *Mr. McMillan.*] I understood you to say that the expenditure upon these roads through private property had been £5,000? I am sure of it.
1679. And you say that for an expenditure of £2,000 you can overcome certain difficulties on the Boundary Road? Yes.
1680. But I suppose that even with the expenditure of that £2,000 would not make the road a satisfactory road? No; there would be a very steep gradient, about 1 in 6, I should say, in one place. 1681.

J.W. Deering,
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1681. What would it cost to make the Boundary Road a satisfactory road for the purposes of traffic as a Junction Road? It would cost a lot of money; you would have a 50-foot cutting.
1682. But roughly, what would it cost to make the road a satisfactory road? £10,000, roughly.
1683. Then it would cost twice as much to make that one road satisfactory as it has cost to make the whole of these other roads? Yes.
1684. But even suppose the Boundary Road were made, that would not preclude the necessity for other roads leading up to it? No.
1685. So that even supposing there were certain roads which are not absolutely necessary at the present time for the purpose of the plan, they have been laid out as a mere matter of economy, for the purpose of giving access to this property? I approve of the four roads going out of the Junction Road.
1686. That is not my point, I do not wish your evidence to appear inconsistent; the inference to be derived from your reply to Mr. Copeland just now was that the Boundary Road could be made in a certain sort of way? My evidence will not be inconsistent. I know for £2,000 you can cut down a lot of stuff, run it down, and make an embankment of it.
1687. But you could not for that expenditure have made a satisfactory road of Boundary Road? Not altogether satisfactory; there would have been a steep gradient under any circumstances.
1688. You have said that you approved of that road? I approved of the clearing of the road.
1689. What I want to remove from your evidence, then, is this appearance of inconsistency;—it might appear from your evidence that the Boundary Road could have been substituted for this expenditure for the Government Road? It certainly could not; it is to the advantage of the Government to have the Junction Road cleared, but only cleared provided the owners gave us the land.
1690. You say that there has been no communication between you and the unemployed department? Not the slightest.
1691. Consequently your knowledge as to the value of this land would not be at the disposal of the Board? No application was made to me.
1692. Is it not a fact that at the sale of the Hornsby subdivision as much as £70 an acre was given? Yes.
1693. Do you not consider that a good price? Yes; the very best of the land was bought, some of the inferior land was left.
1694. This land that brought £70 an acre was all on one spot? Yes; only one allotment, I think, brought £70 an acre; the average was £35 or £40 an acre.
1695. As a Crown land sale was it a good sale? Taking it altogether it was a fair sale.
1696. Are we to infer that the prices obtained were a fair test of the value of the land generally? It was a fair test of the value.
1697. Consequently we can say that the roads about which we have been talking open out land which is as a whole of fair quality, excepting the test of this particular sale? No; the land was the pick of the land there.
1698. Was there, as far as you know, any evidence before the Casual Labour Board showing them that this land was not the fair average of the Crown lands in that neighbourhood. Do you know whether the Board were aware that this land was better than the remaining Crown land to be disposed of? I know that Mr. Davies himself is one of the best judges of land in the country, and he knew this particular land.
1699. Then you cannot tell us definitely whether there was any evidence in the possession of this temporary department to give an idea that they were making an entrance to land which was not of as good average value as the bulk of the Crown land in the vicinity? I think they had a tracing supplied to them.
1700. *Mr. Copeland.*] Was not the land visible to the Board; could they not have judged for themselves? Yes.
1701. The Board consisted of two professional men and Mr. John Davies? Yes; but the professional men were very much engaged otherwise; they had other duties to attend to.
1702. But any one of the members of the Board could have gone on the land and have judged of its value for himself? Yes.
1703. As a matter of fact, the further away you get from the railway the less valuable the land becomes? Yes, as a rule.
1704. What was the reason you stopped short with your subdivision at Hornsby? Because the other land was not worth subdividing at the present time. If it was, I would have it surveyed next week.
1705. Vanceville land is the land which the road E gives access to? Yes.
1706. You said just now that the land sold at Hornsby fetched an average of £40 an acre? About that.
1707. Was not that land cleared? Yes; the roads were cleared and grubbed.
1708. If you were to clear, grub, and form roads on the land further to the east you would still receive much less money for it? Yes; proportionately.
1709. *Mr. Carruthers.*] What was the full amount which you realized at this sale? £4,300
1710. Did you sell all that you put up? All that was of any good.
1711. What proportion to the land sold to the land unsold? I think we sold about two-thirds.
1712. *Mr. Copeland.*] How long were the men employed making these roads? Since May, 1887.
1713. Up to the present time? Yes. After they had cleared our land they put the men on to the other land.
1714. If a mistake had been made at the outset there was ample opportunity to rectify it by withdrawing the men? Yes; I suppose so.
1715. *Mr. Street.*] What was the total number of acres you put up for sale? 230 acres. We sold about two-thirds, it realized £4,644.
1716. *Mr. Copeland.*] It would be an average of about £33 an acre? About that.
1717. *Mr. Carruthers.*] Will you put in the sale plan which you are reading, as part of your evidence? Yes.
1718. *Mr. Copeland.*] You did not think that the clearing and forming of the roads in the Crown land to the eastward would pay? No, it would not pay.
1719. The Government would have lost by the transaction? Yes; the country is so bad.
1720. *Chairman.*] You said just now that you knew nothing of Mr. Gordon's action except from what you saw of the printed correspondence? Yes.
1721. He surveyed and authorized no roads with your knowledge? No; he surveyed no roads at all.
1722. If he states that he recommended road E and some other roads, is that correct? I know nothing about it, I know that he surveyed none, no amount of his time was taken up, I had a check upon him.

- J. W. Deering. 1723. He states in connection with the recommendations made by him to the Casual Labour Board that those matters were known to Mr. Deering;—if you read Mr. Gordon's evidence in reply to 723, and so on, you will see what I mean? He knows that it is untrue. You will see that he implies in the first part of his examination that the matter was unknown to me, which is evident. If it were known to me, I would have made the recommendation if proper, and not Mr. Gordon. That is a disapproval of his statement.
1724. He also states in his evidence that you wrote a letter to the Casual Labour Board that you would assist them to the full extent of your power, and that Mr. Gordon would do the same? That is likely enough, on transferring charge of the "unemployed." I think it was the case, but they never applied to me. We were seized of the whole of the operations desirable and necessary; we knew what should be done, and I think I simply wrote to say that I would aid them in any way in my power.
1725. What you meant to imply was that so far as the work upon which you had been engaged was concerned you would be glad to render your services available? Yes; I meant, of course, that they might have my official advice.
1726. Mr. Gordon says that Mr. Deering handed his services over to the Casual Labour Board to carry out the rest of the work;—would that be true? It might have been for a very short time correct, and referred to anything which was in hand at the time of transferring charge of the "unemployed," but I objected to any action between Mr. Gordon and the Casual Labour Board.
1727. You did not mean that Mr. Gordon could at any time communicate with the Labour Board and place his services at their disposal without your knowledge? No.
1728. If he did so without your knowledge, should you consider that he had exceeded his power? Yes.
1729. On examination by Mr. Carruthers the other day you were asked about the prices realised by the land at Narrabeen, Harboard, Gordon, &c. You were asked this question with a view to show, I think, that the lands to which most access had been made realised the best prices? In connection with the land for which we received the most money no roads at all were made.
1730. Do you consider that the value of the land sold at Hornsby was given to it by its juxtaposition to the railway, or by the roads which had been made through the property of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith? The juxtaposition of the railway was the chief cause of what was realised. The land further away is not only poor, but also decreases in value, from its distance from the railway line.
1731. Can you give us anything like an idea of the proportion of money spent upon the Crown lands at Hornsby to that spent upon the private property there? They could not have spent more than £700 or £800 upon the whole of the Government subdivision; but on Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith's land I am confident they have spent not less than £6,000.

TUESDAY, 4 DECEMBER, 1888.

Present:—

MR. WALKER,
MR. BRUNKER,
MR. COPELAND,

MR. McMILLAN,
MR. O'SULLIVAN,
MR. STREET.

T. WALKER, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Charles Burford Dawson called in, sworn, and examined:—

- C. B. Dawson. 1732. *Chairman.*] Are you, or have you been, private surveyor to Mr. Burns? I have.
1733. Did you survey the property at Hornsby? I did.
- 4 Dec., 1888. 1734. Have you got a plan of the survey you made? This is the outline of the survey of the property.
1735. Have you got a plan showing the subdivisions you made, and the roads and streets? No; I have no plan of that.
1736. Did you survey any roads or streets? I laid a few streets out for the clearers.
1737. Look at the tracing before you, by Mr. Deering;—are any of the streets there those you surveyed? The only street I laid out was Junction Road, from the road C to the Vanceville Road.
1738. Is that the only street you laid out? And this one—DH, from Boundary Road to Burns Road.
1739. Did you lay out that road further to the east, road E? No; I did not touch that.
1740. Look at those roads close to the railway station, T-shaped roads;—did you lay any of them out? Yes, the continuation of the Boundary Road to the railway. I laid out, years ago, the township subdivision, half-way between the railway and the road marked B.
1741. Then the roads as you see them there have been continued as you laid them out? They have been continued evidently.
1742. Are there any other roads there that you laid out;—did you lay out Burns Road? That was originally laid out by the surveyor who did the Vanceville township—Mr. Boyle. It was already marked out. I did not touch it. It was done years ago.
1743. Do you know on whose property it is? I fancy it is Government land, and not on any private property.
1744. Are you sure of that? I am not certain, but it is a road that was left for the use of this Vanceville township. The road is excluded from Burns' land.
1745. Is it not on Burns' land? No.
1746. Take the road running south from Burns Road, the continuation of road H;—did you lay that out? No.
1747. Then the road parallel with Burns Road, and about 5 chains to the north of it;—did you lay that out? No; I can explain why that was left there. When I went up to lay out this northern portion of road H, and to give the points to the clearers, they had reached the Mistake Road, and that road was then being cleared. They thought it was Burns Road.
1748. By whom was it being cleared? By the unemployed, or people working there.
1749. How long ago is that? I suppose it is twelve months ago.
1750. Then you were surveying for Mr. Burns and laying out roads whilst the unemployed were working there? Yes.

1751. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Can you identify Mr. Burns' property on this plan? Yes.
1752. Kindly point out which it is? It is bounded on the south by Burns Road, on the east by the Vanceville Road, on the north by Boundary Road up to the end of the Crown lands near the station; it then runs north of road A to Fiers' property, and then it is bounded on the west and north by Crown lands.
1753. Is the land between Boundary Road and Junction Road, from the railway towards road I, a part of the estate? Yes.
1754. Do you see the three little pieces marked green, to the south of Burns Road;—did you survey those? I surveyed the piece south of Burns Road.
1755. *Chairman.*] Are all the pieces marked green on that tracing Burns' property? I do not know about the little piece to the south of Burns Road, in the centre.
1756. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] All the other portions except that you identify as the property of Burns, Withers, and Smith? Yes.
1757. *Chairman.*] And that may be for all you know? Yes.
1758. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] You said just now that Burns Road was a public road;—does it not run between the properties of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith? It does run between the properties.
1759. And you say that Burns Road is not included in the estate? Certainly not; it is dedicated to the public. The Vanceville estate has been a public estate for years.
1760. *Chairman.*] Was not part of the Vanceville estate formerly Mr. Burns' property? I believe it was.
1761. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Burns Road is marked on our plan as previously cleared by owners? Yes; it was cleared by somebody when I went to survey the land here some years ago.
1762. When you went to survey the land you found that it had been dedicated to the public? Yes; that we excluded, because we found that it had been dedicated.
1763. Beyond Junction Road, Road H.D, and portions of these T-shaped roads between the railway station and I road, you say you did not lay out any other roads whatever? No.
1764. *Chairman.*] You did not finish your account of the Mistake Road;—it was not quite clear how that road originated? It originated in the mistake of the person in charge of the clearers, who mistook it for Burns Road. I pointed that out to him when I went up there.
1765. *Mr. Copeland.*] The person who had charge of the unemployed? Yes.
1766. *Mr. Street.*] Did you lay out that continuation of the H road to the Lane Cove Road? No; I did not lay that out.
1767. Do you know whether or not that was laid out in the subdivision of the Vanceville property? It is not part of the Vanceville property at all.
1768. There are a number of small holders marked on the eastern side of the continuation of H? That road is evidently part of some subdivision here.
1769. Would that be evidence to you that that road had been in existence since these people owned that land? That road was in existence no doubt. I have it shown here on my own plan. It was laid out in the subdivision of what, I think it was called, the Big Island estate.
1770. It has no frontage whatever to the Burns-Withers' land? No; they do not front it at all.
1771. *Mr. Copeland.*] Were any of the roads when you were surveying cleared and formed? The only road done was this Boundary Road.
1772. Was that cleared? Yes.
1773. Not formed? No; just cleared.
1774. None of the other roads were cleared? None of these roads were cleared. I surveyed them for the purpose of having them cleared. Mr. Burns left it in my hands entirely to leave roads where I pleased. I was to meet the man in charge of the unemployed there, who wanted some roads left through the estate, and I was to leave them in the best places I could.
1775. Who wanted the roads made through the estate? Whoever was in charge—Mr. O'Donnell, I think. He met me on the ground each time, and he said that he wanted roads in certain portions.
1776. Then Mr. O'Donnell really designed what roads were to be laid out on the estate? Yes, he designed exactly what he wanted. If I thought they were practicable I surveyed them for him.
1777. What was his reason for taking the roads where he did take them? I think simply to produce the roads from the Crown lands. I did not give my consent to the roads E, C, and B.
1778. E, C, and B, you did not give your consent to? I objected to them. I told him I would not allow them to be laid out; but evidently he has cleared them, and I have heard no more about it.
1779. Were there roads at that time surveyed through the Crown lands in continuation of the roads you allude to? Yes; they were surveyed and laid out.
1780. On the Crown lands? On the Crown lands.
1781. So that these roads were made a continuation of the roads on the Crown lands? Evidently a continuation of those roads.
1782. None of these roads were cleared when you were there? No.
1783. Did Mr. O'Donnell give you any further reason why these roads should be made? No; he gave no reason. These cross roads were cleared after.
1784. In subdividing those lands for sale I suppose it would have been necessary to have these roads, or to have had other roads quite as near as those are to each other? Well I do not know. I do not think we required any running north from Junction Road.
1785. Is it not the custom, when you are making subdivisions, to have roads closer together than these roads are shown? The block east of road DH should have been cut up into orchard blocks, with very few streets.
1786. That block would be what length—a mile? A little more than a mile, a chain more than mile.
1787. Would you not consider it desirable to have a street intersecting that mile in length, somewhere in the position of E? I should say one should come about the centre. There should have been one somewhere in that position.
1788. You would have laid it out for orchard blocks—in how many acre blocks—what would you estimate a suitable area? About 10-acre blocks.
1789. What area do you estimate, roughly speaking, there is in the block between the streets C and D? About 40 acres, I suppose, in the whole block between the two roads.
1790. You say that you consider that the whole of this block, over a mile in length, and I suppose considerably over half a mile in depth, was more suitable to be cut up into orchard blocks? Yes. 1791.

- C. B. Dawson. 1791. And that these blocks would be about 10 acres in extent;—would it not have been necessary then, in subdividing for orchard blocks, to have had a good number of roads, to enable you to get to the various blocks? I should think not. My idea in cutting that up would simply be to give access to the railway station.
- 4 Dec., 1888. 1792. But how would you cut it up into 10-acre blocks without making roads through it? You could cut it up into 10-acre blocks and not leave more than one road. You could leave it through the centre.
1793. What frontage would you have? About 20 chains on each side. If you had a road on each side it would leave 10 chains square. With one road you could leave blocks 10 chains square.
1794. You perceive that this block is more than 40 chains in depth? Taking the road out would leave about 42 chains.
1795. How often would you have roads across down here (*pointing to map*)? I do not think it necessary; only one road in the centre perhaps. A man could get on to this road and go straight along to the station; it would be a more direct way. If you left a road in the centre you would have 20 chains on each side; 10 chains square would be 10 acres each. That would leave two rows of 10 acres each here, and two rows of 10 acres each there. You would not want more than one road in the centre. One road would give a frontage to either block.
1796. *Chairman.*] Was Junction Road left with a view to cutting up the land into orchard blocks? I thought it would come in afterwards if they wanted to subdivide. It was in a very good position, and a practicable road; but it would have been much better for subdivision purposes if it had been in the centre of the block. These roads at the south, the mistake roads, are useless.
1797. *Mr. Copeland.*] How is it that this land to the south of Burns Road is cut up into such small blocks;—what is the area of these blocks? About 7 or 8 acres each; about 10 chains wide, I think.
1798. You do not know anything at all about the forming and the metalling of these roads? Nothing. I only laid them out to be cleared, and I have not seen them since.
1799. The whole of the Vanceville estate originally belonged to Burns, Withers, and Smith? I believe it did.
1800. It was sold some time ago? Some years ago.
1801. *Mr. Brunker.*] If you had been instructed to subdivide this land on account of the private owners, would you have adopted this form of subdivision? Certainly not.
1802. Do you think that this form of subdivision, with so many roads intersecting the land, is prejudicial or favourable to the interests of the proprietors? I think it is prejudicial.
1803. *Mr. McMillan.*] That is the reason you dissented from it? Yes. Mr. Burns left the matter in my hands, and I objected to anything that would destroy the property in any way.
1804. *Mr. Brunker.*] I gather from the answer you gave just now that the roads leading north and south are of no further benefit than to give access from the Crown lands and the Hornsby railway line? That is all.
1805. *Mr. Copeland.*] Which roads do you object to; you say you would not have subdivided the land in that way? Roads E, and DH; but taking into consideration this railway station at Pearce's Corner, I daresay DII would be beneficial for the purpose of giving access. I did not know of that at the time.
1806. How would Mr. Burns get to the southern portion of his estate, south of Burns Road, to the east of Pearce's Corner railway, without the road marked E. Supposing these portions were sold in big blocks, and he wanted communication from these pieces to the south, how could he get it without having a road of access? I do not see how he could get down to them without a road was made. I do not see why he would want it.
1807. *Mr. Street.*] Could not he drive along Junction Road, and down Vanceville Road and Burns Road to it? This block has access. It has a frontage to Burns Road and an outlet to this road, which are two dedicated roads.
1808. You stated a little while ago, in answer to my question, that you would have put a road in the middle of the block? Yes; I believe I would have done so.
1809. Did you not state that you would have one road in the middle of this block, which is over a mile in length; now you say you object to it. Will you tell me how you could subdivide it without having a road there? It could be subdivided with one road in the centre only, parallel to Junction Road. As to the road being left in the centre, if I had thought it would have been any benefit to any orchard blocks I should have left it, but not otherwise.
1810. *Chairman.*] As a matter of fact, Junction Road is the road you did leave? Yes.
1811. *Mr. Copeland.*] Supposing you only left Junction Road in the centre of the block, and the people holding the portions to the north wanted to get to the railway station, how would they have got down without this road? Down HHH.
1812. Did you ever see the subdivision of a large block of land like that without its having cross roads through it? Yes; certainly.
1813. Have you ever made a subdivision yourself without having cross roads for over a mile in length? I never made a road unless it was needful. I cannot say about over a mile in length. I have done several subdivisions.
1814. This is over a mile in length, is it not? It is about a mile.
1815. Can you tell me any Government subdivisions that have ever been made without a cross road joining the parallel roads for over a mile in length? I cannot say I remember any. But I think I can quote one subdivision lately where there is no cross road for a mile, that is on the Moorbank estate, a subdivision of 7,000 acres in big blocks.
1816. In what size blocks? From 5 up to 30 acres.
1817. I understand you did not intend subdividing this into blocks like that? I did not think anything would be under 5 or 10 acres.
1818. What is the area of these small blocks to the south? On the average, 7 or 8 acres. Dobson's is 10 acres, and Brown's 8 or 9 acres.
1819. Supposing this piece was cut up into 10-acre blocks what frontage would they have, according to the depth? They would be 10 chains square.
1820. But the distance from Burns Road to Junction Road is 60 or 70 chains? It is only 25 chains between the two roads. From the Junction Road to the north boundary is 17 chains 86 links, and it is 26 chains at the very outside between Junction Road and Burns Road. It is only 43 wide between the two roads altogether.
- 1821.

1821. What frontage would a 10-acre block have between these two roads? Eight chains by $12\frac{1}{2}$, taking the road as it is. C. B. Dawson.
1822. Supposing you divided this block into 10-acre blocks what frontage would they have? I would have a road in the centre. There would be a dividing line. About $12\frac{1}{2}$ chains by 8 chains would be the size of the blocks. 4 Dec., 1888;
1823. *Mr. Brunker.*] I suppose your object in making these subdivisions generally is to conserve as much of the land as possible, in the interests of the owners? Yes.
1824. Whilst at the same time you afford the greatest convenience to those who are purchasers, without detracting from the value of the land? Certainly.
1825. *Mr. Copeland.*] You laid out none of these roads until the person in charge of the unemployed came to you and suggested the laying of them out? Mr. Burns wrote to me, and told me that the man in charge of the unemployed wanted to clear some roads, and that he had given the land, and left it to me to leave the roads where I thought proper. I went up there, and the man met me on the ground. He pointed out where he wanted roads. He wanted a road out to the Great Eastern Road, and I laid out the Junction Road as straight as I could.
1826. So that the laying out of these roads originated with the officer in charge of the unemployed, and not with you? Not with me, certainly.
1827. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] When Mr. Burns told you to lay out the roads where you thought proper, did you take that as an instruction to lay them out for the best advantage of the estate, or to accommodate the public? In both ways. The man in charge wanted a road for the public, and he came to me to show him where he could leave a good road, and I took out Junction Road.
1828. *Chairman.*] Were you considering the interests of the proprietors of the estate when you laid out that road? Certainly; I was studying both interests.
1829. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] If a road through the centre would have been better, why did you lay out Junction Road? I did not want to make any bend in the thing.
1830. You said just now that it would have been better if the road had been laid out in the centre? It would have been better as a subdivision. It would have been better for Mr. Burns if the Junction Road had been in the centre.
1831. Then why did you lay out the Junction Road where it is now—because the track was better? I fancied it was a very good road—a practicable road—and I left it in that position. The land gets a little rougher down here, and the road being there, I thought it as well to leave it there as well as anywhere else. Mr. Burns had not made up his mind as to how to subdivide the land.
1832. Referring to road E, will you kindly run that road down to Burns Road. Does not the fact of that road giving easier access to the railway and the Lane Cove Road add to the convenience and the accommodation of the intending settlers, and thus add to the value of the property? I think it would. If people bought land round here it would be handy.
1833. In making that road the public are really benefiting the estate? I do not know that they benefit the estate much.
1834. *Chairman.*] Would not land about there bring a higher value by virtue of that road? The land fronting the road certainly would.
1835. *Mr. McMillan.*] When you say these roads running north and south benefit the estate, do they not also reflect benefit on the Crown lands to which they directly lead? Most decidedly.
1836. Would you say that they benefited the Crown lands equally with the private lands? I consider they benefit the Crown lands. I think the Crown lands would have been valueless without these roads giving access.
1837. If the Crown lands were your lands just as the other lands are Burns' lands, would you like to negotiate on equitable terms for such roads to be made? I should. I would give a big price for a road to get through there, if I owned the land.
1838. You think it would be your business as the proprietor of those Crown lands to negotiate on equitable terms for such roads to be made? It would.
1839. And Burns' land being the nearest to the new line of railway, it would, under certain circumstances, be to his advantage to keep back the other lands? It would, most decidedly.
1840. Whereas those roads open up the land for the next competition in that vicinity? They do.
1841. *Mr. Copeland.*] If the Crown lands were private estates as well as this other, and the owner of this private estate proposed to you to make roads through your lands to benefit his land, would you as a matter of business consent to that, or would you lay out money on this estate, supposing you owned the other. Would you lay out your money on another estate to improve your own, or would you lay it out on your own estate? I should be very glad to do so.
1842. Can you give me any instance where it has ever been done—have you ever done it yourself—where the owner of one estate goes to his neighbours estate to expend money, instead of expending it on his own estate? I have met several such cases. I may speak of one now that I am interested in, where we have left sufficient land to make a road 100 feet wide along the boundary of the estate, and others who are benefited by it are spending money on our estate and forming the road. I am a director of the company which owns the land, and the adjoining owners and the Council are making the road as an access to Lady Robinson's Beach. We have a road 100 feet wide, but we go to no expense on the land given by us.
1843. Is it not of as much interest, supposing there is a population on the Crown lands, to have access to the people there as it would be for the people on the Crown lands to have access down here? The access we want is to the railway, not to the people. I consider that the Crown lands before were valueless. I would not have given £5 an acre for them. These roads have raised the price 100 per cent. I do not believe they could have sold the Crown lands without them. I consider that a man would be very foolish in buying a block of land if he had not access to the station.
1844. *Chairman.*] Do you know the quality of these Crown lands? Yes; very poor.
1845. *Mr. Copeland.*] You have been employed by Mr. Burns for some time in making this and other subdivisions? No; I have not had much work for Mr. Burns.
1846. Are you engaged by him at the present time in making subdivisions? Not at all. I have not had any work from him for the last twelve months; not since I did this.
1847. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] If you had been the owner of the Crown lands, and had seen that Burns,

Withers,

C. B. Dawson. Withers, and Smith were prepared to construct these streets and had actually employed surveyors, would you have come along and said, "Allow me to relieve you of the necessity of doing these streets, I will do them for you"? Certainly not.

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1848. *Chairman.*] You say that Burns Road was a declared road when you went to survey it; was it cleared and formed? Not wholly. A bit at the end was not cleared.

1849. You gave instructions for the continuation of that road, for its being cleared to the end? No; I gave no instructions.

1850. Did you survey it to the end? It was surveyed originally. Of course, anything surveyed originally I had nothing to do with.

1851. *Mr. Street.*] Generally speaking, do you consider the continuation of these roads through private property of more interest to the owners of the property, or to the Crown lands—which have the greatest interest in their continuation? I should say the Crown lands.

1852. *Chairman.*] As a matter of fact, does not every road on that property, with the exception of Mistake Road, improve the value of Burns, Withers, and Smith's estate? To a certain extent, most decidedly.

1853. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] It has been shown in evidence that £6,000 has been expended on these roads, and £4,000 were obtained from the sale of the Crown lands—do you consider that a profitable transaction to the Government? How much have they sold of the Crown lands?

1854. Did you not say that the Crown lands were valueless? I do not believe an acre could have been sold without these roads. I was very much surprised to see it sold as it was. It was very poor.

Charles Nicholson Jewel Oliver, called in, sworn, and examined:—

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1855. *Chairman.*] You were until recently Under Secretary for Lands? I was.

1856. Whilst you were occupying this position, had you anything to do with the proclamation of roads, or the surveying of roads by any officer of your Department, on the land situated at Hornsby, owned by Burns, Withers, and Smith;—had you any connection with them as an officer of the Department at all? The only connection I remember having with the question of these roads was the opening of a road from the Crown lands to the Hornsby station, which crosses a bridge, and is marked on the map before me as road A.

1857. Do you remember who was Minister at that time—was Mr. Copeland the Minister for Lands then? I think he was.

1858. What was the object of that road? In order to give access from the Crown lands to the station, or to the vicinity of the station.

1859. Does it go from Crown lands to Crown lands, as a connecting-link between two portions of Crown lands. There are Crown lands to the west? It affords a means of communication across the bridge to the station, such as would not exist had that road not been made.

1860. Do you, as an officer of the Department, remember anything as to the origin or completion of any other roads? No; I know nothing about these road matters, other than what I have mentioned.

1861. Had your Department anything to do with any of these roads in any way? No.

1862. You would have known if it had? Yes. I am of course, aware of the object of the Committee in this inquiry; but I had nothing to do with the making of these roads.

1863. Had proposals for any of these roads to come before you? In a general way. There were a number of subdivisions of Crown lands being carried out at the time, and I was always strongly of opinion, which was shared, I think, by the Minister of the day and by officials in the Department, that it was a good thing to lay out the roads to a certain extent in these subdivisions, to clear them.

1864. *Mr. Copeland.*] On the Government subdivisions? On the Government subdivisions.

1865. *Chairman.*] You are not speaking of roads on private lands? No; there were no instructions given by me about such roads; I had nothing to do with them.

1866. Mr. Deering in his evidence yesterday spoke of you, Mr. Burns and himself being present at Hornsby;—do you remember any such occasion? Yes. Some question had been raised as to the upset price placed on Crown lands being excessive, not only the price placed on the Hornsby subdivision, but on some other lands, notably Manly Cove, and I had occasion to speak to Mr. Burns on the subject. He was at the time doing some portion of the work appertaining to the Minister for Lands. I was strongly of opinion that these upset prices were not excessive. They had, however, been recommended by me without my having seen the land, acting on the reports of the officers of the Department. In order to make myself satisfied as far as I could that the prices were fair and reasonable, I determined to visit the land, and on that occasion I was accompanied by Mr. Burns. The day turned out very wet, it was raining all the time, and I was simply able to make just a running inspection of the Crown lands. I then noticed that some roads had been made, I thought in a way that was unnecessary.

1867. *Mr. McMillan.*] Do you mean on the Crown lands? I am not prepared to say whether on the Crown lands or not. Some of the roads were metalled or metal was being put upon them.

1868. *Chairman.*] That is on the Burns, Withers, and Smith's property? I do not know. That can be determined by some one better acquainted with the locality.

1869. Do you think they were in the interest of the Department? I do not think that in subdivision of this kind roads need be made in such a substantial manner; but that is a matter of opinion. The upset prices, which were pronounced by Richardson and Wrench to be 50 per cent. above the value of the land, were exceeded by 100 per cent., and even to a greater extent; so it must be considered whether these roads, made in the way I thought unnecessary, did not materially enhance the value of the land, and bring about this satisfactory sale.

1870. Was Mr. John Davies with you on this occasion? Yes.

1871. Why was he with you? I do not know. He was not with me. He may have come up to make some inspection of the work done by the unemployed.

1872. Was there any mention made of roads on the Burns, Withers, and Smith's estate? It was suggested that some other roads should be cleared. I do not quite recognize the road I refer to on this plan, but it was a road which would have given more direct communication to the station than the road A. I looked at it, and I saw that it was not on the Crown lands. It ran along the railway line.

1873. Did it run parallel with the railway line? Yes; and fronted private lands. I could not see that there was any necessity to clear that, and I would not consent to its being cleared at the Government's expense. Whether it has been since cleared or not, of course, I cannot say. 1874.

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1874. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] You say that when you were inspecting the roads with Mr. Burns, Mr. John Davies standing near you, you were under the impression that the roads were on Crown lands;—you were not quite certain whether they were on Crown lands or not? I did not say that. When I was speaking of the roads being metalled or ballasted, I think the question was asked whether they were on Crown lands, and I said that that could be determined by others better informed. I made a very hurried inspection, and I was not in a position to particularise the roads on Crown lands or on private lands.

1875. Did you notice that on the Crown lands there were roads cleared? Several roads were cleared.

1876. Would you be surprised to hear that these metalled roads are on the lands of Burns, Withers, and Smith? Well, I cannot say that I should be surprised to hear it; but it is something new to me. I could understand Burns, Withers, and Smith's land being bounded by a macadamized road, forming a common boundary; but I cannot understand that there was any necessity to have metalled roads passing through private property. Of course there was no reason why road A should not be made properly. I believe that it was stipulated that the road should be properly made when the land was given.

1877. *Chairman.*] Were any other roads so stipulated for? No, not to my knowledge. This is the only road that formed the subject of correspondence. The papers would show that it was agreed that it should be made available for vehicular traffic.

1878. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Then, notwithstanding your refusal to agree to this road being made parallel with the railway line, from road "A" to the Junction Road, you find that it has been made? I am not aware whether it has been made or not. I have never been on the land since.

1879. But if it has been made, and if it has been metalled, ballasted, and culverted, you regard that as a work for which the public have no right to pay? I distinctly said at the time that it was not necessary.

1880. You were Under Secretary for Lands, and the superior officer of Mr. Deering. Do you know Mr. Gordon the surveyor? Yes.

1881. Was Mr. Gordon supposed to act under the orders of Mr. Deering—Mr. Gordon is a surveyor acting under Mr. Deering? Yes; he would be, in connection with this survey. I see that the plan is signed by Mr. Gordon, so that he would be acting under Mr. Deering's directions.

1882. Were the services of Mr. Gordon ever lent by you to the Casual Labour Board? For a time, I believe.

1883. *Chairman.*] Were his services placed at the absolute disposal of the Labour Board? For a time, I believe, Mr. Deering had something to do with the unemployed.

1884. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] But after Mr. Deering gave up the control of the unemployed, were the services of Mr. Gordon supposed to be available by the Casual Labour Board? Yes; they were for a time. I could not say for how long, but for some time—perhaps two or three months.

1885. If Mr. Gordon recommended the making of certain roads, should that recommendation have gone through you or Mr. Deering;—should he have reported to his superior officer? I should think so.

1886. Did the fact that Mr. Gordon was working for the Casual Labour Board relieve him of the necessity of reporting through his superior officers? Not that I am aware of. He may have made reports in that way.

1887. During the time that he was working with the Casual Labour Board he was supposed to be an officer of your Department? Certainly; he was paid by the Department.

1888. Therefore, it was his duty to report through his superior officers? I should think so; I am not aware that he received any instructions to the contrary.

1889. Then if he has recommended that these roads should be made and metalled and ballasted, and has not reported so through you or through Mr. Deering, he has done so in violation of the rules of the Service? I should hardly like to say that he had so acted, for this reason, it was rather an unusual position to place an officer in. He was an officer of the Department of Lands, lent occasionally to assist the Casual Labour Board; because he was not wholly engaged in connection with the unemployed, and it might so happen that he would make a report of that character and send it direct to the person in charge of the unemployed, without sending it through his official head, and at the same time having no intent of committing any breach of the Regulations, though he would be actually guilty of doing so. I have a very good opinion of Mr. Gordon as an officer, and I should be loth to say anything that would prejudice him. I do not think he would do anything of the kind intentionally; that is to say, I do not think he would have any desire to withhold from his superior officer anything he might do, or any desire to do anything on his own responsibility, of which he might think that his superior officer would not approve.

1890. *Chairman.*] What you wish to imply is this—that having had his services placed at the disposal of the Casual Labour Board he felt in the position of a man with two masters? Yes; he would probably find himself in that position and might report directly to the Casual Labour authorities without any reference to his superior officer.

1891. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Still the proper course would have been to have sent his reports through you or Mr. Deering? Yes.

1892. And if he had taken the proper course and recommended these roads, which you say are unnecessary, the probability is that you would have vetoed them in the public interest? I do not think I said that any roads were unnecessary. I think I said that the roads were being made in a way that I thought unnecessary.

1893. Take the road running parallel with the railway line? I should not have approved of that.

1894. You would have vetoed that? Yes.

1895. Or any other road which you thought was not required in the public interest? Yes. I would like to make it perfectly clear. As a matter of fact, I did object to that road running parallel with the railway being made. The only roads in reference to which I was consulted were the A road, and the road running along the railway line. I think the papers will show that I recommended that the former should be made, and I am quite satisfied that it was the proper course to pursue, even if we had to buy the land; but for this road running parallel with the railway I could not see any business necessity for it, and I only had to deal with it as a matter of necessity in regard to the opening of that road when we had to sell the lands. Those are the only two roads upon which I was consulted.

1896. *Chairman.*] All the rest you know nothing about? No.

1897. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Kindly refer to road D and H, which is cleared, ballasted, and fitted with all the accommodations of civilisation—supposing all the other roads had been allowable, for arguments sake, if Mr. Gordon had recommended road D and H would you have endorsed that recommendation? No.

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1898. Kindly look at road I;—would you have endorsed that road if Mr. Gordon had recommended it? I think not. I am speaking without a very accurate knowledge of the locality, so I must be guided by this plan. The road seems not to end at any particular locality. From the map, too, it appears to end at a church.
1899. During your term of office I believe there were a great many Crown lands cut up for subdivision, and roads made through them—at Heathcote and other places? Yes.
1900. When you subdivided these lands and laid out streets, did it ever enter your head to metal them and make channels and culverts? No; I think the very best subdivision the Department ever made was the Field of Mars.
1901. And the most expensive? Yes.
1902. And did the Department metal the streets there? In some portions; but that was a very extensive subdivision. The first sale realized £64,000.
1903. They ballasted the streets there? Ballasted some of them.
1904. And did they cut channels and make culverts? Yes.
1905. That was all upon Crown lands? Yes.
1906. And that is the only instance you can call to mind? I am under the impression that there was something special done at a place called Harbord at the back of Manly—to give some access there.
1907. *Mr. M. Millan.*] I suppose you find it rather difficult to reply to some of the questions, not knowing the whole character of the country? I tried to convey to the Committee that I really do not know the locality well. I do not think I was more than two and a half hours on the ground, and it was raining nearly all the time. I travelled from the railway station along the line to road A, and then crossed on to the Crown lands, returning to a point on the railway line, so that, as a matter of fact, I do not believe I was on the property of Burns, Withers, and Smith at all.
1908. You saw the Crown lands to a certain extent? Yes.
1909. You recognized here the principle of putting a road through private land for the purpose of opening communication with Crown lands? Yes.
1910. Suppose that your officer had reported to you that it would take £10,000 to make that Boundary Road, as against £2,000 or £3,000 for the Junction Road; suppose that he said that the only way to enable the people on the Crown lands to get at the railway station was to cut roads north and south, would it not alter your view of the position of affairs to a certain extent? I can tell you all about this Boundary Road now. I remember the circumstances. The question was raised as to whether it was possible to make this Boundary Road suitable for vehicular traffic at anything like a reasonable cost, and a report was made, I think by an officer of the Works Department, to the effect that it was not possible to make a road without going to very great expense, but that in another position, some short distance away, the natural formation of the land was such that a road could be made at a comparatively small expense. Whether or not the Junction Road is the road I am not prepared to say.
1911. Taking it for granted that the impassability of the Boundary Road is caused by gullies running north and south, which have to be crossed, would it not be clear to you that the occupants of the eastern portion of these lands would have to find their way to the Pearce's Corner railway by roads running north and south;—would it not be the policy of the Department, as far as your experience goes, to make an outlet under certain circumstances? We should endeavour to provide every reasonable means of access to Crown lands. If there was a railway station, for example, at both ends of the Crown lands, we should endeavour to provide access to both of those railway stations.
1912. Looking at this plan, you can see that one portion of these Crown lands has its natural outlet at the Hornsby railway station, and that another portion would probably have its natural outlet at the Pearce's Corner line. What I want to know is this: Taking this explanation I have given to you with regard to the configuration of the land, which is borne out by officers of the Department, would it be a very unusual thing to make roads to meet the convenience of the public land which you were proposing to sell? No; it would not be unusual. I know of instances where efforts have been made to purchase very considerable length of road through private property—not a question of only making the road, but of buying the land and making the road afterwards.
1913. So that practically you are in this position, that while you had to do with road A, and gave your opinion about the road running parallel with the railway, you are not in a position to give any general opinion as to what roads should be made for the purposes of communication at the present time? No; the question was never submitted to me. I think the papers in the Lands Department will show that, in connection with a subdivision known as the Gordon subdivision, it was proposed to make a very large purchase of land running through a private estate for the purpose of affording reasonable access.
1914. The principle is not a new one? No. It would follow, as a matter of course, that had that purchase been completed the road would have been made. I am not, however, aware whether the purchase has been completed.
1915. Then, judging from your previous remarks, it does not necessarily follow, from your condemning the metalling and ballasting of certain roads, that you would not have approved under some circumstances of other roads being ballasted; that is to say, you are not in a position to say that some of these roads might not be recommended for ballasting in other portions of the estate if they went through private property? It would have been an exceptional course to pursue.
1916. It is exceptional? Yes.
1917. When you speak of a road you mean a road simply formed so as to be available for ordinary traffic? Yes. I gave an instance where the Department did actually ballast the roads—at the Field of Mars.
1918. But that was all on your own ground? Yes.
1919. Then, taking the explanation I have given you as to the necessity for roads through the main block of the Burns, Withers, and Smith property, in order to give access to the Pearce's Corner railway, do you think that roads simply formed without any ballasting would be sufficient for the purpose? I think so.
1920. *Mr. Street.*] You have referred to a conversation which you said took place when you were on the ground with reference to this particular road? Yes.
1921. Was Mr. Burns present during that conversation? I think he was. I could not say positively whether he heard the conversation.
1922. *Chairman.*] With whom were you talking? Mr. John Davies.
1923. *Mr. Street.*] Do you remember whether Mr. Burns took part in the conversation? I am inclined to think he did not. If I remember rightly, I simply said, "I did not consider it necessary to clear a road

road along the railway land, and I continued to walk on towards the station, and the conversation terminated. It was not pursued any further. Whether Mr. Burns or Mr. Davies had any conversation afterwards about it or not I do not know. My conversation was with Mr. John Davies.

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1924. You have no recollection of Mr. Burns offering to you any reasons why the road should be formed? I do not think he did. I do not remember it. It was, I think, proposed by Mr. Davies. The question was raised by Mr. Davies as to whether this road running parallel with the railway should be cleared, in order to give more direct access to the railway station.

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1925. *Mr. Copeland.*] Access from where? From the Crown lands. The access afforded by road "A" is across the bridge; whereas the access that would have been afforded by this other road, had it been cleared, would have been more direct. You would not have had to cross the line. There is no doubt it would have been a better access; but I did not consider that, in the interests of the Crown, it was necessary for merely sale purposes to clear that road.

1926. You have no recollection then of Mr. Burns taking any part in the conversation about the clearing, and urging reasons why it should be done? No.

1927. *Mr. Copeland.*] With reference to the formation of that road "A," do you remember whether I took any Ministerial action in the matter? It was stated by Mr. Burns that these roads were originated by me during the time I was in office;—do you remember the question being dealt with? There was a general instruction given. You will probably remember that great interest was taken at the time you were in office in these subdivisions, with the view of making them as attractive as possible to the public; and there was a general direction given referring not only to these subdivisions but also to various other contemplated subdivisions as to the making and forming of roads. That was a general decision affecting the making of roads through subdivisions.

1928. Through our own subdivisions? Yes, I remember that minute; but I cannot find it in the papers before the Committee, which do not to me appear to be complete.

1929. Do you say that Mr. Burns was acting for the Minister for Lands at the time when he was out with you on these lands at Hornsby? No; I said that previously I had occasion to refer to Mr. Burns while he was acting for the Minister for Lands; but he was not acting for the Minister for Lands at the time he was out with me.

1930. Can you fix the time when he was acting for the Minister for Lands? There would be some difficulty, because he acted once or twice, or even more frequently.

1931. For what period, roughly speaking? It was in the early part of this year that he acted.

1932. That was during the time that Mr. Garrett was Minister? Yes; I think I went to inspect this land early in July this year.

1933. You then saw a number of roads which you deemed were unnecessary in the interests of the Crown? I did not say that the roads were unnecessary, but the way in which they had been ballasted.

1934. And culverted? Yes.

1935. Looking at this map, and bearing in mind that the Crown lands lie to the north of the Burns, Withers, and Smith property, if the work of the unemployed had been under your control would you have permitted the unemployed to make all the roads you see marked on this map at the Government expense, with the view of improving these Crown lands? Expressing an opinion from the information conveyed by this plan, I should have to state that I could not allow the work to be carried out.

1936. Would you not rather have expended the money in making roads through your own Crown lands? My endeavour would have been to make the Crown lands as attractive as possible.

1937. Exactly, not to make the private lands attractive? Not to make the private lands attractive.

1938. Can you remember any instance in any of the Government subdivisions where something like £5,000 or £6,000 has been expended in making roads through adjoining private property? Small sums have been expended.

1939. That is in obtaining a road of access? Yes.

1940. This road you refer to at Gordon, was that a road of access from Crown lands to Crown lands? Yes.

1941. Being in that respect somewhat similar to this road "A"? Yes; but much more extensive. I think the price asked for the land was something like £200 an acre.

1942. And was it the intention to purchase the whole block of land, or merely a small strip for a road? Merely a road. I am not in a position to state that that intention was carried out. I know it was proposed.

1943. But that was merely a road of access from valuable Crown land to ———? To the railway—Pearce's Corner railway.

1944. If it had been suggested to you while you were Under Secretary for Lands that all these roads through the Burns, Withers, and Smith estate were to be cleared and grubbed, the roads formed, and about 4 miles of them metalled, culverted, and drained, would you have given permission for the Government to expend money in making those roads? I should not have recommended such a course.

1945. Would you have permitted it? I would not have permitted it either. I should like to qualify my reply, in consequence of something Mr. M'Millan said in connection with his question that proved, from a business point of view, that it was desirable to give access to the railway at either one of two points. It would become a question for consideration, as a mere matter of business, whether or not a road should be made through private property.

1946. *Chairman.*] A "road," but would you say "a number of roads?" Certainly not. I only mention this to make myself clearly understood. I do not know anything about the land of Burns, Withers, and Smith.

1947. *Mr. Copeland.*] You are aware that to the north of the Burns' estate there is a vast area of Crown lands, none of which has been sold? I believe that is so.

1948. Bearing in mind that none of this land has been sold, and that it is described as exceedingly rough, and that it has not been even surveyed or designed, would you feel justified in expending money in making and metalling these roads to give access to Crown lands that have not even been designed for subdivision? No.

1949. You are aware that there was a subdivision of Crown lands at Hornsby;—do you think that the making and metalling of these roads, and the spending of money upon them, was likely to give very much increase to the value of this subdivision near Hornsby? No, except to the extent I have just stated; it might afford a better means of access to the railway.

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1950. Would not these lands derive their value more particularly by reason of their close proximity to the railway? And ready access to it. For instance, the road to the railway station, which is a continuation of the Boundary Road, is one which might have been made.

1951. Would you also have approved of the roads to the south of that road—the T-shaped roads? I would have approved of a road being opened to give communication to the railway station, at the eastern end of the Crown lands.

1952. You would not have approved of roads parallel to it to the south? Certainly not.

1953. Are you aware whether any Government money was expended in forming and ballasting the roads through this Government subdivision at Hornsby? I was over a portion of that land, and the roads have been formed; but I could not say whether or not they have been ballasted, because I am not sufficiently acquainted with the locality to say positively whether a particular road was on Crown land or private land.

1954. Speaking in general terms, would you consider it judicious management if the bulk of these roads on the Burns-Withers property were cleared, formed, metalled, and culverted, and that as soon as you got on to the Crown lands adjoining no such work was done, but that the roads were merely cleared;—would you consider that a judicious expenditure of public money? No; I should consider that if roads of a superior quality were to be made, they should be made on the Crown lands.

1955. Do you remember Mr. Burns making an application to have some land alongside the railway on the western side declared a reserve? An application was made by Mr. Burns, under the 11th clause, to purchase a piece of land containing 10 acres, intervening between the freehold of the applicant and the existing road.

1956. What was done in connection with that matter? That application was made on 30th September, 1884.

1957. What was done with regard to it? After investigation, it was disposed of by Mr. Secretary Garrett, in a minute, dated 4th March, 1887, to the following effect:—"I decide that the portion adjoining the recreation ground be temporarily reserved for future public requirements, and that the subdivision of the other part of the design be proceeded with. I approve of the proposed reserve." That was a reserve for a Court-house.

1958. But the application to purchase the 10 acres was refused? Yes.

1959. The Government had a subdivision of Crown lands, consisting of this and other pieces of land adjoining the railway station at Hornsby;—do you see amongst the papers a letter from Mr. Burns, asking to have that subdivision withdrawn, and for the land to be declared a reserve? I find a letter from Mr. Burns, dated 19th November, 1886, in which he draws attention to the fact that there is a proposal to sell the reserve at Hornsby, situated on the western side of the Peat's Ferry Road, between the land of Burns, Withers, and Smith and the Hornsby Land Company, with an area of 20 acres, exclusive of an area set apart for a Public School; and he goes on to state that it will be impolitic to sell this reserve, as it is the only block of Government land near the junction fit for public recreation purposes.

1960. That block of land was subdivided, was it not? It was.

1961. And ready for sale;—do you see any minute there, or any estimate by Mr. Deering as to the value of the land per acre? Yes; he writes to this effect—"Nearly all the reserve is of a rocky and precipitous character, with the exception of a level area of about 10 acres beside the Hornsby railway station, and fronting the main road to Peat's Ferry. This frontage is worth not less than £2 per foot, and the total area of 10 acres is worth £3,000."

1962. What action did you, as Under Secretary for Lands, take on that application? I simply submitted it for the decision of the then Minister for Lands, Mr. Copeland, the facts being fully set out in the report.

1963. And my decision was that the application should be refused? Yes; and not to suspend the subdivision of land from sale.

1964. By looking at the papers you will see that Mr. Garrett subsequently dealt with the case, Mr. Burns having written to him after I left office. I wish to see what action you took in regard to this second application? Mr. Burns wrote, under date 15th December, 1886, acknowledging the receipt of a letter dated the 11th of the same month, inquiring where the reserves in question—that is, the reserves referred to in the letter of the 11th—were situated, as he felt sure they were unknown to the local residents.

1965. And making a further application, I suppose, to have the subdivision cancelled? Not in this letter.

1966. Will you read Mr. Copeland's minute dealing with Mr. Burns's proposal to have a reserve for public recreation made at Hornsby Junction? This is the minute:—"Mr. Burns, M.P., may be informed that sufficient provision has already been made for reserves in this neighbourhood; but should the public interest require it, further provision will be made. At present I see no reason for withdrawing the portion referred to from subdivision.—H.C., 7/12/86." The effect of that minute was communicated to Mr. Burns on the 11th. On the 15th he wrote a reply to the effect I have already quoted.

1967. What further action was taken? Mr. Burns's letter of the 15th was referred to Mr. District-Surveyor Deering for report, and Mr. Deering in his report explained the position of the land which he, in his former report, referred to as being available for recreation purposes, and upon that report Mr. Secretary Garrett gave his decision on the 4th March, 1887, which decision I have already read.

1968. Then Mr. Garrett, on the 4th March, reversed the decision which I had given in the previous December, refusing to withdraw the land from subdivision? He did not altogether reverse your decision. 1969. But, as a matter of fact, the 10 acres of land which Mr. Deering valued at £3,000 were applied for by Mr. Burns while I was in office to be reserved for recreation purposes? Yes.

1970. And I refused that application? Yes; on the ground that there was already sufficient reservation for the locality. The case came forward for further consideration, and it was decided by Mr. Garrett that these 10 acres of land should be temporarily reserved for future public requirements.

1971. But has it not been gazetted as a recreation reserve? The papers I have in my hand do not disclose the fact that the reservation was made, although Mr. Secretary Garrett approved of the temporary reservation of these 10 acres.

1972. Withdrawing them from sale? They were not advertised for sale.

1973. They were subdivided? No; it was proposed to subdivide them. The matter was in hand. Mr. Copeland's decision was in December, and before it was acted upon, Mr. Burns, four days afterwards, wrote

wrote a reply that brought the matter forward for review, and it was carried on then until the March following, when Mr. Secretary Garrett gave the decision which I have read to the Committee. That was on the 4th of March, 1887. I may say that the action I took in this matter as Under Secretary for Lands was purely of a formal character, and I notice scarcely a minute of mine throughout these papers.

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1974. Do you think the papers are complete? I think not.

1975. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Are any of these missing papers pertinent to the present inquiry? I do not know. I cannot say that any papers are missing. Mr. Copeland stated that the reserve had been made. I say that if the reserve was made there are no papers here to show that it was so, and, therefore, to that extent the papers are incomplete. But the absence of these papers, even supposing that they are lost, would not be in any way material, because the *Gazette* notice is the authority as to the disposal of the land. The Executive minutes are simply something leading up to that action.

1976. If this reserve had been made, would it have had a tendency to increase the value of Burns, Withers, and Smith's land? It would have improved the locality generally, and I have no doubt would in that way have given additional value to their land.

1977. Would it have had the effect of removing from the market a piece of land that would otherwise have competed with theirs when their property was open for sale? Certainly. It would have had the effect of reducing the land available for the purposes of alienation.

1978. If the owners of this estate had laid out roads and started making them, would the Government have been justified in taking the work out of their hands and making the roads themselves? No.

Henry Gorman called in, sworn, and examined:—

1979. *Chairman.*] Have you seen, or do you know anything about, the land at Hornsby known as the Burns, Withers, and Smith's estate? Only one portion, which I sold.

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1980. Which portion was that? Just at the Hornsby station.

1981. *Mr. Copeland.*] Was it a Government subdivision? No; only a small portion of their land. It was some years ago.

1982. *Chairman.*] To the south of the Peat's Ferry railway? Yes.

1983. What value did you get for it? I really forget now. It is years ago since I sold it. I should think that I got from £25 to £200 per acre, speaking roughly, from memory. It was a small subdivision.

1984. Have you sold any other portions in subdivision of Burns, Withers, and Smith's estate? No.

1985. Do you consider the surrounding land of like value? I should think so.

1986. Do you know anything about the Crown land to the north of Boundary Road? No.

1987. You have never walked on to the Crown lands at all? No; nor yet on to any of theirs, with the exception of that just about the station.

1988. What should you say was the average value of the Burns, Withers, and Smith's estate, that portion marked green on the map before you? I would not like to express an opinion. Up there you get good land and bad land.

1989. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] You say that you received from £25 to £200 per acre? Speaking from memory.

1990. Is not there a very wide discrepancy between those two blocks;—there must be a great difference in the land? Well, some would be back land and some would be front land.

1991. When was this sold? Years ago. It was anticipating the opening of the railway. I have not been on the land since.

1992. The land you refer to was really in the township adjacent to the railway station? Right opposite to it.

1993. Was the land you are speaking of to the western side of the railway line or the eastern? On the western side.

1994. Have you ever had any negotiations for sale of land in the eastern side, or given valuations of any land there? I think I sold one small piece of about 2 acres at £150 an acre.

1995. *Mr. Copeland.*] Do you remember what the piece of land on which the hotel is built realized? I could not tell you—50s. a foot, or something like that.

1996. *Mr. McMillan.*] Speaking generally, outside the small township sold some years ago, you have no detailed knowledge of the estate? None whatever.

WEDNESDAY, 5 DECEMBER, 1888.

Present:—

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| MR. WALKER, | | MR. HENRY CLARKE, |
| MR. O'SULLIVAN, | | MR. COPELAND, |
| | MR. BRUNKER. | |

T. WALKER, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Charles Nicholson Jewel Oliver recalled and further examined:—

1997. *Mr. Copeland.*] You have had an opportunity since you were last here of looking at the papers in this case? I tender a plan with the object of being able to reply to questions put by you to me yesterday. (*Appendix, Plan 7.*) It is a plan showing the Crown lands on the western side of the railway line at the Hornsby station. At the northern part of the plan there is a public school site of 2 acres, with a paddock of 3 acres 3 roods 31 perches. This public school site was dedicated on the 13th October, 1884. That action was taken as usual in cases of the nature at the instance of the Department of Public Instruction. Subsequently portion 234, more immediately in the vicinity of the Hornsby station, containing 2 acres, was also dedicated for a public school at the request of the same Department. There is a portion of land on this plan, between Bellamy's land and the Peat's Ferry Road, of irregular shape, containing about 10 acres. It was originally applied for by Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, under the 11th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, as intervening between their property and the Peat's Ferry Road. This application was approved of. It was, however, subsequently refused, and it was proposed to subdivide the land and to sell it by auction.

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1998. On what ground was the application of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith refused? The 11th section. Application was refused upon the ground that the portion of land was such as should not be sold under that section—that is, having regard to its situation. It was, however, perfectly legitimate that an application under that section should be put forward. I think one portion of the section states specially that it applies to land intervening between the property of the person applying and a road—that is to say, the intention of the 11th section was to enable the person who, by some change in the direction of a particular road, had been severed from his proper frontage to recover it.
1999. Had this land ever been severed from the other property? I fancy that it had. I am not prepared to speak definitely upon the point. There are indications in the papers that the course of the Peat's Ferry Road has been diverted—that it was not originally in the position in which it now is. This application, however, under the 11th section, was, as I have already said, refused. Subsequently it was suggested by Mr. Burns that this land should be devoted to public recreation. That suggestion was not adopted, upon the ground that there were ample grounds in the locality. It was, I believe, represented that the land was worth £2 a foot, and that its total value was something like £3,000.
2000. That is for the 10 acres? Yes.
2001. By whom was the case dealt with? By Mr. Secretary Copeland, who decided to refuse the application for the reservation, and that the land should be subdivided and sent to auction. A further letter was received from Mr. Burns, as I think I explained yesterday, on the subject of the reservation of this land for recreation purposes, inquiring where ample provision for those purposes in the neighbourhood had been made, as he was not aware of their existence. That led up to the proposed subdivision of this area with some other land adjoining being reconsidered, and it was decided by Mr. Secretary Garrett that the portion of land shown upon this tracing as reserve 47 and that portion of land intervening between Bellamy's land and the Peat's Ferry Road should be reserved for future public requirements. A question was asked yesterday as to whether the reserve had been notified in the *Government Gazette*. I answered that the papers did not disclose it. That led to a question as to whether the papers were complete. They are complete, I find, because no such reserve has yet been made. There was simply an approval of the reservation.
2002. Then the reservation has not been gazetted although it has received Ministerial approval? That is so.
2003. What has become of the school site to the north? It still exists. It was, I presume, applied for before it was known where the Hornsby station would be; and the site of the station having been determined, it was natural that the Department of Instruction should apply for a site in the vicinity of the station and where population would be likely to settle. That is the explanation I should give of the existence of the two sites without knowing the exact circumstances.
2004. You say that the Department of Public Instruction applied for the second site? It applied for both of them.
2005. *Mr. Brunker.*] What is the distance between the two sites? They are about a quarter of a mile apart.
2006. *Mr. Copeland.*] You have a reserve made on the opposite side of the road for a court-house? Yes; it was made on the 7th January, 1888. It formed part of the 10 acres applied for—I mean the portion of land applied for by Messrs. Burns, Withers, & Smith—under the 11th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861. It formed portion of the land which Mr. Burns afterwards suggested should be devoted to recreation purposes.
2007. This piece of land applied for as a reserve would give half a mile of frontage to the Peat's Ferry Road? Yes, about.
2008. The reserve for the police-station and court-house formed a portion of the reserve? Yes; a part of 47.
2009. What area is there in that reserve? Roughly, I should say 31 acres.
2010. Which was the land withdrawn from subdivision? A portion of land which I have described as part of the reserve 47, edged green, and a piece of land intervening between Bellamy's grant and the Peat's Ferry Road, not embraced in portion 233, dedicated as a site for a court-house and a police-station.
2011. The site dedicated for a court-house and police-station would give 1,000 feet of frontage to the Peat's Ferry Road? I would rather call it approximately 16 chains, as by this plan.
2012. But it would give you 1,056 feet? Yes, if exactly 16 chains.
2013. The land being valued at £2 a foot? That is Mr. Deering's valuation—not mine.
2014. I suppose that if any of the land were worth £2 a foot, portion 233 would be worth that amount? Yes.
2015. On account of its width and proximity to the railway station? Yes.
2016. Do you know what the piece of land for the hotel realized? I do not.
2017. This balance of 31 acres 3 roods 1 perch was withdrawn from subdivision at the instigation of Mr. Burns for a recreation reserve? I cannot say that. I know that Mr. Burns drew attention to the fact that necessity existed for reservation for recreation purposes, but the Lands Department reported against it.
2018. But the portion coloured green on your tracing has been subdivided for sale? Yes; and is now approved for reservation for future public requirements; subdivision was not proceeded with.
2019. Do you know whether Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith provided any reserves in their subdivision? I do not know anything about their land beyond the fact that it is in the locality.
2020. I suppose you do not know whether there has been any Government expenditure through the unemployed upon the roads upon the western side of the railway line? I do not know. I should like to make a slight explanation in connection with my evidence yesterday, which is strictly correct, although it may not be fully understood. It will be remembered that I said yesterday that I should like to see a plan of the Government subdivision. In order that I might fully understand the position of the land, I have consulted the plan which I have now before me. The plan handed to me yesterday, upon which I gave my evidence, showed a somewhat detailed subdivision of the land of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, but only showed the Crown lands known as the Hornsby subdivision in colour, without any subdivision at all. I was questioned as to having been on this land on a certain date. I had visited the land, as I had explained, for the purpose of satisfying myself as to the upset price. A question was then asked me as to my knowledge as to some roads made through the land of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith.

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Smith. I endeavoured to indicate from the plan then before me the direction in which I travelled over this land. I did so approximately, showing that I travelled in a northern direction. I can now fully explain the direction, and I think that it is material to my evidence as showing its value in regard to anything done upon the land of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith. Coming across the bridge over the railway line from the road marked A, I travelled up what is known in the Hornsby subdivision as King's Road. I followed nearly the whole length of that road down through the subdivision on to what is known as the Boundary Road, and by that road I went back to the station, going very little if at all upon the land of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith. I make this statement simply because I was examined as to the roads through their estate. My evidence as to the value of those roads can be taken only as an expression of opinion formed from the papers before me yesterday. I think that it is proper that I should make this explanation as any one inspecting these two plans will see that they convey quite a different impression to an observer who is not fully acquainted with both of the portions of land referred to.

2021-2. With reference to the road marked A, have you been able to detect any ministerial action taken with respect to exchanging a piece of land to the northward for that road? I have not been able to trace a ministerial decision, although there was evidence that one was given. The Committee can very well understand that I cannot give great personal attention to the matter, but I have done the best I could to trace this decision. I would suggest that one of the record clerks, or someone in the Lands Department, should be subpoenaed to produce the papers.

2023. Mr. Burns stated in Parliament that the making of these roads originated with me (Mr. Copeland); I had nothing to do with any of them except this one road marked A, and even that road does not appear on the papers to have ever come before me, but it was agreed by the Department while I was in office that this piece of land should be taken in exchange for a piece of land further to the northward in order to give access from one portion of Crown lands to the other. That seems to be all the action taken in connection with this estate during the time I was in office? I have no doubt that the arrangements made in regard to that road were approved of by you. The records, as far as I have inspected them, show that. It goes without saying that it was a desirable road to make. It was the best access we could obtain from the railway to the Crown lands; besides it immediately connected two blocks of Crown land. In fact, it would have been a desirable arrangement to make even if we had had to pay a large sum of money for the road.

2024. *Chairman.*] In saying to-day that you have been on only a small portion of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith's property, do you wish us to understand that you desire to correct any of your evidence in regard to the road running parallel to the railway? Not at all; my evidence in regard to that road is quite in accord with what I have just stated. I wanted the Committee to understand that I knew nothing about the roads further to the south.

2025. *Mr. Brunker.*] Was any action taken by the Department of Lands in connection with the making of these roads? None except with regard to the road marked A. I think I said yesterday that the understanding when the road was given to the Government was, that it should be cleared for vehicular traffic, and formed—that is to say, that the road should be made.

2026. The Hornsby subdivision shown on the plan before you was done at the instance of the Department? Yes.

2027. Had the roads been cleared when you were there? Such of the roads as I went over were cleared. My visit to the land was early in July last. I have not the slightest idea of what has been done since. It was very nearly two months before the land was sold that I visited it.

2028. *Mr. Copeland.*] At the time of your visit, were the unemployed working upon the property of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith? That I could not say; as I explained yesterday, I was only a short time on the ground; it rained heavily, and it was Saturday afternoon; I saw no persons at work.

2029. *Mr. Brunker.*] Has it not been the practice of the Department to clear these roads before offering the roads for sale? It has been of late.

2030. But not before the unemployed question cropped up? A general decision was given some time during Mr. Copeland's term of office that steps should be taken to make the land as attractive as possible, and that roads should be cleared. I think I am correct in stating that in the case of one subdivision the clearing was done by tender, but in other instances, after the unemployed question cropped up, the clearing was done by the unemployed.

2031. Before that, was it always done by tender? On one occasion only, and then on my own recommendation, we cleared some land at Liverpool. It was before the unemployed question cropped up. It was a special sale of land, and the land was in the immediate vicinity of the railway station.

2032. Does your experience enable you to say that this clearing of roads has had a beneficial effect? I am certain that it has.

2033. *Mr. Copeland.*] I suppose you know that we have large areas of Government subdivisions still uncleared and upon which roads have been neither formed nor metalled? I am aware that there are very large areas upon which roads have not been cleared.

2034. In no case have the roads upon these large areas been formed, even although they may have been cleared? In one or two exceptional cases roads have been metalled or ballasted, I believe, but it is not the practice.

2035. Have there not been, therefore, plenty of avenues of employment for the unemployed in improving our own Crown lands which have been subdivided for sale? I certainly think so.

2036. So that there was no need to employ the so-called unemployed upon private subdivisions merely with a view to find them employment? I think there was plenty of employment for the unemployed on our own lands. I may say that if my evidence has been taken as being favourable to this work being done by the unemployed, I should like to state as once that I think it is not at all desirable that work of this character should be done by the unemployed, if it is possible to avoid it. In my humble opinion such work would be better carried out if it were done by tender.

2037. *Mr. Brunker.*] You know the position of Mr. Burns's land relatively to the Crown land? Yes, from the plan.

2038. Do you think the construction of roads through the Burns, Withers, and Smith estate in any way assisted the sale of the Crown lands? Some of them may have done so to this extent—they would give the surroundings a better appearance. They must of necessity have made the land more attractive. I think I mentioned yesterday that the Hornsby sale was really a successful sale; but whether that success was brought about by the way in which these roads were made it is hard to say. I can scarcely

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scarcely express an opinion upon that point, but I do know that the prices realized were high—that they were in excess of the prices put on the land on my recommendation, and far above the price which those experienced auctioneers Messrs. Richardson & Wrench said the land was worth and would realize.

2039. *Mr. Copeland.*] Don't you think that the metalling of roads upon our own subdivision would have made our own land more attractive than the metalling of roads on the land of other people? I think so, if that has occurred.

2040. *Mr. Brunker.*] Do you think these roads were necessary as roads of access? Not all of them. Without an inspection of the land, I am not prepared to say that some of the roads leading up from the railway in different directions are not desirable for access, but it does not require an inspection of the land to enable me to say that all of these roads are not necessary.

2041. Do you think that reserve 47 is necessary in the interests of future public requirements? My opinion is that that is a piece of land which should not be sold, and I will briefly give my reasons. Assuming that Hornsby will some day become a populous place, sites for the usual public buildings will be required, and if the Government were to sell this land they would afterwards have to resume a portion of it for these sites, probably paying very dearly for it. From a public point of view, therefore, I think it would be unwise to sell that land. I do not say that it will all be required hereafter for these public purposes, but we know from experience that fatal mistakes have been made in selling land surrounding railway stations and other places where public requirements necessitate areas being set apart for different purposes.

2042. *Mr. Copeland.*] Could not this reserve for a court-house have been taken out of a portion of reserve No. 47, instead of such a valuable portion of land as portion 233 being used for the purpose? I will not go into the question of the value of the land because I do not admit your valuation; but I do not think it is a desirably-shaped portion of land to set apart for a court-house and police-station.

2043. Would it not have been better to have taken a portion out of reserve 47? That might have been a better arrangement.

2044. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Were you present at the sale of Crown lands at Hornsby? No.

2045. But you have been over the Hornsby subdivision? Yes.

2046. What portion has been sold? Everything indicated on this plan except the portion tinted red.

2047. Can you tell me whether the better part of the land has been sold? That must be left to public competition. We offer the whole of the land, and it is fair to assume that when people buy they buy the best portion.

2048. Do you know the character of the country remaining unsold? I cannot speak of my own knowledge. If you look at this plan you will see that the unsold portion is somewhat hilly.

2049. Bearing that fact in mind, do you think that if the roads J, I, and A had been constructed sufficient access would have been given to the Crown lands? I stated a moment before that I was not in a position to say absolutely whether these roads were necessary; but if by the roads you mention access were given to the railway line, I should say that reasonable access to the Crown lands would be provided.

2050. The roads I have named, in addition to road H, you will observe, strike the railway line and a public road at four different points;—should you not consider that reasonable access? Yes.

2051. You consider the Crown land sale a satisfactory one? Yes.

2052. The total amount realized was £4,300? I am not sure about that. The reason I say the sale was satisfactory was this: That the upset prices placed upon the land upon my recommendation were pronounced by the well-known auctioneers Messrs. Richardson & Wrench to be from 25 to 50 per cent. in excess of the value of the land, while the land brought, as a matter of fact, from 50 to 100 per cent. more than the upset prices.

2053. Accepting the aggregate amount of the sale as £4,300, and bearing in mind that £6,000 had been expended to achieve that result, should you consider the result a satisfactory one? I should not; but I am not aware that £6,000 has been expended in connection with the formation of roads with the view of developing these Crown lands.

2054. Are you aware that it is the practice of the owners of private estates to subdivide land and to lay out roads prior to sale in order to give an increased value to the land? Yes.

2055. If you had been the owner of these Crown lands, and had seen that your neighbours to the south were laying out roads, would you have come in and relieved them of the expense of doing it in order to give access to your own land? I think not.

James M'Keown called in, sworn, and examined:—

J. M'Keown. 2056. *Chairman.*] What is your position? I am a Crown Lands Ranger for the county of Cumberland.

2057. Have you ever been located anywhere near Hornsby? I know the district.

2058. Do you know anything about the property there owned by Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith? Well, I know where it is located.

2059. Do you know its boundaries? I cannot say that I do. My duty is simply to know the boundaries of Crown land.

2060. Do you know the roads running through the properties of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith? I have been over only two of them.

2061. Which are they? The Boundary Road and the road running direct from the station.

2062. Have you any evidence which you wish to tender to the Committee? No. I received a summons to attend; that is all I know.

2063. You have not seen any roads other than those you have specified? I have not gone over them. I should not be prepared to give any evidence about them.

2064. *Mr. Brunker.*] Have you been over the Crown lands? Yes.

2065. What sort of country is it to the east of the subdivision? A portion of it is fairly level, but the bulk of it is very rough.

2066. It is your duty to travel over Crown lands occasionally? Yes.

2067. Do you ever attend sales of Crown land? Yes.

2068. Do you know anything about the value of this land? Well, I know the price some of it brought at the sale.

2069. *Chairman.*] From your knowledge of Crown lands, what do you think is the value of the land sold at Hornsby relatively to the value of the land to the east? There is no comparison between them at all; the best of the land is purchased. The land at the back is very rough.
2070. Do you think that the unsold land which is put into the market at the present time would fetch a price that would warrant the Government in putting it up? Yes.
2071. Is it marketable land? Yes.
2072. *Mr. Copeland.*] Would any of the land be suitable for orchard purposes? The greater part of the unsold portions, I should say, would be suitable for orchards. I have seen the finest orange trees grown on land similar to that.
2073. Do you know the land of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith? Yes.
2074. Which is the more valuable of the two—the Crown land or the other land? Their land, decidedly.
2075. *Mr. Brunker.*] Do you think it necessary, in the interests of the public, that roads of access to the Crown lands should be given through this private property? I think there can be no doubt that the roads added to the value of the Crown lands.
2076. *Mr. Copeland.*] Do you think it was necessary to make such a number of roads in order to increase the value of Crown lands? Well, in the absence of these roads, it seems to me that you would have no access to the Crown lands at all.
2077. But would you not have access by road A? That is only one point; but there is a station on the Pearce's Corner line below the lower portion of the property shown on this plan, and I should think it would be necessary to give access from that point; then there are other points of access on the public road to be considered.
2078. *Mr. Brunker.*] If in your position as Crown lands ranger you had been asked whether it was desirable that roads of access should be given to these Crown lands other than those obtainable without encroaching upon private property, what report would you have furnished? I should certainly consider access necessary from the Pearce's Corner line. It seems to me that it must enhance the value of Crown lands to give access to it from the Lane Cove Road.*
2079. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Supposing a road had been constructed along the eastern boundary of this private property up to the Boundary Road, and that road A were required to give access to the western portion of the Crown lands, admitting also that road H and road I were made from the Lane Cove Road, do you not think that the whole of these roads should be held to give reasonable access to the Crown lands? Not having been over the roads I am not in a position to say.
2080. You see the road upon the plan leading up from the hotel;—do you think that is likely to benefit anyone but the hotel-keeper? I think it will benefit a great many by-and-by.
2081. How many people on the Crown lands will use that road to get to the Lane Cove Road? The Crown lands are not yet occupied. The clearing of these roads induces people to settle; that is the way in which I look at the matter.
2082. You don't feel yourself competent at present to express a definite opinion with reference to the necessity for the whole of these roads? No.
2083. *Mr. Brunker.*] Is there any population to the east of the Vanceville Road? The land is thinly populated right through to Gordon and the North Shore.
2084. What population is there between Lane Cove and the river? Very little.
2085. *Mr. Copeland.*] Do you know of any inducement for the people living to the eastward of the Vanceville Road to go upon these barren Crown lands? Well, it would make very good poultry farms or orchards.
2086. On that rough country? Yes; you could bring nearly all of it into use.
2087. Have any poultry farms been established upon the land already sold there? The people have not yet had time.
2088. *Mr. Brunker.*] How long is it since the land was sold? It was sold, I think, at the end of October.
2089. *Chairman.*] Which is likely to be settled upon first, do you think—the private property or the Crown land? The Crown lands, I think, because the price is very much lower.
2090. You think the roads, then, have improved the Burns, Smith, and Withers' estate so much that they can get a considerably higher price for it? I did not say that. Of course roads improve the value of any property to some extent, but in the absence of some of the roads you have mentioned you would have had no access to the Crown lands.
2091. Were the prices obtained for the Crown lands fancy prices, or did they represent the true value of the land? Well, I think the land fetched a good price.

J. M'Keown.
5 Dec., 1888.

FRIDAY, 7 DECEMBER, 1888.

Present:—

MR. WALKER,
MR. COPELAND,

MR. O'SULLIVAN,
MR. H. CLARKE.

T. WALKER, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Thomas Cooper Hinchcliffe recalled and further examined:—

2092. *Chairman.*] Have you been able to obtain any further information for the Committee? In reference to the pay-sheets you wanted, I went to the Audit Office, to which I told you the papers had been sent. The Inspector of Accounts told me that it would take some little time to get out all the pay-sheets, and that he could not give them to me; but that if the Committee were to send a subpoena to the office they would send up a clerk with them, if you gave them two days' notice. I produce the last three pay-sheets in the office, and they would be similar to all the others. One is being paid up at Hornsby to-day. They do not show any particular roads; they simply show that the work has been done at Hornsby. If you were to send for the clerk and storekeeper or for the superintendent, they would be able to give you details. I know that the work extended for miles beyond the Hornsby Station. 2093.

T. C.
Hinchcliffe.
7 Dec., 1888.

* NOTE (on revision):—I also consider that there should be access from Noonan's Platform and Vanceville Station on the Lane Cove Road.—J.M.K.

T. C.
Hinchcliffe.
7 Dec., 1888.

2093. What we want to know is the number of men who have been working upon the estate of Messrs Burns, Withers, and Smith, or in its vicinity? Mr. O'Donnell or Mr. Little would be the only gentlemen, who would be able to give you that information.
2094. It would be impossible for you to state how many men had been at work upon these roads? Totally impossible.
2095. Or how much money has been paid? I can only give you the gross total of the money paid for the whole of the work.
2096. When you say the gross total, that would include all the work in the Hornsby District? Yes.
2097. Does that include all the roads upon the tracing which you saw the other day? It would take in a great many other roads not shown upon the tracing. It would include also the clearing of the Crown lands.
2098. *Mr. Copeland.*] With roads on the western side of the railway line? Yes.
2099. Can you give us any idea of the number of men employed upon the land of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith at the time of the appointment of this Select Committee? No; I see from the pay-sheets that from the 12th to the 26th October, eighty-four men, including officers, were employed altogether.
2100. That is upon the roads shown upon the tracing? No; that is upon the whole of the works at Hornsby. From the 26th October to the 9th November eighty-three men were employed, and from the 9th November to the 23rd November, 102 men.
2101. But you cannot say how many of these men were employed upon these particular roads? No; the superintendent or Mr. Little could tell you that.

John Whitton called in, sworn, and examined:—

J. Whitton.
7 Dec., 1888.

2102. *Chairman.*] What position do you occupy? I am the Engineer-in-Chief for Railways.
2103. You are acquainted with the Pearce's Corner railway? Yes.
2104. Do you know what platforms have been made, or what platforms it is intended to make on that line? I could not tell you exactly without looking through the papers. I think there are seven or eight stations or sidings on the Pearce's Corner line.
2105. At whose recommendation were they made? They were all decided on by the Minister.
2106. Do you know the portion of the line from the Hornsby Junction to the Vanceville Road? Yes.
2107. How many platforms are there in that distance? I could not say without looking at the plans.
2108. Will not the plans before you show that? No.
2109. And you cannot speak from memory? No.
2110. The plan in the Parliamentary papers is approximately correct;—it is on the scale of 20 chains to an inch, so that from the Hornsby Junction to the Vanceville Road there would be about 2 miles? We have a platform 1 mile and 40 chains from Hornsby, I see. The station is upon land which belongs to a Mr. Lucas. We had to take for the line a portion of land belonging to Mr. Joseph Dobson.
2111. That would be the platform at the bottom of the road on this plan marked H? I suppose so.
2112. Can you tell the Committee upon whose recommendation it was decided to put that platform down? I could not say without referring to the papers.
2113. Is it not rather near to the junction? Yes, it is. I can tell at once by referring to the papers who suggested it. I may say at once that it is a very convenient place for Pearce's Corner; it is also convenient to the Lane Cove Road.
2114. Is the position a good one for the platform? Tolerably good.
2115. This inquiry is confined more particularly to the roads, and our object in summoning you was to ascertain from you whether the platforms had been recommended with a view to fit in with the roads, or whether the roads had been made with a view to fit in with the platforms? I think you will find that this is an old road laid down on the original survey plans.
2116. But has it not been made by the unemployed? No; I should think not. I think you will find this road in the original survey. When we made the survey for the St. Leonards line this property belonged to William Gracie, but I believe it has since been purchased from him and cut up into allotments.
2117. We have evidence that this road was made by the unemployed? I do not think it could have been.
2118. I suppose the survey of the line through this property meets with your approval? Yes—that is to say, the direction of the line. I do not care whose property the line passes through. I take the best line independently of any person's property.
2119. You think this line takes the best direction? Yes; I think it does from the point of view of public accommodation.
2120. Has there been any change in the position of the platforms upon this line? Not that I am aware of.
2121. Has not the Hornsby station on the Northern line been changed? The name has been changed, but the position has not been; it was originally called the Pearce's Corner station.
2122. I understood that the public school site had been changed in consequence of a change in the position of the station? I do not know anything about school reserves.
2123. Was it ever intended to have a railway station further north than the present position of the Hornsby station? Thornleigh was originally called Hornsby, but we never intended to change the position of the present Hornsby station.
2124. Have you any personal knowledge of this district? I have seen it in passing through in the train, that is all.
2125. To whom did the property at Hornsby belong before the survey of the railway was made? I do not remember to whom it belonged originally, but I know that the compensation for the land was paid to Messrs. R. B. Smith and Company. I do not think they were the owners of the land at the time the survey was made. I believe they purchased the land afterwards.

George Withers called in, sworn, and examined:—

G. Withers.
7 Dec., 1888.

2126. *Chairman.*] You are a Member of the Legislative Assembly of this Colony? Yes.
2127. *Mr. Copeland.*] Are you a joint owner with Messrs. Burns and Smith of the property at Hornsby, shown on this tracing? I am a joint owner with Messrs. Burns and Smith of a good deal of property in that

G. Withers.
7 Dec., 1888.

that neighbourhood, the exact boundaries I am not thoroughly acquainted with. I know the land fairly well, and I should say that the portion marked green on this tracing would about represent its area. There are two other blocks disconnected with the property shown on this tracing.

2128. What is their position? They are both on the south side of the Lane Cove Road—one is a block of 84 acres, and another is a block of 60 acres.

2129. How long have you been an owner of this property? I could not give you the exact date, but I think it must be twelve or getting on for thirteen years.

2130. You were an owner before the making of the railway line? A considerable time before the line was made. I think it was about six or seven years after I had an interest in the property that I heard that the Government were about to take a portion of it for a railway station.

2131. Had you any part ownership in it before Messrs. Burns and Smith came in? No; we purchased together, at my suggestion.

2132. Did you have it surveyed at all? I think there has been a considerable sum expended in different ways in the matter of surveys. Mr. Dawson is the man we generally have employed. We had a subdivision of the property made after the railway was taken there. This was necessary in order to give access to the station. We also sold a piece of land on the other side of the Peat's Ferry Road. This necessitated the preparation of a subdivision plan. Part of the property near the railway station was subdivided into business allotments, and an hotel is now built on one of those allotments.

2133. Will you furnish the Committee with a copy of this subdivision plan? Yes.

2134. Have you subdivided any portion of the rectangular block between Burns Road and the Boundary Road? No.

2135. Who surveyed the Junction Road? That I could not say; I fancy it must have been done by the Government surveyor.

2136. Did you send out Mr. Dawson to confer with any of the Government officers as to the subdivision of this rectangular block? My memory would not serve me very accurately as to details in connection with this estate. I know that Mr. Dawson has been frequently applied to in conjunction with Mr. Burns, Smith, and myself; for instance, the hotel-keeper was begging me for some time to give him a piece of land near the railway station on which to build an hotel. I succeeded in getting my partners to consent to running a road from the station across to the Peat's Ferry Road, letting the man have a block upon which he could build an hotel. That is the only place at which people can find accommodation there at the present time. Mr. Dawson had to be employed in that case.

2137. But there are a number of roads on this plan marked upon your land;—did Mr. Dawson survey those roads? I am perfectly certain he must have surveyed some. I know that he has been employed in that way at different times.

2138. Was it with your approval that the whole of these roads were made? I have not the slightest doubt that in the case of every road running through our estate I concurred. It was the most natural thing in the world that I should have been consulted more or less about them.

2139. Do you consider that these roads improve your property? There is no question about that.

2140. Had you commenced any of them before the unemployed came on to the land? I am certain we had. We had a man named Kearney carrying out road-making there a year or two before the unemployed were placed upon the land.

2141. I suppose the unemployed completed the roads that were left unfinished? To tell you the truth, I do not know what roads had been completed. Perhaps I ought to say that, after the matter had been discussed in the House, as I had not been to the property for some time, I took a trip out there by way of Parramatta. I remember entering what I thought to be our property by the road marked A, but I cannot tell you from the plan what direction I took. Perhaps I am not as conversant with the estate as I ought to be.

2142. You have not been actively managing the estate? I am not the manager of the estate. Mr. Burns keeps the bank-book and draws the cheques, and if any man is to be recognized as manager in connection with the estate, I suppose Mr. Burns must be understood to be the financial manager.

2143. You did not frequently visit the property? I have not done so of late years.

2144. Have you been out there since the unemployed have been working there? Well, I went out on the occasion I have just mentioned. That was the last time. It was on the Saturday after the discussion in the House. Prior to that I do not think I had been out to the estate on my own account once within four months. I remember being out there at that time, and driving along the Junction Road.

2145. Were the unemployed then at work there? There was every appearance of it. I think my visit prior to that visit was at least six months before.

2146. But you knew that the unemployed were making these roads through your property? Undoubtedly; of course I heard of it from all sources.

2147. I see from the printed papers that a petition was presented on the 11th September, 1887, asking that a sum of money might be granted for the improvement of the Vanceville Road, from the Lane Cove Road to the new road recently cleared by the Government from the Hornsby railway bridge. Among the persons who signed that petition is Mr. George Withers. Is that yourself? I have very little doubt but that it is. I have a recollection of signing one petition, but I could not have told you now what it was for. I suppose the road to which you refer was in connection with the district in which I, as a local landowner, would be regarded as having an interest.

2148. Are you aware that Mr. Burns, on behalf of the firm, applied to make a special purchase of the piece of land on the western side of the railway line, under the 11th section of the Land Act of 1861? I am not aware; but I think I know the piece of land to which you refer. I know that the matter is one which has been under consideration—in fact, I think Mr. Ives spoke to me about it when I was out there on one occasion having a friendly drive. I know that there was a good deal of talk about cutting off our frontage on the main road.

2149. This tracing will show you the land which Mr. Burns tried to purchase? I see that my signature is attached to the application. I presume it would be a document presented to me by Mr. Burns as part of a *bonâ fide* transaction, but I had forgotten all about it myself. I am aware that there were a good many suggestions in regard to putting the Government land there intact, instead of having a small strip cut off from the main road—in fact, there was some question as to whether the Peat's Ferry Road had not been diverted. There was only a thin strip between our property and the Government land, and I know that the question of making the Government land intact was considered by us.

2150.

- G. Withers. 2150. Were you of opinion that the land belonged to you in consequence of the diversion of the road? I do not think we could set up any claim to the land, but I know that the question arose as to whether the road had not been diverted from our boundary line.
- 7 Dec., 1888.
2151. Do you know whether you surveyed any roads on the western side of the railway? Roads have been cleared there, I believe, but none have been constructed.
2152. Have the unemployed done any work upon those roads? I do not know. I have not been over that part of the estate for some time. I could not say what is going on there.
2153. There is a petition signed by Mr. Burns requesting that the Government would cause the reserve fronting the Peat's Ferry Road near the Hornsby Junction to be dedicated for a public park, for which it was said to be well adapted. It was represented that all the private lands near the junction were being sold in small lots for settlement, and that a park, in what promised to be a thickly-populated neighbourhood, would promote the public health. I notice that this petition is also signed by the firm of Withers & Callaghan;—is that the firm of which you are a member? Yes; I see that my own signature is also attached to the petition; that is the only signature of which I have any knowledge.
2154. Is your firm interested in this property? Not in the slightest. Of course if any petition was to be presented, you may be sure that I would be one of the first to whom it would be brought.
2155. You are sure that the firm of Withers & Callaghan are not interested in the land? Not in the slightest; they were the auctioneers for some of the blocks in connection with Hardie & Gorman. Withers & Callaghan have interests in the district, but not so far up.
2156. What was the value of the land which you wished to have dedicated for a public park? I could not say.
2157. There are 31 acres? I should say that it ought to be worth now £150 an acre. Some of the land, as far as my memory serves me, is very low at the back.
2158. Are you aware whether this piece of land was reserved? I could not say.
2159. You are aware also that a reserve for a Court-house of over 4 acres was made? I heard something about a Court-house, but I do not know how the matter stands. I do not know whether any definite steps have been taken.
2160. Can you give us any idea as to the value of the land? I witnessed the contract in regard to some land much further from the station, which was sold about three weeks ago. That land sold at £150 an acre. That was on the eastern side of the line. It was, of course, level land.
2161. What did the piece of land upon which the hotel is situated realize? £5 a foot.
2162. How long is it since it was sold? About nine months ago. You must remember that it is the nearest point to the station.
2163. Assuming that the piece of land which has been reserved for a Court-house occupies over 1,000 feet of frontage to the main road, and that you sold the hotel block at £5 a foot, can you not give us some idea as to its value? I do not think the whole block would bring £5,000, although some of the Peat's Ferry frontages brought £3 and £4 a foot.
2164. You know that this land is close to the railway station? Yes; but it has a very narrow depth in places.
2165. Would it be worth £3 a foot? I should think that would be about a fair average. Some of the land goes off to nothing. It is very shallow.
2166. Can you tell the Committee what compensation you received from the Government for the 27 odd acres they took for the railway? As far as my memory goes, we got about £50 10s. an acre. I think we took £1,400 odd—the amount offered by the Government.
2167. Did you receive any compensation for the land taken for Pearce's Corner railway? No; we gave that. I do not know how much was taken, but I know it was very little—about 2 or 3 acres.
2168. You do not know how much you gave? We gave whatever they required. I do not think it was a great deal. They took a piece off one of the lower corners of the property, and another piece higher up near the station.
2169. You gave the land to the Government under an agreement entered into generally among the land-owners—that if the Government would construct a railway you would give the land free? Yes.
2170. That was one of the inducements offered to the Government to construct the line? Yes; we could well afford to fall in with the suggestion. I do not think we made any claim for the first land we gave. We simply accepted the offer made by the Government.
2171. Were you aware before this inquiry commenced that a large number of men paid by the Government were improving these roads through your property? I had not the remotest idea as to the number of men employed on the job.
2172. But you knew that the unemployed were making these roads? Yes.
2173. Do you know the extent to which they were making them? No. I do not know yet what roads have been made. I am convinced that a great deal of work has been done; you cannot ride down the Junction Road and look at right angles without seeing that.
2174. You are not forced to answer this question, but as a public man, as a man sent to Parliament to represent and conserve the public interest, would you consider it a proper thing, apart from this particular instance, for the Government to employ labour in the improvement of private estates? I must of course admit that I have given the matter a good deal of consideration. I heard of it from all sources. I have treated the matter very lightly, as one giving me no concern so far as my position as a Member was concerned. Seeing that the railway station was right in the centre of the property, and that there was a lot of Crown land at the back of our property to which access must be given, it never occurred to me that anything was being done which would not have been done had I not been a Member of Parliament.
2175. But would you consider all the roads marked upon this plan necessary in order to enable people to get to the railway-station or to the Crown lands? I consider, as I stated in the House, that any short means of access given from the Lane Cove Road to the Crown lands, would certainly tend to put up the value of those lands, and I presume that the work was based upon that principle. I have not gone over the cross-roads.
2176. Would you consider it a wise policy to expend public money in making these roads on private lands rather than upon making roads upon the Crown lands, which were to be sold? I do not know what has been done upon the Crown lands.
2177. Supposing the Crown lands shown on this plan were yours, and that you intended to sell them, would you expend your money in making these lower roads, or would you expend it in opening up the land

land which you intended to sell? No doubt I should extend these cross roads right through on to the Crown lands. If I were dealing with the whole of the land as one whole private property, I should make roads where the features of the country justified that course.

G. Withers.
7 Dec., 1888.

2178. But would you take men away from making roads from the land that you intended to sell and employ them in making roads a mile or two away from that property? That is a matter of judgment. If the whole of the land belonged to me, and I were going to put up all the property in one estate, I would certainly carry roads through from the Lane Cove Road. I would make that the starting-point, and give access across the other land.

2179. *Chairman.*] But supposing the land on the south of the Boundary Road belonged to another owner, what would you do? Of course I would have to take all the features of the country and circumstances into consideration.

2180. Do you think Burns Road can be justified as a road of access? We made a portion of that road ourselves. I remember recommending the expenditure of £70 upon a culvert there. I see that the road has since been metalled.

2181. The unemployed took up and completed your work? No; I think we had left off previously. I know that we cleared the land, and made it practicable to get along.

2182. You did all that was necessary, according to your idea, to open up your own land? Well, of course, in all probability, as time went on, as we came to deal with the estate, we should have expended more money.

2183. But you thought what you had expended was sufficient for the time being? I presume we came to that decision because no work was going on there for some time.

2184. *Mr. Copeland.*] I suppose that if these roads, which are so close together, had not been made, you would have felt it to your interest to make the roads for the purpose of a subdivision? Yes; some of these roads were partially made. I could not tell you exactly how much was done. I know that some roads running eastward from the railway station were cleared at our expense. I see from the plan that some of them are now cleared and formed.

2185. *Mr. Henry Clarke.*] Is it usual in making roads through Government land to clear, form, and metal the road? I do not know.

2186. Is it the practice of private owners in making subdivisions to clear, form, and metal the roads? I never knew a case in which it was done. I know that the City Council force private owners in the city, who are dividing their property, to form, ballast, kerb, and gutter. Of course that would not apply to suburban lands.

2187. *Mr. Copeland.*] Do you know of any other case in which the Government have cleared, formed, and metalled roads through a private subdivision? I cannot call to mind any case. I think some work of the sort has been done since the unemployed started. I do not know what the rule is with regard to these subdivisions. As far as my memory serves, they are cleared simply to show up the property. I see that in this case the work has been done in private subdivisions, but I do not think it has been the rule before. Now I think of it, I can think of one case in which a road was formed and cleared by the private owner.

2188. But you do not know of other cases where the work had been done by the Government on private property? No.

2189. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] What do you estimate is the increase given to the value of your lands by the construction of these roads? It would be impossible for me to say unless I were to go over the property. I am not thoroughly conversant with all the roads that have been constructed. Looking at the plan and going over a large estate like this are two very different things.

2190. Cannot you give us a rough idea? I should say that these roads would give the property a considerable advance, but I could not say to what extent.

2191. Do you think £20,000 would be too high an estimate? It is a difficult thing for me to say; you can probably form as good an opinion as I can. I do not think it would be at all unreasonable to suppose that the property had received that increase in value.

2192. You do not think it would be unreasonable to make that estimate then? Well, I do not know what the cost of the roads would be.

2193. We are told that the cost of the roads is from £5,000 to £6,000? I am not at all surprised at that.

2194. *Chairman.*] Knowing that that expenditure had been made on the roads, would you say that £20,000 was a fair estimate of the increase in value which they have given to the land? Perhaps it is rather a big estimate to say £20,000.

2195. *Mr. Copeland.*] But if you said £10,000 you would certainly be within the mark? There is no doubt at all about that.

2196. Possibly the increase in value would be greater? Possibly. You want to go on the property itself to form a good idea. If £5,000 or £6,000 had been expended on the property on roads, it would be reasonable to expect a difference of £10,000 in a sale.

2196½. Did you ever refuse any request for any road through your property? No.

2197. Did you ever make any request for a road? No; my knowledge of these roads is precisely what I stated in the House. About three or four years ago, seeing that the railway station was in the centre of the property, and that access would have to be given to it, a request was sent to the Government of the day asking for a road or roads. This I formally signed in conjunction with my partners and others. Whether the road was formed in the ordinary way as a Government road I do not know. I do not know whether it was initiated or whether it was left till the unemployed took the job in hand. When the unemployed put in an appearance a few years ago I spoke in the House of the folly of having them employed in grubbing the country lands, and represented that they ought to be put on to more permanent works in the shape of roads. It was shortly after that that I became acquainted with the fact that the unemployed were going to form this road which had been talked of for some time in connection with the railway station. The railway station being locked up in our property, I regarded the work as a most reasonable thing.

2197½. Was it on your recommendation that the unemployed were put on the land? No; I knew nothing whatever of it. They were there before I knew anything about it. No doubt they have done some very good work for the Government; of course they have improved property in which I am interested to some extent, but I do not see how, under the circumstances, that could be avoided.

TUESDAY,

TUESDAY, 11 DECEMBER, 1888.

Present:—

MR. WALKER,
MR. COPELAND,MR. HENRY CLARKE,
MR. O'SULLIVAN.

THOMAS WALKER, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

The Hon. John Fitzgerald Burns called in, sworn, and examined:—

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2198. *Chairman.*] You are part proprietor, with Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, of some lands situated at Hornsby? I have had the advantage of seeing the most of the evidence given before this Committee, and I am desirous of economizing both your time and mine. I have made some notes with reference to the subject, and I think if I am allowed to make a statement bearing upon the inquiry, I shall be able not only to give a full explanation of my knowledge of the matters referred to this Committee, but, as I said before, to economize time, I have made some notes here, which will enable me to make a general statement, and after I have made that, of course, I shall be open to examination by the Committee.

2199. If you wish to address the Committee in the matter, and give your information in the form of an address in reply to the rest of the evidence, the permission of the House is necessary. I think we cannot digress from the usual course in this matter. You are permitted to answer the questions in your own way? I submit that what I am proposing to you to do has been done constantly. I propose to make a statement, to be taken down in evidence, touching the facts dealt with in the evidence already before the Committee.

2200. That is virtually a reply? I am not proposing to make a reply. My only reason for making this suggestion is that I shall not have time wasted in an irregular examination.

2201. I do not think there will be anything irregular about the examination. I think the Committee is the best judge as to the course which will economize time? Of course, I must submit to the Committee in this matter. I am entirely in their hands. If the Committee think fit to take a course that seems to me likely to delay the inquiry, I am willing to answer any questions put to me. My only idea in trying to make a general statement at the outset was to save time.

2202. You are part proprietor, with Messrs. Withers and Smith, of some land situated at Hornsby? I am a part proprietor in, and managing partner of, the land firm of Burns, Withers, and Smith, which own land in the Lane Cove district and in other districts in the suburbs. The lands of Burns, Withers, and Smith to which you refer were purchased by them in the year 1876. It is material I should state one or two facts in connection with that, because I think there is a wrong impression abroad concerning the time of the purchase. For instance, I find that Mr. Whitton in giving his evidence had the impression that we bought these lands in the Lane Cove district after the railway passed through them, whereas we bought them in 1876, long previous to the construction of the Northern Railway, or to its being projected.

2203. Will you please identify the lands upon the tracing before you? The land marked on that tracing is only a portion of the estates of Burns, Withers, and Smith in the Lane Cove districts. There is an impression, and leading questions have been put by this Committee upon that impression, that we have in the lands shown on this plan something like 1,600 or 1,700 acres. I state, on the authority of my surveyor, Mr. Dawson, that the whole area of land we possess on the eastern side of the railway in connection with the roads lately made is only about 680 acres.

2204. Will you please identify the land on the plan? The plan before me shows the lands marked green as the lands of Burns, Withers, and Smith, and they consist, I am told by Mr. Dawson, of 680 acres, and not, as has been suggested here, and leading questions put upon that assumption, of 1,400, 1,500, or 1,600 acres.

2205. Did you formerly own any land to the south? Burns, Withers, and Smith also owned an estate called the Vanceville estate, which they sold a long time ago, and that estate adjoins the other estate, which we call among ourselves the Young estate.

2206. *Mr. Copeland.*] Is that the land within the yellow line? I believe it is within the yellow line; yes, it is so. The 680 acres I am speaking of include one or two remnants of the Vanceville estate.

2207. *Chairman.*] Those are the portions marked green? Yes; some small blocks, which were parts of the estate, still belong to the partners.

2208. On what terms was the Vanceville estate alienated; was it sold by auction? It was sold for the most part by auction on easy terms, and has been paid for for some years past. There is nothing owing to the partners on that estate.

2209. Nothing owing for any of it? Nothing owing for any of it.

2210. Have you been aware of the work of the unemployed on your estate at Hornsby? I have been aware of the work of the unemployed on our estate at Hornsby, and on that subject I desire not to make a statement, as you seem to object to that; but I desire to give evidence upon it. I was aware, long before the unemployed were engaged on any work in the Hornsby district that the attention of the Government while Mr. Copeland was in office had been directed to the large block of Crown lands to the eastward of the lands of Burns, Withers, and Smith, with a view to its being brought into the market for sale. I was aware that those Crown lands were excluded from any access to the station at Hornsby, or to the projected stations on the North Shore line, in consequence of the lands of Burns, Withers, and Smith intervening. As the proprietor of adjoining land I felt anxious that the Government should not sell their lands without means of access, because I felt that if that were done they would be sold at a sacrifice, and that in addition the sale would have the effect of lowering in public estimation the value of adjacent lands in which I was interested. It is quite true, as stated by Colonel Wells in his evidence, that I had a conversation with him in a railway carriage in the Hunter River district respecting those lands, and that I told him in answer to an inquiry that I would be disposed to let the Government have a road of access from the Hornsby railway station to the Crown lands, provided the road was properly cleared and formed for traffic. I became aware in 1886 that the Government of which Mr. Copeland was then Minister for Lands was pushing the sale of Crown lands in the metropolitan districts as much as they could, and that sales of land in the county of Cumberland had taken place at the Field of Mars, which is not far from Hornsby, at Harbord, and at Heathcote. On one occasion, on a visit to Hornsby, Mr.

Copeland

Copeland was a passenger by the same train with myself, and I dare say he will remember giving the passengers an interesting account of the origin of the name Beecroft, a name which he gave—(*Objection taken by Mr. Copeland that the answer was not relevant to the question of the Chairman. Objection sustained.*)

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2211. Are you aware of the work done by the unemployed at Hornsby, and have you been aware during the course of that work? I have been aware.

2212. Did you know every road they had made; were you aware of their making all of these roads? If you will allow me I will tell you as far as I know the origin of that work.

2213. Yes; but have you been aware from the commencement of this work of every road the unemployed were making? I was aware that the unemployed were making roads there; but I saw roads being made there at the time of my visits about which I knew nothing.

2214. That is to say the unemployed have made roads, if I understand your answer rightly, that you knew nothing about until they were made? I saw them making some roads about the origin of which by recommendation or otherwise I knew nothing.

2215. But were you aware of the majority of roads? You are speaking of the roads passing through property I was interested in. I was aware of those roads; but even in regard to them, I saw one or two roads of which I had no knowledge.

2216. Which were the roads being made of which you had no knowledge? There was a small road being made from the Crown lands across lands which I suppose, from looking at the map, and from what I saw on the ground, belong to a building society, with which I have no connection, to an inn on the Peat's Ferry Road. I saw the men making that road, which I understood was a road of access from the Peat's Ferry Road through the lands of various owners which connected the lands I am concerned in, to the Crown lands. About the origin of that I know nothing.

2217. That is not on your land? I think it touches one point of it, near Junction Road.

2218. None of it is on your land? Without consulting Mr. Dawson, I could not say. I do not know that it is not. You have asked me first about the roads of which I have no knowledge. Another road is the road marked A, down to a church at Pearce's Corner. That starts at Junction Road, and goes through lands in which I have no interest. I have no knowledge of the road. There is an opening from the Junction Road made across to the Boundary Road, and of that I have no knowledge. It may be through our lands.

2219. Is it not through your lands? I think it is through our lands; but I was never asked for my consent to that road. I had been away for some time, and when I came back I found that they had made an opening there. It is only a cleared road. There was no consent for the opening of that road. This road C seems to be a continuation through our land in order to make a connection between the Pearce's Corner Road and the Crown lands. It seems reasonable that there should be an opening; but I was never applied to for permission. I have observed that it has been cleared.

2220. Any others? With respect to the Vanceville Road, an application came to me from the Department of Lands for my assent to the extension of that road from the point up to which it has been made by, I believe, the Department of Public Works, along the boundary of Burns, Withers, and Smith's land, to the Crown lands at the back.

2221. *Mr. Copeland.*] What is the date of that application? I will produce it presently—along the boundary of Burns, Withers, and Smith's land to the Crown lands at the back. The application came to me from the Department of Lands on the 9th September, 1887, asking permission for the opening of that road, to which I replied on the 19th September, giving my assent to that road being extended to Boundary Road, which was the frontage to the Government lands.

2222. *Chairman.*] Do you put in that paper? I think it is amongst the printed papers.

2223. *Mr. Copeland.*] It has been given in evidence, Mr. Burns, that you were acting for the Minister for Lands at various times, did this take place during one of those periods? Certainly not. There has been no business in which I have been interested at any time dealt with while I have been acting as Minister for Lands.

2224. *Chairman.*] To continue; what other roads have you? I want to complete my evidence on this point. That letter came to me when I had no connection with the Department of Lands.

2225. From whom—from Mr. Garrett? From the Department of Lands—from Mr. Freeman, and I learnt afterwards—it has come out in evidence—that the opening of that road was recommended by Mr. Gordon, who was acting as the surveyor of the Casual Labour Board.

2226. All the roads you know that have been started without your knowledge are the road leading to the hotel, the road from the church through your property*, and the continuation of Vanceville Road? If I am to speak as to other roads of which I have no knowledge, there are two other roads here about the starting of which I think I have only a very imperfect knowledge. For instance, a clearing was made on what is called Burdett-street, on the subdivision near the station. That clearing took place, I gather from the evidence, a short time before the land sale came off on the Crown lands. In respect to this improvement, this clearing the Crown lands, Mr. Ranger McKeown, who takes an active interest in all matters relating to the sale of Crown lands, called upon me with reference to the sale at Hornsby, and he made a suggestion that that road should be improved in order to give an open view from the railway station to the Crown lands.

2227. That is the road between Junction Road and Boundary Road, the continuation of Boundary Road? In that case, as in all others, when I have been applied to make recommendations for the improvement of roads in which I might myself be interested, I declined to interfere. Mr. Davies since has given evidence that he and Mr. McKeown consulted, and that this road was made as the result of the consultation.

2228. Where is that in Mr. Davies evidence? It is in his evidence. He states that Mr. McKeown went to see him about this road besides other matters in connection with the sale, and that it was improved before the sale. I did not see the road as so improved until after the sale.

2229. Did you know it was being improved before the sale? I did not. That road had been in some measure opened by Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, by a rough clearing, and left in that condition. I saw the auctioneer who conducted the sale a few days after it, and he told me that the road was of great advantage in giving a direct view from the station, and that he took the fence down opposite the railway station and went through that road, through good land on to the Crown lands.

2230.

NOTE (on revision):—The road from the church is not through any land in which I am interested.

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2230. You had already partially cleared this road you say? It had been partially cleared by the owners of the land, in view of their subdivision near the station.
2231. It was marked in the plan of the subdivision? It was marked in the plan of the subdivision.
2232. You had intended to clear it? We had no thought of clearing it, or of doing anything more than had been done to it at the present time.
2233. Are there any more roads you did not know anything about? I see a road here, 26. I do not know anything about that road. I only saw road 25 from a distance. I was at Hornsby, and I saw from the station that this road had been opened. Then, with respect to the clearing of the road facing the line. I had no knowledge of that work being done until on a visit with Mr. Oliver, Mr. Davies, and Mr. Deering to the Crown lands. I saw they had been doing something to that road in the way of opening it, and while I was present with them, on the road marked A, I heard Mr. Davies make some suggestion to do something more to it previous to the sale. I then walked away. I did not hear what decision was arrived at, if there were one.
2234. You say that when you visited the land in company with Mr. Oliver and Mr. Davies that that road adjoining the railway was already opened? It had had something done to it.
2235. What would you define the something; was it either cleared or formed? Some years ago we, that is Burns, Withers, and Smith, had a rough opening made ourselves. On the occasion of the visit I am speaking of now, I noticed that a greater clearing had been made. It could not have been made by us, because we had no persons employed there. It must have been made by the Casual Labour Board with a view to open up the line from the station. This road runs along the railway line from the road marked A to the end of the station. It would enable parties passing along road A to see that the station was accessible by this road parallel to the railway line.
2236. It is marked in your subdivisional plan? It is mark in our subdivisional plan.
2237. It would have been cleared for your subdivisional sale? We did not intend to sell for years to come, unless we sold as a whole.
2238. Had you not by rough clearing already intimated your intention to open the road? No; we had not. That was only an opening in order that visitors might see the land. There was no regular formation of streets or roads. There was some clearing made in order that people might go through the land and see it, the land being very rich.
2239. When you heard Mr. Davies suggesting to Mr. Oliver the doing of something more to that street, being interested in the matter, and knowing that it would improve your property, did you enter any protest? I took no part in the matter. I walked right away, and left them to decide as they themselves might think best. They could not have been influenced by my presence, because I was not there.
2240. It was Mr. Davies, then, who suggested to Mr. Oliver the doing of something more to this road? No; I do not say that. I heard Mr. Davies make some statements about rendering the sale attractive by doing some more clearing. He then was looking in the direction of this road, and made some reference to it. When I found that there was some suggestion, or that some discussion might take place, upon that subject, I made a point of walking right away from the gentlemen down the hill towards the Government land. Whatever they might have agreed upon I could not know.
2241. Have they done anything more than clearing? I do not know. I have not been there to see.
2242. Are you aware that they put in a culvert there? It may be so. I have not been to Hornsby for some time. I have been up once since the sale, and I could see from the station that they had cleared Burdett Road.
2243. Are you aware that they have formed that road alongside the station? I am not aware, except by report.
2244. Are you aware from report? Well, report is reputed to be a common liar. I know it is so very often.
2245. You ought to know from your own officers? I have been told that there has been spent upon that land about £67.
2246. By whom have you been told? I have ascertained it from the Casual Labour Board.
2247. On this particular road, between Junction Road and road A, running parallel with the railway? Yes. Mr. Davies, I recollect, states also in his evidence that what he has done on that road has only been to follow the practice at the Field of Mars, and other places, where all the roads along the railway line were cleared by the Government.
2248. Is it not more than cleared? I do not know. I have not been to see it.
2249. Mr. Davies, in his evidence, says (Question 848) :—"We were simply adopting a system that had been in operation before we took office. At the Field of Mars, Beecroft, and Carlingford, roads were formed and cleared all along the line, and we merely continued the same practice here." How does that agree with your statement just now, that that road was simply cleared with the object of giving a view of the Crown lands? I did not state so. I suggested that that might have been the object of Mr. Davies in having it cleared, to enable parties going along the road A to see the Crown lands with a view to purchase, to see that there was access to the station by a road facing the railway line. That would occur to me as a reason why, in the judgment of that gentleman, that road might be opened.
2250. Would it not occur to you that if that system had been followed the road should have been carried further along the line? I have not seen what has been done with regard to this particular road, and I have only seen the street known as Burdett-street when standing on the platform at the railway station.
2251. Do you not think it a strange coincidence that it should be continued only along the bounds of your property? No, for this reason: It is continued to Junction Road. That road bounds our property, and the land of the Company known as the Australian Mutual Building Society, of which Mr. Smith, the late Member for Newtown, is Chairman. It is the natural boundary line there. There is no coincidence in that.
2252. But if the scheme was to carry it alongside the railway line, would it not have been carried through other people's property? It could not go further. The North Shore line turns off from there towards North Shore, and you could not get past Junction Road.
2253. Did you know the origin of the other roads through this estate? I did of some of them.
2254. What roads did you know the origin of? I will speak first of the first road dealt with.
2255. Which road is that, the road A? The road A. I will tell the Committee what I know of the origin of that road. In September or October, or at any rate not later than November, 1886, because I wrote

wrote a letter on the subject which fixes the date, after certain negotiations about this road had been completed. A gentleman, who introduced himself to me as a surveyor in the employment of the Government, and whom I did not know at the time, called upon me at the office of Mr. Charles Burns, Elizabeth-street, solicitor, and inquired whether I was not the owner of what is known as the Bellamy's grant. He had been at my club looking for me, and was disappointed at not finding me there, and he had been at Mr. Charles Burns' office then for the second time in search of me with respect to the opening of a road through Bellamy's grant from the Peat's Ferry Road across the railway bridge near Hornsby through the lands of Burns, Withers, and Smith to the Crown lands. I learnt from my son, who was present when I came in, that the gentleman's name was Perdriau. He is still in the Government service, and I believe is at the present time in town. This gentleman, after I had told him that I was interested in the Bellamy's grant, told me in answer to my inquiries that the Government proposed to sell some of the Crown lands on the eastern side of the line in subdivision, and I think, from what he told me, that there was then a surveyor on the land preparing for that subdivision. The object of his visit to me was to ascertain whether I would be willing to allow the Government to make this road from the Peat's Ferry Road through the lands of Burns, Withers, and Smith, over the railway bridge, near Hornsby, again through the lands of Burns, Withers, and Smith to the Crown lands, and I have a clear recollection of what I told him on the occasion of his visit, because I had all along felt anxious that the Government should not attempt to sell those lands without roads of access. I told this gentleman, and it is very probable that he has put it in his report, that I was personally willing to give the Government this road of access.

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2256. That is road A? Road A, without compensation, provided that it was properly cleared and opened for traffic within a reasonable time; but that I would have to consult Mr. Withers and the nephew of Mr. Burdett Smith, who was acting for his uncle, then in England. I told Mr. Perdriau that Mr. Smith entertained strong opinions against giving any land to the Government without compensation, and that I thought Mr. Withers would leave the matter in my hands. I said that I would see him, and that I thought I could induce Mr. Charles Smith to adopt my opinion, that it would be right and liberal to let the Government have the road on the promise I have mentioned, and that he would hear further from me upon the matter. Mr. Perdriau admitted, and the papers show, that the right which the Government had to a road on the northern boundary of Bellamy's grant was of no use to them. That road was not likely to be made a good one, unless at a very large outlay, and it would come out at a point on the railway line where it could not well be utilized, and hence the desire of the Government to make a road as proposed over the railway bridge, and through the lands of Burns, Withers, and Smith, on the southern boundary. Some question has been raised in this Committee about the exchange of roads. There could be no question of that kind, for this reason, as the papers show, that Burns, Withers, and Smith had obtained, with the concurrence of the Government, a title under Torrens' Act for the lands they held, and no right to any road by the Government was reserved in the grant. The Government had a right to make a road on the northern boundary of Bellamy's grant, but not on the southern boundary. Prior to our obtaining —

2257. *Mr. Copeland.*] The Government had a right, you say, to make a road on the northern boundary? The Government had a right to make a road on the northern boundary, but not on the southern.

2258. *Chairman.*] You stated just now that the land, having come under Torrens' Act, the Crown was not entitled to claim any right on the northern portion? No; that was not my statement. I made a statement to the effect that the Crown had a right to make a road on the northern portion of Bellamy's grant.

2259. The Government had a right to make a road to the north of your grant? They had.

2260. Did they not in exchange give you the road to the north of your ground for the road marked A? No; in August, 1885, so far from that being correct —

2261. *Mr. Copeland.*] The papers show it? The papers do not show it. With all respect to Mr. Copeland, in August, 1885, there had been some contention between our surveyor and the surveyors of the Government about the boundaries, as a letter now before me shows, which I will hand in. The Government finally, through their officers, on one side, and Mr. Dawson on the other, acting for Burns, Withers, and Smith, agreed that there was no right on the part of the Government to any reservation for any road on the southern boundary of Bellamy's grant.

2262. The papers do not show that? They do, with all respect. It may be that the papers show a great deal which is not very pleasant.

2263. Will you point out where the papers show this? I will point out a letter which will settle the whole question without encumbering the inquiry with papers which do not concern the matter. I wish to continue the evidence which I was giving upon this point. I have a letter* before me which I will presently hand in to the Committee.

2264. Are you not supposed to have laid all the papers in connection with this inquiry upon the table of the House of Assembly? The matter is not in my Department. I have not interfered in any way with the papers. I am aware that at the instance of a member of this Committee all the papers in connection with the Hornsby land and the property of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith had been ransacked in a Government Department; but I take no exception to that action. I had no papers to lay upon the Table.

2265. I take objection to your insulting the Committee by making such a charge as that. No member of the Committee, so far as I am aware, has ransacked any Government Department for these papers. The Committee have no such papers except those which have been laid before Parliament by your colleague, and yourself? The papers laid upon the Table did not come from my Department; they were sent to me by the Department of Lands, and were laid upon the Table.

2266. Did you not undertake to lay all the papers upon the table? Mr. Brunker, the Minister in whom all matters pertaining to Land lie, and Sir Henry Parkes so far as all matters in relation to the Casual Labour Board, with which I have no connection, are concerned, undertook to lay upon the Table any papers in connection with this inquiry. I may say here that witnesses have complained of leading questions being put to them by members of this Committee, and they have not been allowed to explain their answers, and to make the statements which they wish to make.

2267. *Chairman.*] I think the witness should confine his evidence to something like the limits of decency; the

* NOTE (on revision) :—This letter was my private property, and was searched for and found amongst my private papers on my finding that it had been alleged that road A had been given in exchange for the right to make a road on the northern boundary of Bellamy's grant.—J.F.B.

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the accusations which he is making against members of the Committee are perfectly unfounded; he states that a member of the Committee has ransacked a Government Department for papers? I did not say that. I said that a Department was ransacked at his instance; but for peace sake I am quite willing to withdraw the remark.

2268. I must ask you to refrain from making further imputations against members of the Committee. Every witness has been allowed the utmost latitude in the giving of his evidence; with the exception of yourself, it has been unnecessary to draw the attention of any witness to the irrelevancy of his answers? I am perfectly willing to withdraw what I just now said, but I must ask permission to make an explanation. I found a packet of papers in this room sent from the Lands Department, as far as I can discover, without the authority of any Minister or of any officer. I had reason to suppose that these papers were brought here at the instance of a member of the Committee. If I am informed that that supposition is incorrect I am quite satisfied.

2269. *Mr. Copeland.*] Not only is your supposition incorrect, but the papers to which you probably allude were brought here by the Under Secretary for Lands himself, and were left in the custody of Mr. Deering. The whole of the papers in this case were supposed to have been laid before Parliament, and I now ask you whether you did not promise me in Parliament to lay all the papers in connection with this inquiry before the House? I am bound to say this, that Mr. Copeland is suggesting something improper, and for this reason, that the paper I am referring to is a paper sent by me to the Department of Lands at a time when we were getting our title to the property at Hornsby.

2270. I asked a specific question. Did you not promise me to lay all the papers in connection with this inquiry on the Table of the House? I do not believe I made any statement of the kind, and for this reason, that the papers in this matter are not in my Department; I have no control over them.

2271. Do you not remember that I said I would move a resolution, and that I said that if you would promise to lay the papers upon the Table I would not move it? I think Mr. Brunner made you the promise you refer to. I think you are mistaken, but even assuming that your recollection is correct —

2272. I want to know how it is that you have possession of papers of which the Committee have not possession? I must be allowed to protest against an attempt being made to put me in an unfair position. I had no idea when this inquiry commenced that any question about the title of our land, which was settled in 1885, would be brought forward. I presume that the Minister for Lands gave directions to the officers of his Department that any papers in relation to this inquiry should be laid upon the Table; but how could the officers of the Department conceive that any question of our title under the Real Property Act would be inquired into by the Committee.

2273. Are you not aware that the Under Secretary for Lands furnished a set of papers assuming to be all the papers connected with the inquiry? I think the Committee ought to be fair to the officers of the Department and to the Government.

2274. The Committee have been more than fair with you;—you have been supplied with a copy of the evidence, and that has not been done before in any previous committees? I do not think I have been treated fairly. The Committee determined to exclude me from their meetings, and I think it is very doubtful whether they had the power to do so.

2275. I want to know whether the papers that Mr. Brunner laid upon the Table were not the papers that you charged a member of the Committee with ransacking a Government Department for? I do not think so.

2276. What papers do you refer to, then? I saw a packet of papers* on the table here which I had never seen before, and which I do not think the Minister laid on the Table, or were sent here by him. I asked for permission to look at them, and I had an intimation from the Chairman that I could only see them in the presence of the Committee.

2277. Are you not aware that those papers were brought here by the Under Secretary for Lands, and left in charge of Mr. Deering? I do not know.

2278. The District Surveyor and Mr. Deering were asked by the Under Secretary for Lands to give evidence here as he himself knew nothing whatever about the case? That may be true. If you say that, I accept it at once. I do not desire to prolong the discussion.

2279. *Chairman.*] The papers you allude to were amongst those left by Mr. Freeman? That may be. It struck me as very peculiar that I should be denied the right of seeing these papers when they were sent to the Committee.

2280. Are you aware, or are you not, that these papers were in the charge of the clerk? Yes.

2281. Are you aware that he has not authority, except by order of the Committee, to show these papers to any one outside the Committee? I am aware of that.

2282. Are you aware then that under the circumstances we could not digress from rules which have hitherto obtained? Allow me to say that there was no digression from rules. In reference to this Committee, you are putting me in some measure upon my trial, and it did seem to me very peculiar when you were doing that that I should not be allowed to read these papers.

2283. That was only done after consulting the clerk for the purpose of preserving the rule that had hitherto obtained in inquiries of this kind by Select Committees? I have never seen them since. I want to say this, that I observe in the papers Mr. Brunner laid on the Table in the House that the Under Secretary or Mr. Deering made a note across the papers that these were all the papers that he knew of that had relation to the inquiry. The paper I hold in my hand is the letter sent to me in August, 1885, in respect to our title when it was going through. I never could suppose that a paper of that kind would arise, but I have this statement now, and I hand it to the Committee. [*Appendix D*]. It shows with respect to the Bellamy's grant the Government admitted our right on the 29th August, 1885, by letter; it is headed "Department of Lands," and signed by Mr. Chas. Oliver, No. 85-615. It shows our right to obtain our title without any reservation on the southern side, and that we at the same time gave the Government a road on the northern side of Bellamy's grant, which they now say is of no use to them. That letter was sent to me prior to our obtaining a title for Bellamy's grant.

2284. Do you say you had a dispute with the Government about the northern side? Any dispute between the surveyors was settled by the right of the Government to a road on the northern side being admitted and the title passed.

2285.

* NOTE (on revision):—The papers I referred to were brought to the Committee by Mr. Lester, who said he was an officer under Mr. Deering. See Mr. Lester's evidence.—J.F.B. NOTE BY COMMITTEE:—This is not correct—the papers were brought to the Committee by Mr. Freeman, Under Secretary for Lands, and then left in charge of Mr. Deering.—T.W., Chairman.

2285. *Mr. Copeland.*] Being admitted by you? Being admitted by us.

2286. That is to say the Government had a right to a road on the northern side? We admitted that the Government had a right to a road on the northern side.

2287. And the Government gave up that right in consideration of your giving them the road A? No.

2288. *Chairman.*] Does not the letter imply the answer to Mr. Copeland's question? No. Mr. Copeland has got the impression that the road on the northern boundary was given up in exchange for a road on the southern boundary, which was not done.

2289. *Mr. Copeland.*] The papers show it was done? No.

2290. *Chairman.*] Does not the letter imply so? The letter shows the very opposite.

2291. The letter shows there is no objection to granting to you this title to land to the north? No.

2292. Is that not then in consideration of the road you granted to them to the south? No; that only refers to the north. The point Mr. Copeland has raised is this:—He has an impression that road A was given by Burns, Withers, and Smith, in consideration of the Government giving up the road on the northern side. Burns, Withers, and Smith did not want the road on the north.

2293. The point of Mr. Copeland, I believe, if I understand him right, is that you could not have the road to the north, but that you could include among your land land which would otherwise have been a road? That does not touch this question in the least.

2294. Is that correct? It is not material either way; it does not touch the point. Mr. Copeland has the impression that the Government had the right to make the road to the north, and that we got the Government to give up that right in consideration of a road to the south.

2295. Mr. Copeland does not hold that opinion and he forms the opinion which he holds from the printed papers. They show that the Government relinquished any claim to the road supposed to exist upon your northern boundary in consideration of your giving them a right of road in the position marked A? That is not so; that is only partly correct. If you will allow me I will direct attention to a letter among the printed papers dated 16th November, 1886. If you had allowed me to continue what I was saying about the correspondence it would have led up to this letter showing the conditions under which road A was given. If I am allowed to pursue the line of evidence I was giving it will leave no doubt as to the relations of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith with the Government in respect to the road over the bridge. It took some time after Mr. Perdriau's visit for me to get the assent of Mr. Withers and of Mr. Smith's nephew to my granting this road. I think Mr. Withers was not in town, and I believe I wrote him a letter asking for his assent. When he returned he left it to me to do as I thought best. I also saw Mr. Chas. Smith who was aware of his uncle's feelings in regard to not giving to the Government any land which might be required for roads unless he was paid for it. He also allowed me to take the course which I thought was right, and the consequence was that on the 16th November, 1886, I wrote the letter which is among the printed papers to the Under Secretary for Lands. It is addressed from the office of my son, 75, Elizabeth-street. That letter clearly expresses the conditions and puts right the matter which Mr. Copeland raised with reference to the exchange of roads. If you refer to the papers you will see that besides giving the road upon the conditions mentioned I raised the question of the Government giving up the old road which was of no use to them. It was I who raised the question. They had no right to this road to the south, but on our giving that road I said they would have to relinquish their claim to the old road. The letter which I sent to the Under Secretary for Lands is in these terms:—

Sir,

With reference to my letter of the 8th July, 1885, addressed to the Surveyor-General, and to your communication to me of the 29th August following, numbered 85-1615, I beg now to state for your information that as it appears the Government would much prefer a direct road from Peat's Ferry Road across the railway bridge at Hornsby through the lands of Burns, Withers and Smith, to the Crown lands adjoining, in lieu of the road we first mutually agreed upon, Burns, Withers, and Smith are prepared to assent to the proposed change, provided that the new line is surveyed and cleared for traffic in a reasonable time and that the Government relinquish all claim in respect of the former line.

75, Elizabeth-street, Sydney, 16 November, 1886.

I am, &c.,

J. F. BURNS.

The Under Secretary for Lands.

Before we got to this stage of my getting the assent of Mr. Withers and Mr. Charles Smith to my giving the Government a road, I got a plan of the Hornsby estate, and took it down to the office of the Surveyor-General, where I saw Mr. Deering and other officers, and had a conversation about this road. I asked them to mark on the plan where they proposed to make the road. I also told them that I was disposed to give the required land. We had some little discussion about the matter, and I also asked them —

2296. *Chairman.*] I think this answer is scarcely relevant to the question Mr. Burns? With due respect to you sir, I think it has a very important bearing upon the matter.

2297. I do not see what all these conversations in your son's office and in other offices have to do with the question. All that their narration has brought out could I think have been brought out in a third of the time? I understand that you desire me to stop this part of my explanation.

2298. I simply desire you to be as brief and concise as possible in your answers? I am endeavouring to be so. What I desired to state was, that as the result of my visit to the office, I gave instructions to Mr. Dawson, acting on my behalf, to see that the road was made as nearly as possible at right angles. I also told him of the terms upon which the land was given to the Government, and which are stated in my letter of 16th November, which I have already read.

2299. But as a matter of fact you stipulated that the Government road to the north should be given to you in lieu of the road to the south marked A? That was a part of the conditions only.

2300. Are there any other of the roads as to the origin of which you know anything? I think it is right that I should state that I suggested to Mr. Perdriau that the Government should run a road right through the road known as the Boundary Road, so as to give that road a frontage to the projected line to the North Shore. That road was afterward cleared. I observe from the papers that Mr. Deering gave directions that that road should be cleared throughout, to what is known as the Eastern or Vanceville Road.

2301. It was at your suggestion that the Boundary Road was cleared? I do not say that it was at my suggestion, but I was always in favour of the Government making a road right through to give access to their land. I told Mr. Perdriau, when he came to discuss the matter with me, that, in my opinion, the Government ought to make the Boundary Road, in order to give them a road abreast of the North Shore line to the Vanceville Road.

2302. That road gave a frontage to your estate? It gave a frontage to the land of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith.

2303.

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J. F. Burns.
11 Dec., 1888.

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2303. *Mr. Copeland.*] Was that road taken out of the Crown land, or did you contribute a part? I do not know. I had nothing to do with the survey. I do not remember whether a portion of Burns, Withers, and Smith's land was taken or not. I told Mr. Perdriau that, in my opinion, the road should be made between the two properties.

2304. But did you give any portion of the land? I was never asked to give any portion, and I do not think that any portion was given. If the Government had asked for a portion of the land for the purpose, I should have had no hesitation in giving it.

2305. But you were never asked? No.

2306. *Chairman.*] Are there any other roads of which you know the origin? I was aware after a time that the Government found that Boundary Road was not practicable—that it was too costly to construct. I did not know until I heard the evidence of Mr. Houston, a gentleman who was a stranger to me, and who was acting as engineer to the Casual Labour Board, that he first recommended that the idea of the road being continued should be abandoned, and that application should be made to the proprietors of the adjoining land for the continuance of Junction Road through to the Eastern Road. I also heard the evidence of Mr. Gordon, in which he stated that he also recommended that that road should be made, and that it should be cleared and ballasted.

2307. *Mr. Copeland.*] Were you in the habit of going out to this land pretty frequently? I went out sometimes every month, and sometimes not so often.

2308. Were you not there sometimes not much more frequently than once a month? Sometimes I was out there once a week for a drive.

2309. During those visits, did you not see the unemployed at work on these roads? I did.

2310. And you took no steps whatever to prevent them from working? I never interfered with them.

2311. You were aware at that time that they were making roads through your property? I was aware that they were making roads which were intended to give access to the Crown lands.

2312. But the roads were through your estate? Through the lands of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith. With regard to the Junction Road, I should like to say that when the application came to me from the Casual Labour Board for the opening of the road, I referred the matter to Mr. Dawson, my surveyor. I got a message that Mr. O'Donnell was in charge, and that he would show what was wanted to be done. I understood that the surveyors had given instructions to Mr. O'Donnell as to the route they desired the road to take. I requested Mr. Dawson to attend to the matter. Mr. Dawson had not only to act for Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, but in making that road it was necessary to pass through land belonging to Mrs. Edwards, who was in England. Her land, you will see, is in a line with road H. Mr. Harnett, who was acting as agent or trustee for the estate of Mrs. Edwards, agreed to let Mr. Dawson deal with the matter as far as it affected the estate of Mrs. Edwards. Mr. Dawson has given evidence that he went out and surveyed this road, and also that Mr. O'Donnell wished to have made some other roads, to which he declined to give his consent.

2313. *Chairman.*] He surveyed Junction Road however? Yes.

2314. You gave him permission to make that road? Yes. I may be allowed to add that so far as I was concerned I should have preferred the construction of what is known as the Boundary Road, because in that case we should have obtained all the frontage we required without the contribution of a large area of valuable land which at any time was worth £100 an acre.

2315. *Mr. Copeland.*] But do you not get the frontage on both sides of the Junction Road? Yes, but that does not compensate us. If you take a large area out of your land for roads and thus lessen the area you have to sell, it is questionable whether you get due compensation in the shape of increased frontage.

2316. Going back to road A,—have you not a frontage on both sides of that road? We have a frontage from Peat's Ferry Road through to the Crown lands which is of some advantage, but we had no particular reason for desiring the road.

2317. Still you have the frontage? Well, if the road passes through our land we must have the frontage.

2318. Would it not have been necessary to make roads here and there to subdivide your land? On that point I desire to say that we had no thought of any subdivision other than which has taken place already on the western side. We had a subdivision of 52 acres close to the station, on the eastern side, and that was the only subdivision we contemplated on that side.

2319. But were you not actually subdividing this land at the time road A was made? No, we were not.

2320. Then you had subdivided it? The subdivision of 52 acres had been marked by the surveyor and we have made some clearing in order that the public might get access to it but we were taking no steps towards pressing the sale of it. I may, while on this point say, that the statement made to this Committee that Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith had laid off the whole of the land on the eastern side consisting of 680 acres with a view to subdivision, is entirely without foundation. There has been no survey made for that purpose. Mr. Deering stated, in answer to a question put to him by Mr. Copeland, that Mr. Dawson had laid off the whole of these lands for subdivision. I do not know from whom Mr. Deering got his information, but it is certainly incorrect. There is not the least foundation for it. Not only were no roads provided; not only was nothing of the kind done with regard to the estate, but, I may say the intention of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith was to sell the estate as it stood without any further subdivision.

2321. To what time are you now referring? We had no such intention for a long period. We had had no thought, as far as I can speak for myself and my partners, of making any roads in that district other than those which we have made, for instance, there was the work on Burns Road, that divides our property on the northern side from the Vanceville estate, and we desired to give a frontage. With this object we cleared Burns Road and put in some culverts and formed it roughly up to a certain point, there we left it, and there has been no further expenditure on that road by us or upon any other road in the district, with the exception of a little expenditure on the subdivision near the Railway Station. I am referring now to the period since 1885 or 1886. If Mr. Deering supposes that we had made any subdivision he has been misinformed. No subdivision has been made, and I was very much surprised when I saw the statement in his evidence.

2322. *Chairman.*] If Mr. Dawson said you intended to divide the land into 10-acre blocks, would that statement be correct? Mr. Dawson's statement is not to that effect; his statement was, that since the roads have been made, the land may possibly be sold in 10-acre blocks.

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2323. *Mr. Henry Clarke.*] Do you consider the making of these roads through your property has improved its value or otherwise? I may state that a great many roads of access to the Crown lands which have been made we did not want at all.

2324. But speaking generally, I suppose the making of the whole of these has improved your property? Yes.

2325. To what extent? We have given for these roads land which I suppose is worth £3,000—that is, taking the current price of land in that district for the last twelve months. I do not think the estate has been improved to the extent of more than 5 or 6 per cent. by these roads.

2326. If as much money as has been spent upon all these roads had been spent upon the continuation of the Boundary Road, from the big gully up to the Vanceville Road, do you consider that expenditure would have been of greater advantage to the public? Judging from the answers of the officers, who are more competent to speak upon the construction of roads than I am, judging from the answers of Mr. Houison, Mr. Gordon, Colonel Wells, and Mr. O'Donnell you could not construct boundary roads unless with a very large expenditure. Mr. Deering himself stated that it would cost £10,000.

2327. That was to make a good road of it? Yes.

2328. But he said that you could make a passable road of it for £2,000? I do not think myself that it is possible, and I have been over the country. According to Mr. Houison's evidence you have a depression in one place of 300 feet, and I do not see how with an expenditure of £2,000 you could make it a fair road. With reference to these cross roads, I might state that we gave any of them with a great deal of hesitation and unwillingness. The only cross road that seemed to me to be particularly called for was the extension of the Vanceville Road to the Boundary Road; that seemed a natural thing to be done.

2329. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] I should like to ask what you mean by saying that these roads would increase the value of the property by only 5 or 6 per cent.;—what would that sum amount to? The 680 acres would be worth probably £70,000; take the percentage on that sum and you have the amount. The roads might possibly increase the desire of purchasers to build to the frontages, but I do not know that the price given for the land would be materially enhanced by their construction. You must remember that the area of land we had for sale was materially reduced by the roads.

2330. *Mr. Copeland.*] The percentage you name would give an increase in value of £4,000; do you think that would be a fair estimate? I should think £4,000 or £5,000 would represent the increase in value.

2331. *Chairman.*] Are you aware that Mr. Withers has informed us that the increase in value would be £10,000? You must allow me to state that Mr. Withers' estimate of any property he owns is very high. To use the common phrase, "All his geese are swans"; that will best describe my idea of his estimate. I may tell you that we had in July last, an application from Hardie and Gorman to purchase 200 acres of our land on the eastern side for £20,000. Messrs. Hardie and Gorman thought we might get a higher price, but they proposed that sum as the amount for negotiation. To show the difference between my estimate and that of Mr. Withers, I may say that Mr. Smith and myself were prepared to take £21,000, whereas Mr. Withers would not take less than £30,000, and he kept the matter open so long through his persistence in standing out for what was considered by us an extravagant price that the whole transaction fell through.

2332. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] You admit that while you have given away £3,000 worth of land your property has received an increase in value of £4,000 or £5,000? Probably.

2333. So that the construction of these roads has been an absolute gain to the syndicate? Any roads opened in the district would be to a certain extent a gain to us.

2334. But incidentally these roads have benefited your estate? Yes.

2335. Suppose the Government had not been going to sell the Crown lands at all, and that you desired to sell your property, would you not, in the ordinary way of business, have subdivided the estate? I object to that statement as to subdivision. We had no intention of subdividing. Our intention all along has been to sell the estate to a public company, and we have had some negotiations with that object in view. Without making any roads whatever we expected to have the full area of land paid for.

2336. Then what was the meaning of the subdivision plan that you published? That plan is misleading to you. It refers to the subdivision of 52 acres or thereabouts near the railway station, and to no more.

2337. As far as that land near the railway station is concerned, you had subdivided it and have had a plan prepared? It was marked out by the surveyor.

2338. You intended to construct these roads yourselves? I may tell you that that portion of land would have formed part of the property which we intended to sell to the company who wanted to purchase 200 acres. We would have done nothing to the roads.

2339. Nothing? No.

2340. As a matter of fact had you not begun to construct some of the roads? No.

2341. Suppose Mr. Dawson has sworn that you had commenced to make some of the roads between the railway and the Crown lands? I know that Mr. Dawson did not make that statement. What he said in regard to the subdivision at the railway station, of which you have a plan, was, that he had marked roads to that property, and where those roads were marked he had got men to roughly clear streets in order that people might get access.

2342. You had begun the work then? We had begun and ended.

2343. You had commenced the work in a rough way. Mr. Dawson says precisely what I say, and to corroborate that statement we have the evidence of Mr. O'Donnell, who says that he found that some of these roads had been commenced. It is clear—as far as these 50 acres were concerned—you had subdivided, and were about to lay out streets and roads? I deny that statement *in toto*. We had some clearings made, and there we had left it. We were not about to do anything more,—we had no thought of further expenditure. We have a man at the present time cutting down the undergrowth about the place, and he has been at that work some time, but we had no intention of doing anything more.

2344. Then this plan is only a bogus plan? I think that is a very offensive word to use.

2345. I cannot help using it, because—according to your own evidence—you had no intention of doing this work, whereas, according to the plan that you submitted to the public, you did intend to make the roads? I think your question is put in a very offensive form; there is nothing misleading in the plan or in the evidence; it is a plan of a proposed subdivision; the surveyor's pegs are there now, but the land has not been offered to the public. All that we did was to clear the land for the convenience of those who wished to see it. We went to some expenditure in the way of getting the streets roughly cleared, and that was all we intended to do.

2346.

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2346. *Chairman.*] The Government have since completed the work that you began? The Government have not completed it; I do not think it is right to make that statement.
2347. The Government had cleared and in some instances formed the streets which you surveyed by your surveyor, and have only roughly cleared? As I understand all the Government have done in the matter.
2348. I want a "Yes" or "No" to my question? But the statement preceding your question involves matter which is in dispute. The Government have not done what you state; the Government, I admit, have done some clearing; I saw from the station a short time ago that they had cleared Burdett-street. I believe they have also cleared the land along the railway line, but I do not know that they have done any more.
2349. Have they not cleared the "T" shaped road shown upon the plan? I know nothing about that road. I have never been asked to give my consent to anything done there; it leads, as I understand, from Crown lands, on to private lands owned by various persons.
2350. I am referring now to roads lower down? I have not seen those roads; they may have been cleared prior to the land sale. I have been there once since the land sale, and then I did not go over the ground. I saw from the station that something had been done to the land on the opposite side, but what has been done I had no control over.
2351. You say that you saw the unemployed at work on these roads. Does it not seem extraordinary that you should see a number of men digging into your property without knowing what they were about? I have seen no men working upon any roads in that subdivision of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith. I have seen men working on the Junction Road.
2352. You admit then that you have seen men working on your estate? I said I had seen men working on roads which were given as roads of access to the Crown lands.
2353. If you saw a number of men working there with horses and carts and appliances showing that they intended to remain there for some time, does it not seem an extraordinary thing that they should have been doing this work without your knowledge? I object to that statement. I saw no men working on roads without my consent. I saw men working on Junction Road for which I had given my consent, and also on some other roads, with reference to which I had been consulted, and I saw no reason to interfere with them.
2354. You say that you saw men working upon those roads that you did not inquire what they were doing, or as to who sent them there? The Government, through their officers upon the Casual Labour Board, made a selection of several roads that they wanted, and I afterwards saw the men working upon those roads. As I have said I did not interfere with them.
2355. Mr. Dawson has stated that he surveyed Junction Road, and that he had begun to make that road? I think Mr. Dawson's evidence will show that there were a number of unemployed in that locality, and that there was a difficulty in giving them work to do; the overseer took it for granted that there would be no objection on the part of the adjoining proprietors to the continuation of the Junction Road. I presume that the overseer had a difficulty in at once finding employment for the men, and he therefore placed them upon this road. Mr. Dawson went out and found that the superintendent in his eagerness to get the men work to do had commenced the lower portion of the Junction Road, which might properly be made because of its leading from the station through the lands of various owners. I may say that it passes through lands belonging to the Australian Mutual Provident Society, also through lands belonging to Edwards, Foster, and Harnett. All the land on the southern side of the road until you get to the end of Edwards' land, where road H has been made, belongs to various parties, and Burns, Withers, and Smith have no interest in any of it.
2356. But you have an interest in the land on some portion of the Junction Road? Yes; but that would be further on.
2357. But take the north side of the road? The land on that side, with the exception of the break at Edwards' land, belongs to Burns, Withers, and Smith.
2358. But on the south side, all the land from Harnett's land to the Vanceville Road belongs to Burns, Withers, and Smith? That is so.
2359. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Mr. Dawson has sworn that he surveyed the Junction Road and the roads D and H from the Boundary Road to Burns Road? That is correct.
2360. If Mr. Dawson did that, is it not evidence that he was proceeding with the work of laying out this estate with a view to its subdivision? No, it is not. Mr. Dawson's instructions were to deal with the opening of the Junction Road in the room of the Boundary Road.
2361. Upon whose instructions did he act then? When the application came to me from the Casual Labour Board for the opening of Junction Road, I wrote to Mr. Dawson, and asked him to attend to that business.
2362. Further on in his evidence Mr. Dawson swears that he intended to lay this land out in orchard blocks? I do not think he said that. He said that when he was on the ground the superintendent asked him for permission to make cross-roads, to which he objected. Mr. Dawson got general instructions from me to see that the road was made at right-angles, and not to injure the estate by any road which he might make. He considered that these cross-roads were not necessary in the interests of the estate.
2363. Mr. Dawson said that he would have laid the land out in orchard blocks of 10 acres? He was not called upon to lay the ground out in 10-acre blocks.
2364. But he says that he was about to do it? I think not. I think he was asked the question as to what he would do if he had the business of laying out the land, but he was never instructed to lay it out in 10-acre blocks.
2365. What were Mr. Dawson's instructions at the outset, before the unemployed interfered with his operations? The instructions given to him were with reference to Junction Road, as I have said. He had instructions with reference to the allotments near the station, but they did not concern these roads.
2366. What were the nature of those instructions? They had reference to any person purchasing land at the junction on the western side, where we had a subdivision.
2367. But, as a matter of fact, we find that he carried out other roads, such as the Junction Road and Road H? An application was made for the Casual Labour Board to extend Burns Road to the boundary of Burns, Withers, and Smith's land, and then to continue the road along our boundary into the Government land. The desire was to get a road through. I refused to give my consent to making any further road there unless I were assured that Mrs. Edwards' representative would give half of it. He agreed,
after

after some delay, to give half of the land. That delay led to the unemployed commencing to make a road there by mistake. Mr. Dawson was opposed to giving the land; but I finally agreed to give half, upon the condition I have named.

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2368. I think the way in which you cloud your answers to the questions will do your evidence more harm than good;—you admit that Mr. Dawson had instructions to clear the Junction Road? Not at that time.

2369. But at any time? As I explained before, when the application was made by the Casual Labour Board.

2370. He admits having surveyed Junction Road and roads D and H? That I do not know.

2371. Who gave instructions for the survey of road D running from the Boundary Road to Burns Road? Mr. Gordon, in his evidence, has stated that he recommended that road. I heard him state in his evidence that he required the road as a road of access for two objects. In the first place, as I understand, there is a great depression in the Boundary Road—

2372. Perhaps you will tell us whether you gave your permission in this case? An application made to me for this road down to Burns Road was assented to. I find from the evidence that it was applied for upon the recommendation of Mr. Gordon. I may be allowed to state also that Mr. Noonan, who owns property on the road leading down to the platform—

2373. What has this to do with the question I ask you? I thought you desired information about Burns Road.

2374. *Chairman.*] Did Mr. Dawson survey this E road? I do not know; I do not think he did.

2375. If he says that he did, is he correct? I do not think he could have surveyed it. I want to state that Mr. Noonan called upon me at the Treasury last week and told me that through his representation Burns Road was extended and improved, and that he would like to be examined by the Committee. I should like to make some explanation with reference to the questions asked by Mr. Copeland as to the land I applied to purchase near the Peat's Ferry Road. I should also like to make an explanation about the reserve at Hornsby. I wish particularly to say something with regard to the diversion of the old Peat's Ferry Road when the railway passed through. I observe that Mr. Copeland examined Mr. Oliver and another witness fully upon these points, and I think it only right that I should be allowed to give evidence. I was pleased to see that Mr. Whitton was called with reference to the sites for the railway stations, although I could not see how this question could arise in connection with this inquiry.

2376. *Mr. Copeland.*] I may say that we have not the papers before us to which you referred some time ago;—they have been sent back to the Lands Office to be printed. They were brought here by Mr. Freeman, and left in charge of Mr. Deering. When we wanted some of them printed they were sent back to the Lands Office, and they are there now? I understand that; but I think I might say a few words which will put this matter clear, both with regard to the reservation and the road. I should like to give the Committee some idea of how we proposed to purchase what appears from the evidence to be 10 acres of land at Hornsby, which does not correspond with information in my possession, first as to the area of land, and next as to the circumstances under which we applied for it. The Committee may not be aware that the Peat's Ferry Road divided the lands of Burns, Withers, and Smith where the railway now passes along between Homebush and Waratah, and that the railway has cut off a portion of that road. It then became a matter of necessity to make a new formation in order that the road might be resumed from the point where cut off to the other part of the road. In making this new formation it became necessary to complete the old road in place of the road which had been taken away. In doing that the new Peat's Ferry Road crossed the railway line and passed over on to the eastern side of the line; and in making the road, the surveyor who was engaged in the work—for what I believe were malicious reasons—left a piece of Government land intervening between the lands of Burns, Withers, and Smith, who had been deprived of a frontage by the railway to the road. I think the simplest way to explain this matter is to put in evidence the plan of this new road, showing the way in which it was formed. This plan I received from Mr. Ives, the member for St. Leonards, and it shows that the area of this block of land is 4 acres 1 rood 32 perches. Mr. King was the surveyor who made the plan. The whole of the land in this neighbourhood near the railway is pretty even.

2377. *Mr. Copeland.*] There is a plan here which Mr. Oliver has produced and which of course is more reliable, coming from the Department? Yes, this shows the same area. It is stated in the papers to be 10 acres.

2378. I may state that your own application states 10 acres? That may be so. The position of the matter is this. On observing some time after this new road had been so formed and made, I was advised that my easiest course was to apply for the purchase of the intervening land under the 11th section of the Act. I was advised while doing that that there was no favour, that the land would have to be appraised and that I would have to pay the appraisal price for the purchase.

2379. Were you informed that officially;—does the correspondence show that you received information that you would obtain no favour? No; but I state that there could be no favour shown to me.* When we found that this course had been taken of leaving a piece of land intervening between the Peat's Ferry Road and our land, I consulted parties who had been engaged in this business of looking after Crown lands. The Act itself bears out the impression of Mr. Oliver, that the 11th section is intended to meet such cases where through the change of direction of a road, land had been severed from its proper frontage, which was the case here. I made application under the Act, for permission to purchase that land whatever the area might be, and I sent in that application in the ordinary way. I was afterwards informed that it had been refused. I observe from the evidence of Mr. Oliver, who is familiar with all questions of this kind, that the application was perfectly legitimate and one which was properly made under the section to which I referred. I took no more interest in this matter when I found the application was refused, but some time after Mr. Ives sent me a note stating that his attention had been drawn to the peculiar formation of this road, and that it was a matter of observation among all the local residents. He had been in the locality and had observed the bend in this road, and on his own account had written to the Department of Roads suggesting that it should be straightened. He sent me a letter with this plan in the month of November, though the year is not stated. There was also a letter from Mr. Bennett, the Chief Commissioner for Roads, in reply to a letter from Mr. Ives, stating that there would be an objection to the straightening of the road as proposed, because portions of the

NOTE (on revision):—What I wished to convey was that under the law the value of the land would be determined by appraisalment, and that my application was not a request for a favour.—J.F.B.

Hon.
J. F. Burns.
11 Dec., 1888.

the reserve had been granted for a public school and police station, as shown in the accompanying tracing. I have taken no further action with regard to the application to purchase this land; I have allowed it to rest, and have submitted to the injustice of being deprived of the frontage to the Peat's Ferry Road. With regard to the reserve, I wrote to Mr. Copeland in his public capacity when I observed that the lands were being cleared on the western side of the Peat's Ferry Road, I was informed, for auction sale, suggesting for his consideration that, as this was the nearest block of ground near the station suitable for a reserve for recreation purposes, 20 acres of it might be reserved, and I received a reply, which is in the papers, to the effect that the Government considered that they had already reserved sufficient land in the Hornsby district for recreation purposes. I next wrote a letter asking where the reserves were situated, as I could not find from inquiries that any such land had been reserved for recreation purposes. That letter went to Mr. Copeland shortly before his retirement from office in the last Government.

2380. The papers do not show that it ever came before me? I think it was in your tenure of office. Do not the papers here show it.

2381. No. I dealt with the first letter only? That letter raised the whole question of these reserves, as I understand from the evidence of Mr. Oliver; and, finally, it appears from the papers that Mr. Garrett, in dealing with that letter, inquiring where these reserves were, came to the conclusion, taking the papers, I presume, altogether—I never saw him about it—that he would let the land be reserved for future public requirements. I took some interest, I think, in the school site being reserved, and also in the site for the police station, but took no further action with respect to any of the reserves. As I understand the position now, from the explanation of Mr. Oliver, while these lands have not been sold, there has been no dedication for the reserve, and it is still open to the Minister to sell the land if he thinks fit. I gather from the statement in evidence of the late Under Secretary for Lands that that is the position of these lands at the present time.

2382. That is not so? I do not know the exact position; I have made no further inquiries. I am also aware that a petition in favour of making a reserve at Hornsby was presented to the Minister for Lands by the late Member for Redfern, Mr. J. S. Farnell. He had formerly been a Member for St. Leonards, and was on very friendly terms with the people of that district. I recollect the petition being presented by him in favour of this land being reserved for public recreation. The people in the locality had the impression that this land was dedicated for this purpose. I have here a copy of the petition which I took from the *Sydney Morning Herald*. [Appendix E].

2383. It is all in the papers—everything you have been saying is in the papers? That disposes of everything about this matter at the present. I do not think I have anything more to say in regard to these matters, and if the Committee desire to examine me with regard to these statements, I am quite willing to be examined. There is, however, one matter about which I might be allowed to make some explanation. I was asked by Mr. O'Sullivan with respect to my seeing men at work on the roads in the Hornsby district, and I think it is only fair to state that, in consequence of comments in the Press about these roads, I made a special request to my colleagues early this year to send officers to report upon them, and state whether they were required in the public interest. In consequence of my representation on the subject, Mr. W. C. Bennett, the Chief Commissioner for Roads and Bridges, and Mr. Gordon, the surveyor, furnished reports, in which they stated that the roads were required as roads of access to the Crown lands in the public interest. I did not feel called upon to interfere in any way with the action of the Casual Labour Board in forming these roads.*

2384. *Chairman.*] You are aware that the paper you read from when this motion was passed in the House did not show all the roads made by the unemployed? That paper could not be supposed to show all the roads. A lot of discussion has taken place, which seems to me quite unnecessary, for this reason,—that the paper only shows the roads formed when these gentlemen went to examine the ground, for the purpose of determining whether the roads were wanted. One or two small roads have been made since, as I ascertain from the evidence. That report does not pretend to contain anything more than the roads then existing.

2385. *Mr. Copeland.*] You stated in Parliament words to the effect that it was I who originated the work in connection with these roads. I do not remember the exact expression without reference to *Hansard*, but you made use of it several times. In all the papers which you have seen, and I understand you have read each separate paper, do you find any paper with my signature attached authorizing any of these roads? My statement was this—

2386. Did you not state that? I do not choose to answer the question unless I am allowed to explain. If you bind me down to what I said in Parliament—

2387. Did you not, in Parliament, say this work was originated by me? That is not my statement. I think you will find in *Hansard* that the statement I made was this:—"That the first movement or application for the construction of roads through the lands of Burns, Withers, and Smith, to Crown lands, took place when the honorable member for New England was Minister for Lands." I do not want to be unjust to Mr. Copeland.

2388. Do you find among the papers any ministerial action of mine in respect to these roads? I find among the papers strong evidence that you were pressing the sale of Crown lands.

2389. What evidence do you find? In January, Mr. Copeland wrote a very long minute on the subject of the sale of Crown lands by auction, in which he directed his officers to bring all the lands in the metropolitan district available for sale under auction up to the limit within the coming year.

2390. What has that to do with your estate? It has to do with this,—that the application in October or November for the first road of access had relation to the desire of the Government to sell Crown lands for revenue purposes.

2391. Are you aware that your own colleague entirely approved of the action I took? I suppose you are aware of this minute by Mr. Garrett being added to my minute,—“Generally I concur with Mr. Copeland's minute. I desire, if action has not been taken, to carry it out already that such action may be taken with as least delay as possible under the circumstances.—T.G., 28/2/87”? That does not touch the question you first asked me. It seems to me that you are asking leading questions. What I stated in Parliament was—

2392. I asked you a question, and you have not answered it yet;—I asked this question, “Do you find amongst

* NOTE (on revision) :—See Mr. Gordon's report of the 28th Jan., 1888, and Mr. Bennett's report of the 8th Feb., 1888.

amongst the papers any ministerial action of mine in connection with any of these roads" ? I find that in the evidence of Mr. Oliver. If you put the question to me, it shows very clearly that you generally approve of what has been done.

Hon.
J. F. Burns.
11 Dec., 1883.

2393. Do the papers disclose, so far as you have seen, any ministerial action of mine? They disclose evidence confirming what I said in Parliament, that during the time you were in office this application was made to me for permission to make this first road across the railway bridge.

2394. Are you not aware that action is often taken by subordinate officers without it coming under the immediate cognizance of the Minister;—do you find any action of mine amongst the papers? I find no minute by you. My statement in Parliament, Mr. Chairman, was not that Mr. Copeland himself had done anything; but the first application for a road of access, to which I do not attach any importance, was made at that time. Any Government in office, in the public interest, would have done what Mr. Copeland did. That was before they sold these lands. They had to have roads of access, and my statement was to the effect that the first application came when Mr. Copeland was in office as the Minister for Lands.

Frederick O'Donnell recalled, and further examined:—

2395. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] We wish to ascertain from you the total cost of the work which has been done upon the Crown lands? I could give you the amount approximately. I could not give you the exact calculation. The calculation I gave you the last time I was here was almost correct, as far as we knew. I suppose the whole cost of the work would be £6,500, or about that. It may come a little over that sum. That would cover the whole of the roads upon the Crown lands.

F. O'Donnell.
11 Dec., 1883.

2396. That would include the Hornsby Crown lands subdivision, and the whole of the lands embraced within the yellow margin, showing the private property of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, and other owners? Yes.

2397. But take the Hornsby subdivision, to which these roads give access. How much of the £7,000 has been spent upon that portion of Crown lands which was offered for sale? I should think about £4,500. We have spent at Hornsby altogether £6,000 odd. We reckon that the roads on the Burns, Withers, and Smith estate, would cost about £2,300.

2398. You say that out of £7,000 spent upon the work of the unemployed at Hornsby, £2,300 only has been spent upon private property? Yes.

2399. Then are we to understand that the remainder of the £7,000 has been spent entirely upon the Crown lands? Yes; on each side of the railway.

2400. What has been done to the Crown lands to cost an expenditure of £4,000? Well, I have given you the expenditure according to our books. Under-scrubbing cost us in the first place £3 an acre, that is the average price, I believe, and the roads have cost between £7 and £8 an acre.

2401. How many acres of roads are there? There are about 5 or 6 miles of roads.

2402. The figures you have now given for under-scrubbing and for making the roads would bring the total up to only £1,220? Well, all I can say, is, that the £4,000 has been spent upon the Crown lands in the Hornsby neighbourhood.

2403. How many miles of roads on the Crown lands have been metalled? In some places they had been cleared and formed, and in some places they had only been cleared. I think there would be about 2 miles of roads which are only cleared. The remaining 3 miles of roads would be cleared and formed, none of them metalled.

2404. The average price of the work is £8 an acre? Yes.

2405. Then where has the rest of the £4,000 gone to? I cannot give you a better idea than I have already given as to the expenditure.

2406. How are we to reconcile your statements as to the expenditure then? I cannot say exactly what roads have been made upon the Crown lands. Since this inquiry commenced we have been more particular in ascertaining the expenditure which has been made upon the lands of Burns, Withers, and Smith. We did not anticipate that the inquiry would extend to the Crown land. I think if my surveyor, Mr. Little, were summoned he would be able to give you the information you desire as to the Crown lands. The only thing that we have been doing latterly has been to get a correct estimate of the expenditure on Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith's land. We have had some difficulty in ascertaining to whom the private lands belong. Hitherto we have been in the dark all the way through as to the ownership, and I could not tell you now exactly the boundaries of the estate of Burns, Withers, and Smith.

2407. Is it not extraordinary that the forming of all these roads upon the estate of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith should have cost only £2,300, while the roads which have been made upon the Government land, none of which have been metalled or culverted, should have cost £4,000? * Well, there are two bridges to be taken into consideration, one on the Boundary Road, and the other a little lower down.

2408. *Mr. Copeland.*] But the bridges on Boundary Road would not be included in the Crown lands expenditure? Yes; there are two bridges on the Crown lands upon which money has been expended.

2409. How many men had you employed upon these roads at the time the inquiry commenced? We had fifteen; but after the Committee paid their visit of inspection to the land these men were taken off the work.

2410. Do you remember informing Mr. Brunker and myself upon the ground that a fortnight previous to our visit you had as many as eighty men employed there? I cannot recollect saying so; but I may have said so. But that would include all of my men in the neighbourhood.

2411. That is what you told Mr. Brunker and myself upon the ground? I will not dispute it. I was only speaking roughly. I find that we never had eighty men there at any one time. If I said there were eighty men at work, it was meant to include the whole of the men on other works, besides the roads in question.

2412. You remember Mr. Brunker and myself asking you how many men you had employed there at that particular time, and you saying fifteen? Yes.

2413. I think Mr. Brunker then asked you how many men you had had employed there a fortnight previously, and you said eighty? I may have said so. I find that in May, 1887, when we first started there, :

* NOTE (on revision):—The £4,000 includes work of clearing and subdividing Crown lands, and other works in the neighbourhood of Hornsby.

F. O'Donnell. there, five men were sent to work. That was according to Mr. Deering's instructions. In June, 1887, we had only 8 men; in July, 8; in August, 12; in September, 19; in October, 16; in November, 20; in December, 16; in January, 1888, 48; in February, 39; in March, 55; in April, 55; in May, 44; in June, 43; in July, 42; in August, 65; in September, 32; in October, 27; and in November, 15.

11 Dec., 1888.

WEDNESDAY, 12 DECEMBER, 1888.

Present:—

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| MR. WALKER, | MR. H. CLARKE, |
| MR. CARRUTHERS, | MR. COPELAND, |
| MR. O'SULLIVAN. | |

T. WALKER, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Henry Little called in, sworn, and examined:—

- H. Little. 2414. *Chairman.*] You are a surveyor in the employment of the Casual Labour Board? Yes.
- 12 Dec., 1888. 2415. Are you confined to the Casual Labour Board, or do you do other Government work besides that? I am confined to the Casual Labour Board.
2416. You have been at work at Hornsby? Yes.
2417. *Mr. Copeland.*] Are you on the staff, or are you a licensed surveyor? I am only connected with the Casual Labour Board.
2418. You are not in the Government service otherwise? No.
2419. How long have you been working under the Casual Labour Board? Since the Casual Board took the work over from the Lands Department.
2420. Did you survey the Government subdivision at Hornsby? No.
2421. I suppose you have merely been there surveying roads, or superintending the making of roads? Superintending the formation, making, clearing, and such like.
2422. Can you tell the Committee the length in chains of the roads cleared on the Government subdivision at Hornsby, on the eastern side of the line? 276 chains.
2423. Perhaps you could tell me how many roads there are there? I could not tell you that without having a plan of them before me.
2424. How many of those roads have been formed? 115 chains.
2425. Any metalled or ballasted? No; nothing to speak of.
2426. What number of culverts or bridges have been made? There are two bridges, six crossings, and one causeway.
2427. What do you call crossings? They are paved crossings.
2428. What has been the total expenditure on these roads and bridges? £1,629.
2429. I want you to distinguish between the roads on the Government subdivision on the eastern side of the line and those on Government land on the other side? Boundary Road is not included in this estimate I am giving you. There are cuttings and excavations which would come pretty close on to another £1,000.
2430. On the same subdivision? On the same subdivision. I have not had the time to take the quantity of yards out of the book; but I think it will come pretty close up to that; perhaps not quite £1,000.
2431. Those are the cuttings on the various roads? Those are the cuttings on the various roads. I could not distinguish any particular work without the books, and I had not the time to see them.
2432. Does that include underscrubbing on the whole of the land? That includes the underscrubbing.
2433. And clearing the land ready for sale? And clearing the land ready for sale—that is, all the work we have done upon it.
2434. Do you know the area of the Crown lands subdivision? 233 acres.
2435. What do you estimate the cost of the underscrubbing and clearing of the land, exclusive of the roads? £3 an acre.
2436. Then £699 has to come out of your former amount, leaving the balance to go for roads, bridges, and so forth? Yes.
2437. How many men had you at work on that subdivision? I could not say very well. We must have had when we started up there about forty.
2438. Has any labour been expended upon that subdivision since the Government sale? No.
2439. Has any work been done on the Boundary Road since the subdivision? No.
2440. Or on any of the other roads? Yes; there has been work done on the continuation of Boundary Road—three or four days' work.
2441. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] How much was expended on the unemployed in the works on private lands, exclusive of the Crown lands? It must be close on £2,900.
2442. If you have had £2,900 spent on private lands, and £2,029 spent on Crown lands, for culverts, and causeways, and underscrubbing, and so forth, the whole amount comes to £4,929, does it not? That is right.
2443. *Mr. Copeland.*] Does that include the clearing? It includes it.
2444. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Can you tell us what other money has been spent—it has been given in evidence that over £6,000 has been spent at Hornsby? £1,000, I think, has been included that we spent for works at Berowra. When they were finishing the work at Berowra there were a few gangs left up there to complete the work, and they used to come down to Hornsby to be paid; but the sum cannot be more than £1,000, any way. The balance is in the cuttings and excavations and horse-hire.
2445. In addition to the £2,900 there must have been spent about £1,500 on the private lands? Yes. This estimate was made up at 15s. a chain, and there are a number of chains which could not be made for less than £4 or £5. We paid by the cubic yard, and put it into chains.
2446. What I want to get at is this: There is a discrepancy of at least £1,600 between the amount already given as the total expenditure on the unemployed at Hornsby and the expenditure you have accounted for now. You have accounted for £4,929, and it has been given in evidence that there has been nearly £7,000 spent on the unemployed at Hornsby. I ask you was this balance of at least £1,500 also spent on these roads? You can put down £800 on the private lands, and the balance on the other.
2447. That is £3,700 on the private lands altogether? Yes. 2448.

H. Little.
12 Dec., 1888.

2448. So far as you know, at least £3,700 has been spent on all the land south of Boundary Road and including that road? Yes; I think that will cover it.
2449. Will you kindly tell us where the other £700 has gone? On the Government lands on both sides of the line.
2450. *Mr. Copeland.*] Are there any roads on the Crown lands east of the subdivision at Hornsby? All the work done is included in the £6,000, and there was also a 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ acre reserve for a Court-house which was stumped.
2451. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Are you in a better position than Mr. O'Donnell is in to know what the amounts spent on the lands are? Not unless I took them out of the books. I could not fix upon any particular length of road; but I can tell you pretty well what has been spent upon the Crown lands, and outside of the Crown lands.
2452. Did you yourself keep the accounts of the expenditure on these roads? Yes, mostly all.
2453. Then we can accept your statements as approximately true? Yes. What I have told you has been the money paid away for work at Hornsby and neighbourhood, within £1,000.
2454. *Mr. Copeland.*] There have been no roads made on the Crown lands east of the subdivision? No; we have never done any.
2455. You know the bad creek on Boundary Road, what do you consider you could have made that passable for—what would be your estimate? It is formed as far as road D.
2456. Yes. Knowing the nature of the place, what amount would you estimate would cover the cost of making that place passable for traffic? About £1,200, I think.
2457. That is bearing in mind the soft nature of the sandstone? Yes.
2458. You think that for £1,200 you would be able to make a cutting through the hill, and tip the mullock and debris down into the gully, and so level the road to make it fit for ordinary traffic? Yes; but it would be a steep incline then.
2459. How steep? One in eight or one in nine.
2460. Could you not reduce it? Unless you cut through the hill altogether.
2461. The £1,200 would include a bridge, or culvert, or whatever you might term it*? Yes; there would have to be a bit of a bridge. The higher the bridge the better.
2462. With the stone you took out of the cutting you would be able to build the approaches to the bridge? Yes.
2463. Then for £1,200 you could make that place passable, and the Boundary Road would then be as serviceable as Junction Road? Yes†.
2464. For the whole length to Vanceville Road, if this £1,200 were spent in making this crossing at Spring Gully Creek, Boundary Road would be as serviceable as Junction Road? No.
2465. But still Boundary Road could be made a good serviceable road for traffic? It could be made; there would be no difficulty about it at all. You could do the work right enough if you liked to spend the money over it.
2466. Then you think £1,200 spent upon this road would make it serviceable for all kinds of traffic? Yes‡.
2467. *Chairman.*] Did you survey any of these roads? No, none of them.
2468. *Mr. Copeland.*] Have you noticed whether you could, by a slight deviation, reduce the expenditure upon this road? If I was going to make the road there I would follow the creek round to the top.
2469. In that case the expense would be reduced? By about £8 a chain.
2470. *Chairman.*] That is to say, with a slight deviation to the south? Yes.
2471. Would you have to make much of a deviation? No, I do not think so.
2472. Would it materially injure Burns, Withers, and Smith's estate if you did it? No, I do not think it would much. It would certainly injure it a little.
2473. *Mr. Copeland.*] They would have frontages to both sides of the street? Yes, but then it would leave land that would be of no value at all. If you had to follow the contour of the hill you would have to grade it right up.
2474. How many chains of road do you think would be necessary? About 15 or 16 chains, at a cost of £8 a chain.
2475. It would cost about £120? Yes.
2476. In that case the road would be just as serviceable, I suppose, as the Junction Road? No; it would not be as serviceable.
2477. I mean for traffic? Yes; but it would be very steep.
2478. What is the steepest grade of Junction Road? I think it might, in one or two pinches, be about 1 in 18, or something like that.
2479. Still, for all practical purposes, by making a deviation of 15 chains, which would cost at £8 a chain, or £120, Boundary Road could be made serviceable for traffic? No; but they could have gone round to the south and got on to the Crown lands on the top, but then there are some nasty creeks further along.

James Murphy called in, sworn, and examined:—

J. Murphy.
12 Dec., 1888.

2480. *Chairman.*] You are the registered manager of the Holt-Sutherland Company? Yes.
2481. Do you produce a list of the shareholders, as requested, and the number of shares held by each shareholder? Yes; I hand in a list. (*Vide Appendix.*)
2482. *Mr. Copeland.*] That includes the whole of the shareholders in the Company? Yes.
2483. What money has been called up upon these shares? £23 5s.
2484. That, then, represents the total amount of called-up capital? Yes.
2485. How many shares are there in the Company? 800.
2486. The list you have read makes up the number to 800? Yes.
2487. What is the value of the shares? £25. £1 15s. still remains to be called up.
2488. This list represents the shareholders at the present day? Yes.
2489. Have you had any transfers during the last six months? Yes.
2490. Have you had many? They are always being sold. Every board meeting nearly there are some.
2491. Can you tell us what transfers have taken place during the last six months? Not without a little time to prepare it. Every week there are some being sold. 2492.

*NOTE (on revision) :—No; the bridge would not be included.

†NOTE (on revision) :—Only as far as the first gully; and the amount does not include bridge.

‡NOTE (on revision) :—The £1,200 would simply form the road to the first gully.

- J. Murphy. 2492. Have any Members of Parliament transferred any shares during the last six months? I could tell you that from memory. Mr. John Want has transferred some shares within the last six months.
- 12 Dec., 1888. 2493. Any others? I think Sir Henry Parkes has; I think a transfer has come in from him within the last six months.
2494. Is Sir Henry Parkes' name amongst those in that list of shareholders you read just now? No; because he has not been a shareholder since the assignment of his estate. These shares float round like bank-notes, and do not come in until some time after they have really been parted with.
2495. Then, during the last six months, Sir Henry Parkes transferred his shares? Yes. Those are the shares Want, Johnson, Simpson, and Minter have now.
2496. How many shares? Eleven.
2497. Was Sir Henry Parkes a shareholder from the formation of the company? I can tell you that by turning up his name in the register. In January, 1882, he got ten shares, apparently purchased from Mr. John Want.
2498. And he held them until the assignment of his estate? Yes. As a matter of fact I know, from the dealings in them, because we have had several inquiries about them one way or another. I don't think they have really been his property during the last four years. They were held by Mr. Woodhouse, who had a lien on them. The firm of Want, Johnson, & Co. have them now. I think the amount borrowed on them was more than they could realize, and the trustees of the estate did not take them. The people who held the security could not get their money for them so he kept the shares.
2499. Have any Members of the Upper House held any shares in the company? No.
2500. They do not hold any at the present time? No.
2501. You are quite sure on that point? Except Sir John Robertson, I do not think we ever had Members of the Upper House in the company. Sir George Innes also had shares in the company. He was a Member of the Upper House, and has been in the company from the first.
2502. Mr. John Davies has never been a shareholder? No.
2503. You know the works that have been carried out on the Holt-Sutherland Estate by the Casual Labour Board by the unemployed? Yes.
2504. Can you tell us who initiated the making of those roads? I think I did.
2505. By petition, or how? By memorial. We got a memorial signed by a large number of persons. It arose this way: When we took possession of this estate the main Illawarra Road was in a very bad condition, and we said to the trustees—Mr. Fred. Want was one of them, and it was through him that it was done,—“This road ought to be made.” It was not then surveyed, and it is not shown on any map now. We said, “Supposing we make this road 2 chains wide instead of 1 chain, if we give another chain will you get it made?” They said that they had arranged with the Minister for Lands to do that. That was seven years ago, and it has never been done until now.
2506. Mr. Hoskins was Minister for Lands then? I cannot recollect who was in office then. This was in July, 1881. We had, with our own men, begun to make this road, and we have had a staff of men there all the time, and finding the unemployed at National Park I thought it would be a good opportunity to get the road made. I got up this memorial, and when we got that road made we asked for others to be made.
2507. Had you begun to make any other roads? Yes; we made the Malvern Road.
2508. You had begun to make it? We had made it, about a chain wide, not as it is now; but we had cleared it and put temporary culverts over it.
2509. I suppose you had begun to open up the estate by making roads in different directions? Yes.
2510. And then, these unemployed being available, you got them to complete the work you had begun? Yes.
2511. Can you give the Committee any idea as to the increased value of the estate by reason of the unemployed labour being expended upon it? We have not tested that in any way. We can only imagine what it was before, and what it is now. We have not sold any land since this work began. The market for land is very depressed, and we have not tried it.
2512. Supposing the market was fairly lively, what would be your idea of the increase in the price of the land. What would you propose to put on it by reason of these roads having been opened? It is an extraordinary thing. You would have thought that these roads would have improved the value; but we got higher prices at the first than we get now. There was a boom then. The railway was being opened to that place. In 1881 things were very lively, everybody had plenty of money, and that was then we sold most of our land. In fact generally land has not brought so much since.
2513. Have you been fully paid for the land you sold? We are selling it in leases.
2514. You still have an interest in it? We get an annual rent out of it.
2515. So that it is desirable to you that things should continue to look lively, so that you may recover your rent? Yes.
2516. Are there many giving up their leases? A certain proportion are always giving up their leases. The working people for the last two or three years, as I suppose you know, have had rather hard times. I suppose 5 per cent. do not pay? When the time is suitable we put up the land again.
2517. Is it your intention to have any more sales soon? We did intend to sell this month; but, seeing the way that other recent sales have gone off, we have abandoned that now. We think it is a bad time.
2518. You have a lease of these lands from Mr. Holt for ninety-nine years? Yes.
2519. Have you the right to work minerals? Yes; all minerals, except gold.
2520. Do you convey the same right to your tenants? No. We have a right to mine under any lands, at a depth of not less than 600 feet, and then we have to compensate them for any damage done. We have sublet the right to mine for coal to a syndicate.
2521. What royalty have they to pay you? We pay Mr. Holt 6d. a ton for large coal, and 3d. for small, and the syndicate—it is a limited liability company now—pay us 9d. and 4½d. There is supposed to be iron ore there, and if they get iron ore, or any other minerals except gold, it is the same.
2522. Have this syndicate to whom you have let the mining-right any intention of commencing work soon? They will if they can get capital. I am interested in that myself.
2523. I suppose the making of these roads will help them to get the money? I doubt that, because they would want a railway.

2524. The railway to Kurnell, the proposed site for noxious trades, has been surveyed through your land? *J. Murphy.*
Yes.
2525. But there has been no work done on the line of railway? No; except surveying it. *12 Dec., 1888.*
2526. I suppose there was no reason, as far as your company was concerned, why that railway route should not have been cleared—there was no hitch between you and the Government as to the clearing of that route? No; but the survey is not yet finished. Of course I do not know whether they would place the coal-mine near the route, or the route of this railway as it is surveyed now. It is not near where they have found the coal. The coal syndicate was formed to discover whether coal was there. Three bores were put down; one was put down by the coal syndicate, at a depth of 2,300 feet, and they found two seams of coal, and Dr. Robertson, who reported on it, speaks very favourably of it.
2527. That bore was put down before the formation of your present company? No, not this one; where they found the coal. There were two bores before our company was formed, that Mr. Wentworth and Mr. Coghlan put down, but they did not find the coal. This last one, Mr. Fletcher, Mr. McCulloch, and Mr. Coghlan put down, and they were successful.
2528. Has the cost of that come out of your capital? No; that is a separate fund, nothing whatever to do with us. If they find coal they pay us 9d. a ton, and we pay Mr. Holt 6d. a ton, so that we make 3d. a ton out of it. You spoke of the noxious trades railway serving them, but that railway, as surveyed, is a mile from the bore where the coal was found. Of course I do not know where they would place the mine.
2529. *Mr. Carruthers.*] Did you give the names of the members of the coal syndicate;—are there any Members of Parliament amongst them? You want to know who they are.
2530. Yes; who are they? There are Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Dibbs, and Mr. McCulloch in it. The lease was granted to Messrs. McCulloch, Fletcher, and Coghlan, and they have assigned it to the syndicate.
2531. With regard to the men you have had at work yourself, how long have you had them there? Seven years.
2532. Are they still at work? Yes.
2533. You have been pretty well acquainted with all the work that has been done in that neighbourhood, I presume? Yes.
2534. What roads have your men cleared—what work have they done on the roads? Our men started on nearly every road there is there. They had made a track of some sort.
2535. So that it is not safe for the Committee to assume that all the work we see there on inspection has been done by the unemployed? I do not think more than half the clearing was done by the unemployed.
2536. *Chairman.*] What roads do you say were done by your men? We have done the Malvern Road as far as the old farm. In fact, it was not made by us. It was really a road before we came there. The whole length of Malvern Road was really a road before we took possession of the estate.
2537. *Mr. Carruthers.*] Did any of the neighbouring settlers contribute to the cost of that work? Yes. There was a trouble about this road, which I will explain. We had a tenant to whom we let the grass right, and he closed this road, because it ran through a useful paddock to him. The neighbours chopped down his fences, and he came to us to protect him. We sought to do so, and we were then met with a memorial of the neighbours, saying that this had been a road for forty years, and was a road by right of user. After this we improved it, and recognized it as a road, and our tenant threw the lease up, and we have since had trouble with another tenant, who threw the lease up because we would not stand up and say that this was not a road. These people not only came to us with a memorial, but they addressed the Minister for Lands. I saw the petition, and I saw it was no use resisting, so we threw the road open. The whole length of this road had been made before the unemployed came there, and we improved it.
2538. *Mr. Copeland.*] Was the Malvern Road cleared to its present width? No; to only a chain, I think. We picked the best road we could get out of a width of 2 chains.
2539. Now it is cleared 2 chains wide? Yes; part of it is, and part of it is cleared to only 80 feet. Of course a large area of it was a farm, and was always cleared.
2540. *Mr. Carruthers.*] You did the bulk of the work? Supposing it to have been in its original state, more work would have been done to it before the unemployed came to the land than they have since done.
2541. *Mr. Copeland.*] Had you gravelled or metalled the road in any way? No, not that road. The only improvement we made was, that we put in some culverts, not so good as those which were afterwards put in.
2542. The new culverts you speak of have been put in by the Casual Labour Board? Yes.
2543. They have also gravelled that road? Yes.
2544. The whole length? No; only for a part at each end.
2545. *Mr. Carruthers.*] It is a main approach to the railway-station for the settlers of Port Hacking? Yes; and not only that, but it is used by people going eastward to Coronulla Beach and Kurnell. That road is the main outlet from Sutherland to the eastward.
2546. Did you do any work on the road to Yowie Bay? We made the road, and formed it, and left it a better road for driving on than it is now. I do not mean to say that the unemployed have done no valuable work on it, but they have broken up and disturbed the natural surface. It is not so hard as it was.
2547. *Mr. Copeland.*] How do you think the unemployed have made the road worse? They have formed it. They have dug up the sides on the road to make the water-tables, and they have thrown the earth into the centre. This has made the road soft and loose, whereas, before it was touched, the natural surface was hard, and you could drive on it better.
2548. Have they drained it or culverted it? No culverts are wanted.
2549. *Mr. Carruthers.*] Is there any bridge work upon the road? No.
2550. Are you acquainted with the work which had been done on the main Port Hacking Road before the unemployed came? Yes.
2551. What work had been done? The road had been made from the Illawarra Road.
2552. What do you mean by made? It was cleared and formed by subscription. Trustees were appointed for the purpose.
2553. Was any of it gravelled? Yes.
2554. In fact, it was almost as it is now? The greater part of it. It was made right down nearly to Simpson's Point. It was made certainly 5 miles in length before the unemployed came there at all.

- J. Murphy. 2555. Are you aware that £200 was subscribed for the work by the people? Yes; and I know that we spent some money there besides.
- 12 Dec., 1888. 2556. Was there not a vote from the Government to trustees? Yes. That money was also spent upon it.
2557. Was not the greater part of the work done upon the road by trustees with private subscription and with the usual road grants? The unemployed came and cleared the road a little wider I think. It was only cleared about half a chain or 50 feet, and we gave them 99 feet. That was another case in which a road was demanded. It was pointed out that a right of user had been established. We had subdivided the land down to a certain point, and for a certain distance; we could give them only a chain. Where we had not sold we gave them $1\frac{1}{2}$ chains. That was from Gawley Creek out to Port Hacking. I do not mean to say that the unemployed have done no good work on the road. They have improved it to a great extent.
2558. You had cleared the road before? Yes; but it was not so wide a road before.
2559. Have they done any gravelling? Yes; they gravelled it. A portion of it was not gravelled at first.
2660. Have they drained the road? Yes; they have put in culverts and a bridge.
2661. Can you say how many culverts? Most of them are small pipe drains, which you will hardly call culverts. There is one bridge over Rover's Hole Creek.
2662. *Mr. Carruthers.*] Did your company give the gravel? Yes; if they wanted any gravel they were free to take it where they chose. We did not say anything about it.
2663. You have to pay a royalty for the gravel? Yes; a royalty of 6d. a ton.
2664. You also pay a royalty on the timber? Yes.
2665. Who has been the prime mover in getting these roads formed on the estate? I myself have been.
2666. Have any of your shareholders, who have been members of Parliament, interfered to your knowledge? I do not think any member of Parliament has ever known anything about it. As far as I am concerned I can say that I made no request to them.
2667. With whom have your communications been? Mr. John Davies.
2668. How do you communicate with him? I have sent in memorials. I got the members for the district to sign them first. Mr. McCulloch, Mr. Frank Farnell, and Mr. Varney Parkes have all signed them. Then afterwards I would get the best signatures I could. I then took the memorial straight to Mr. Davies, and I generally had a plan with me, and explained what the roads were and where they were to be made to, leaving the matter with him.
2569. In what electorate is this estate? In Central Cumberland.
2570. Where have your communications with Mr. Davies been? At his office.
2571. Have you held any communications with any other persons respecting these roads? No.
2572. Do you know the Wotonga Road? Yes.
2573. Did you take any steps to get that road formed? No; I think Mr. Gannon got it done.
2574. Where does it lead to? To Mr. Gannon's house.
2575. Is that a road going over a steep hill with a very heavy cutting? Yes.
2576. *Mr. Carruthers.*] How many acres are there in your estate in this locality affected by these roads? Nearly all the estate is affected, and there are about 13,000 acres.
2577. *Mr. Copeland.*] You are not including the Government reserves in that estimate? No.
2578. Have you been asked at any time by the people to give roads other than the public roads? Yes.
2579. Have you given roads to suit the public convenience which have been antagonistic to the general design of your estate? Yes, we have; there are several cases in which we should not have given roads but for the result of the disputes which I have mentioned. We would not have allowed the Port Hacking Road to run its present course if we had consulted our own inclinations. We should have taken it a different way.
2580. Which way? We should have cut a lot off its length. We should have straightened it. We should have shortened it by half-a-mile. I ought to mention that Mr. Holt has kept as a private estate out of our lease of 700 acres. The present course of the road gives Mr. Frederick Holt about a mile-and-a-half of frontage; and if we had consulted our own interest, we should have taken both frontages ourselves, but the Port Hacking people wanted the road as you see it.
2581. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] What population would be served by these roads? It is increasing every day.
2582. Where are they settled? They are spotted all over the place. I daresay there are altogether about fifty families.
2583. Does it take about forty roads to serve fifty families? Most of these roads are Government roads.
2584. You said just now that you had started making most of these roads. I presume that if the Government had not come along with this generous assistance, your syndicate would have gone on with the roads themselves? Some of them we might have made and formed, but many of them we should only have opened.
2585. The fact of your having started making the roads is an evidence that you intended to complete the work—that is to put roads across the estate? I would not say to complete it. We had completed most of the roads as far as we intended to do anything to them at the present time.
2586. Is it not a fact that you had laid out roads, and had commenced them, in accordance with the design of your subdivision? Ultimately these roads would have been made by some means I have no doubt.
2587. How much land have you rented? About 1,500 acres.
2588. That leaves 11,500 acres still to be disposed of? If you make allowance for Mr. Holt's private estate, we had only 12,200 acres originally. I suppose there are about 10,000 acres of the land, speaking roughly, left.
2589. Upon these 10,000 acres, which are undisposed of, these roads have been made? No.
2590. But the larger portion of them have? Perhaps.
2591. What is the object of taking Coronulla road to the beach—where is the population? This has been a great road for picnics for many years. It was a track before this road was made. It was used by fishermen and shell-getters largely. Besides there was the Government reserve of 300 acres close by.
2592. There is no fixed population there? No.
2593. If you were to describe it as a road to anywhere you would probably say to California? I do not think you can say that. Coronulla beach is a favourite fishing, camping, and picnicking ground.

2594. *Mr. Copeland.*] Are there any roads on Government reserves? No; but roads are surveyed through them. J. Murphy.
12 Dec., 1888.
2595. The improvements seem to stop short when you approach a Government reserve? We designed a road through one reserve. Our surveyor has marked a road 2 chains wide to the end of the reserve.
2596. Has the road ever been cleared? No.
2597. What length is it? About $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles.
2598. There has been no clearing on that reserve? No.
2599. You say that the fishermen use Coronulla beach—what is the width of the road? Eighty feet.
2600. Was it necessary for the fishermen and shell-getters to have a road 80 feet wide? No; but while we were having a road made we thought we might as well have a wide one. It would suit picnickers and pleasure-seekers driving vehicles to the beach.
2601. Especially when you get the road at no expense to yourself? Well, to some extent.
2602. *Mr. Carruthers.*] Is there any great traffic on it? I do not know whether you could say that there was any great traffic, but there are sometimes about twenty vehicles down on Saturdays and Sundays, and the number is increasing all the time.
2603. You spoke some time ago of a general design in cutting up the estate; have you a general design? No.
2604. *Mr. Copeland.*] Have you not had the ground surveyed? A portion of it. I think in every case I have suggested what roads we should have.
2605. These suggestions have always been adopted? Yes, generally.
2606. *Mr. Carruthers.*] How many of the roads are cleared and formed and gravelled? Three.
2607. *Mr. Copeland.*] Is that for the whole length? No; for instance the main Illawarra Road is now only being made, and the Port Hacking Road and the Coronulla Road are not yet finished.
2608. Take the Malvern Road, Port Hacking Road, and the Coronulla Road—did they form part of any plan of subdivision, or are they old public tracks? They are old tracks.
2609. Have you followed them? As nearly as possible.
2610. Are not there men working on the roads now finishing them? There are some men at work on the Coronulla Road and some on the Port Hacking Road; but those engaged on the Port Hacking Road do not form part of the unemployed.
2611. *Mr. Carruthers.*] How many coaches are there running on the Port Hacking Road? I know there is a coach each way every day, and I believe there are two on Saturday and Sunday. There is a mail as well.
2612. Where does that run to? From Kogarah to Tom Ugly's Point, and from the point to Port Hacking, down as far as Simpson's Crossing.
2613. Do you know whether the tender for the carriage of the mail specifies that that road shall be used? I know that it does.
2614. *Chairman.*] Were all the roads running north and south, from water to water, made at your suggestion? Yes; all except one, I think. I believe the trustees of the National Park wished us to give the land for a shorter road to Sydney. The tramway runs to Sans Souci, and we were asked to set apart land for a road which would save 3 miles between Sydney and the park. Mr. Holt joined us in fencing off this road; it is known as the Commons Point Road.
2615. Starting from the beach at Coronulla, there are seven roads running north and south? Yes.
2616. And those were all made at your suggestion? Yes; but they are old Government roads, shown on the map.
2617. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Were the persons who signed the memorials always the same? No; sometimes the same person had to sign two of them. In each case I got the names of the members.
2618. *Chairman.*] You took the memorials round? Yes.
2619. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] What I want to get at is this: Would the persons living near Gunnamatta Bay sign for roads as far away as Gynea Bay? Well, I got any signatures which I thought would help.
2620. *Chairman.*] The fact is that whenever you thought a signature would be of help to you you took it? Yes.
2621. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Whenever you wanted a new road I suppose you scouted round to get signatures? No; I got as many roads as I thought the people would sign for. Sometimes a man might not care to sign for a road some distance away, in such cases as those I should of course have to get others to sign.
2622. Then to save yourself frequent journeys you got as many as five or six roads signed for at one time? Yes.
2623. Are there any unemployed on the noxious trades site now? No; the railway survey is not finished yet.
2624. But there were some? Yes.
2625. What do you think of the character of their work there? I should not like to make myself a judge of the quality of the work. It was done a long time ago.
2626. *Chairman.*] Did you get any of these roads without petition and simply by interview with Mr. Davies? No.
2627. In every instance you had papers? Yes; I do not think I ever spoke to Mr. Davies privately in my life.

Edward Matthew Burrowes called in, sworn, and examined:—

2628. *Chairman.*] You are stationed with the unemployed at the National Park? I am the Superintendent for that district. E. M.
Burrowes.
12 Dec., 1888.
2629. For how long have you held that position? For over two years.
2630. Prior to the existence of the Casual Labour Board? Yes; I was appointed by Mr. G. R. Dibbs in November, 1886.
2631. Had you sole charge? Yes; I had full power and control at that time.
2632. Had you full power at the time the Casual Labour Board came into existence? Yes; I think I may say that I had full power then.
2633. When they came into existence you ceased to have full power? Yes; it was then vested in the Chairman of the Board.
2634. What do you mean by that? Well, he would give instructions to me.

- E. M.
Burrowes.
12 Dec., 1888.
2635. From that time you initiated nothing? From that time I promulgated no new work.
2636. Everything came to you in the shape of orders? Exactly.
2637. Have you received any instructions from Mr. Davies to do any work on the Holt-Sutherland Estate?
Oh, yes.
2638. Carrying out his orders, will you show us on the plan you produce what roads you have cleared, formed, and ballasted? The roads coloured red on this plan are those to which you refer. I prepared this plan for you at your request.
2639. Can you give us a statement as to the total number of roads you have made together with the total length? I have here a tabulated statement, which I think will give you all the particulars you require as to these roads. (*Vide Appendix.*)
2640. That statement shows that you have made a total length of 43 miles 21 chains? Yes.
2641. *Mr. Copeland.*] The work contained in this statement represents the work done by the Casual Labour Board? Yes.
2642. It does not include any work done previously by the Holt-Sutherland Company? That is a matter which I must explain. The Holt-Sutherland Company had cleared some of the roads; take the main Illawarra Road, they had cleared and formed it in some places.
2643. You found that the work had been done? Yes; the road was cleared and culverts were made.
2644. This statement shows the additional work which you have done? Yes.
2645. Do you remember whether they had done any work on the Port Hacking Road? A good deal of work was done there. It was cleared and it was gravelled in places.
2646. How wide? From 21 to 28 feet.
2647. Does that apply to the whole of the present road? No; only a portion.
2648. Can you give the Committee any idea of the total expenditure on the whole of these roads? I can by referring to some notes which I have made. I find that up to the 1st of December last the total expenditure has been £8,413 4s. 7d.
2649. Does that include bridges? It includes everything, and it gives an average price of £2 8s. 7d. a chain.
2650. *Mr. Carruthers.*] Can you tell us how much money has been expended on the Port Hacking Road? No; I have not taken out the roads separately.
2651. On what roads has the largest amount of work been done? On the Port Hacking Road, on the main Illawarra Road, and on the Coronulla Road.
2652. They would give a total of about 800 chains? Yes.
2653. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] You still have some men working on the ground? I have 180 men there.
2654. Working up to date? Yes; up to yesterday.
2655. What number of men have you generally had employed? For some little time I have not had so many men. When we started work down there we were very glad to find a loop-hole to get some of the men away from the park. In July, 1887, I had 4,700 men at the National Park; that was too many men to have there for unremunerative work, and I was glad to get them on to these main roads.
2656. *Chairman.*] But a number of roads shown on the plan are not main roads? A number of the roads are what you would consider main roads. The Port Hacking Road is a main road, the main Illawarra Road is a main road, and I should call the Worenora Road a main road when completed.
2657. That leads to Kurnell? Yes.
2658. How would you define the roads running north and south from water to water? I should call them accommodation roads—that would be the proper professional term.
2659. Have you any road upon which you had any cuttings to do with the unemployed? Yes; there is a cutting at Yowvie Creek on the Worenora Road.
2660. Had you any bridges to make there? Yes. There is one bridge 20 feet high.
2661. What would be the length of it? 196 feet.
2662. What cutting had you to do? There is a side cutting with a face of about 18 feet.
2663. Is it through solid stone? No; it is interlaced with mullock.
2664. What gradient would it be? From the levels I have taken now, unless some alteration is made I hope to get up at from 1 in 15 to 1 in 18.
2665. Was all that work done by the unemployed? Yes; under the Casual Labour Board.
2666. By the men you superintended? Yes.
2667. Did you see any difficulty in utilizing the men for work of that kind? None at all.
2668. What particular object is there in making the Worenora Road? It leads direct from the railway goods sheds at Sutherland to the Coronulla Beach Road, which would be the nearest line to the proposed noxious trades site.
2669. Did you survey that? I made no survey. I only took the levels of the sections of the road.
2670. You are by profession a surveyor and civil engineer? Yes.
2671. If you had been constructing this road would you have made this cutting or would you have deviated the road? I should have deviated the road.
2672. With the object of saving expense? Yes; certainly.
2673. By whose instructions did you carry the road through this part of the country where it was so difficult to make? I received instructions from the Chairman of the Casual Labour Board.
2674. Did you point out to him the difficulties of the work? I showed it to him before I commenced, but I was instructed to carry out the work as surveyed.
2675. Have you any knowledge as to who surveyed these roads? I have been told—I think perhaps it was the company's surveyor.
2676. I presume he surveyed the roads under instructions from the company? I presume so.
2677. *Mr. Copeland.*] Do you know the name of the company's surveyor? Mr. Curtis; I believe that Mr. Nibbs is the Government Surveyor.
2678. Mr. Curtis surveyed most of the roads? Most of them.
2679. *Chairman.*] Are any of the roads such as you would have recommended in the interests of the Crown? Some of them I might.
2680. Are there any of them which you would have objected to make, having regard to your public responsibility? Yes; some of them.
2681. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] You can identify the Holt-Sutherland Estate on the plan before you? Yes.
2682. And you see that the great majority of the roads are on that estate? Yes. 2683.

2683. Out of the 43 miles and 21 chains referred to in your paper how many miles would not be on this estate? From 3 to 4 miles.
2684. *Mr. Copeland.*] Have you made any roads on the Government reserves? Yes.
2685. Which of them? Part of the main Illawarra Road passes through a reserve.
2686. How many chains of that road passes through Government land? A little over half-a-mile. Sylvania Road and Boulevard Road about on the reserve.
2687. Have you done any work upon this reserve out at Kurnell? Not yet.
2688. Have you done any work on the proposed railway from Sutherland to Kurnell? No, not yet; we are waiting for a railway survey to be made.
2689. *Chairman.*] Are there any Crown lands in this vicinity upon which you could have used the unemployed without putting them on the Holt-Sutherland Estate? We are employing men now between Liverpool and here, and between Campbelltown and here.
2690. *Mr. Carruthers.*] On what roads has the bulk of the money been expended? On the main roads.
2691. Which do you call those? On the Coronulla Road, the Port Hacking Road, the main Illawarra Road, and the Weronora Road.

E. M.
Burrowes.
12 Dec., 1888.

David Houison recalled and further examined:—

2692. *Chairman.*] You have been out again to inspect these roads at Hornsby? Yes; I have been out since I was here.
2693. Did you find the roads that were not marked on the tracing? There are roads there that I was not aware of when I was here before.
2694. You surveyed none of those roads? No; I have had nothing to do with surveying. Mr. Gordon pointed them out to us as a rule.
2695. The roads that were constructed or finished? I saw roads not cleared when I was up before.
2696. *Mr. McMillan.*] How long is it since you were up there before? Five months.
2697. *Chairman.*] Did you consider the roads you saw when you were up on this recent visit roads of access? They were all necessary as roads of access, everyone of them.
2698. Do you consider the roads near the station as roads of access? Unless they run straight against the fence, and cross direct into the railway premises. It gives greater access to follow the fence.
2699. Do you consider that No. 1 T shaped road necessary? Those roads I knew nothing of, or of the road running parallel with the railway line.
2700. Do you consider those roads necessary? These roads, from what I can learn, were all recommended by the Crown Lands Ranger. I do not know anything about them.
2701. Do you consider them roads of access? I cannot express an opinion about that. They were done on the recommendation of the Crown Lands Ranger. They were half finished before.
2702. Do you consider the lower road a road of access? No; I would not consider it so.
2703. Do you know that it was recommended by the Crown Lands Ranger? Yes; both roads were recommended by him, and by the auctioneer.

D. Houison.
12 Dec., 1888.

James Fletcher, M.P., called in, sworn, and examined:—

2704. *Chairman.*] Are you a shareholder in the Holt-Sutherland Estate? I am a shareholder in the minerals under the Holt-Sutherland Estate.
2705. By that do you mean that you are not a shareholder in the estate itself? I am not a shareholder in the surface rights of the Holt-Sutherland Estate, nor ever was.
2706. Are you a shareholder in the Holt-Sutherland Estate Company? I am not, nor ever was, a shareholder in the land of the Holt-Sutherland Estate Company.
2707. If your name appears on the share list? I had the register examined this morning, and no such name as James Fletcher appears on it—and if it does appear, I am not the James Fletcher.
2708. It was a mistake when it was stated yesterday that your name was on the list? Yes.

James
Fletcher, M.P.
12 Dec., 1888.

Henry Thelluson Sanderson called in, sworn, and examined:—

2709. *Chairman.*] You are a civil engineer? Yes.
2710. Have you had anything to do with the surveying, or constructing, or supervising of any roads on the Holt-Sutherland Estate? Yes.
2711. What has been your connection with that estate? I will give the Committee what information I have: On the 23rd September, 1887, I surveyed, for clearing, 43 chains 58 links of the Port Hacking Road—that is a Government road—from the junction of Malvern Road, going towards Port Hacking. This road is a chain wide. On the 29th September I surveyed 50 chains of the same road, from Little Tureel Point, at the end of the Port Hacking Road, going towards Doolan's Paddock. Then, on the 30th September, I surveyed a further portion of the Port Hacking Road, towards the township of Sylvania, 125 chains, to its junction with the Illawarra Road. That is a Government road. On the 1st October I surveyed 97 chains of the Malvern and Madeira Road, from the Illawarra to the Port Hacking Road. These, I believe, are private roads, 2 chains wide. At least, these are not Government roads; they are not dedicated or proclaimed. On the 2nd October I surveyed, for clearing and forming, 109 chains 30 links of the Port Hacking Road to the angle of the road at Doolan's fence. That is another portion of the Port Hacking Road. On the 8th October I resurveyed a portion of 50 chains of the Madeira Road, which is a private road, for clearing and formation. On the 12th October I made a survey of the Weronora Road, from Eton-street, Sutherland Township, to the Sylvania Road, 152 chains, for clearing, forming, and culverting purposes. That is a private road. On the 12th to 14th October, I surveyed a private road, called the Coronulla Beach Road to Coronulla Beach, and on the same date I surveyed a small private road called the Lilly Pilly Road to Ewey Bay. That is 136 chains. On the same date I surveyed another short road, called the Euronga Road, from the Lilly Pilly Road to Ewey Bay. It is 30 chains in length. On the 14th and 15th I surveyed the Boulevard Road, from the Illawarra Railway to the Sylvania Road. It is a road 137 chains in length, and 1 chain 50 links wide. On the 14th October I surveyed a small road called Eaton-street. I do not know whether that is a proclaimed road; it may be.

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be. It is in the township of Sutherland, 36 chains. From the 9th January to the 9th April, 1888, I had instructions to superintend and take charge of the works carried on on the Holt-Sutherland Estate, to superintend the formation of the Malvern and the Madiera Roads, the metalling and blinding of the Port Hacking Road, and the works generally speaking.

2712. By whom were you employed? By order of Mr. Edward Matthew Burrowes, the Superintendent of the unemployed, and I presume under the instructions of the Casual Labour Board. He instructed me to make those surveys.

2713. What was the statement made to you in reference to the surveying of those roads you called private roads? There was no intimation given to me that they were private roads. I was simply ordered to make those surveys so that the roads might be cleared and the areas computed. They were simply pegged out by the surveyors of the Holt-Sutherland Estate, and in fact the scrub and timber were there when I made the survey for the purpose of enabling the men to clear and form the road.

2714. You state that these roads had already been pegged out—that is, they had been surveyed by the owners of the estate prior to your going over them again? Yes; they had been surveyed by the surveyor appointed by the manager of the Sutherland Estate. Mr. Murphy, the manager, knows the surveyors who made the survey; I do not know myself who they are.

2715. Did you survey any roads that had not been previously surveyed? No.

2716. In each instance there had already been a survey? Yes.

2717. These streets had been laid out in the subdivision of the Holt-Sutherland Estate? Yes. These roads were simply surveyed for the purpose of enabling people to have frontages to the property they bought.

2718. You were supplied with a plan of the subdivision of the estate, and you surveyed according to that plan? Yes, according to their plans; they were lithographed plans of portions of the Holt-Sutherland Estate.

2719. Then you carried out the subdivision they had already shown on the lithographed plan? Quite so.

2720. Those roads that you surveyed for ballasting were public roads, you state? No, not in all cases. I am not aware that they were public roads. I believe that with the exception of the Port Hacking Road and the Illawarra Road the others are private roads.

2721. You believe so? I am not aware, but I believe that they are merely roads designed by the manager of the Holt-Sutherland Estate for sale purposes.

2722. *Mr. McMillan.*] For purposes of subdivision? Yes.

2723. *Chairman.*] In fact, you know from your own knowledge that these roads were shown in the subdivision? I do know it.

2724. Was the road to Coronulla Beach on the subdivision? I do not think it was. I only saw the subdivision on the ground. I took notice of its junction with the Illawarra Road, and surveyed it, according to instructions, as far as the beach.

2725. You say that, although not shown on the subdivision, it was pegged out? It was pegged out, and the pegs were on the ground.

2726. Was it then pegged out by the private surveyor of the estate? I believe it was. Except the Port Hacking and Illawarra Roads, all the roads were, I think, made by private surveyors.

2727. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Do the majority of those roads you see marked on the map lead to Crown lands? I believe they do. They are all on private land—on the Holt-Sutherland Estate. There is, I believe, a small reserve there or two.

2728. Do you consider that these roads were laid out in the public interest, or in the interest of the proprietors of the Holt-Sutherland Estate? I should have thought in the interest of the latter. I cannot say anything else conscientiously.

2729. *Mr. McMillan.*] I take it that you simply know the individual that employed you? I do.

2730. You know nothing more? That is all.

2731. Excepting that you did the work professionally as a surveyor? Yes; I made no inquiries, and simply followed directions.

2732. *Mr. Copeland.*] You see this reserve to the south of the Coronulla Beach;—I suppose there are 400 acres in it? I presume there are about that.

2733. Can you say whether any roads have been surveyed through this reserve? Not at the time I was there.

2734. You surveyed no road? I surveyed no roads. I simply confined myself to the Coronulla Beach Road.

2735. You do not know whether any roads were surveyed through that reserve? No; there were no roads surveyed.

2736. Do you know whether the headland there is a good one? It is very fair; it is a good height above the sea.

2737. If you had been surveying for the Government, would you not have carried a road through that reserve? Yes; right through to the other reserve.

2738. You did not make any road? No; not to those Government Reserves.

2739. *Chairman.*] You simply followed your instructions? Yes.

2740. *Mr. Copeland.*] You have referred to some roads as Government roads;—can you tell me when those roads were made Government roads? The Port Hacking Road I remember for the last twenty years, and the Illawarra Road for the last ten years as the Wollongong Road *via* Tom Ugly's Point.

2741. In those cases they were old Government roads? They were old Government roads originally surveyed under Sir Thomas Mitchell.

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2742. *Chairman.*] Have you been out to the Hornsby District since you were examined previously? Yes.

2743. Have you discovered any roads not on the tracing at that time? Yes. I wish to hand in an Appendix of the roads I know now to be done, in contradistinction to the roads shown on the plan upon which I gave my evidence. The Appendix also shows the estimated cost, at the rates we pay. (*Vide Appendix II.*)

2744. Is the shape of the road cleared by mistake shown on the plan correct? I cannot say. As far as I know from Mr. O'Donnell, he started from road H across to the other road. 2745.

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2745. Mr. O'Donnell's evidence is that that road does not take this shape? That may be.
2746. Mr. O'Donnell shows that he joined with the road running to the north? Yes.
2747. This tracing does not show that? I did not go down the road; I just drew it into the map to show its situation.
2748. What is this marking in pencil? That is a road that has nothing to do with us, if such a road exists. I do not believe that it does exist. I did not see it on the ground, and it was not done by us.
2749. You do not know that it is not there? No; but I do not believe it is there. I did not see it when going along Junction-street. It was not one of our works.
2750. You do not know that it does not exist? I am pretty certain that it could not. I said before that there was a lot of work that I was pretty sure could not have been done, because I was not informed of it, but I found that it had been done.
2751. Will you explain generally the roads that were not on the plan before? I was only cognisant at the time of my last being here of the Junction Road having been cleared, and of the Vanceville Road, and the roads H and I. Of course the roads B, C, D, E, and F were all cleared. I expected those to be cleared. When I was out on the 1st February I saw that the roads H and I had been cleared, but I was not aware of any other roads than those at that time.
2752. Will you kindly describe the roads you saw on your last visit? The roads I saw work done upon my last visit are the Western Road, that is, the western boundary of the Crown lands, the continuation of road B—that had been done since my visit in February—a portion of Boundary Road, which has been formed as far as road D, the continuation of road A, which has been formed, and the junction to road C on the Boundary Road. The Boundary Road has also been formed from the station.
2753. *Mr. McMillan.*] That is a road coming to Boundary Road from the station? Coming from the station as far along Boundary Road as practicable. From road D to the Junction Road had been cleared when I was there last, but it has been formed since I was there. The ballasting of these roads had been nearly altogether done since I was there. The ballasting is shown in colours on this map which I now hand in. The whole of the ballasting along Burns Road has been done since I was there; the clearing had been done previously by the owners. The clearing, forming, and ballasting of this road that I have marked here as K—that is, from the Junction Road down to the hotel, the short cut to Pennant Hills—that was all cleared and ballasted since I was there in February. This continuation of Road E across to Burns Road I was perfectly ignorant of. I did not go over it; but I saw it from the end of the road, and I was told that it was cleared and formed right through.
2754. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Do you consider that the whole of those roads you recently discovered were in the interests of the public? There is one road that I do not, and cannot account for. I think the others are useful roads in the interest of the public. The road I refer to is the continuation of Road E. I do not think that that road is essential in the interest of the public.
2755. Do you think that peculiarly shaped road at the end of Burns Road is required? That is absolutely necessary, only it is badly shown on map. It is not ballasted along there.
2756. *Mr. Copeland.*] Have you not been out to see for yourself? No. I saw it was ballasted from the start; but it is not ballasted all along. I have put it down as ballasted. It is to connect with the Bobbin Rock Road.
2757. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Why did they require a double connection? There are not two roads there. It is shown like that because the road goes round one way or the other; I do not know which.
2758. Why do you want to get a connection with the Bobbin Rock Road when you can meet the Peat's Ferry Road? That was a work recommended by one of our superintendents; it was a voluntary recommendation that it should be cleared.
2759. Have you made a reinspection of Boundary Road? As far as road D. I went down the road some little distance, and of course I saw sufficient to know that we should not have made it any further.
2760. Do you think it could have been made passable for a fair amount? No; it would cost a deal of money. I do not think £2,000 would make that road.
2761. If a surveyor who has laid out these roads has stated it could be made passable for about £1,200? It would be a very peculiar "passable." It could not be made a road at all or anything like for the money. If it had been the motive of the Board to do anything to benefit Burns, Withers, and Smith's property, it certainly would have been more advantageous to expend a large sum of money on this road along their property than merely to have made a road which Burns, Withers, and Smith could have cleared for £100; because it need not have been more than cleared by them. It would have been more to their advantage if we had made this impracticable road at a cost of £2,000 or £3,000.
2762. *Mr. Copeland.*] Are you not overlooking the fact that in one case they get only one frontage, and in the other they get a double frontage? I am not overlooking that.
2763. In Junction Road do they not get a double frontage? Yes; for over a mile—for 82 chains.
2764. Would they get a double frontage to Boundary Road? They have one frontage to Boundary Road, which is impracticable.
2765. Who provided the land for that road? I believe it was from the Government Estate. It was laid out by the Surveyor-General's Office.
2766. They not only get a road presented to them by the Government, but they get the road cleared by the Government, and they get a frontage without contributing anything? I believe it is an old Government road along the boundary of the Crown lands.
2767. The evidence shows the reverse? What I am guided by is the plan of distribution of Government lands in saying that it was left along there. It is essentially a Government road, and was left as one.
2768. You have supplied information here with reference to the expenditure? This table shows that there has been £2,365 10s. expended on these various Government roads? I think that is the total.
2769. And then you deduct from that a sum of £56 10s. for the labour of clearing done by the owners, leaving a net amount of £2,309;—have you arrived at that estimate as the actual expenditure, or merely as the estimated expenditure? I have arrived at that as the estimated expenditure.
2770. Being a member of the Board, why are you not in a position to give the Committee the actual expenditure? That it is impossible for me to do. The resident officers pay for all work at piece-work rates.
2771. On what scale have you paid them? You will see by the note in the margin.
2772. That is, clearing 15s. a chain? Yes; £7 an acre.
2773. That includes the grubbing of stumps, the burning off, and everything? Yes.

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2774. For 15s. a chain? Yes, and those are very liberal estimates in comparison with what we have been paying.
- 2774½. Ballasting, three-quarters of a cubic yard at 1s. 4d.=1s. a lineal yard;—by that you mean a lineal yard the full width of the road? Yes; the ballasted portion.
2775. What is the average width of these streets? I do not think they will run above 15 or 16 feet—the ballasted portion. I stepped two or three of them, and they ran about 15 or 16 feet.
2776. What would be 48 square feet to the lineal yard? I have not run it out. I judged it by stepping it at three-quarters of a yard to the yard.
2777. How many inches would that require? For an 18-foot road it would require a solid 6 inches.
2778. What is the roadway? The road is formed wider, but it is ballasted 15 or 16 feet.
2779. You say that three-quarters of a cubic yard would cover a lineal yard, and allowing the road to be 15 or 16 feet wide, that would give 48 square feet? I am not in the habit of measuring that way. I can work it out for you.
2780. What thickness do you reckon this metalling is done? I do not think it would average 4 inches. I do not think it would average more all over.
2781. That is those parts ballasted? It is not very heavily and but roughly ballasted.
2782. Do you give this evidence from your own observation? From my own observation.
2783. And you state here you do not think it would average—? I do not think it would average more than three-quarters of a yard to a yard.
2784. Which would give a covering of what? A sure test would be to take up some yards and stack it and measure it. If you wish you can have it taken up.
2785. How many inches would that give? About 4 inches; I did not calculate particularly; but it is a single stone thick in some places. The stone is very crude, and the roads roughly ballasted. It is not such stone as we would accept anywhere else.
2786. Does that apply to every road? To Burns Road and the Vanceville Road as far as I travelled it.
2787. Did you not see in any parts such a thing as stone 8 or 9 inches thick? No; I do not think so. It is very crudely done; in some places it is a little thicker than in others; but I do not believe, and I am a pretty good judge, that if you take it up it will go more than three-quarters of a yard to a yard.
2788. You estimate it at from 3 to 4 inches? Not three. They are mostly big stones, and have not been properly broken up.
2789. They cannot be very big stones if they average 4 inches? They are not very thick. You could not measure stone like that on the road.
2790. If the average is 4 inches, in some places it would be 6 inches thick and in others 2 inches? Very possibly it is; but the only possible way to check the measurement is, as I have said, to take up some yards of the road, stack the stone, and measure it.
2791. Carting, spreading, and blinding, at 1s. a lineal yard;—in this estimate, have you included the draining? The draining is included in the forming.
2792. Have you included the culverts and bridges? I have not included the culverts and the bridges.
2793. Do you not know their cost? No; I should have had to take out every one of them.
2794. Do you not think that in preparing a statement like this you should have shown so many culverts and bridges? I could not spare the time to prepare a very full statement.
2795. You hand this paper in as an estimate of the total cost of the work done? Of the roads and ballasting.
2796. Is that a fair way of doing the thing? If you want further particulars, I can procure them for you.
2797. But we wanted it now? Well, someone will have to get it and take it out for you.
2798. But you, as an officer of the Government, went out to ascertain the total cost of the making of these roads? I did nothing of the kind. I went out as a member of the Labour Board, to see what had been done since I last saw it.
2799. Is not that under the Government? No.
2800. Who pays you your salary? I get no salary for it at all.
2801. *Chairman.*] Do you not expect it? If I do get some I shall be very thankful.
2802. *Mr. Copeland.*] At the time you went out there you were receiving a salary from the Government for your services? Yes; but to get that information I should have had to spend more time than I could afford to lose from the Department.
2803. Even if you had not time, could you not have stated that there were so many culverts and bridges that you had not estimated? There are one or two I have marked here on the map that I know to exist, but without considerable trouble I could not have arrived at their cost. They would not have made a very large item at any rate.
2804. I understand from this column that you estimate the total cost of the work done on the roads to which Burns, Withers, and Smith have one frontage only is £374 5s.? No, £563 17s. The other figures are after the deduction made by the Roads Department.
2805. The cost of the roads through Burns, Withers, and Smith's property where they have both frontages is £535 10s.? Yes.
2806. In this calculation you seem to have omitted several roads;—have not Burns, Withers, and Smith a double frontage to A road? Yes; but that is a Government road, and the only crossing of the railway.
2807. But have they not a frontage to both sides of this road? Yes; but I do not think we have a right to charge it to them.
2808. You have given in this estimate the cost of all the roads done in that neighbourhood, as I understand it; it assumes to be so;—why did you not include road A? I do not know; it was not done by us. The cost is put down in another column; but I do not think it would be right to charge it to them. You can put it down if you like.
2809. No; I am not going to do your work. This paper presumes to show the cost of the roads entirely through Burns, Withers, and Smith's property;—has not that road A been made by the Government? It was made by Mr. Deering before we took charge at all. Road A was not done by the unemployed under the control of the Board; I believe it was done by Mr. Deering when he had charge.
2810. You know it was done by the unemployed? I do not know by whom it was done; but it was not done by the Labour Board.
2811. *Mr. McMillan.*] I understand that this schedule is made out as to the work done since you were a body? Since we were a body.

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2812. *Chairman.*] In your schedule you have omitted to mention road A as being upon the property of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith—as a matter of fact the road does pass through their property? It does, and is shown on schedule, but not charged to Burns, Withers, and Smith.
2813. Then why have you omitted to include it in the roads in this schedule? It is included in the roads in the schedule, but it is not put against their estate because it is a Government road. I do not think it is in the same position as the other roads which I have charged against their estate.
2814. But the road passes through their property? Yes.
2815. Is there any other road passing through their land which you have not put against their property in this schedule? I will look through the schedule and see. I do not think there is any other—that is, any other in the same category. * * * * Well, I find that a portion of the Boundary Road, to which Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith have one frontage, is not charged against them. The clearing has not been charged against the estate of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, although it is along their frontage. You see it is a Government road.
2816. Although you have a column there showing charges on account of one frontage you have not included this road in that column? No; it is a Government road, cleared entirely at the instance of the Government.
2817. Have you included the cost of the culverts and bridges in your schedule? No.
2818. Or the drain-pipes? No. I do not see any other roads but these two which are in that position.
2819. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] You have included in these columns only the roads which have been constructed since the unemployed have been in the charge of the Casual Labour Board? Yes.
2820. Have you any objection to add to the schedule the words "While under the charge of the Casual Labour Board?" No, I will add those words. I remember that road A was cleared and formed before our board was formed; but we have ballasted it since.
2821. *Chairman.*] Have not men under your board done work upon the Boundary Road? Yes; but I am doubtful whether they did any of the clearing. I think that was done by Mr. Deering before we took charge.
2822. They have not been upon the work under you? No; not in clearing, but they have done some forming between the railway station and the road marked D.
2823. Is that portion of Burns, Withers, and Smith's frontage under its proper heading in this schedule? One half of the clearing is charged there.
2824. *Mr. Copeland.*] Notwithstanding the fact that the work was done by the unemployed? The work had been done there under Mr. Deering.
2825. But Mr. Deering had charge of the unemployed? Yes.
2826. You are aware that this inquiry is as to the work done by the unemployed? Then I think the better way, if you are going to refer to the whole of the work done there, would be for Mr. Deering to prepare a schedule of his own. It is not at all likely that for the sake of a few pounds I would neglect to make these charges against the estate if I thought that the roads were properly chargeable against it. The charge for the road over the Railway Bridge would be £131, and the other item omitted would amount to £30 15s. The £161 15s. would not make very much difference in my estimate. It is scarcely worth considering. It certainly would not be worth my while to keep these amounts back for the purpose of misleading the Committee.
2827. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] But you have admitted in your evidence that you have not included the culverts and bridges? I am not, as I have said, in a position to give you that information.
2828. Will you add a note to the schedule stating that that is the case? I will do so with pleasure.
2829. We have had it in evidence from the surveyor who laid out these roads, and who kept the books, that the total cost of the roads was nearly £4,000; you say now that the cost was only £2,309? May I ask who was the surveyor who said so.
2830. Mr. Little? He would probably be in a better position to give you definite information than I am, being on the ground; I can only give you the amount from my knowledge of the rates we pay, and having regard to the work which I saw had been done.
2831. Do you think the amount Mr. Little has given would be right? I can scarcely credit it.
2832. *Mr. Copeland.*] Are you aware that Mr. Little has given evidence that the total cost of this work on the private property has been nearly £4,000? I am not aware that he has given such evidence.
2833. If he has given such evidence would it be correct? I can scarcely credit that the roads have cost so much, unless the officers have been paying considerably more than the rates which they were authorized to pay.
2834. Which do you think is more likely to be more correct—Mr. Little's evidence from his books or your estimate? Of course I cannot answer for his books, but his answer should be the more correct. If he has been able to distinguish the roads the items of his estimate should be correct.
2835. You are a member of the Casual Labour Board? Yes.
2836. Is it not one of your duties to see that the public money is properly and judiciously expended? Yes, as far as it is possible for us to exercise any check.
2837. Would you not consider it part of your duty as a member of the Board to see that proper accounts of the expenditure were kept? Yes; we see that the sheets are kept, but it would be utterly impossible for us to exercise supervision over every detail.
2838. But this is not a question of detail? It is with us.
2839. Is not this a batch of work upon which you have a certain number of men employed? No; we have a lot of work all round that camp. The work paid from that camp extends to Berowra, and half way across to Narrabeen.
2840. If the superintendent keeps an account of the money paid to these men who are working on these roads is he not able to supply the Committee with accurate information? He should if he could distinguish the roads, but I very much doubt whether he would be able to do that, unless he has been to the Audit Office and obtained the sheets.
2841. You think the superintendent's information is not likely to be more reliable than your estimate? I should not give it more credence myself.
2842. On what do you base your rates? On what our officers are authorised to pay.
2843. That is so much per cubic yard for ballast, and so much for other work? Yes.
2844. When the men have natural difficulties to contend with are they paid at the same rate? Such an article

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article as ballast would come to much the same price. You appear to think that I should exercise supervision over these things, but I have no chance of doing so. It would require a far larger number of men to exercise this supervision. We can only estimate what the cost of work is from the rates we authorise our officers to pay.

2845. Do you authorise your officers to pay the same rate over the whole of the work irrespective of the ease or difficulty of the work? The rates in some places would of course differ from the rates in others. For instance the clearing would differ. In my estimate I have taken that at an average of £7 per acre, and I think that would be a fair average for the clearing which has been done upon this ground. I have taken 14s. a chain, and I have added 1s. per chain, so that I may be within the margin.

2846. *Chairman.*] Have you ever had any audit of your accounts? No; never. The sheets are audited by the Auditor-General. They are passed directly on to him, I may say that I have asked the Treasury for an audit of our accounts.

2847. But you have never had a certified audit? Never. I have applied once or twice to the Treasury officers, but they have told me that the matter has not been one of revenue, and that as it was merely a matter of expenditure if the Auditor-General was satisfied with the vouchers which were sent in, it would be considered sufficient audit.

2848. *Mr. Carruthers.*] Is the estimate which you have handed in based upon any previous experience which you have had? Yes; of course.

2849. You have made roads before similar in character to these? Never similar in character, because they are roads of a character which I should never allow to be made under my own supervision.

2850. Are these prices higher or lower than those which you generally pay in your management of the Roads Department? Very much lower. We want the work to be somewhat punitive. For that reason we only sanctioned a rate which would give the men something like 6d. per hour. We want to get rid of the men. That is our primary object.

2851. Is it usual when you are making roads in the Department to pay for the ballast which you take off private property? We have to do so in many cases. In other cases we take the ballast.

2852. When you let the roads out by contract do the contractors have to pay for the ballast? That is their own look out. That depends upon the terms which the contractor can make with the adjoining landowner. We have a section in the Act empowering us to obtain the authority of the Surveyor-General to enter upon land and to take what we require, but we rarely ever force it. We allow the contractor to do the best he can for himself.

2853. Is this statement made regarding what you know from your connection with the Casual Labour Board only? Yes; it is made in accordance with the rates which we pay.

2854. You offer no opinion as to what has been done before by Mr. Deering, or any other person having charge of the unemployed? No.

2855. Although road A is included in your statement of work done under the Casual Labour Board—has any part of that work been done by the unemployed? Only the ballasting by the Board—the forming and clearing was done under Mr. Deering.

2856. *Mr. Copeland.*] By the unemployed? Yes.

2857. *Mr. Carruthers.*] Does this £131 5s. represent the cost of what was done under the Casual Labour Board? I put that down as being the total cost.

2858. That represents all that has been done on the road? Yes.

2859. By you or by any one before you? Yes.

2860. *Chairman.*] Excepting the culverting and the bridges? Yes.

2861. *Mr. Carruthers.*] Do these prices fairly represent the value of the work done? They do not represent its fair value, because it has been done by somewhat punitive labour; our men earn on the average only 3s. a day. Do not misunderstand me; the value does not represent the value of ordinary roads. If ordinary labour had been paid to do the work it would have cost much more. The work, of course, would have been much better done; but it would have cost double as much.

2862. *Mr. Copeland.*] Do you think 3s. a day is a fair wage to allow the unemployed to earn? I think 6d. an hour is as much as we ought to give them. Of course, some of them earn 4s. or 5s. a day, but 3s. is the average. The bulk of them are very poor hands.

2863. *Mr. Carruthers.*] You have a note here that the Junction Road and the Vanceville Road are not charged here as they would most probably have been made by the Roads Department? Yes. Vanceville Road had been made up to a certain point by the Department; it was necessary to get through the property of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith somewhere in order to get to the station. I might have tried for a diagonal road, in the first instance, but I do not think the proprietors would have given it to us on account of the injury it would have done to their property.

2864. As an experienced officer of the Roads Department dealing with applications for making new roads would you have approved of an application for making these roads under all the circumstances? Yes; that is the Vanceville and the Junction Roads.

2865. And the cost of making them is as you have stated? Yes.

2866. Is that putting aside the unemployed? The work could not have been done at the price named here except with the assistance of the unemployed.

2867. *Chairman.*] In cases where the roads made only give one frontage you have put down only half the cost of making the road? Yes.

The Hon. John Davies, C.M.G., M.L.C., recalled and further examined:—

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2868. *Chairman.*] You have had to do with the making of the roads through the Holt-Sutherland Estate shown on the plan before you? Yes; we have cleared, formed, and gravelled some of them.

2869. At whose instigation did the Board make these roads? Petitions were presented by numerous property owners in and around the district, and reports were obtained from our officer in favour of the works being carried out. Ministerial authority having been obtained, the works were proceeded with.

2870. Did you take any means to investigate the *bond fides* of any of the petitions? The names of many of the petitioners are those of well-known Members of Parliament and of persons of good positions in society, and I should regard it as an insult to them to make inquiries into their characters. I knew from their names and positions that there was no need to do that.

2871.

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2871. How many Members of Parliament are property owners round this estate? I could not say that they are property owners, but they represent the district—Central Cumberland. I suppose the Members took an interest in the district in the ordinary way. I ought to add that when this work was initiated we had 5,000 men at the National Park wasting public money in grubbing and rooting about among a lot of rocks. This was a legacy left to us by the gentlemen who had charge of the unemployed before they were handed over to the Board. When we took charge of them we regarded the work which has been done as being of greater utility to the public than the expenditure which was taking place at the Park.
2872. How many men had you employed upon the Holt-Sutherland Estate proper? 160 or 170.
2873. There are some Government reserves in juxtaposition to the estate? Yes.
2874. Have you cleared, formed, and gravelled any roads on that estate? We have made roads to some of the reserves.
2875. To which reserves? Well, the main road to Coronulla Beach goes to a reserve; the beach is a reserve for recreation purposes. There is also a reserve at the point for fortifications, or something of that kind. At all events, so we were informed.
2876. Are there any roads in that reserve? Not that I know of; but there is a road leading to it.
2877. Does not the road you speak of lead to the beach? Yes, but it goes close to the reserve.
2878. There are no roads on that point on the beach to the Government reserve? There is no direct road to the reserve. The Hungry Point Road, which goes through the whole of the reserve, was laid out, but it is not yet cleared.
2879. Was that road laid out by you? No; we did not lay out any of these roads. They were all surveyed before we had anything to do with the work, so far as I know. We have had authority to clear many of these roads, but we have not done so yet.
2880. Has any road from Sutherland to Kurnell been cleared? No, only partly; we had authority to clear the line of railway. A petition was presented; it was signed by seventy or eighty Members of Parliament.
2881. You have not done that work? We are waiting for the survey to be finished.
- 2881½. The line has not been surveyed? There is no defined survey, we are waiting for it to be finished.
2882. To whom was the delay attributable? To the Survey Department. This is a work upon which we have been anxious to employ the labour we had at our disposal. The Board were quite in accord with the prayer of the petition, which as I have said was signed by a large number of Members of Parliament. We considered the work to be a public work and a work of great utility, because it would be a means of assisting a number of manufacturers to a site which it has been proposed to be used for noxious trades.
2883. Did you employ a surveyor in connection with any of these roads? No, but we have had overseers; some of these roads were surveyed as long as fifty years ago. Of course we have had to get surveyors to lay out the work for the men and to take the measurements of the work they did before they were paid.
2884. Did you employ Mr. Sanderson to survey any of these roads? Not in the sense of surveying.
2885. Was he employed to define the road? No, to piece off the work for the men. The road was easily defined because it was an old original survey. I am speaking now of the main roads.
2886. Do not the majority of roads which you have cleared appear on the subdivision of the Holt-Sutherland Estate? I know nothing about that company. I do not know any of the shareholders, and I have no interest in it directly or indirectly. I have never seen the subdivision to which you refer.
2887. Has it not come to your knowledge that the roads which were cleared were subdivisional roads of the Holt-Sutherland Company? I have never seen the subdivision.
2888. Would not the pegs be marked? I do not know that that would be so. The original history of that place would be found to be this—there were a number of Crown grants to old Mr. Laycock and others, and the property was afterwards acquired by purchase by the late Mr. Holt.
2889. Did you take any pains to ascertain whether the roads you were making were subdivisional roads? The only step I could take was the ordinary one of sending my superintendent to report upon the several petitions and applications we received. You could not expect me to go and report myself, seeing that I had no technical knowledge about road making or surveying.
2890. When you received so many petitions apart from the main roads, did it not strike you that it would be advisable to examine the original plan of subdivision? No; that is a matter entirely in the hands of the superintendent.
2891. Did you never receive any report showing that these roads were in existence upon the subdivision of the estate? These are Government roads, and the owners of the estate I believe have adopted them in their subdivision.
2892. You knew then that these roads were in the subdivision? I knew these roads were public roads, and adopted by the owners in their subdivision.
2893. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] The clearing of the line of railway from Sutherland to the noxious trade site would have been a genuine public work? No doubt.
2894. It was a petition for that work which you say was signed by over sixty Members of Parliament? Quite so. As I have already explained, we have the authority for the work and are anxious to carry it out, but we could not do so, because the survey is not complete. It would be folly to attempt to form a line of our own. As soon as the survey is finished we are willing to proceed with the work. It is a work which I think ought to be proceeded with.
2895. As a matter of fact, the work petitioned for by these Members of Parliament has not yet been carried out? Just so, for the reason I assign.
2896. Knowing as you did from the papers supplied to you that these roads were already surveyed, and that some of them were half completed, how did you come to utilise the public funds for the benefit of the Holt-Sutherland Estate? I think the work would benefit the whole community. A public road is a public property for all time. Some of these roads are as old as the Colony itself.
2897. But knowing beforehand that the work was about being done by the owners of this estate, why did your Department accede this request for roads? I had no knowledge that any subdivision was to be carried out.
2898. I understand you to say that you knew from the papers that these roads were surveyed before, and that they were part of the subdivision of the estate. Knowing this, why did you construct, with the public money, roads which were in the process of being constructed by, or which would have been constructed, by

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by private owners? How was I to know that. The great Illawarra Road, leading from Tom Ugly's Point to the Sutherland Railway Station, is an old road, and is the road to Wollongong and Kiama. Then there is the Sylvania Road, the Port Hacking Road, and two or three other old roads which were known to be public roads.

2899. Granting that there were four or five main roads which were said to be necessary for the public convenience, where was the necessity for the construction of the twenty-two roads as shown upon this plan? You are asking me now for a technical opinion as to whether these roads should or should not be made.

2900. I am asking you upon what principle you made these twenty-two roads? On the same principle that all roads in the Colony are made; they are public roads—dedicated to the public, and they were made upon the authority upon which all roads are made—namely, Ministerial authority. I have done nothing in connection with these roads, save by Ministerial authority.

2901. You are a medium between the Minister and the expenditure? That is all.

2902. Had you any knowledge that these twenty-two roads would serve any large number of people here? At the present time many of them would not.

2903. How many people are there residing about these roads who would be served by them at the present time? I could not say what the population of the district is, but I am told by people who visit the locality on Sundays and on holidays that there are thousands of people in the district.

2904. Residing there? No; visiting the district.

2905. But are there many persons residing there. Do you think there would be fifty families? I could not tell you how many. I have no doubt that you could get the information from the Holt-Sutherland people.

2906. I suppose that thousands of people who go out there pleasuring to whom you refer would use only the roads leading to the places of public resort? Yes.

2907. They are about four in number? Yes.

2908. Therefore the remaining eighteen roads would not be constructed for their especial benefit? No, not exactly; but all of the roads lead more or less to deep water—picnic places and so forth—to which people are in the habit of going.

2909. You said just now that there were formerly 5,000 persons at the National Park whose work you did not consider to be of public utility? Not as compared with this other work. As a member of the Casual Labour Board I may say that I consider roadmaking one of the most useful works in which you could be engaged. Whenever we saw that we could employ the surplus labour in roadmaking we did so, because we considered it to be a work of public utility—of far greater advantage to the public than the scrubbing and clearing of portions of the Park.

2910. But the Park is public property? Yes.

2911. But the roads you have constructed are constructed up through private estates? They are dedicated to the public and are public property.

2912. Have they been dedicated? Yes, most of them, I think.

2913. Most of them? I understand that most of them have been dedicated.

2914. You said just now that most of the roads shown on the plan were not made? That is so.

2915. Still it is your intention to make them? Of course it is, unless we are stopped.

2916. You propose to complete the original plan? We propose to continue the work as far as our authority will permit us to do so, provided the surplus labour lasts, and I am afraid that it will.

2917. How many miles of roads marked on the plan are not yet completed? Mr. Burrowes could tell you, but I could not. That is a matter entirely in the hands of the superintendent.

2918. Are you aware that over 43 miles of road have been completed? Between 30 and 40 miles of road have been cleared I believe, but they are not completed.

2919. You mean cleared and gravelled? Nothing of the kind. Some are gravelled, some are only cleared.

2920. Is it your intention to treat these other roads marked on the plan in the same way? Not some of them, nothing more will be done with some of the minor roads. Although we have had authority to do more to most of them, we do not recognise that there is any necessity for doing the work.

2921. By the time you have completed these roads, there will be about 60 miles of them in this locality? I do not know what the measurement is. I could not tell you exactly, but I do not think there could be that mileage.

2922. *Mr. Carruthers.*] You have heard Mr. O'Sullivan speak of twenty-two roads. On this plan I believe the roads marked red are cleared, while those coloured in sienna are not commenced? That is so.

2923. If you look at the plan, I think you will see that there are fourteen roads coloured in sienna, and therefore not yet commenced? I believe so, but Mr. Burrowes could satisfy you on that point.

2924. You believe that this plan is correct? I believe so. Mr. Burrowes name is attached to it.

2925. I see that fourteen roads have been cleared? I think you will find that there are sixteen.

2926. What would you say is the utility of the main Illawarra Road? As I have already stated, that is a road between Sydney and Wollongong and Kiama.

2927. Is there a fair traffic on it now? A good traffic.

2928. Is it in contemplation to use the road for military purposes? It is a Military Road joining on to what we call the Sutherland and Loftus Roads, which goes right through the Park.

2929. What is the length of that road which has been dealt with? I could not tell you, but I have no doubt that Mr. Burrowes could. I do not want to guess at these things. It is a road passing through the Government reserve, and it is a road which has been under the control of the Roads Department for many years.

2930. Has it been in receipt of the annual mileage allowance? I believe it has, I could not say.

2931. Are you aware that Mr. Frederick Want and other gentlemen are trustees for a considerable number of these roads? I was not aware who the trustees were, but I presume there would be a trust, because it is one of the oldest roads in the Colony.

2932. Is the Port Hacking Road also a trust road? I am not aware whether it is a trust road. I know it to be an old Government road.

2933. You know that the Coronulla Road has been a public road for a considerable time? Yes.

2934. Has the bulk of your work involving an expenditure of money been upon these three roads? Yes. The principal expenditure has been upon these roads, they being the principal ones.

2935.

2935. Assuming that the total expenditure is over £8,000 you think you are justified in stating that the larger proportion of that amount has been expended on these three roads? The larger portion of the money has been spent on these three roads.

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2936. You state that when you took charge of the unemployed there were great complaints about the work of the men at the National Park Camp? Yes.

2937. Did you receive any instructions to scatter them from that camp—to get them away from the National Park? We received instructions to try and employ their labour to greater advantage than it was being employed in the Park.

2938. You spoke of a large petition signed by Members of Parliament, the Chairman of this Committee—Mr. O'Sullivan—and myself, among others? Yes.

2939. Could you not go on with the work prayed for in that petition until the line had been surveyed? No; I have already stated the reasons why I have been delayed.

2940. When was the line surveyed? The survey is not complete yet.

TUESDAY, 18 DECEMBER, 1888.

Present:—

MR. WALKER,

MR. CARRUTHERS,

MR. COPELAND,

MR. O'SULLIVAN.

T. WALKER, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Robert Burdett Smith, M.P., called in, sworn, and examined:—

2940½. *Chairman.*] You are one of the proprietors of the Hornsby Estate? I am one of the proprietors of the Hornsby Estate. I have an equal share with my other partners, Messrs. Burns and Withers. We share and share alike as tenants in common.

R. B. Smith.

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2941. Do you know anything about the work of the unemployed on your estate at Hornsby? I have seen the work since they commenced—a portion of it. I have not seen the whole of the work done there by the unemployed.

2942. Were you aware of the origin of the work of the unemployed—the commencement of it there? I was not aware of the origin of it, because I paid a visit to England and Europe, and it was on my return from England that I first saw the unemployed at work.

2943. It was done without your cognizance in the first instance? I saw the men at work when I went to visit the Hornsby Estate on my return from Europe.

2944. Was that the first time you knew of it? I think I was informed by my friend and partner, Mr. Burns, that the unemployed had been at work, but they had done very little work at that time, scarcely any.

2945. Have they done a great amount since? I cannot say a very great amount. They have done what was necessary, I believe, to make roads to give access to Crown lands, and to open up avenues of communication to the railway.

2946. Do you consider all the roads absolutely necessary. I consider that they are absolutely necessary as avenues of communication to the railway, and as giving access to the Government lands.

2947. Would not a less number have sufficed? Well, I do not think a less number would suffice, because there is a population about there which could not gain access to the railway station or to the Crown lands without those roads.

2948. Present or prospective? Almost immediate, because there is a large population about Bobbingrock and Vanceville Estates. Of course they will facilitate the movements of the people, and enable them to gain greater access to the railway, and also to the Crown lands by means of these roads. I may mention that when I saw these roads very little work was done, and I was opposed to land being given without compensation for the purpose of opening these roads.

2949. Have not the roads benefited your estate? I think there has been a *quid pro quo*, as it were, on our side and also on the part of the Government. I think that the land we have given would recoup the Government to a greater extent any expenditure they have incurred in making these roads.

2950. But is not your estate more valuable in consequence of the existence of these roads than it was prior to their formation? If we had been paid for them the estate would have been more valuable; but you must remember that we have given 28 or 30 acres of land.

2951. But is not the remaining portion rendered more valuable by these roads? There must be some misapprehension as to the expenditure upon these roads. It is not so great as is assumed. I have driven through them, and I fail to see the large expenditure which has been suggested. In my opinion it would not exceed £2,000, and we have given £3,000 worth of land.

2952. *Mr. Carruthers.*] What has been the amount suggested to you? I have heard it suggested that we have been benefited very largely by this expenditure; but we have given £3,000 worth of our best land, because these roads are made all through our best land. When I saw the roads being made, I protested against the land being given without compensation. We have about 680 acres on the eastern side of Hornsby, and it was in contemplation by myself to sell this land as a whole in one block. Well we have been deprived of about 30 acres of that area by the making of these roads. It may seem strange to the Committee, but I was altogether opposed to giving these roads without compensation. I knew, from the railway being contiguous to some of the Government roads—Bobbingrock Road and Vanceville Road and other roads—that they must of necessity apply to us for roads, and by so doing would have had to give us compensation, and I was prepared to wait until this time should have arrived, when the Government would have to make these roads to Hornsby Junction in order to give access to the other roads, and to open up an avenue of communication between them and the railway station. I therefore did my best to urge my partners to apply for compensation.

2953. Did you not subdivide a portion of 50 acres near the station, cutting it up into streets? Before I went to England that was done by Mr. Dawson, 50 or 52 acres were planned out by him.

2954. Laid out with streets? I did not take any notice as to whether they were laid out. I know there was some subdivision made, but it was not for the purpose of immediate sale.

2955. And you named the streets? My partners have named the streets. I may mention that my friend

R. B. Smith, M.P. and partner, Mr. Burns, had the management of the whole; I had the most implicit confidence in him, and I allowed him to have the management of everything. I desire also to say that I concur in everything that has been done, and I am quite prepared to share in any responsibility he has assumed in the matter.

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2956. Had you not commenced some work on some of the roads? No; that was while I was in England. Some work was done on Burns Road. I left a power of attorney behind, and my partners consulted my attorney.

2957. Had not some work been commenced on this subdivision? Not before I went to England. Not a particle of work was done until after I had left for England.

2958. Whilst you were away in England? Whilst I was away in England, I believe (as I have been informed), an expenditure of something like £200 was made on Burns Road.

2959. Was not some work done on the subdivision? I never heard of it.

2960. Might it not have been done without your knowledge? I think not. They might have marked out with a tomahawk a few streets.

2961. If it has been given in evidence that clearing had been commenced, and in some instances proceeded with half way through the streets? I think not. I think you are mistaken on that point. I am not aware of anything of that kind being done. I know that Burns Road was made while absent. It is quite possible that they may have taken a tomahawk and marked out some streets.

2962. But if it is stated by Mr. O'Donnell and Mr. Burns that real clearing had taken place? If Mr. Burns has stated it it must be correct. I am not aware that he has said so.

2963. But supposing your intention was to sell the land in one block, does not the existence of roads on the property increase its chances of sale and add to its value? Yes, it would, if we had received compensation.

2964. Without compensation? No, I think not, having regard to the fact that we have given about £3,000 worth of land, and that the Government have expended, we will say, £2,000 on our land. I do not believe that they have expended as much as that on our own private estate; though, of course, you are in a position to judge by calling the officers, and getting a statement of the actual expenditure. You cannot drive along Boundary Road owing to its precipitous nature, but I drove through Junction Road and Burns Road as far as the Vanceville Road, and I have also seen the cross-road to Noonan's, and I cannot see that there has been a greater expenditure than £2,000.

2965. When you say that you have given £3,000 worth of land, does that include Burns Road and the roads marked on your subdivisional plan? No; it is exclusive. I think we have given about 29 acres exclusive of Burns Road.

2966. But do you include that part on the subdivision plan? No; I think it is about 29 acres exclusive of that.

2967. What roads do you include? I include Boundary Road.

2968. Boundary Road is not on your land? Oh, yes; pardon me.

2969. No, it is not? With great respect I think you are mistaken.

2970. Boundary Road gives you a frontage, but it is all on Crown lands? I think you are mistaken. I do not want to contradict you; but I—

2971. We have the evidence of Mr. Burns that it is not so? I have always been led to believe that Boundary Road was on our estate.

2972. It is not on your estate; it is on Crown lands all the way through? I am surprised at that; this is the first time I have heard it. If you say so I suppose I am bound to believe it.

2973. I give you the evidence of Mr. Deering, district surveyor, and of Mr. Burns, that it has been all made on Crown lands? Well, I have always been led to believe that that road was on our land.

2974. You see now that it is not? You say so.

2975. Under those circumstances, do you still say that you have given £3,000 worth of land? Approximately £3,000 worth of land has been given.

2976. Exclusive of Boundary Road? We have given 29 acres.

2977. You have given £3,000 worth of land, exclusive of Boundary Road, the roads shown on the subdivision, and Burns Road? In my opinion, and from what I have learnt from Mr. Dawson, we have given about £3,000 worth of land. We have given about 29 acres, and I value that at at least £100 an acre. I value the land at £3,000.

2978. Did not Mr. Dawson, in stating that, include Burns Road? No; he included the whole of the land at East Hornsby.

2979. Did he include Burns Road? No.

2980. You are not sure? Well, he said nothing about Burns Road.

2981. Then you are not positive? I say that it is my conscientious belief, having regard to all the roads made there, that we have given £3,000 worth of land.

2982. *Mr. Copeland.*] At what rate are you valuing the land per acre? A little more than £100 per acre. I would not take a shilling less than £100 per acre.

2983. You say that you value the land at a little more than £100 per acre;—have you sold any of the land round about those roads? No; not yet.

2984. You have sold none? No.

2985. Did you not sell some land on the Vanceville Estate? That is long ago. I was the first purchaser of the Vanceville Estate. Some years ago I purchased nearly 400 acres.

2986. Excuse me; but I want to keep you to the evidence. How long ago is it since you sold the last land on the Vanceville Estate? Some years.

2987. Have you sold no land since? I suppose Mr. Watkin, the auctioneer, sold the last for us.

2988. Which land was that? Vanceville. That is a different estate to this altogether.

2989. What did that land realise per acre? I cannot remember. It was sold many years ago.

2990. Was it sold before the railway was surveyed? Long before the North Shore line was ever dreamt of.

2991. You have sold no land since then? I think not; but Mr. Watkin could tell you.

2992. There is some land on the map marked with the names of different people;—did you sell those portions of land? No; those lands were never ours. It was only this Vanceville Estate that belonged to us.

2993. Then, as a matter of fact, you do not know anything at all about the value of the land there? Oh, yes, I do.

2994. Not having sold any land there, you do not know whether it would bring £50 or £100 an acre? At any rate I would not sell it under £100 an acre.

2995.

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2995. I suppose you are aware that the average price of the land in the Government subdivision by the station was £34? I do not know anything at all about that. I would not allow the land to go under £100 an acre. As a matter of fact we were asked in July, last year, 1887, I think, to submit 200 acres on the basis of about £100 an acre, and my friend Mr. Burns and myself were willing, but our other partner thought the price too low. I think we could have received £20,000 for this 200 acres; but my partner, Mr. Withers thought it should not go under £30,000. Owing to his action the purchase fell through.

2996. Is it not a fact that in all cases where the owners of private estates intend placing their land on the market, they make roads for themselves through it? I suppose they do; but I had no desire to do so.

2997. Do not they provide roads of access to different portions of their land? In my opinion they do; but I knew the value of this land. I knew that the soil was splendid.

2998. Have you any knowledge of soil? Yes, I have knowledge of soil, and I believe that this is splendid land. I may mention that I have about 12 acres of my own there, facing Burns Road, and independently of my partners, and I would not sell it now for less than £150 per acre.

2999. Do you know this Crown lands subdivision of Hornsby the other side of Boundary Road? I have seen it. It is very bad land.

3000. And this is very good? Yes, this is very good. Some portions of the Crown land is in my opinion very bad. It is very rocky.

3001. The land to the north of Boundary Road is very bad and the land to the south of it is very good? Yes; I consider this excellent land—splendid land. I have 12 or 13 acres near Noonan's, independently of Messrs. Burns and Withers.

3002. Have you cultivated it? No.

3003. Have you cleared it? No; but I would not take less than £150 an acre for it.

3004. Has anyone offered you £150? No.

3005. Have they offered you £100? I have not attempted to sell it.

3006. Are you not aware that the custom is for people to subdivide their land and provide roads through their estate? They may do it.

3007. *Chairman.*] Is it not the invariable custom? It is the custom, but it is not my custom.

3008. *Mr. Carruthers.*] What do you mean by providing a road—do you mean that they make one for themselves? I believe that in many instances it is done to open up roads.

3009. *Mr. Copeland.*] Do you not know that the custom is when people are selling their private estates not only to provide the roads but to open them up, to clear them? I do not know that it is the custom. I have not taken the trouble to inquire or to see into anything of that kind.

3010. Have you not seen hundreds of maps of subdivisions about the city? Really I have not seen hundreds of maps. I have not taken the trouble to look.

3011. *Chairman.*] As a solicitor, do you not know that it is the custom? I have not taken the trouble to bother myself about whether it is the custom or not.

3012. As a matter of fact you do not know the custom? I know that it is done in many instances; but I cannot say altogether that it is the custom. I know that there are supposed to be roads through subdivisions on paper, but when you go to them you do not find that there are roads at all.

3013. *Mr. Copeland.*] Would you expect the Government to pay compensation to you for the road from H to the continuation of E, the Mistake Road? Yes. This is to give access to the railway.

3014. Do you consider that it is to give access to the railway? I suppose that that road was made for some particular purpose. I cannot say for what purpose it was made.

3015. Would you expect the Government to make you compensation for the continuation of road E, which goes entirely through your own land? That road has been made with some particular object. There is a railway station near Noonan's, and this road is to give access to it.

3016. What is road HHH for? That is also to give access to the railway station.

3017. Will you tell me who is to make use of that access? The people around there.

3018. Will you tell me what population there is there? There is a large population near Bobbingrock and Vanceville.

3019. Can you say how far it extends? I know that there is a very large population.

3020. What do you call a large population? You can see the place studded about with homesteads. I cannot tell you approximately the number of people about there.

3021. Can you tell me the population on Crown lands requiring access to the railway station? No, I cannot.

3022. Can you tell me whether there are fifty people on the Crown lands? No, I cannot.

3023. I suppose you do not know that there are ten or that there is one person on that subdivision? I really do not know; but I know that these are all necessary roads; and I believe that unless they had been made now they would ultimately have had to be made by the Roads Department, and then they would have had to pay us compensation for them.

3024. Would you not have had to make these roads yourself before you sold the land to get to the railway station? Certainly not; I should not have given assent to it.

3025. You must be aware that you would not get the same price for your land? I think that we could have sold this large block of 680 acres irrespective of any road. Then, again, we have given all the roads to the Government a chain wide; I never heard of such a thing.

3026. How wide have you generally heard of roads? Even if we had given roads of half a chain wide I think that that would have been very liberal.

3027. Did you give the Government any compensation for giving you access to the whole of Boundary Road? No; this is the first I heard of it.

3028. Did you give the Government any compensation for that? Certainly not.

3029. Then can you tell me on what principle you give compensation for Junction Road, while they give Boundary Road without compensation? Until to-day I always thought that we had Boundary Road—that the road which has been cleared was on land given by us; but you informed me that such was not the case.

3030. Did the Government press you very much to get these roads? The Government, I believe, pressed my partner.

3031. Can you tell me what particular Minister? I do not know whether they pressed him or not. I know that they applied to him.

- R. B. Smith, 3032. For every road? I do not know whether for every road. I believe they did.
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18 Dec., 1888. 3033. Did the Government initiate those roads, or were they initiated by certain persons interested signing petitions? I know nothing about any petition. I signed no petition.
3034. I suppose you are aware that Mr. Withers signed a petition? I have heard that Mr. Withers signed a petition.
3035. You say that the Government took these roads;—will you tell me whether the Government initiated the taking of these roads? I cannot say. I am quite sure that neither Mr. Burns nor myself initiated anything of the kind.
3036. *Chairman.*] Are you aware that Mr. Dawson, the surveyor, consented to these roads, and that it was by his consent that they were made where they are? I am not aware of anything of the kind. I am aware that instructions were given by the managing partner.
3037. Did you make any claim for compensation? No; I did not. I was persuaded not to.
3038. You made no claim? No. I objected to my partners.
3039. Did you send any objection to the Government in writing? No; I did not.
3040. Did you or your partners refuse the Government any road? No; I did not.
3041. Nor your partners either? I think not.
3042. You cannot say what section of the Government were desirous to obtain these roads? I think it was the Roads Department and the Lands Department.
3043. But you do not know how this work was initiated? No; I really do not.
3044. You do not know whether it was recommended in the first place by a Government Officer, or whether it was brought about by persons presenting petitions? I do not know anything of that kind; but I know that neither directly nor indirectly did I have anything to do with the initiation of the work, the carrying on of the work, or anything of that kind, and I believe that neither directly nor indirectly had my partners Mr. Burns and Mr. Withers anything to do with urging the Government, although Mr. Withers signed a petition.
3045. Do you know that Mr. Burns approved of those roads being taken? I believe he offered no objection.
3046. Do you know that he approved—that there is his minute approving? If you say he made a minute I take your word.
3047. I do say so. Do you know that Mr. Burns further instructed your private surveyor, Mr. Dawson, to go out and lay off the roads? I believe that that was done at the request of the Casual Labour Board.
3048. If it had been done at the request of the Casual Labour Board, which is a Government Sub-Department, would not the Government surveyors have laid off the roads? The Government surveyors I believe concurred in this laying out of the roads, as you suggest.
3049. There was no concurrence that I am aware of. I simply want you to say whether you are aware that Mr. Burns authorized your own private surveyor to go out and lay off those roads? Well, I know that from time to time he gave instructions to Mr. Dawson, and I concurred in any direction he gave. Personally I concurred in everything that was done, because I believe that Mr. Burns is a man of the pink of honour, and that he would not do any improper thing.
3050. *Mr. Carruthers.*] You said that the Crown land is inferior land to yours? Yes; I think so.
3051. Most of it is further from the station and further from the road? I think that this plan is incorrect.
3052. What is the nature of the land along Boundary Road, close to your land? Some of it, in my opinion, is very rocky.
3053. I want you to look at this sale plan. This is a plan put in by Mr. Deering, showing the prices realized at the sale—£50 per acre, £61, £65, £77, £29, £33—Is your land more valuable than that; do you think it would realize more? Most certainly.
3054. Is your land rocky? No; our land is more of a sandy nature, and better land.
3055. Have you any land as poor as the land which realized these prices? It is impossible for me to say. There may be some few dots of it; but as a whole this is splendid land. That is the reason why others say that you could easily get £100 an acre for it.
3056. Do you consider your land superior in regard to physical characteristics? Yes; much superior.
3057. You have been asked a great deal about the custom of proprietors in laying out roads. Are you aware that in many instances of subdivisions there is nothing done to the roads beyond laying them out on paper? Yes; I said so.
3058. You are aware that the custom is rather that way than to the contrary? Yes.
3059. *Chairman.*] But is not the land in such a case provided, although the roads are not made? On paper.
3060. *Mr. Copeland.*] You say those roads are provided on paper; but is not the land itself provided,—how could they sell a frontage without the road? I cannot say; they do strange things.
3061. *Mr. Carruthers.*] The provision on paper amounts to a legal dedication of the land. The exposure of a sale plan showing roads on paper amounts to a dedication? It does not amount to a legal dedication.
3062. It is an act of dedication to a certain extent? It is an act of dedication to a certain extent, but only to a certain extent.
3063. *Mr. Copeland.*] Can you take the land away after you have sold an allotment frontage to a certain road, without being subject to an action? It has been done.
3064. Could you do it legally. Could you sell a man a frontage to a certain road, and then take the road away? I have known it to be done.
3065. *Chairman.*] Could it be done legally? I have known it to be done, but it is improper to do it, highly improper. I could mention instances where it has been done.
3066. But in those instances it has been done illegally? In my opinion illegally.
3067. *Mr. Carruthers.*] It is a very risky thing to do? It is a very risky thing to do, though I could mention instances where it has been done.
3068. You said that you desired to sell this property, if you sold it at all, in a block? Yes; as a whole.
3069. Had you any intention whatever of subdividing it? None.
3070. Were you prepared to hold it for a lengthened period of time until your got your price? Yes.
3071. Were you prepared to hold it for twenty years? I do not say twenty years. I was prepared to hold it seven or eight years. I was prepared to hold it until the railway was finished to North Shore.
3072. Do you think that the holding of your blocks of land intact without roads through them would have affected

affected prejudicially the prices that the Government would get for their Crown land adjacent? Most certainly. I think that without these roads no access could be obtained to the Crown lands, and that they could not be sold. R. B. Smith,
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3073. *Chairman.*] Would not the low prices of Crown lands if they were sold affect prejudicially the sale of your land? Not in my opinion. It could not affect it prejudicially at all.

3074. *Mr. Carruthers.*] Do you think that, sooner than have that sacrifice, the Government would have purchased roads from you? My conviction is that the Roads Department would of necessity have been compelled to open up roads through this portion of the estate in order to gain access to the railway, and also of necessity the Lands Department would have been compelled to open up and construct roads to gain access to the Crown lands.

3075. And if they had not the alternative would have been the sacrifice of Crown property? That is my opinion.

3076. You have had other land transactions, I suppose, and plenty of experience on these matters? Yes.

3077. Is it your experience that it prejudices or affects the sale of a block of land if a particular plan of subdivision is arranged for;—is it not the desire on the part of the people purchasing large blocks of land that they shall not be trammelled by any previous plan of subdivision? Yes.

3078. If you were buying a block of land would you care about being trammelled by the vendor having a plan of subdivision with the roads dedicated which would make you follow out his particular design? No; I should not.

3079. Is that one objection you had to putting roads through the block? That was my objection.

3080. I notice by the plan that you have one frontage to the road D H? I believe the property on the other side of the road is Harnett's.

3081. Is it not a usual thing in giving boundary roads between two properties for each people to give 33 feet, or half the road? Yes.

3082. In this case have you not given all the road? I am inclined to think that we have, but am not sure.

3083. *Chairman.*] Is it not so. Mr. Harnett gave half the road. The evidence shows it? I made some inquiry about it. I saw that this was Harnett's or Edwards' land, and I think in going through it Mr. Burns said that we had to provide the road, but I am not certain on this point. It is possible that Messrs. Harnett and Edwards gave half.

Hon. John Davies, C.M.G., M.L.C., recalled, and further examined:—

3084. *Mr. Carruthers.*] When we left off examining you last time you were speaking about the noxious trades site? I think you asked me how it was that we had not cleared the line for noxious trades, tramway or railway. Hon.
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3085. Are you aware of the noxious trades site as proposed by the Committee of the Upper House; have you seen the plan of it? I have already answered that question;—yes.

3086. Have you got a plan of that? No, I have not. This plan shows it.

3087. Are you aware that it was proposed by the Bill before Parliament some time ago and by the Select Committee to include all the land for the noxious trades site between Cape Solander and the Burrannear Road? That was proposed, but I do not know what became of it afterwards.

3088. Are you aware that a portion as far as Coronulla Beach was proposed as a neutral zone? Yes.

3089. To stop all habitation and industrial pursuits there? Yes.

3090. And from Coronulla Beach to the noxious trades site, marked green on the plan, as a residential area? Yes.

3091. And this for the noxious trades? Yes; quite so.

3092. *Chairman.*] You say that it was confined to the site marked on the plan? Yes.

3093. *Mr. Carruthers.*] This is a list of roads put in by Mr. Burrowes. Can you give me the lengths of the three main roads on that list? According to Mr. Burrowes, Port Hacking Road, 320 chains; the main Illawarra Road, 330 chains; the Coronulla Road, 180 chains.

3094. That makes 10 miles 30 chains? I suppose it would. I have not calculated.

3095. What has been the nature of the work done on the main Illawarra Road? It is an old public road, as I have stated before.

3096. What is the width of that road cleared? Two chains.

3097. Is there any formation done? Yes.

3098. What width is formed? Half a chain.

3099. What width is ballasted? There is no ballasting at all.

3100. You are sure there is not some of it being ballasted? Just perhaps at the punt end there is a little being done now; just at the entrance of the ferry.

3101. Are you gravelling any portion of it? Yes; a portion of it. It is the main road.

3102. *Mr. Copeland.*] I should think there must be a mile of it done? Not half a mile.

3103. *Mr. Carruthers.*] Are you making any culverts on the Illawarra Road? Yes; pipe culverts. The portion near the station has been gravelled. The other portion approaching the ferry had to be widened, and it has been ballasted.

3104. You had to make some deep cuttings there? Yes; so as to relieve the steep grade leading down to the ferry.

3105. Has the work you speak of on that road taken a large portion of the £8,000? Well a large portion has been expended on the three or four main roads.

3106. On the other two roads have you done any gravelling or any other work? Yes, the Port Hacking Road has been pretty well gravelled from one end to the other. The Coronulla Road is in progress. These three or four roads are the principal roads upon which expenditure has taken place, they being main roads.

3107. Have you gone to any expense for similar work on any of the other roads? No; we have simply done the clearing.

3108. I notice that here and there you have put in pipe culverts? Pipe culverts are the cheapest kind that can be put in. I see from a return which I held in my hand, furnished by the officer in charge of

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the works, that 4 miles of the Port Hacking Road have been cleared, and that 4 miles of the road have been cleared and formed. I see also that $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the Illawarra Road have been cleared, and that $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles have been cleared and formed. Of the Coronulla Road, $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles have been cleared, and $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles have been cleared and formed.

3109. You said, I believe in your former evidence, that you did not know whether these roads have been dedicated? I think I said that they had been dedicated—that they were proclaimed public roads.

3110. You know that all these roads have been dedicated? Yes.

3111. Take the Wollooware Road;—is not that an old track used by fishermen and others? Yes; for years and years I know that they have used it to get to their fishing-grounds and to get their fish to market for years past.

3112. Is it not also used by the lime-getters? I could not say.

3113. Take the Tareen Point Road;—is there any special advantage to be gained from the clearing and forming of that road? Yes, of course; that road leads right to the deep waters.

3114. Are you aware that on the opposite shore, at Sandringham, there is a Government tramway? I know there is a tramway there, but I thought it belonged to a private company.

3115. By the construction of the Tareen Point Road, would there be any saving of distance to people travelling from Sydney to Port Hacking and to the people living at Port Hacking? There is a saving of at least 2 miles.

3116. Would it not save something like 5 miles? I have not been over the distance myself more than once or twice.

3117. Is not the distance from Tom Ugly's Point to the Kogorah Station 3 miles, and would not the whole of that distance be saved? Yes; there is no doubt about that.

3118. At any rate it would at least effect a saving of 2 miles? I should say so from my casual observation. I have been over the distance only twice, and that was some time ago. I know that the road would save a considerable distance, because the road is more direct.

3119. Does any portion of the Tareen Point Road go through any private property besides the Holt-Sutherland Estate? Yes.

3120. Whose property is it? I do not know.

3121. Have you a plan of the National Park with you? Yes—a tracing. The portion tinted green shows the National Park.

3122. I see that its area is 36,320 acres? Yes.

3123. What is the main approach by road? The main Illawarra Road.

3124. There is also an approach by branch railway? Yes.

3125. But the main approach for vehicular traffic is by the main Illawarra Road? Yes; I believe that the train goes up to a platform in the centre of the park twice a week.

3126. I notice from this plan that the southern shore of Port Hacking is to a large extent the foreshore of the National Park? Yes.

3127. Do the roads which you have cleared through the Holt-Sutherland Estate give access to the National Park? Yes; several of them. I have already stated that the roads leading down from the main roads go to the deep waters of Port Hacking and to the National Park.

3128. What was the general work of the unemployed in this locality when you took charge of them? When we took charge of the unemployed there was a system of free rations and free feeds. This the Board immediately stopped. The great majority of the men were upon day labour, and were receiving not less than 6s. a day, thus making the relief works very attractive, and causing the men to leave their private employ, and flooding the city with unemployed.*

3129. Where were the bulk of the men concentrated? At the National Park.

3130. Do you think that the work which they have been doing on the Holt-Sutherland Estate is an improvement in point of utility upon the work on which they were previously engaged? I have already said so. I do not see how the men could have been more profitably employed than upon the construction of roads which had been dedicated to the public. I think they were employed in a most useful work.

3131. Did you use some of the unemployed in making roads at Como and Heathcote? Yes, after the sale

3132. Do you know whether, as a result of the making of these roads, the Crown lands were improved in value? If the sale had been delayed until the roads had been made a much higher price would have been realized; but the sales had been arranged, and they took place prior to the roads being made and the appointment of the Board.

3133. The same thing occurred at Heathcote? Yes, precisely the same thing.

3134. That is, the improvements were made after the sale? Yes.

3135. Did the Crown lose? Yes; but it is only fair to say that the auctioneer who sold on behalf of the Crown said that the roads would be made. You will see from the papers that Sir George Innes called upon the Government to make a road in accordance with the promise made by the auctioneers.

3136. Did you also have charge of the work of the unemployed at Narrabeen? Yes.

3137. And at Harbord? We did not do much there. The sale took place before we took charge.

3138. You did not do much work at Harbord? We had to make some roads to give access to the Crown lands. These were made upon the recommendation of Mr. Surveyor Gordon. Certain roads were made to give access to the Crown lands.

3139. *Mr. Copeland.*] Do you mean that the roads were to give access to Crown lands which were not sold? To both. The Harbord subdivision was sold prior to the appointment of the Casual Labour Board, but subsequently, upon the recommendation of Mr. Surveyor Gordon, roads of access were made to the sold and unsold portions of Crown land. I think there are only about 2 miles of road, but there are some heavy cuttings in it.

3140. *Mr. Carruthers.*] Has any work been done at Narrabeen? Yes; about 65 miles of roads have been cleared, 19 miles have been formed, and 10 miles have been formed, metalled, and blinded.

3141. Have you any idea of the cost of that work? I know that it cost a considerable sum.

3142. Were any of these roads at Narrabeen through private property? Yes; there was the road through Miss Jenkins' and the road through Wheeler's.

3143. *Mr. Copeland.*] What was the length of these roads? One would be about half a mile long. I do not suppose that the length of all of them would exceed $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile to 2 miles. 3144.

* Note (*On revision*).—This system was abolished by the Board, and piece-work substituted instead of day labour.

3144. *Mr. Carruthers.*] Are there any cross roads from these roads? No; the subdivision of the Crown lands takes the cross roads. These roads were to give access from the Pittwater Road to the Crown lands subdivision at Narrabeen.

3145. *Mr. Copeland.*] With the exception of these 1½ mile of road, the whole of the rest of these 65 miles of road were through Government land? Yes, with the exception of a few chains belonging to Mr. Cousins of Manly Beach.

3146. Did these private owners contribute anything towards the making of these roads? No.

3147. Did they give the land? Yes; but in one instance we had a difficulty in getting the land, and that was the cause of some delay. We got the land eventually.

3148. Did the land on both sides of these roads belong to one owner? In one case it did; in the other it did not.

3149. What was the difficulty to which you have referred? Well, some of the people did not like to part with their land. They thought that the Government would be eventually compelled to take the land and to give them compensation. I assured them that the construction of the roads would be of great advantage to their property.

3150. Did you form these roads? Yes; we formed and ballasted them. One was a very difficult road to make. It passed through a swamp, and we had to make the foundation with bundles of faggots. Although it was a short bit of road it was very expensive, but it was absolutely necessary in the interests of the Crown that it should be made. There has been a sale which has been a great success. The first subdivision nearly all sold, and fetched a long price.

3151. You are referring now to the Crown lands subdivision at Narrabeen? Yes. I believe the first sale realized about £29,000.

3152. Was that a better sale than the Harbord sale? A much better sale.

3153. You did nothing like the work at Harbord that you did at Narrabeen? We did very little work at Harbord.

3154. How do you account for the sale at Narrabeen being so much better than the sale at Harbord? Simply because the roads were only cleared at Harbord, whereas in connection with the subdivision at Narrabeen they were cleared and formed also. That is a great advantage.

3155. Is not the Narrabeen land better land? A great deal of it is bad land; it is very rocky. The land at Harbord is much better. I think you will find that at the next sale at Harbord you will get double the price for the land—that is, having regard to the roads which have been made. Of course it would not have been worth our while to make the roads unless we were to get a better value.

3156. You stated just now that the bulk of the expenditure upon the Holt-Sutherland Estate had been made upon the Port Hacking Road, the main Illawarra Road, and the Coronulla Road? Yes; and also upon the Woronora Road. Those are the four principal roads.

3157. Are you aware that Mr. Burrowes has handed in a statement showing that a great deal of expenditure has taken place in connection with other roads? I am aware that a great deal of other work has been done, but I cannot speak as to the length and width of the clearing in every case.

3158. Are you aware that the Burrannear Road has been cleared for 144 chains for a width of a chain and a half? I know that a great many of these roads had been partially cleared before. As far as I know this road has been cleared, but I could not say for what length.

3159. I suppose you have no doubt that the length supplied by Mr. Burrowes would be correct? It may be.

3160. Are you aware that he has supplied us with the information which I have just read with regard to the Burrannear Road? I was not aware of it.

3161. Are you aware that three culverts and one bridge have been erected on the road? I was not aware of it.

3162. But you do not dispute it? No.

3163. Are you aware that 180 chains of the Wotonga Road has been cleared, that 45 chains have been gravelled, and that four culverts have been made on one section of the road? I was not aware of that. I think it is only fair to say that fully 20 miles of these roads had been cleared by the owners of the estate before we had anything to do with them. Mr. Burrowes does not subtract that work, I take it.

3164. He sends in a return showing a list of roads cleared, formed, and improved on or in connection with the Holt-Sutherland Estate by the unemployed? Yes; but we did not clear these roads. I do not mean to say that the old Illawarra Road, for instance, has not been widened, but it was partly cleared before, and had been so for the past fifty years. If you want to get a correct statement as to the amount of work done in the case of each road by the unemployed I do not think this return will show it to you. I know that we have not done as much work as that mentioned in this schedule.

3165. But this return is supplied to us as the amount of work which has been done by the unemployed? Then it is misleading. These old trust roads were cleared long before we had anything to do with the work.

3166. Now take the Malvern Road. Are you aware that Mr. Burrowes states that this road has been cleared for 165 chains by a width of a chain and a half? I am not aware.

3167. Are you aware that out of this quantity 93 chains have been gravelled, and that three culverts have been made? I am not aware of that. I cannot speak as to the distance.

3168. Then on the Station Road. Are you aware that half a mile by a chain and a half of that road has been cleared and that the whole of that half mile has been gravelled? Yes.

3169. It leads to the railway station? Yes, it leads to the railway station.

3170. Then there is the Lilli Pilli Road. 150 chains of that has been cleared? I am not aware of that.

3171. The Euronga Road, 30 chains, and the Orara Road, 64 chains? I was not aware of that.

3172. Are you aware of the work which has been done upon the Karimbela Road? I could not tell you what work has been done.

3173. I am merely mentioning these distances because they have been given to us by Mr. Burrowes the superintendent? I only know the distances from what you tell me. I have not seen the statement. I have no knowledge of it.

3174. Mr. Burrowes says that 67 chains of the Karimbela Road have been cleared to a width of a chain and a half and that 261 chains of the Sylvania Road have been cleared to the same width? I know that these roads are cleared, but I do not know to what length.

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3175. He also says that 110 chains by a chain and a half have been cleared on the Bath Road? I know that the road is cleared, that is all.
3176. He tells us that 319 chains on the Boulevard Road have been cleared by a chain and a half? I know that the road has been cleared, but I could not say to what length.
3177. That 92 chains by a chain and a half had been cleared on the Yowie Road, and that 250 chains on the Forest Road have been cleared, each by a chain and a half? I know the roads are cleared, that is all.
3178. He tells us that 175 chains by a chain and a half have been cleared on the Corea Road? I am not aware of that.
3179. And that 60 chains by a chain and a half have been cleared on the Eton Road? I am not aware of that.
3180. He also tells us that certain distances have been cleared on the Willarree and Camera Roads? I know that some clearing has been done, but I could not speak as to the length.
3181. If these statements have been made by Mr. Burrowes I suppose there was no doubt as to their being correct? I have great doubt.
3182. *Chairman.*] But have you not confidence in your own superintendent? Like you and me he is liable to make mistakes, and I think he has made a great mistake here.
3183. *Mr. Copeland.*] In that case would you not consider it necessary to inquire into the matter yourself? I think it would be better for this Committee to send out an independent surveyor to make inquiries for himself.
3184. Is not Mr. Burrowes a surveyor? Not a licensed surveyor.
3185. But he is a practical surveyor and a road engineer, is he not? Not that I know of. I have no knowledge of his engineering skill. With Mr. O'Donnell and a number of others he was appointed before the Casual Labour Board came into existence. We have had to get rid of a number of men, but we have not made one appointment since we took office.
3186. You know that Mr. Burrowes has held a responsible position in Queensland? From his own statement.
3187. Have you any reason to doubt his capability in measuring the width and length of roads? I have.
3188. How long is it since you first had such a doubt? Within the last month or six weeks.
3189. Since this Committee has been in existence? No, before that.
3190. Did you take any steps to dispense with his services, or to call him to account? No; I called him to account. I wrote him a letter. I had occasion to complain of what appeared to be want of skill and attention to his duties in connection with the Woronora Road.
3191. What is the date of that letter? It is dated sometime last month.
3192. Did he afterwards satisfy you in the matter? He gave an explanation which was deemed satisfactory.
3193. But you do not doubt his ability to measure a certain number of chains? No; certainly not.
3194. Do you doubt his honesty? No; but I think he is neglectful in his duty sometimes.
3195. Then in all probability the width and length of the roads given here is approximately accurate? No doubt; but I think it would be much more satisfactory to this Committee if they are in search of truth to get some gentleman from the Roads Department to take the measurements.
3196. *Chairman.*] Surely you can trust your own officer? I think he is out in his measurements here.
3197. *Mr. Copeland.*] You were appointed head of this Sub-Department by this present Premier? Yes.
3198. Are you considered to be on the Civil Service list? No; but the paid officers of the Department are—that is, the accountant and the paymaster.
3199. But you yourself? Certainly not. I have not received a shilling for the services I have rendered, up to the present moment.
3200. You have charge of the financial arrangements in connection with the unemployed? No; I have not.
3201. What is the *modus operandi* in obtaining money from the Treasurer? The three members of the Board have to sign the paper applying for an advance. We have to furnish the vouchers, in conformity with the "Audit Act," to the Auditor-General. We generally apply for £6,000.
3202. In each case have the three members of the Board signed? Yes; in all cases.
3203. Having obtained your £6,000, what becomes of it? It is placed to the credit of the Casual Labour Board.
3204. Who signs the cheques? One member of the Board and the accountant; precisely the same as in the Roads Department.
3205. I suppose that you as chairman sign the cheques? Yes; they look to me to do the executive part of the work.
3206. Are there any instances in which some other member of the Commission besides yourself has signed? No; but in case of my absence any one of my colleagues can sign.
3207. And the accountant? He has to countersign. All cheques have to be countersigned by him, no cheque is of any use without his signature.
3208. Who is the accountant? Mr. Hinchcliffe.
3209. Has he given any bond? Yes; a fidelity bond of £1,000.
3210. Have you given any? There is no occasion for me to do so; I never handle sixpence of the money.
3211. Is it not the custom in the Government Service for each head of a Department to give a guarantee? I am not aware.
3212. Are you aware that Mr. Bennett, the Commissioner for Roads, has entered into a bond for £1,000. That is quite a proper thing, he being a civil servant.
3213. And that Mr. Flynn, the Under Secretary, and other Under Secretaries have acted similarly? And rightly so, I think, they being civil servants.
3214. You have control over your own accountant? No, he is an independent officer put there by the Government.
3215. Is he subordinate to you? No; he is appointed by the Government and the Executive.
3216. Does he not work subordinately to you? He takes his instructions from us.
3217. Do you ever check his accounts? No; I do not.
3218. Do you know who does? They are checked by the Auditor-General's Department and the Treasury.

Hon.
J. Davies,
C.M.G.,
M.L.C.
18 Dec., 1888.

3219. Do these officers come to the offices of the Casual Labour Board? Yes; we had a Treasury official round a month ago. The accounts are furnished to the Auditor-General, and his staff go through them.
3220. What check is there to show that the men whose names are entered on the pay-sheets are actually there and have received the money? There is in the margin of the sheets the man's name and the quantity of work he has done at so much a yard, and it is carried forward. The man has to sign immediately opposite the money he receives, in my presence, in the presence of Mr. Hinchcliffe, and in the presence of the storekeeper. There are three names to witness the payment.
3221. The actual payment of the money? Yes; the men step up to the table, and the paymaster hands over the money with a pay-slip, so that the man knows exactly what amount of money he is receiving.
3222. How much money have you received from the Treasury altogether? Speaking from memory I should say that we had received up to date about £225,000; that would be in twenty months.
3223. Have you received any money from the Treasury direct for private disbursements? Not a shilling.
3224. What is the practice in regard to the stores;—do you supply the men with rations? Yes. When we took charge we found that the men were being charged 1s. 3d. per head for rations, and that there was no contract at all—nothing but a general order given by the Colonial Secretary of the day, Mr. Dibbs, that all the men were to be supplied with rations not exceeding 2s. a head per day. The contractor, Mr. Kidman, charged 1s. 3d. a head per day, and this amount was deducted from the men's earnings. The first month we were appointed we insisted in having public tenders invited, and that the Government should call for a contract for larger rations than the men had been accustomed to receive. For instance, the men were getting only a pound of beef, and we thought that they should receive a pound and a half, seeing that they were working hard. The Colonial Secretary consequently invited tenders, and some thirteen or fourteen persons tendered for the supply of the rations at prices varying from 1s. 1d. to 1s. 9d. per head. The tender at 1s. 1d. was accepted. It effected a saving of £30 a day at that time, or £1,000 a month. It was all in favour of the men, because they had larger rations and less money to pay.
3225. Do you know when you were appointed to the Casual Labour Board? On the 2nd May, 1887.
3226. You say that you have since received no salary or emolument of any kind? I have not.
3227. Do you expect to receive any? Most certainly I do.
3228. Can you tell the Committee what you expect? I expect to receive the ordinary fees given to members of Boards.
3229. I suppose you will make a claim for the amount? No doubt.
3230. Were you appointed to the Legislative Council before you were appointed to the position? I gave eight months service before I was appointed to the Legislative Council. I do not expect to be paid for a period since I have been a member of that Chamber, but I expect to be paid for my services prior to the date of my appointment.
3231. Can you give the Committee the date on which you commenced to use the unemployed upon the property of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, and upon the Holt-Sutherland Estate? The papers will give you the dates.
3232. Which papers? The papers laid upon the table.
3233. Could you not tell us the month? It would be impossible for me to say from memory. There are twenty or thirty different places where these men were working.
3234. You say that you took the men away from the clearing of the National Park and put them on to these roads on the Holt-Sutherland Estate and other places? Yes.
3235. You thought that was a judicious course in the public interest? Yes.
3236. Were you not aware that there were miles and miles of roads through Government subdivisions upon which you could have employed these men? I was not.
3237. You were not? No, I applied to the Lands Department. I applied for information in reference to the different Crown lands subdivisions with a view to their being improved by the Board. Our desire was to obtain some return to the Crown for the moneys we were expending.
3238. Were these applications of yours in writing? No, they were verbal applications to the Minister direct.
3239. They will not be shown on the printed papers? Some of them may be, but not all of them. I spoke to Mr. Garrett personally. I went to see him purposely.
3240. You are aware now that hundreds of miles of roads could have been cleared and formed, and if it were necessary to find employment, metalled, upon Government subdivisions at Harbord, the Field of Mars, and other places? I am not aware, as we have done so in all the places you refer to. We have carried out the same work as at Narrabeen, only perhaps not to so large an extent.
3241. Did you make any roads upon the Heathcote subdivision? We are making them there. The sale took place prior to the Board's appointment.
3242. But you have made roads since? We are making some now.
3243. When did you commence? The work has been in hand for some time past. For some six or eight months. It is only a small subdivision.
3244. What I want to get at is this: Are you not aware that there were any number of roads from Crown lands subdivisions upon which the so-called unemployed could have been employed instead of their being employed upon these private estates? No. Such places as you mention do not exist. No Crown lands subdivisions other than those through which we have made roads have existed during the time I have had charge of the unemployed.
3245. How many chains have you cleared and formed at Harbord? At least 2 miles. There is a good deal of cutting through hard rock.
3246. You can hardly be expected to know how many chains remain uncompleted? I could not say.
3247. Are there not any number of incomplete roads upon the Government subdivisions of Harbord, Gordon, Heathcote, and the Field of Mars? All the roads in the subdivision have been cleared and formed as far as the Field of Mars is concerned. There have been 69 miles of roads cleared on the Field of Mars Common by the Casual Labour Board.
3248. Is that since you took charge? Yes. 44 miles have been cleared and formed, and in addition to this three bridges, twenty-nine culverts, and six crossings have been made.
3249. How many chains have been metalled? I do not think any metalling has been done.
3250. Do you mean upon any of the subdivisions? There is some on some of them, but I could not say what quantity. As far as Harbord is concerned the roads made by the Casual Labour Board there are ballasted and metalled.

Hon.
J. Davies,
C.M.G.,
M.L.C.
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3251. Are there not miles and miles of roads through Government subdivisions which are not formed and ballasted? I am not aware of that. Wherever we have had a Crown lands subdivision we have thought it our duty in the public interest to form a road. I do not know of any subdivision upon which we have neglected to do this.
3252. Do you know whether all the roads on the Heathcote subdivision have been formed and metalled? No; because there was a sale prior to the appointment of the Board. The land was simply cleared.
3253. Are all the roads through the unsold portions cleared, formed, and metalled? The roads are in course of formation.
3254. I suppose the same answer would apply to all the Government subdivisions? Yes, much the same.
3255. These roads were there for you to go on with at the time you commenced on these private estates? Yes; but the unsold portions are very small.
3256. I suppose you know that there are over 4,000 acres at Gordon? Yes; but the subdivision roads have been cleared and formed.
3257. How many are there on the Liverpool Common? About 30 or 40 acres. We are waiting for ministerial authority for that work.
3258. *Mr. Copeland.*] Can you say when the petition for the clearing of the railway track to the noxious trades site was presented to you? I could not say.
3259. When was it dealt with by you? On the 2nd of June, 1887.
3260. What difficulty existed in the way of your putting the men on to clear that track? The survey of the line of railway was not completed.
3261. Did you take any steps to get the survey made? Yes.
3262. What steps did you take? I communicated with the Railway Department, asking them to hurry on the survey, as we had authority to clear the track.
3263. Is there any letter in the printed papers showing your request? The request was made to Mr. Sutherland direct.
3264. Not by letter? No.
3265. It was a personal application? Yes. I had to make a great many at that time. Having regard to the number of men who were flocking in at the time, I could not wait for the usual red-tape routine.
3266. Have you, since June, 1887, made any application to get this survey work completed? Yes. I have seen the Minister three or four times about it. He subsequently gave instructions to the surveyors, and they have been at work for about three months.
3267. Then I should think they have completed the survey? It is not quite complete, I think.
3268. Although they have been three months at the work? Yes, off and on.
3269. Have you employed any men upon the portion of the track which has already been surveyed? No; it would not be a prudent thing for me to attempt to clear the track until the survey had been approved. I think it is a national work, and that it ought to be pushed on with great speed. I am quite in sympathy with the petitioners.
3270. Have you formed any estimate as to the increased value of the Holt-Sutherland Estate by reason of the making of these roads? I have not. That is a question which would not arise so far as I am concerned.
3271. You have no opinion to express upon that point? No.
3272. You said as a reason why the Coronulla Beach Road should be made was that thousands of people visited the seaside? Yes.
3273. When you said thousands I suppose you did not mean thousands literally? What I said was that thousands of people visited the locality in holiday time; they come by rail, and drive out in private traps and in 'buses; I have myself seen 500 people upon the beach.
3274. On one day? Yes.
3275. *Chairman.*] Was it a picnic? There were a number of private picnics. The people came out in buggies or traps.
3276. It was not a public picnic? Not that I know of.
3277. *Mr. Copeland.*] What is the general traffic on that road? There is a good deal of traffic upon it. On a Sunday when I have been out there I have seen as many as forty or fifty buggies upon that road.
3278. Have you seen that number on this one road? Well, on the beach.
3279. And have you at the same time seen other buggies on other roads? There is a good deal of traffic of the ordinary kind on the Port Hacking Road.
3280. The whole of the traffic on that estate would have first of all to cross at Tom Ugly's Point? Well, those who came by rail would not need to do that.
3281. Have you any idea as to the amount of traffic crossing in the punt? No; I have seen it frequently loaded with traps coming across; I have been on it myself when there have been three or four vehicles.
3282. Would you be surprised to hear that the total number of coaches, carriages, and buggies, and so forth, that crossed at Tom Ugly's Point both ways amounted to only 109 for the whole of the month of November? I could not say whether that is so.
3283. Would you be surprised to hear that there were 279 carts and waggons, and that there were in addition to that 128 coaches, carriages, and buggies, making a total of 407 vehicles? I could not have any knowledge upon that point. I do not know what number of vehicles would be likely to cross.
3284. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Do you know a road leading from the Loftus platform right through the middle of the park called the Lady Carrington Road? I am not aware of any such road. The road leading from the Loftus platform is called the Audley Road.
3285. At all events there is a well-defined road in the centre of the park? Yes.
3286. It is also reached by the Illawarra railway? Yes; the railway goes right through the park.
3287. So that passengers to the park have ready access by the Illawarra railway, by a branch railway, and by the Audley Road? Yes.
3288. All of these give direct access to the park? Yes.

WORK OF UNEMPLOYED ON ROADS AT HOLT-SUTHERLAND ESTATE.

APPENDIX.

A.

[To Evidence of Frederick Wells.]

THE chief object I have in view, ultimately, is to draft the men off in parties of 400 to 600 to permanent works where their labour may be of value to the country, and from which they may be gradually absorbed (or, at least, a portion of them) by private employers.

In furtherance of this object, work will be provided in the Northern, Southern, and Western divisions of the Colony, in making tanks, works for irrigation purposes, deepening water-courses, and the like. Besides these works, commenced sooner than they might have been under other circumstances, but still of a legitimate character, there will be the construction of the North Shore Railway within a short time, and the conversion of the Lachlan Swamp into a public park, and some limited employment under municipal bodies.

By these various means it is hoped that employment may be found shortly for all industrious men, and that the difficulty will be practically removed.

In the meantime, I wish a kind of Labour Bureau opened in Sydney, where a proper register shall be placed in charge of a careful and trustworthy person. I assume that a suitable office may be obtained in Hyde Park Barracks, and one of the clerks there hitherto employed may be detailed off for this duty. In this register the name of every applicant must be entered, with the following particulars:—

Name in full.
Address.
Trade or calling.
Age.
Nationality.
Married or single. If married—number and ages of children.
Date of arrival in the Colony.
Where from.
How long unemployed.
Name of last employer.
Substance of any certificate of character.

In connection with this principal office in Sydney communication will be established with local authorities in the principal country districts, with a view to obtaining employment for individuals.

All temporary assistance must be given after due inquiry, and in view of the ultimate objects arrived at.

2nd May, 1887.

HENRY PARKES.

John Davies, Esq., C.M.G.; Col. F. Wells; D. Houison, Esq.

B.

Correspondence, Minutes, &c., respecting dedication of land for Road at Hornsby.

(No. 1.)

Sir,

Surveyor-General's Office, Sydney, 18 December, 1884.
In reference to recent communications connected herewith, I have to request that you will be so good as to cause the road passing along the south side of Messrs. W. and J. Fears and S. W. Gray's land, parish of South Colah, to be laid out 1 chain wide, sending a plan thereof which may be made available hereafter, for proclamation, should that course be adopted.

I am, &c.,

P. F. ADAMS,

Surveyor-General.

F. B. W. Woolrych, Esq., District Surveyor.

Transferred to Mr. Surveyor O. F. de Rozzoli.—F. B. W. WOOLRYCH, District Surveyor, 22 December, 1884. Received, Gordon, 27 December, 1884.—O.F.R. Returned to Mr. Woolrych in accordance with memorandum of 3 May, 1886. See my memo. of same date.—O. F. DE ROZZOLI, 6 May, 1886.

The necessary data for the immediate location of the road along the south boundary of Fears and Gray's lands, South Colah, were obtained by me in connection with general surveys along the Peat's Ferry Road, and are entered in my field-books Nos. 14 and 15.—O. FARIOLA DE ROZZOLI.

Received, 8 May, 1886. Transferred to Mr. Surveyor G. H. Knibbs.—F. B. W. WOOLRYCH, 15 May, 1886. Returned to Mr. District Surveyor F. B. W. Woolrych, 12 February, 1887.—G.H.K. Received, 14 February, 1887.

Returned to the Surveyor-General with my B.C. memo. of the 16th instant on Surveyor-General's letter to Mr. Fariola de Rozzoli of 8-11 February, No. 87-3, papers 87-950, Ml.—F. B. W. WOOLRYCH, 16 February, 1887. The Acting Surveyor-General.

This instruction was returned to me in connection with the papers, Ml. 2,003-87, B.C., Instructions 87-33, to Mr. Woolrych, dated 26 February, 1887. I am verbally informed by Surveyor Perdriau that he has recently marked another road in the same locality, under the directions of the District Surveyor of the Metropolitan District, as a substitute for the road referred to within. I am further informed that the substitution was made by some mutual arrangement between the Roads Branch, the Roads Department, and the owners of the land through which the new road passes, in accordance with which the road intended to be provided along the south boundary of Messrs. Fears and Gray's grants is to be included in Messrs. Burns, Smith, and Withers' property. I have been unable to see the papers in this case; the present instructions now returned was issued in consequence of my report of 29 September, 1884, No. 27, dealing with the north boundary of the Bellamy block, now Messrs. Burns, Smith, and Withers' property.—O. FARIOLA DE ROZZOLI, 7 May, 1884.

Received 9 May, 1887.—D. M. MAITLAND. Mr. Stopps,—Any further action required in this case?—E.J.J., 10/5/87.

Will Mr. Deering please state whether anything is being done by him for provision of a road which will render unnecessary the execution of the Surveyor-General's instructions hereon?—A. J. STOPPS (for Surveyor-General), 14 May, 1887. J. W. Deering, Esq.

A road has been surveyed in substitution of the one Mr. Surveyor Fariola de Rozzoli was instructed to mark; and as agreed to by the owners of the land correspondence thereon herewith. The case has been under investigation in connection with other matters, or the plan and report would have been transmitted sooner.—JOHN W. DEERING, 18 May, 1887. The Acting Surveyor-General.

(No. 2.)

Sir,

Sydney, 31 March, 1886.

You are perhaps aware that a new road has been surveyed by the Government in the Lane Cove District between the lands of Burns, Withers, and Smith on the one side, and the lands of Fears and other proprietors on the other, for the accommodation of the public, and in particular for an approach to the new Railway Station at Hornsby.

I

* Plan I

I enclose herewith a sketch of the plan* of the road and locality, and would suggest for your consideration that, as the line to Hornsby will be opened for traffic soon after the completion of the Railway Bridge now in course of construction over Parramatta River, and as the road will enhance the value of adjacent Crown lands, which, I understand, will be brought into the market some time this year, steps should be taken as early as may be practicable for clearing and forming the said road.

I am, &c.,
J. F. BURNS.

The Chief Commissioner for Roads

Acknowledge receipt. Mr. Logan, 5/4. Acknowledged, 5/4/86. Mr. Symonds for report. Could not the unemployed be put at work here?—W.C.B., 1/4/86. J. Symonds, B.C.

Having visited the locality, I find no road marked as indicated on sketch; nor would a road in this position be of any present use to the public, as there is not a person living on the back lands to make use of it. No provision is made for crossing the rail at this point, which, being here in embankment, would require a heavy embanked approach and an expensive culvert adjoining.—J.S., 15/5/86. The Commissioner for Roads.

Resubmit with plans and memo. left by Mr. Burns.—W.C.B., 17/5/86. Plan herewith, 17/5/86. Mr. Symonds,—See me when next in office.—W.C.B., 18/5/86. Memo. to Mr. Symonds, 19/5/86. Resubmit. Further report herewith on separate sheet.—J.S., 21/5/86. Commissioner for Roads.

(No. 3.)

Sir,

Roads Office, St. Leonards, 21 June, 1886.

Re paper 86-3,215 herewith, proposing the opening of a road to Crown lands in the parishes of Gordon and South Colah, from a point on Peat's Ferry Road, near the Hornsby Railway Station.

Having made inquiry on the above matter, I cannot ascertain that any road has actually been surveyed in the position mentioned; but having seen Mr. J. F. Burns on the matter, learn that he in company with others concerned are quite willing to give facility for a road to be surveyed through their property (before subdivision) on to Crown lands lying at the rear of same.

The road as first proposed by Mr. Burns I cannot recommend, but about a quarter of a mile south of that line there is a good position for a road. At this point is a bridge crossing the railway, and I can recommend this as the best position for a road giving access to the Crown lands in that locality, from a point on the Peat's Ferry Road near the proposed Junction Station at Hornsby.

On the accompanying sketch and plan*, I have approximately marked with red dotted line the course of a line of proposed road that would give the best access to the abovementioned Crown lands. This would run in a direct line nearly due east from Peat's Ferry Road over the Railway Bridge above mentioned, keeping the crest of the ridge as far as practicable, and then trending in a south-easterly direction on to the northern boundary of the Vanceville Estate (part of Hyndes' 2,000 acres) through which a road could be continued to join the road locally known as the Great Eastern Road, which has been improved by this Department.

* Plans II and III.

A road in this position would cross nearly at the head of several creeks running towards Cowan, but in one or two places it would be advisable, to get better grades and reduce cost of construction, to carry the road a little more to the south on to private land; in one place for instance the boundary line of Crown lands crosses a creek just below a jump, or fall, whereas a chain higher or more southerly is a good position for a road.

From a road in the abovementioned position, branch roads could easily be carried along the several ridges.

If it is intended to bring into the market shortly any of the abovementioned Crown land, I would recommend the marking of a road as above described, and it would facilitate access if the said proposed line of road was cleared, but I would not for the present recommend construction.

I am, &c.,

JAMES SYMONDS.

The Commissioner for Roads.

This paper might go on to the Surveyor-General with a view to the marking of this road, and Mr. J. F. Burns, M.P., be informed of nature of report and action taken.—W.C.B., 22/6/86. Under Secretary. Inform Mr. Burns, M.P., and forward to Mines. Under Secretary for Mines.—J.R., B.C., 25/6/86. The Surveyor-General.—G.E.H. (for Under Secretary), B.C., 28/6/86.

Mr. District Surveyor Deering is requested to cause the road, herein referred to, to be surveyed, provided that he considers it desirable in connection with the Crown Estate, which might be subdivided for sale at some future time.—A. J. STOPPS (pro Surveyor-General), 9 July, 1886. J. W. Deering, Esq., District Surveyor.

Mr. Surveyor W. M. Gordon to survey the road referred to with a view to opening under 4 William IV No. 11, where necessary. Attention is invited to the report of Mr. Road Superintendent Symonds (herewith) pointing out that better crossings of creeks may be obtained within Hyndes' 2,000 acres than within adjoining Crown lands. Attention is also invited to the streets already laid out in the private subdivision of Hornsby Junction Estate.* Litho. herewith.—JOHN W. DEERING, Metropolitan District Surveyor, 14 July, 1886.

* Plan IV.

Received, 15 July, 1886.—W. M. GORDON. Returned to Mr. Metropolitan District Surveyor J. W. Deering, in connection with my report on letter 86-28, of the 28 October, 1886.—W. M. GORDON, Surveyor. J. W. Deering, Esq. Transferred to Mr. Surveyor Perdriau, in connection with previous instructions in the locality.—JOHN W. DEERING, 26 November, 1886. No. 3,368. Transmitted to the Metropolitan District Surveyor with plan, field-notes, and my letter, dated 14 February, No. 87-14.—STEPHEN E. PERDRIAU, Government Surveyor.

(No. 4.)

No. 1,786.

District Survey Office, Department of Lands, Sydney, 14 July, 1886.

In connection with separate instructions, No. 1,785 of this day's date, having reference to survey of a proposed parish road, I beg to invite your attention to the Crown land* shown upon accompanying litho., near the Hornsby Junction, and to request that you will be good enough to submit a design for the subdivision of the Crown land referred to with a view to an early sale of the same at public auction.

J. W. DEERING,

Metropolitan District Surveyor.

To W. M. Gordon, Esq., Temporary Salaried Surveyor.

Received.—W. M. GORDON, 15/7/86. Returned to Mr. Metropolitan District Surveyor J. W. Deering, in connection with my report in letter 86-28 of 28 October, 1886.—W. M. GORDON, Surveyor. J. W. Deering, Esq. Transferred to Mr. Surveyor Perdriau, in connection with previous instructions in the locality, No. 3,367.—J. W. DEERING, 26 November, 1886. Instructions, No. 86-1,785 and 86-3,368 enclosed. Transferred to Metropolitan District Surveyor with plan, field-notes, and my letter, dated 14 February, 1887.—STEPHEN E. PERDRIAU, Government Surveyor.

(No. 5.)

Roads, Sydney, 17 September, 1886.

MR. BURNS, M.P., called to urge the clearing of roads, Peat's Ferry, near Hornsby Railway Station. The papers in the case have been sent by Survey Department to District Surveyor Deering, for survey of road.

P.J.O., 17/9/86.

Commissioner.

Mr. Smith,—To see me when next in office.—W.C.B., 18/9/86. Inform Mr. Burns,—That where the road is aligned by Survey Department, the clearing will be done.—W.C.B., 27/9/86. Mr. Logan, 27/9/86. J. F. Burns, Esq., M.P., 29/9/86. File, 29/9/86.

(No. 6.)

* Hatched blue on litho.—J.W.D.

(No. 6.)

Department of Public Works, Office of Commissioner and Engineer for Roads,

Sir,

Sydney, 29 September, 1886.

Referring to your representations respecting necessity of clearing road, Peat's Ferry, near Hornsby Railway Station, I have to inform you that the papers relating to the road in question have been sent by the Survey Department to Mr. Deering, District Surveyor, for survey of road. When road is aligned by Survey Department the clearing will be done.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM C. BENNETT,

Commissioner and Engineer for Roads.

J. F. Burns, Esq., M.P.

(No. 7.)

Sir,

75, Elizabeth-street, Sydney, 27 October, 1886.

I have the honor to inquire when the road through Government land on the northern side of the land of Burns, Withers, and Smith, to Peat's Ferry Road, will be surveyed. I have already had a communication from your Department on the subject, numbered 86-236, Road, S.-G.O., but it does not appear, as far as I can learn, that any action has been taken in reference to the survey.

I am, &c.,

J. F. BURNS.

The Hon. The Minister for Mines.

Acknowledge.—G.E.H. (for Under Secretary). Acknowledged, 27/10/86. The Surveyor-General.—*Pro* G.E.H. (for the Under Secretary), B.C., 27/10/86. Will Mr. Deering please state what action has been taken towards survey of the road herein referred to, and when plan of same may be expected.—A. J. STOPPS (for Surveyor-General), 28 October, 1886. J. W. Deering, Esq., Metropolitan District Surveyor.

(No. 8.)

Sir,

75, Elizabeth-street, Sydney, 16 November, 1886.

With reference to my letter of the 8th July, 1885, addressed to the Surveyor-General, and to your communication to me of the 29th August following, numbered 85-1,615, I beg now to state, for your information, that as it appears the Government would much prefer a direct road from Peat's Ferry Road across the Railway Bridge at Hornsby, through the lands of Burns, Withers, and Smith, to the Crown lands adjoining, in lieu of the road we first mutually agreed upon, Burns, Withers, and Smith are prepared to assent to the proposed change provided that the new line is surveyed and cleared for traffic in a reasonable time, and that the Government relinquish all claim in respect of the former line.

I have, &c.,

J. F. BURNS.

The Under Secretary for Lands.

Mr. J. W. Deering, in connection with previous papers in the case, referring to instructions 86-57 and 86-100.—A. J. STOPPS (for Surveyor-General), 24 November, 1886. Mr. J. W. Deering, Metropolitan District Surveyor. *Vide* instructions on paper S.-G.O., 1886-236/1 herewith.—JOHN W. DEERING, 26 November, 1886.

(No. 9.)

Sir,

Sydney, 14 February, 1887.

In compliance with instructions No. 86-3,367 and 3,368 (on Rds. 86-236/4 and 86-236/1), dated 26th November, 1886, I have the honor to transmit herewith the plan* and field-notes of my survey of a road 1 chain wide crossing W. Bellamy's 100 acres (now the property of J. F. Burns, G. Withers, and R. B. Smith), parish of South Colah, county of Cumberland. * Plan V.

2. The road crosses the Bellamy block, in a direct line from the Peat's Ferry Road to Crown land crossing the Homebush-Waratah Railway at the first overhead bridge past Hornsby Junction towards Waratah. It is parallel to the north boundary of Hyndes' 2,000 acre grant, as recently marked by Mr. Licensed-Surveyor Dawson, and approved by the Department.

3. This road has been given to the Crown by Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, in lieu of the road first proposed to be dedicated along the northern boundary of the Bellamy block, between it and Cody and Fears' grants, it having been pointed out by Mr. Road-Superintendent Symonds that the latter would be more expensive to make.

4. I have shown my plan of the road to Mr. J. F. Burns, and he approved of it on behalf of his company.

5. The eastern boundary of Bellamy's grant has not been redetermined by the Department since the original survey of the grant in 1854 by Licensed-Surveyor Raper. In the absence of very conclusive evidence to the contrary it will be a line parallel to the western boundary (which has been recently redetermined), and distant therefrom about 4,037 links (the distance depends upon old marking recently found and identified). But the present owners of the grant in their application for a title under the Real Property Act, adopting the western boundary above mentioned have applied for only 4,000 links in width. The eastern boundary being parallel to the western boundary.

6. On the sketch plan accompanying his letter No. 86-28 of 23th October, 1886, Mr. Surveyor Gordon shows "line surveyed by Dawson as east boundary of Bellamy's." This line has been marked by holes in rock and blazed trees by Mr. Gordon. I have proved by survey that this line where it is intersected by the road surveyed by me bears $188^{\circ} 49' 15''$ (Trig.), whereas the bearing of the approved western boundary adopted by Surveyor Dawson is $189^{\circ} 39' 30''$, a difference of $50'$.

7. I have consulted Mr. Dawson on this matter, though from the above evidence it was almost unnecessary, and I find that the statement on Mr. Gordon's sketch plan, "line surveyed by Dawson as east boundary of Bellamy's," is founded on supposition, and that Mr. Dawson marked no line for the eastern boundary of Bellamy's grant.

8. It is manifestly unfair of Mr. Gordon to make such a haphazard statement as this, when it jeopardizes the professional reputation of a private surveyor, Mr. Dawson, by representing that he had made an unpardonable mistake. Mr. Dawson has the name of being a reliable surveyor; his plan accompanying application for a title under the Real Property Act shows the eastern and western boundaries parallel and 4,000 links apart.

9. I have taken no steps towards the rectification of the boundary, but have merely marked the stake and cairn of stones, the intersections of both sides of the road, with the line marked by Mr. Gordon, as that line is east rather than west of its true position, the land to the east being Crown land.

I have, &c.,

STEPHEN E. PERDRIAU,

Government Surveyor.

The Metropolitan District Surveyor.

R. 3,210-1,603, large flat. Papers, S.-G.O., 86-236/1; instructions, Nos. 86-1,785, 1,786, 3,367, and 3,368; also plan and field-notes herewith.—S.E.P., 14/2/87. Transmitted. *Vide* my memo. of 18 May, 1887, on accompanying paper,—Roads 86-236/5.—JOHN W. DEERING, 18 May, 1887.

(No. 10.)

Road within Bellamy's 100 acres, parish of South Colah.

It is recommended that the accompanying tracing, and form of dedication of the road therein referred to be sent to the Honorable J. F. Burns, as representing Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, the owners of the land, and he be asked to cause both to be signed and returned to the Department, that notification of dedication might be made in the *Government Gazette*.

ED. TWYMAN,

1 July, 1887.

Submitted for approval.—S.F., 22/7/87. Approved.—T.G., 23/7/87. Hon. J. F. Burns, M.P., with tracing, &c., 3/8/87.

[Enclosure.]

[Enclosure.]

Department of Lands, Sydney, 19 August, 1887.
 THE following notification of the dedication of a portion of land for a road in the parish of South Colah, county of Cumberland, is published for general information.
 [Roads 86-236/7.]

THOMAS GARRETT.

NOTICE is hereby given that we, the undersigned, being the present owners of a portion of land containing 100 acres, in the parish of South Colah, county of Cumberland, originally held by W. Bellamy, do hereby dedicate a part of that land 1 chain in width for the use of the public in the position as surveyed by Mr. Surveyor Perdriau, and shown on plan which is deposited in the Roads Branch of the Surveyor-General's Office, Sydney.

Witness to signature of J. F. Burns, George }
 Withers, and R. Burdett Smith,— }

J. F. BURNS.
 G. WITHERS.
 R. BURDETT SMITH.

ERN. GEO. HAYES.

(No. 11.)

Sir, Department of Lands, Sydney, 3 August, 1887.
 With reference to the road within Mr. Bellamy's 100 acres grant, parish of South Colah, county of Cumberland, I am directed by the Secretary for Lands to forward the accompanying tracing and form of dedication of the road therein referred to, and to request you to be good enough to cause both to be signed and returned to this Department, in order that notification of dedication may be made in the *Government Gazette*.

I have, &c.,
 STEPHEN FREEMAN,
 (For the Under Secretary.)

The Honorable J. F. Burns, Esq., M.P.

(No. 12.)

Sir, Sydney, 11 August, 1887.
 In sending you, as I do herewith, the within approval of Burns, Withers, and Smith, of the plan of the road through their land from Peat's Ferry Road *via* the Railway Bridge at Hornsby to adjoining Crown lands, I think right to remind you that it is obligatory on the part of the Government to extend the road to the Great Eastern or Vanceville Road, and to put it in fair passable condition for traffic.

I have, &c.,
 J. F. BURNS.

The Honorable the Minister for Lands.

Provision will be made for the extension of the road dedicated by Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, in Bellamy's 100-acre grant, but there is nothing in the papers to show that there was any promise or undertaking by the Crown to make the road or its extension fit for traffic as desired by them.—A. J. STOPPS (for Surveyor-General), 26 August, 1887. The Commissioner and Engineer for Roads.

Mr. Symonds for report.—W.C.B., 31/8/87. J. Symonds, B.C. I inspected this line of road on the 12th instant, and find that the work of clearing, culverting, &c., has been undertaken by the Casual Labour Board, who have a number of men employed upon it.—J. SYMONDS, 14/9/87. Commissioner for Roads. Surveyor General.—W.C.B., B.C., 15/9/87. Mr. Bransby, for gazettal.—A.J.S., 18 Aug., 1887. Gazettal notified, 19 Aug., 1887.

(No. 13.)

Memorandum (dedication) by Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith.

NOTICE is hereby given that we, the undersigned, being the present owners of a portion of land containing 100 acres, in the parish of South Colah, county of Cumberland, originally held by W. Bellamy, do hereby dedicate a part of that land 1 chain in width for the use of the public, in the position as surveyed by Mr. Surveyor Perdriau, and shown on plan catalogued R. 3,210-1,603, which is deposited in the Roads Branch of the Surveyor-General's Office, Sydney.

J. F. BURNS.
 G. WITHERS.
 R. BURDETT SMITH

Witness to the signatures of J. F. Burns, George }
 Withers, and R. Burdett Smith,— }

ERN. G. HAYES.

Notified 19 August, 1887, folio 5,444.

(No. 14.)

[EXTRACT from *Sunday Times*, 8 January, 1888.]

HOW THE TREASURY IS LOOTED—BURNS' LITTLE GAME—TWO MILES AND A HALF OF ROAD AT THE PUBLIC EXPENSE—HOW TO IMPROVE A PROPERTY.

IT is a natural and just punishment of all forms of corruption that its gains are overstated by the sufferers. "If Becky Sharp," says Mr. Thackeray in *Vanity Fair*, "had really obtained all the money she was credited with having begged and borrowed, she might have capitalised and have been a rich woman; whereas—" So no doubt if Mr. Burns really had the 17,000 acres, worth £500 per acre, in the Hornsby District with which the local inhabitants credit him, and it really had been improved from an original value of £4 an acre to £500 an acre by the labour of the unemployed, he would necessarily have netted the princely fortune of about £3,000,000 sterling. As a matter of fact, of course, he has not 17,000 acres there nor anything approaching it, nor is the land worth or ever likely to be worth £500 an acre. On the contrary, some of the land nearer the station was recently sold at an upset price of about £40 per acre; and though it brought in many instances a great advance on that figure, yet it gave no warrant for the valuation Mr. Burns' neighbours put upon his land or upon the amount by which it has been improved. He has, however, only himself to blame for the exaggerated ideas which his neighbours have formed of the extent of his property and of his gains.

The truth of the case is that the "unemployed," as the poor hard-working, half-starved labourers on the relief works are oddly called, have been used for the purpose of making and forming a road marked Junction-street on the plan on page 5, to which the property of Mr. Burns has a frontage of 2 miles. Properly speaking, the main road should have been that which led through Government property, which is marked on the plan Boundary Road. That road, however, has only been cleared, and not formed; consequently it will remain useless, and Junction-street will become for all purposes the main road of the district. Thus Mr. Burns finds his property transformed from a piece of uncleared bush-land into a handsome block fronting for 2 miles a main road made at the public expense which ought to have been made elsewhere. The actual value of the labour thus misemployed is only a few hundred pounds, but the extra value given to his land by putting the road in the wrong place is enormous.

To secure that Junction-street shall be the main road for all time, and that the increase in the Burns' profits shall be permanent, another street has been cut half a mile in length along the end of this gentleman's property, for the site of which he gave 4 acres of land—that is to say, just sufficient to make a clear half a mile of road 1 chain wide. The "unemployed" did the work, and he thus gets another half a mile of frontage to a valuable road at the public expense. The labourers on the relief works were then employed in cutting a short section of the Burns Road to join a fourth Government road which crosses the Vanceville Estate and the new *North Shore Railway* into the Lane Cove Road. Thus for ever and ever the way from Lane Cove is led around the end of the Burns Estate into Junction-street, and the Burns interests are as secure as the sharpest dodger in Christendom can make them.

The

The North Shore Railway, it will be seen, skirts the land, and the roads made by Government on the border of this private estate give ready access to the railway. Now, these two works operating together will undoubtedly make the Burns property exceedingly valuable. It may not be worth £500 an acre, but its contiguity to the railway on one side, to the main road on the other, thus forced out of its way, and the Government roads with which it has been so artfully bordered, will give it a value far exceeding that which the Government land in the vicinity had at the time the last Crown lands sale was held in that district. The remarkable fact also must be remembered that the North Shore Railway was the only line of all those which the late Assembly had decided to build that the present Government adopted. Why was this? Was it because Mr. Burns had this magnificent property to be opened up? Was it because the Society with which Mr. Burns was connected had been very kind to the Premier in the matter of loans on the leased land which has been so often discussed by reason of the Macnamara case? Was it solely out of gratitude because the St. Leonards electors had placed Sir Henry Parkes at the head of the poll, and because he found himself unable to give them the bridge which he promised as the price of their suffrages?

Whichever way it was settled, and whatever the reasons were that controlled the settlement, there is no doubt of the ultimate and actual result. The Government roads have been made at the public expense to skirt Mr. Burns' property, and to give it a frontage which it would not have had in the natural order of things, and to open it up on all sides in a way which is enormously to his advantage, and in some degree to that of another Minister with whose case we shall deal later on. It must not be forgotten that the rapacity of certain landowners whose ground would have to be taken or crossed for the purposes of the North Shore Railway has for several years blocked the construction of the line. Those landowners are for the most part as obstructive and as rapacious as ever. But the rapacity of a landowner is no bar to the expenditure of public money by Sir Henry Parkes—quite the contrary. He is, as we all know, above pecuniary considerations, and wastes with equal nonchalance the money of his country or the money of his creditors. The only money with which he never was liberal was his own.

(No. 15.)

ROAD at Hornsby through W. Bellamy's, now Burns, Withers, and Smith's 100 acres, and through Crown lands for sale.—No. 125, 17th January, 1888.

1. In accordance with the request of the Under Secretary for Lands, the following *précis* report is submitted.
2. Tracing herewith in illustration.
3. In 1884 certain surveys of Old Grant boundaries disclosed strong evidence that a strip of Crown land existed along the north boundary of Bellamy's 100-acre grant (Aln. 84-4,045).
4. It was proposed to utilise this strip of land for the purpose of a road; but after further inspection by an officer of Public Works Department, a better road was found a quarter of a mile further to the south, and where a bridge over the railway had already been erected. This bridge was in the best possible position to connect the main Peat's Ferry Road and Hornsby Station with the Crown land to the eastward, about to be subdivided for sale at public auction (Roads, 86-236/1).
5. All that was required was that the owners of Bellamy's 100 acres should consent to the road being taken through that land. The owners did consent, upon the condition that "the new line is surveyed and cleared for traffic in a reasonable time, and that the Government relinquish all claim in respect of the former line of proposed road" (Roads, 1886-236/2).
6. The dedication of the road was soon afterwards signed by the owners without any proviso as to the clearing being inserted (Roads, 1886-236/7); and on 19th August, 1887, dedication was officially published in the *Government Gazette*.
7. Early in 1887 the Crown land, coloured green upon enclosed tracing, was subdivided for sale at public auction (Aln. 87-4,039), and upon receipt of the plan, lithos. were forwarded by me to the Under Secretary for Lands suggesting that the leading roads through the surveyed but unsold Crown lands should be cleared and grubbed, whilst a part of the unemployed were in the locality (5th May, 1887, Misc. 87-5,757).

This suggestion received Ministerial approval on the same date and paper; and the Casual Labour Board were requested to carry out the work, and to continue the clearing of the road bounding the Crown lands through to the Eastern Road (Misc. 87-5,757), in order to afford access to the Crown lands for sale, and in accordance with previous similar action at the Field of Mars, at Como, at Heathcote, at Dobroyd, at Gordon, and at Peakhurst, George's River. It also became necessary to clear and form the surveyed and proclaimed road through Bellamy's 100 acres in order to give good access to the Crown lands for sale, from the Hornsby Railway Station and as was done at the Field of Mars, in connection with adjoining roads. The only roads authorized or requested to be cleared, &c., by any officer of the Department of Lands, were those referred to, viz.:—The roads through the public estate, about to be sold including the road from the Hornsby Railway Station through and along Crown lands to the Eastern or Vanceville Road.

8. After perusing an article in a newspaper called the *Sunday Times* of 8th January, 1888, and which is both malicious and untrue, it is only just and right to state that whilst the clearing operations were under consideration or proceeding, not the slightest communication was received by me from Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith. The work was initiated solely by myself, and solely in the interests of the Crown who alone I serve; I neither knew of, nor cared about the lands of Burns, Withers, and Smith. At the present time I have no knowledge of any of the properties of that firm, beyond the Hornsby Junction Estate (in a different direction to those roads cleared) and Bellamy's 100 acres, and which I only learned was their property by reason of the negotiation for the survey and opening of the road first referred to.

My only aim was to improve the Crown lands for sale, and obtain a better return for the Public Revenue; and the properties of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith are matters of indifference to me, and never for one moment became an element of consideration; nor would any consideration for any person, or persons existing, of any class or degree whatsoever, induce me to depart an iota from my public duty to the Crown.

JOHN W. DEERING,
Metropolitan District Surveyor.

(No. 16.)

Minute Paper.

Subject:—Roads cleared by the unemployed at Hornsby.

Roads, Sydney, 10 February, 1888.

I HAVE examined the locality of Hornsby, and the road works done by the Department and the unemployed.

The road from the Main or Junction Road to the Peat's Ferry Road has been cleared at private cost by the owners of land on either side.

The Boundary Road, which has been cleared to show more definitely the Crown lands, is impracticable, unless at a large outlay, and has no direct access to the station, as private property intervenes. This Boundary Road, crossing the gullies low down, has undulations which can only be made passable at great cost, and even then with very steep grades and expensive bridges over the gullies which intersect it.

To obviate this, on the representations of the officers of the Survey Department, Junction-street was made the main road to those back lands from the station, the owners of the lands, Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, having given five roads, which have all been cleared so as to give access to eligible points for their extension along summits of ranges through the expanse of Crown lands to Cowan Creek. By this arrangement the public estate is decidedly benefited, as easy roads with practicable grades are obtained to the Crown land, and direct access given to the station without necessity of passing through other private property.

The Vanceville Road, joining this Junction Road, was made by the Department two years ago as far as Billyard Road or street, and was recently extended by the unemployed to afford direct access by one of the short branch roads to the Crown lands from the Lane Cove Road and the Gordon Railway Station. One of the other two cross roads recently cleared was to give direct access from the church and junction of the Lane Cove Road and Peat's Ferry Road, Pearce's Corner, to the Crown lands. The other intermediate road gives access from Lane Cove Road half way between Gordon and Hornsby to the land in question, all will be ultimately required, and will enhance the value of the Crown land beyond by rendering it easy of access, and have been located in the best positions, and are now defined by the clearing, instead of their selection in the future being hampered by sale of allotments through which it might be necessary to force the roads at considerable cost for compensation and fencing.

If

Plan VI.

If it had been possible to exercise this provision and precaution in other cases, miles of bad road, large outlay for works and compensation would have been saved, and larger revenue from land sales would have been secured.

Had this land been reserved Crown land, not to be sold, all the roads would have been desirable in the interests of the Crown land beyond, and I fail to see why the possession of the private property in question by private individuals should be a bar to necessary improvements because they incidentally enhanced its value.

W.C.B., 13/2/88.

Under Secretary, B.C. Submitted.—J.R., 16/2/88. Seen.—J.S., 23/2/88. Seen.—W.C.B., 23/2/88. Roads.—J.R., B.C., 28/2/88.

C.

Hornsby to St. Leonards Railway—Fixing Sites for Stations.

Department of Public Works, Railway Branch,

Engineer-in-Chief's Office, Sydney, 10 December, 1888.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward herewith copies of the correspondence on the subject of fixing the station site at 1 mile 40 chains on the Hornsby to St. Leonards Railway, as requested.

I have, &c.,

JOHN WHITTON.

Thomas Walker, Esq., M.P., Chairman of Select Committee on Work of Unemployed, Hornsby and Holt-Sutherland Estate.

Minute Paper.

Subject :—Hornsby to St. Leonards Railway—Fixing Sites for Stations.

Department of Public Works, Railway Branch,

Engineer-in-Chief's Office, Sydney, 17 April, 1888.

I HAVE the honor to inform the Minister that my minutes of the 7th February and 7th March, requesting that the sites for the stations on the Hornsby-St. Leonards Railway should be fixed, and pointing out the urgency of the matter, still remain unanswered.

W. H. QUODLING,

(For the Engineer-in-Chief).

The Hon. the Minister for Works.

Proposed Stations on Hornsby to North Shore Line.

As directed by the Commissioner's minute of 13/1/88, I have gone through this line and inspected the places proposed for stations, numbered 1 to 9 on Commissioner's paper.

No. 1. (1 mile 40 chains)—Is in proper place.

No. 2. (2 miles 40 chains)—This is also in proper place so far as the grade is concerned, although I think it would be a little more central for inhabitants if it was few chains nearer Sydney, viz.:—At Great Eastern Road, but grade is not favourable for a good yard, being on a 1 in 80 grade.

No. 3. (3 miles 30 chains)—Near Cornell's,—This is most unsuitable place for platform or siding, the grade is steep and the place unapproachable, as it is on the side of a steep hill.

No. 4. (3 miles 65 chains)—This is on a 1 in 50 grade and most unsuitable for station yard, and the residents at or near this place will have only about a mile to cart their produce to a really good station yard at "Gordon"—a platform only might be erected at where line crosses the main road, but even this is objectionable, as it is on the long bank of 1 in 50 grade.

Nos. 5 & 6.—Are very suitable places for stations or platform—No. 5. Gordon—a large area of land has been taken for a station yard, and it is well suited for it.

No. 7. (7 miles 35 chains) Mr. Lord's land—A suitable place for a platform, being on main road and a very easy grade.

No. 8. (8 miles 35 chains) Chatswood—A suitable place for station and siding, being centre of large population, and an easy grade.

No. 9.—Crows' Nest. Not yet decided, I believe, where to have station.

Nos. 5 & 8.—Should be provided with loops for crossing trains, as well as sidings, &c., for goods traffic.

No. 2.—Should have a siding for receiving trucks of fruit, &c. At the other places only platforms and small stations, similar to Thornleigh.

Traffic Manager.

H. RICHARDSON, 16/2/88.

For the Minister's decision.—I am making inquiry on other papers about a platform at Lord's, No. 7 on plan, 7 miles 35 chains. I should make a platform at this place conditional upon the land being given free. I think the accommodation of the various kind recommended should be given at places Nos. 1 & 2, 5 & 6, 8 & 9, perhaps No. 7 on conditions stated.—CH.A.G., 18/2/88.

I approve of Commissioner's recommendation, but No. 6 should be a station instead of a platform.—J.S., 19/4/88.

Stations and Platforms for the North Shore Railway.

Engineer-in-Chief's Office, 20 July, 1887.

I SUGGEST that an officer of the Traffic Branch should be instructed to examine the country between Hornsby and St. Leonards, and report as to the number of stations and platforms which should be provided for this railway, and the amount of accommodation at each place.

In framing the Estimates provision has been made for four platforms and two stations, and the undermentioned sites are suitable positions for the accommodation suggested, if it is considered by the Traffic Branch to be necessary, viz. :—

| m. chs. | | grade. |
|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 40 | Platform..... | $\frac{1}{100}$ — $\frac{1}{105}$ |
| 3 0 | " | $\frac{1}{60}$ |
| 5 0 | Station for Gordon | $\frac{1}{65}$ |
| 6 42 | Platform..... | $\frac{1}{132}$ |
| 8 20 | Station for Chatswood | $\frac{1}{200}$ |
| 9 66 | Platform | $\frac{1}{66}$ |

The site for the terminal station for St. Leonards is not yet determined on.

The Hon. the Minister for Works.

JOHN WHITTON.

New Platforms on Pearce's Corner to North Shore Railway.

[Extract from Report of Traffic Inspector H. Richardson, dated 17/8/87.]

I HAVE made a visit to this line, and travelled it through from Hornsby to North Shore. I scarcely see the necessity for two platforms within 3 miles of Hornsby; the one at 1 mile 40 chains I consider too close to the junction, and the one proposed at 3 miles is not on a suitable spot, as the grade is 1 in 60. What I would propose is one platform and siding only between Hornsby and Gordon, and I would place it at 2 miles 38 chains on a grade of 1 in 132; the station to be approached from main road by Cherry Road—a distance of only about 10 chains from main road. A station at 2 miles 38 chains would be the centre of large population, and the few residing midway between Hornsby and 2 miles 38 chains would have less than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to travel to a station on either side of them. Only a small station, similar to Thornleigh on the Hawkesbury Line, is what is required with siding—say, for twelve or fourteen waggons.

[To Evidence of J. F. Burns.]

D.

Gentlemen,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 29 August, 1885.

With reference to your letter of the 8th ultimo, respecting an application to be made for a certificate of title under the Real Property Act, for certain lands in the Lane Cove District, parishes of Gordon and South Colah, I am directed to inform you that no objection will be raised on the part of the Crown to the issue of the required certificate of title, in virtue of Bellamy's grants, to the land extending about 59 chains southerly, as per deed lengths, from the south side of a road 1 chain wide running along the south boundary of Fears and Gray's grants.

Messrs. Burns, Withers, & Smith,
Care of J. F. Burns, Esq., M.P., Regent-street, Paddington.

I have, &c.,
CHARLES OLIVER,
Under Secretary.

[To Evidence of J. F. Burns.]

E.

PROPOSED PARK AT HORNSBY.

A NUMEROUSLY signed Petition, of which the following is a copy, has been presented by Mr. J. S. Farnell, M.L.A., to the Minister for Lands:—"Hornsby, July, 1887,—To the Hon. Thomas Garrett, M.P., Minister for Lands,—Sir,—We, the undersigned residents of the district of Hornsby, and others interested in its welfare, observing that the Government are having the Crown lands of the neighbourhood cleared, and in other respects improved, with a view, as we are informed, to their being sold by auction, have the honor to bring under your notice the great desirability of resuming for a public park the portion of Crown lands on the western side of the Peat's Ferry Road, between the lands of Messrs. Burns, Withers, & Smith, and those of the Hornsby Land Company, and extending at the rear to the lands of the late Mr. Thomas Higgins. The land referred to is situated within a short distance of the Hornsby Station, is well adapted for a park, and the only piece of Crown land in the immediate locality of sufficient area for such a purpose. We feel that it is the more desirable that this reservation should be made, as the proprietors of the adjacent lands are subdividing and selling their properties in small lots, and it will in a few years doubtless be difficult to obtain any land in a convenient position for public recreation in this district."

[To Evidence of James Murphy.]

F.

HOLT-SUTHERLAND ESTATE LAND COMPANY (LIMITED)—List of Shareholders, 12 December, 1888.

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|----|-----------------------------------|----|---|----|
| Want, J. H. | 33 | O'Connor, P. | 1 | Butler, A. B. | 8 |
| Murphy, Jas. | 89 | Innes, J. G. L. | 13 | Heydon, C. G. | 2 |
| Reading, E. | 25 | Zouche, Lord | 8 | Doyle, R. R. | 1 |
| Atherton, E. | 33 | Rogers, H. G. | 2 | Stephen, S. A. | 8 |
| Newton, J. | 41 | Elsworth, E. M. | 8 | Tarleton, W. | 16 |
| Simpson, E. P. | 82 | Shepard, A. D. | 8 | Giblin, N. F. | 40 |
| Roberts, J. | 6 | Walsh, J. | 1 | Alexander, G. M. | 1 |
| Finlay, R. E. | 3 | Robertson, John, Sir | 20 | Gedye, C. T. | 12 |
| Cook, S. | 42 | Prince, H. | 32 | Fletcher, Jos. | 1 |
| Ferguson, D. G. | 3 | Pinder, H. | 8 | M'Crae, M. | 43 |
| Jamieson, J. S. | 48 | Acland, W. A. D. | 2 | Torlesse, H. H. | 1 |
| Jackson, F. J. | 23 | Johnson, J. W. | 24 | Hogg, R. J. | 2 |
| Want, S. A. | 6 | Coleman W. | 9 | Edwards, H. | 19 |
| Milne, J. D. | 2 | Maclardy, M. C. | 1 | Johnson (J. W.), Want (S. A.), Simpson (E. P.), Minter (A. R.) | 11 |
| Fagan, P. F. | 9 | Hassall, R., and Roberts, T. | 18 | Barnett, C. B. | 8 |
| Fagan, W. | 7 | Cooper, A. W. | 1 | | |
| Winter, A. R. | 2 | | | | |

[To Evidence of E. M. Burrowes.]

G.

LIST of Roads Cleared, Formed, and Improved, on or in connection with Holt-Sutherland Estate.

| No. | Name of Road. | Length. | Width. | Cleared. | Formed. | Gravelled. | Ballast. | Culverts. | Remarks. |
|-----|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|----------|-----------|----------------|
| 1 | Port Hacking..... | chains. 320'00 | chains. 1'00 | chains. 1'00 | ft. 28 | chains. 310'00 | ..... | 13 | 1 bridge. |
| 2 | Main Illawarra | 330'00 | 2'00 | 2'00 | 42 | 57'00 | 15 | 8 | |
| 3 | Coronulla | 180'00 | ft. 80 | ft. 80 | 28 | 180'00 | ..... | 9 | |
| 4 | Burrannear | 144'00 | chains. 1'50 | chains. 1'50 | 28 | 37'00 | ..... | 3 | 1 bridge. |
| 5 | Wotonga..... | 180'00 | 1'00 | 1'00 | 28 | 45'00 | ..... | 4 | |
| 6 | Lilly Pilly | 150'00 | 1'00 | 1'00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |  |
| 7 | Euronga | 30'00 | 1'00 | 1'00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |  |
| 8 | Orara | 64'00 | 1'00 | 1'00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |  |
| 9 | Malvern | 165'00 | 1'50 | 1'50 | 42 | 93'00 | ..... | 3 | |
| 10 | Karimbla | 67'00 | 1'50 | 1'50 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |  |
| 11 | Woronora | 260'00 | 1'50 | 1'50 | 42 | 130'00 | ..... | 5 | 1 bridge. |
| 12 | Sylvania | 261'00 | 1'50 | 1'50 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |  |
| 13 | Bath..... | 110'00 | 1'50 | 1'50 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |  |
| 14 | Boulevard | 319'00 | 1'50 | 1'50 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |  |
| 15 | Forest | 250'00 | 1'50 | 1'50 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |  |
| 16 | Yowie | 92'00 | 1'50 | 1'50 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |  |
| 17 | Corea | 175'00 | 1'50 | 1'50 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Being cleared. |
| 18 | Station..... | 40'00 | 1'50 | 1'50 | 42 | 40'00 | ..... | ..... |  |
| 19 | Eton..... | 60'00 | 1'50 | 1'50 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |  |
| 20 | Ivanhoe | 85'00 | 1'50 | 1'50 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |  |
| 21 | Willaree | 160'00 | 1'50 | 1'50 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |  |
| 22 | Kamira | 19'00 | 1'00 | 1'00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |  |
| | | 3,461'00 | = 43 miles 21 chains. | | | | | | |

This return is made up to the 1st December, 1888.

Hurstville, 12/12/88.

E. M. BURROWES,
Superintendent.

I.

Sir,

Hurstville, 13 December, 1888.

In reply to yours of yesterday's date, requesting me to proceed to Hornsby, to report upon a portion of Boundary Road, I have the honor to state that I made a minute inspection of the road in question, and am of the opinion that it could not be made a traffic road without an enormous amount of money was expended thereon, the grade being exceedingly steep, about 1 in 6.

As regards the probable cost for the first 15 chains beyond the gully, I estimate that it would cost not less than £200 per chain; to give it a grade of 1 in 10 it would have to be a block cutting, and a high level bridge across the gully.

I have, &c.,

E. M. BURROWES,

Superintendent, Southern District.

Thomas Walker, Esq., M.P.,

Chairman, &c., Select Committee, Legislative Assembly.

J.

Dear Sirs,

136, Pitt-street, 19 December, 1888.

When I was before your Committee I was informed or had been led to believe that £5,000 to £6,000 had been expended on roads through the lands of Burns, Withers, and Smith to the Crown lands, and I concluded that for such expenditure there should be an increase in the value of the property of Burns, Withers, and Smith to the extent of £10,000. I also stated that I myself knew very little about the roads.

Having now reason to believe that a very much smaller sum has been expended on roads through the lands of Burns, Withers, and Smith, and that the land held by them on this side of the Homebush and Waratah Line is under 700 acres, I think it right that I should be allowed to amend my evidence. I wish to be called again, but before again giving evidence, I intend going over the roads for my satisfaction in order that my evidence may be more decided.

Hoping that the Committee will accede to my request,

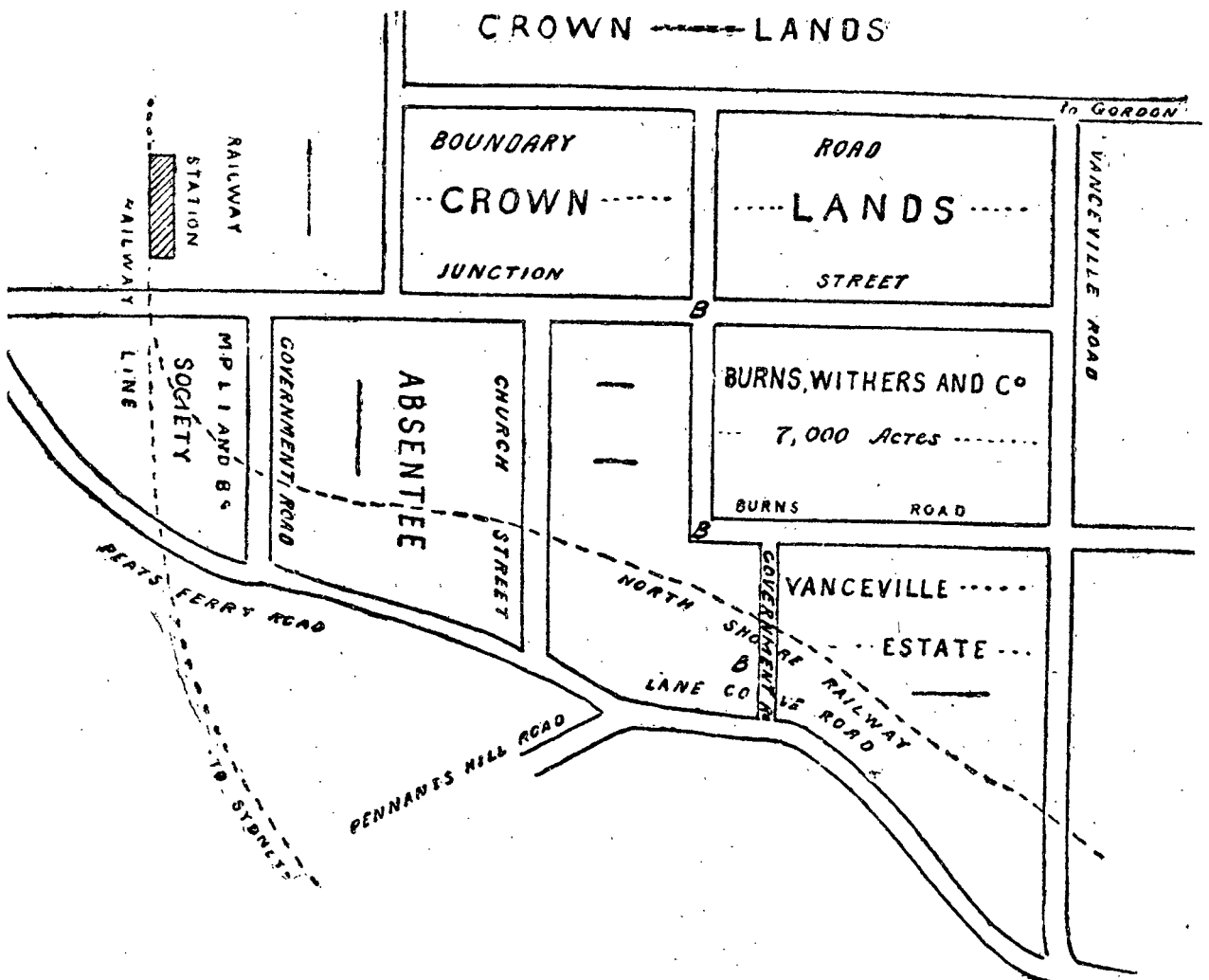
I am, &c.,

G. WITHERS.

The Chairman of the Select Committee on Roads at Hornsby and Holt-Sutherland.

[Nine plans.]

Enclosure to No. 13.
PLAN

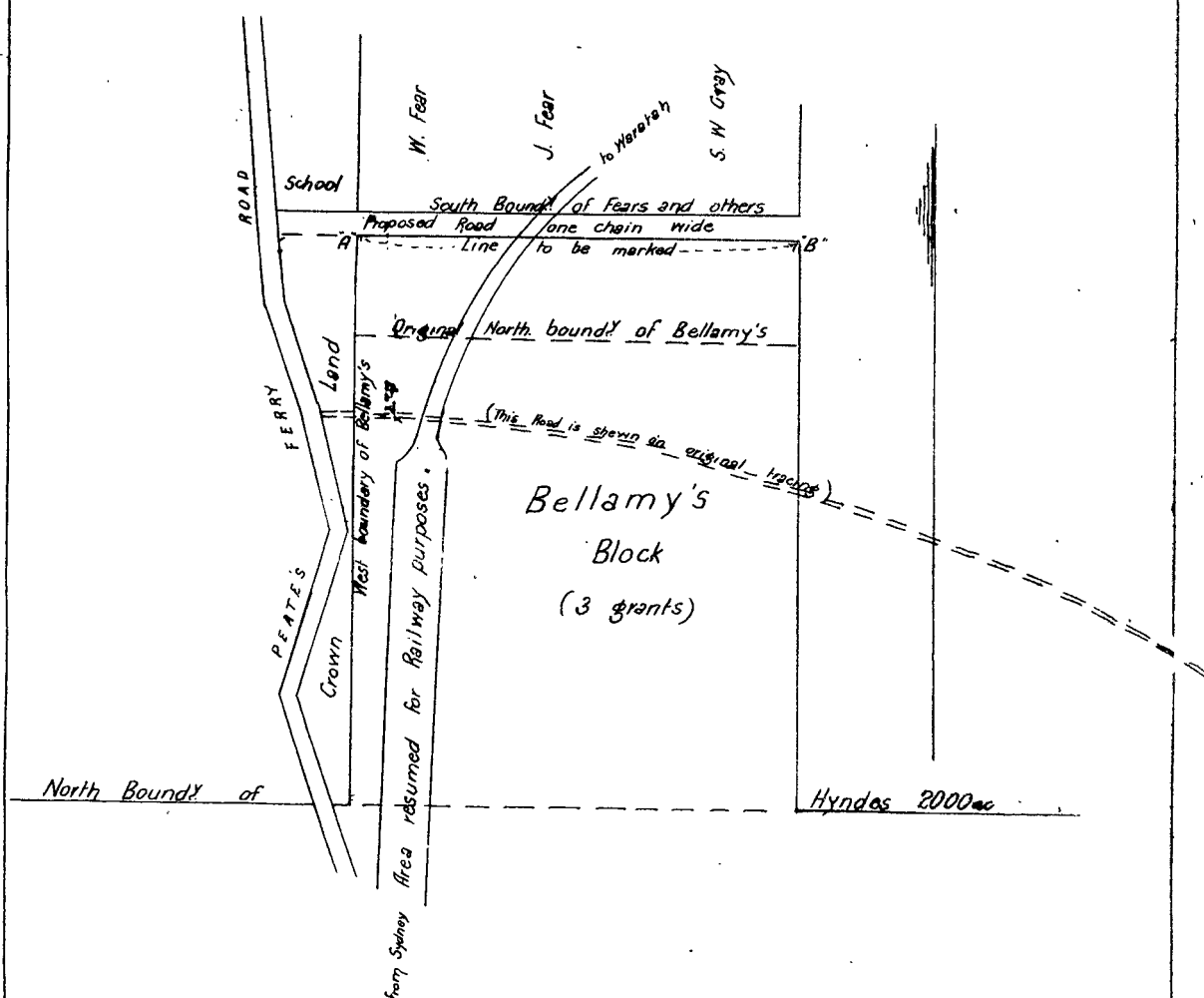


THE SCENE OF A BIG JOB.

This plan shows only the relative positions of the lands owned respectively by the Government, by the Burns Syndicate, by the Mutual Provident Land and Investment Association, and by the neighbouring owners. The property of the Burns Syndicate is in mistake marked 17,000 acres. The roads made at the public expense which give frontages to Mr. Burns' property are marked B. He gets two miles of frontage to Junction-street, gets a half-mile road running down at a right angle to it, and the short piece of Burns' road leading to the Government road, which opens a way to his property from the North Shore Railway and Lane Cove-road.

(Sig. 225)

Enclosure to N^o 2.
 PLAN 1



Traced by A.G.
 Exam'd by M.S. 8 12 88

(Sig. 225)

PARRAMATTA
D. S. O. Sydney

Enclosure to N^o 3
PLAN 3

— P.H. SOUTH COLAH —
— Co. Cumberland —
— Scale 4 Chs. to an Inch. —

Roads 1 Chain Wide

From Survey by Temp Surveyor King.

T. Hyndes 2000 ac.

W Bellamy

Proposed as a Parish Ad.

100 ac.

Traced by A.G.
Exam^d by M.S. 8.12.88

(Sig. 225)

HORNSBY JUNCTION

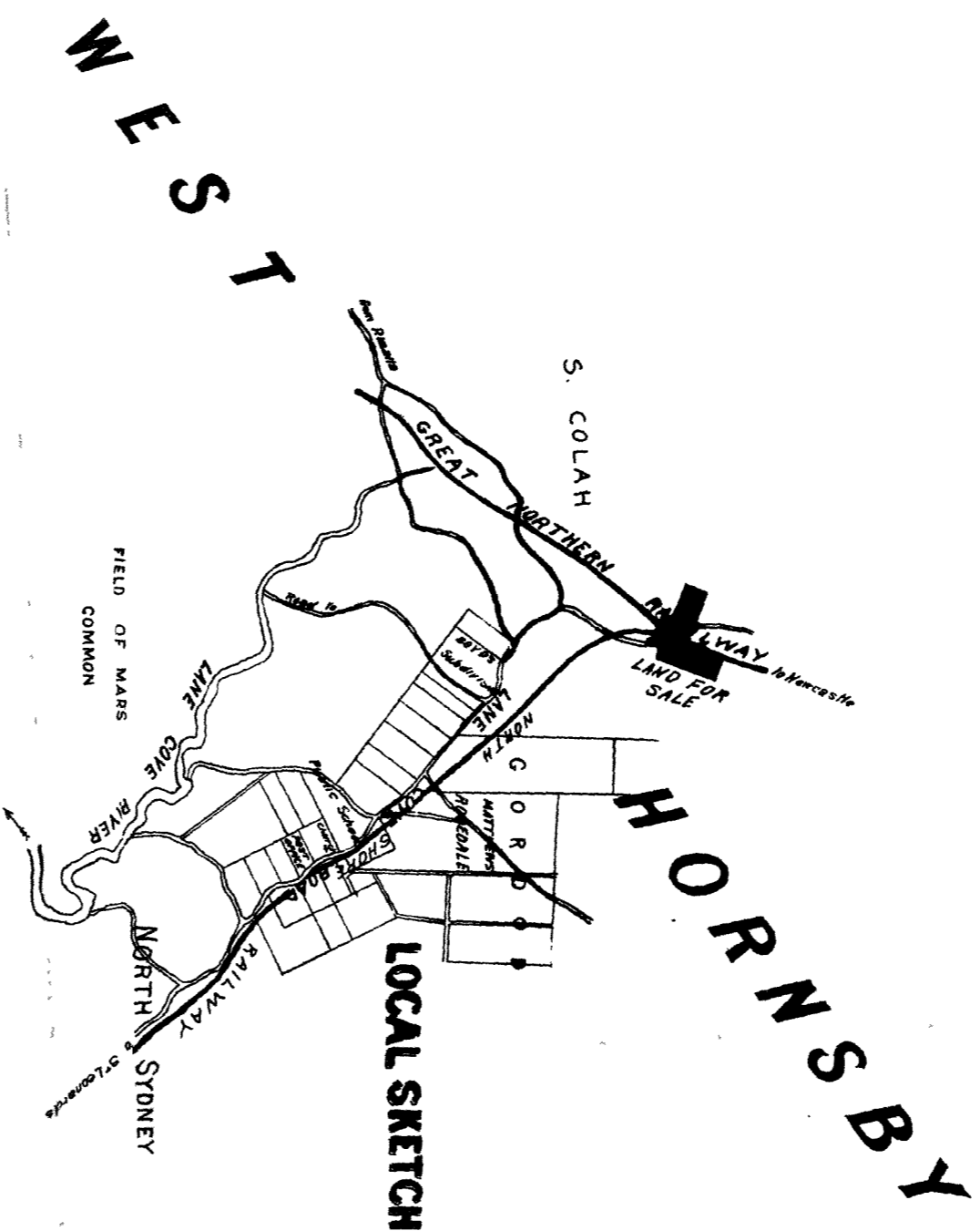
Enclosure to No. 3.
PLAN 4.

FOR SALE BY

WITHERS, CALLAGHAN & BROWN

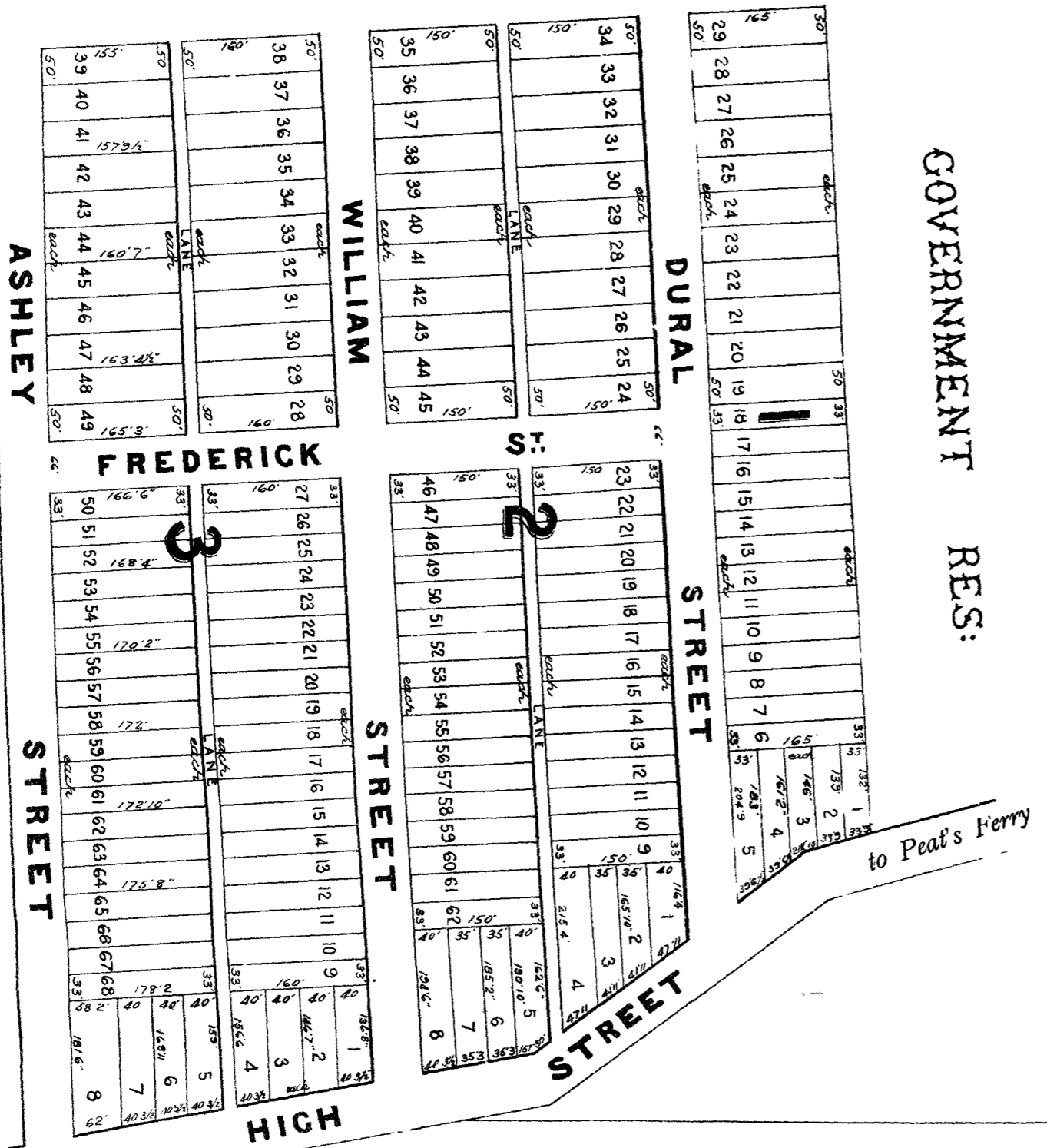
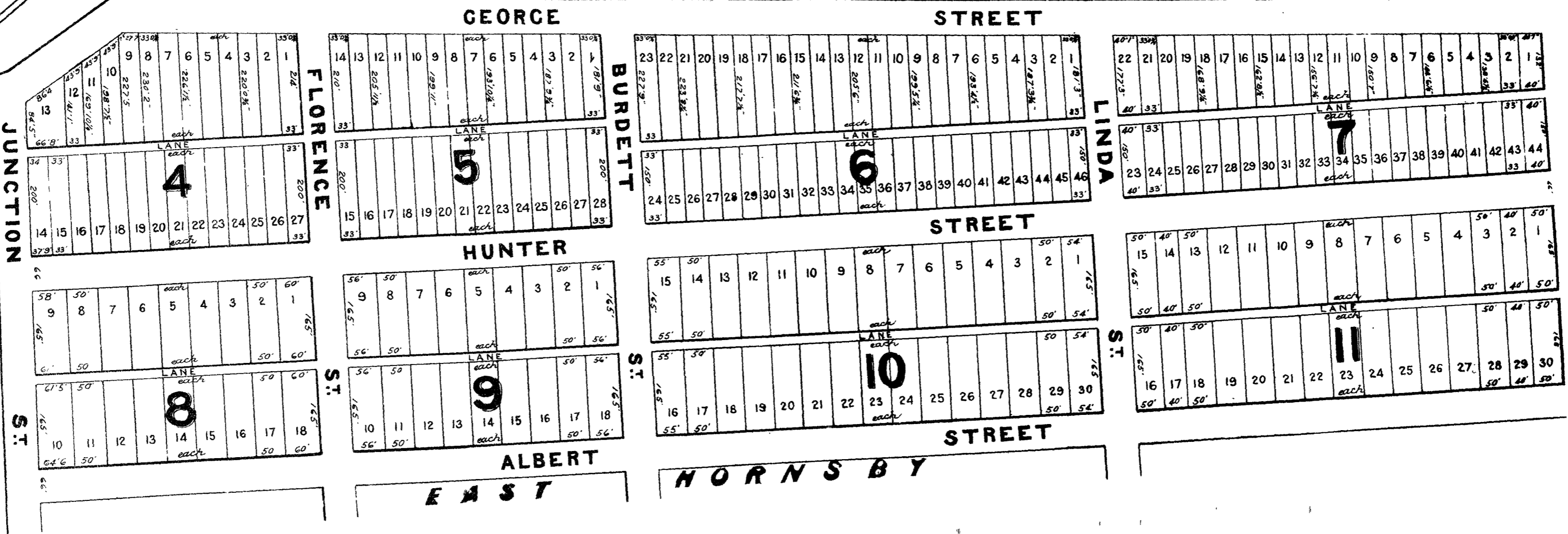
AUCTIONEERS, PITT ST.

PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHED AT THE GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE,
SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.



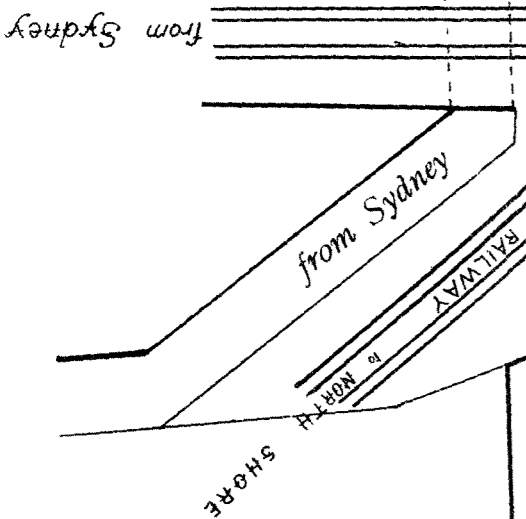
RESERVED FOR JUNCTION STATION

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY



GOVERNMENT RES.

(Sig. 225)



C. B. DAWSON
Licensed Surveyor
139 PITT STREET

Papers 86. ²³⁶/₁ Roads

Tracing from the plan (catalogued R 3210.1603) of the Road surveyed by M^r. Surveyor Perdriau through W. Bellamy's 100 ac. grant, Parish of South Colah — County of Cumberland —

Road as surveyed 100 links wide (shewn in Red)

Scale . 8 chains to an Inch.

We the present owners of W. Bellamy's 100 ac. grant do hereby dedicate a strip of land, one chain in width (as shewn on this tracing) for the use of the Public as a roadway

(Sgd) Err. Geo. Hayes

Witness to signatures

of J. F. Burns
George Withers and
R. Burdett Smith

(Signed)

J. F. Burns

G. Withers

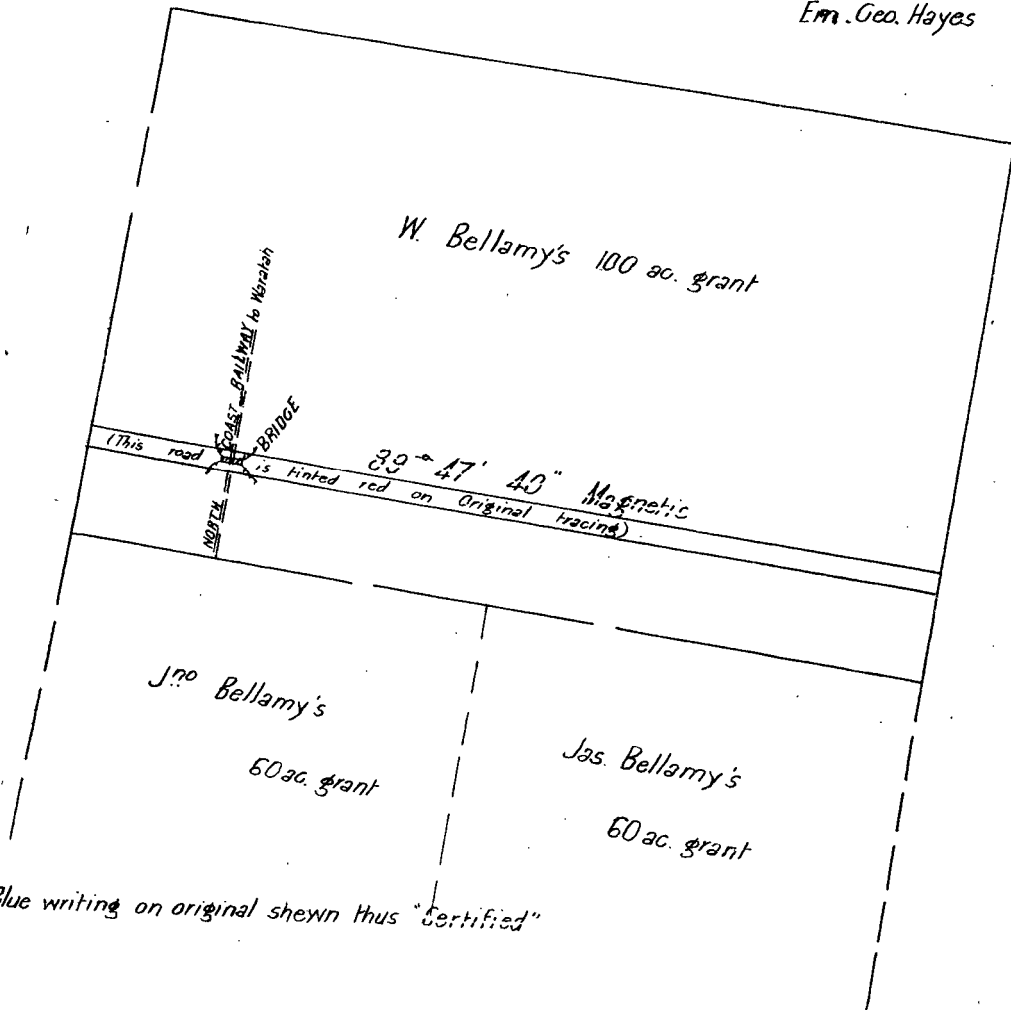
R. Burdett Smith

(Signed)

Err. Geo. Hayes

Trigonometrical Meridian

Magnetic Meridian



Note

Blue writing on original shewn thus "Certified"

Certified as

traced from the plan of Survey by M^r. Perdriau (Signed)

A. J. Stopps for Sur. Gen^l 27th June 1887

Plan transmitted with my letter of 14th Feb^y. N^o 87/14

(Signed)

Stephen E. Perdriau (Gov^t Surveyor)

Pds 86. ²³⁶/₁

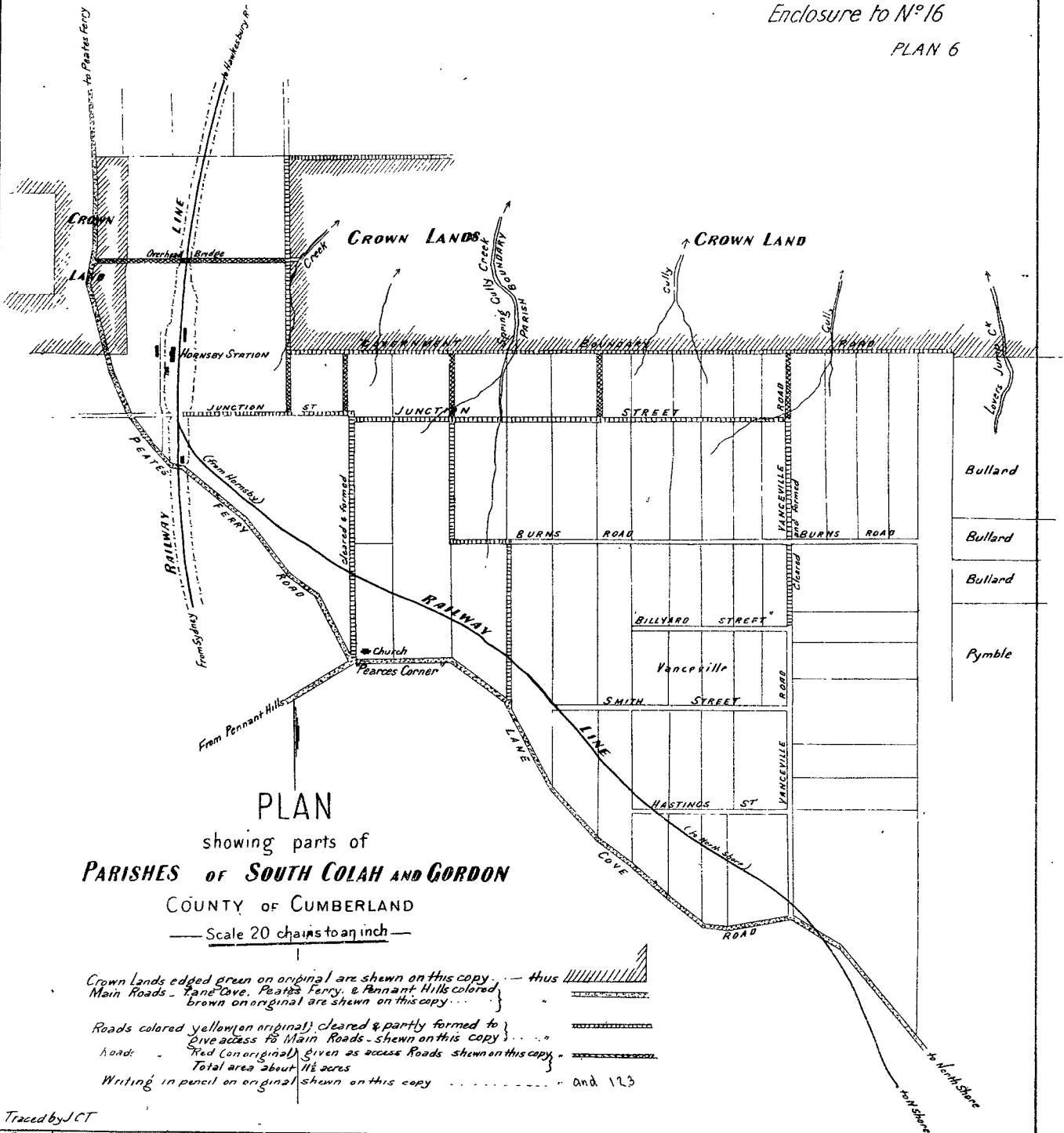
Traced by a.s.
Examd by M.S. 8 12 88

Sig. 225

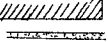
PW 88.843


Enclosure to N^o 16

PLAN 6



PLAN
 showing parts of
PARISHES of SOUTH COLAH and GORDON
 COUNTY of CUMBERLAND
 — Scale 20 chains to an inch —

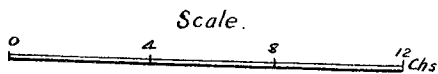
Crown Lands edged green on original are shewn on this copy. — thus 
 Main Roads - Lane Cove, Peates Ferry, & Pennant Hills colored brown on original are shewn on this copy.
 Roads colored yellow (on original) cleared & partly formed to give access to Main Roads - shewn on this copy
 Roads colored red (on original) given as access Roads shewn on this copy.
 Total area about 11 1/2 acres
 Writing in pencil on original shewn on this copy and 123

Traced by JCT
 Exam^d by  (Sig. 225)

APPENDIX PLAN 7.
To evidence of C.M.J. Oliver

Handed in before Select Committee
on "Work of Unemployed on Roads
at Hornsby and Holt-Sutherland
Estate".

F. Walsh
5 Dec 1888.



Public School
2 acs.
Dedicated

Paddock

3. 3. 31
Notd
13th Oct 84

ROAD

Bellamy's 220 acs

L
I
N
E

now

ROAD

Higgins

R. 47

Approved to be reserved for future

FERRY

Burns Withers & Smith

233

234
Public School
Dedicated
2 acs.

Reserved
For
Police Stⁿ
& Court House
on
7th Jan 88.

4.1.32

R. 47

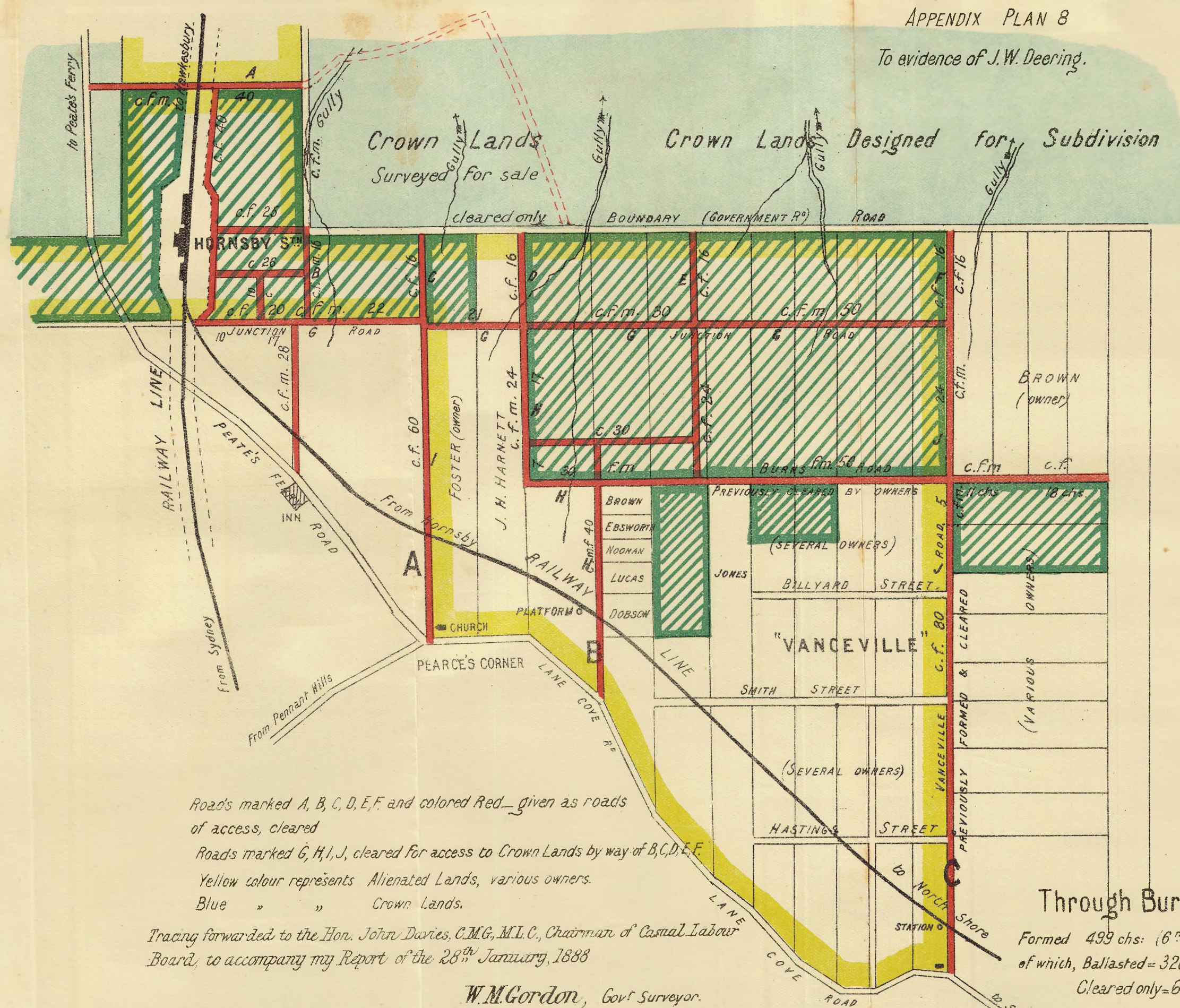
Hornsby Railway
Station

Burns Withers and Smith
Subdivided
"Hornsby Junction Estate"

(Sig 226.)

APPENDIX PLAN 8

To evidence of J.W. Deering.



Roads marked A, B, C, D, E, F and colored Red—given as roads of access, cleared
 Roads marked G, H, I, J, cleared for access to Crown Lands by way of B, C, D, E, F.
 Yellow colour represents Alienated Lands, various owners.
 Blue " " Crown Lands.

Tracing forwarded to the Hon. John Davies, C.M.G., M.L.C., Chairman of Casual Labour Board, to accompany my Report of the 26th January, 1888

W.M. Gordon, Govt Surveyor.

Roads A, B, C not included in my lengths for reply to Parliamentary Question of 20 Nov., 1888. Vide my Report N^o 3256 of 21 Nov. 1888

(Signed) J.W. Deering

Burns & Co's Land



c. Cleared
 f. Formed
 m. Metalled
 Distances in chains

Through Burns & Co's Land

Formed 499 chs. (6^m 19^{chs})
 of which, Ballasted = 326 chs. (4^m 6^{chs})
 Cleared only = 66 chs

Through other Private Lands
 Cleared, Formed, and Metalled = 68 chs.
 Cleared & Formed only = 60 chs.

Scale, 20 chains to an inch

1888-9.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

SECOND PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

WORK OF UNEMPLOYED AT HORNSBY AND HOLT-
SUTHERLAND ESTATE ;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

AND

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

ORDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO BE PRINTED,
16 *January*, 1889.

SYDNEY: CHARLES POTTER, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1889.

1888-9.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 11. THURSDAY, 15 NOVEMBER, 1888, A.M.

12. WORK OF UNEMPLOYED ON ROADS AT HORNSBY AND HOLT-SUTHERLAND ESTATE:—Mr. Walker moved, pursuant to Notice,—
- (1.) That a Select Committee be appointed, with power to send for persons and papers and to visit the ground, to inquire into and report upon the work of the unemployed in clearing, forming, and making roads through the property near Hornsby owned by Messrs. Burns, Withers, and R. B. Smith, and also those made through the Holt-Sutherland estate and other private properties, with power to sit during any adjournment.
- (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Copeland, Mr. Henry Clarke, Mr. McMillan, Mr. Melville, Mr. Street, Mr. Bruncker, Mr. Carruthers, and the Mover.
- Debate ensued.

And the House continuing to sit till after midnight,—

THURSDAY, 15 NOVEMBER, 1888, A.M.

Question put and passed.

VOTES No. 12. THURSDAY, 15 NOVEMBER, 1888.

4. WORK OF UNEMPLOYED ON ROADS AT HORNSBY AND HOLT-SUTHERLAND ESTATE:—Mr. Walker (*by consent*) moved, without Notice, That the Returns respecting "Roads at Hornsby," laid upon the Table and ordered to be printed on the 8th, 13th, and 14th November, 1888, respectively, be referred to the Select Committee on "Work of Unemployed on Roads at Hornsby and Holt-Sutherland Estate."
- Question put and passed.

VOTES No. 28. WEDNESDAY, 19 DECEMBER, 1888.

7. WORK OF UNEMPLOYED ON ROADS AT HORNSBY AND HOLT-SUTHERLAND ESTATE:—Mr. Walker (*by consent*) moved, without Notice, That the Return respecting roads through Holt-Sutherland Estate, laid upon the Table on the 13th December instant, be referred to the Select Committee now sitting on "Work of Unemployed on Roads at Hornsby and Holt-Sutherland Estate."
- Question put and passed.

VOTES No. 30. FRIDAY, 21 DECEMBER, 1888.

4. WORK OF UNEMPLOYED ON ROADS AT HORNSBY AND HOLT-SUTHERLAND ESTATE:—Mr. Walker, as Chairman, brought up a Progress Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, and Evidence taken before, the Select Committee for whose consideration and Report this subject was referred on 15th November, 1888, a.m., together with Appendix.
- Mr. Walker then moved, "That" the documents be printed.
- Mr. McMillan moved, That the Question be amended, by the omission of all the words after the first word "That," with a view to the insertion in their place of the words, "the Report, with Evidence, be referred back to the Select Committee for further consideration."
- Question proposed,—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the Question.
- Debate ensued.
- Privilege*:—Sir Henry Parkes, as a matter of *Privilege*, moved, That William Fitzwilliam Terry, 78, King-street, Sydney, whose name appears on the imprint of the *Australian Star*, be summoned to the Bar of this House to account for his possession of the Report of the Select Committee on the "Work of the Unemployed on the Roads at Hornsby and Holt-Sutherland Estate," which appears in the issue of that paper of this day.
- Debate ensued.
- Motion, by leave, withdrawn.
- Original amendment, by leave, withdrawn.
- Original Question,—That the documents be printed,—put and passed.

VOTES

VOTES No. 31. TUESDAY, 8 JANUARY, 1889.

2. WORK OF UNEMPLOYED ON ROADS AT HORNSBY AND HOLT-SUTHERLAND ESTATE :—Mr. Walker (*with the concurrence of the House*) moved, without Notice, That the Select Committee appointed during the present Session to inquire into the work of unemployed on roads at Hornsby and the Holt-Sutherland Estate and other private properties be *revived*, for the examination and re-examination of witnesses in respect to roads made at Hornsby, and for the completion of the inquiry into the whole subject referred ; and that the Committee have leave to report its opinion or observations, accompanied with minutes of evidence, from time to time.
Question put and passed.

* * * * *

10. WORK OF UNEMPLOYED ON ROADS AT HORNSBY AND HOLT-SUTHERLAND ESTATE :—Mr. Roberts presented a Petition from The Honorable John Fitzgerald Burns, a Member of the Legislative Assembly, referring to the Select Committee now sitting on “ Work of Unemployed on Roads at “ Hornsby and Holt-Sutherland Estate,” and representing that he is deeply interested in the inquiry relating to the roads at Hornsby, and is anxious to place before such Committee all the facts within his knowledge relating to the same, as also all the evidence which he can in any way offer upon the subject of the inquiry ; and praying for leave to appear before the said Committee, either personally or by counsel or attorney.
At the request of Mr. Dibbs, the Petition was read by the Clerk, by direction of Mr. Speaker,— and received.
Mr. Roberts (*by consent*) moved, without Notice, That the prayer of the Petition be granted.
Question put and passed.

VOTES No. 36. WEDNESDAY, 16 JANUARY, 1889.

3. WORK OF UNEMPLOYED ON ROADS AT HORNSBY AND HOLT-SUTHERLAND ESTATE :—Mr. Walker, as Chairman, brought up a second Progress Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, and Evidence taken before, the Select Committee for whose consideration and Report this subject was referred on 15th November, 1888, a.m.
Ordered to be printed.

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1888-9.

WORK OF UNEMPLOYED ON ROADS AT HORNSBY AND HOLT-SUTHERLAND
ESTATE.

SECOND PROGRESS REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed on the 15th November, 1888, A.M.,—“with power to send for persons and papers, and to visit the ground, to inquire into and report upon the work of the unemployed in clearing, forming, and making roads through the property near Hornsby owned by Messrs. Burns, Withers, and R. B. Smith, and also those made through the Holt-Sutherland Estate and other private properties, with power to sit during any adjournment,” and to whom was referred, on the 15th November, 1888, “the Returns respecting roads at Hornsby, laid upon the Table and ordered to be printed on the 8th, 13th, and 14th November, 1888, respectively,” on the 19th December, 1888, “The Return respecting roads through Holt-Sutherland Estate laid upon the Table on the 13th December,” and on the 8th January, 1889, “The Petition of the Honorable John Fitzgerald Burns,” and to whom was granted, on the 8th January, 1889, “leave to report its opinion or observations, accompanied with minutes of evidence, from time to time,”—have agreed to the following further Progress Report:—

Your Committee, having examined the witnesses named in the List,* have See List, page 7 to report that they have concluded the inquiry as to the work of the unemployed on the roads at Hornsby, and now beg to lay before your Honorable House the further evidence taken by them.

No. 3 Committee Room,
Sydney, 16 January, 1889.

THOMAS WALKER,
Chairman.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

THURSDAY, 10 JANUARY, 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Mr. O'Sullivan, | Mr. Carruthers, |
| Mr. McMillan, | Mr. Henry Clarke, |

Mr. Brunker.

Clerk read entries from the Votes and Proceedings reporting presentation of Progress Report to the House, directing revival of the Committee, with leave to report from time to time; and referring the petition of the Hon. J. F. Burns

Copies of petition *referred* before the Committee.

Present :—The Hon. J. F. Burns, in person.

The Chairman read a letter from George Withers, stating his inability to attend as a witness that day, and requesting to be examined next week; also a letter from G. F. Want, requesting to be examined in respect to certain evidence given before the Committee by Mr. Murphy.

Ordered.—That the letters be received, and that Mr. Withers be requested to attend, and Mr. Want be summoned for Tuesday next.

Mr. Carruthers informed the Committee that a statement had been made to the effect that a road constructed by the unemployed at Arncliffe had benefited property of his there to the extent of £2,000, and as such statement might prejudice his sitting as a member of this Committee of Inquiry, he requested to be examined respecting same.

J. H. Carruthers, M.P. (*a member of the Committee*), sworn and examined in his place..

Mr. Carruthers withdrew.

Motion made (*Mr. O'Sullivan*), and Question,—“That Mr. Carruthers is a fit and proper person to sit on this Committee,”—put and passed.

Mr. Carruthers then resumed his place.

A. W. S. Gregg called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Committee deliberated.

Ordered.—That C. B. Dawson be summoned to give evidence next meeting, and that W. G. Judd and Mr. Noonan be summoned for Tuesday next.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at *half-past Ten* o'clock.]

FRIDAY, 11 JANUARY, 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Mr. O'Sullivan, | Mr. McMillan. |
|-----------------|---------------|

Present :—The Hon. J. F. Burns, in person.

C. B. Dawson called in and further examined.

Mr. Burns objected to the course of examination of witness adopted by the Chairman.

Witness withdrew.

Committee deliberated.

Witness recalled and examination continued.

Witness withdrew.

Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned to Tuesday next, at *half-past Ten* o'clock.]

TUESDAY, 15 JANUARY, 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mr. Carruthers, | Mr. Street, |
| Mr. McMillan, | Mr. O'Sullivan, |

Mr. Brunker.

Present :—The Hon. J. F. Burns, in person.

Critchett Walker (*Principal Under Secretary*), called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

George Withers, M.P., called in and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

Mr. Burns addressed the Committee.

Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned to a *quarter before Two* o'clock.]

Committee

[Committee resumed at a quarter before Two o'clock.]

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.

| | | |
|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| Mr. O'Sullivan, | | Mr. Carruthers, |
| Mr. McMillan, | | Mr. Street, |
| Mr. Copeland, | | Mr. Brunker, |
| Mr. Melville, | | Mr. Henry Clarke. |

Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned to To-morrow, at half-past One o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 16 JANUARY, 1889.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Walker in the Chair.

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Mr. O'Sullivan, | | Mr. McMillan, |
| Mr. Street, | | Mr. Henry Clarke, |
| Mr. Copeland, | | Mr. Carruthers, |
| | Mr. Brunker. | |

Committee deliberated.

On motion of Mr. Carruthers, the following further Progress Report was read and agreed to:—

The Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly, appointed on the 15th November, 1888, a.m.,—
“with power to send for persons and papers, and to visit the ground, to inquire into and report upon the work of the unemployed in clearing, forming, and making roads through the property near Hornsby owned by Messrs. Burns, Withers, and R. B. Smith, and also those made through the Holt-Sutherland Estate and other private properties, with power to sit during any adjournment,” and to whom was referred, on the 15th November, 1888, *“the Returns respecting roads at Hornsby, laid upon the Table and ordered to be printed on the 8th, 13th, and 14th November, 1888, respectively,”* on the 19th December, 1888, *“the Return respecting roads through Holt-Sutherland Estate, laid upon the Table on the 13th December,”*—and on the 8th January, 1889, *“the Petition from the Honorable John Fitzgerald Burns,”* and to whom was granted, on the 8th January, 1889, *“leave to report its opinion or observations, accompanied with minutes of evidence, from time to time,”*—have agreed to the following further Progress Report:—

Your Committee, having examined the witnesses named in the list, have to report that they have concluded the inquiry as to the work of the unemployed on the roads at Hornsby, and now beg to lay before your Honorable House the further evidence taken by them.

Chairman to report to the House.

[Adjourned.]

LIST OF WITNESSES.

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1888-9.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

WORK OF THE UNEMPLOYED.

THURSDAY, 10 JANUARY, 1889.

Present:—

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| MR. WALKER, | MR. H. CLARKE, |
| MR. BRUNKER, | MR. McMILLAN, |
| MR. CARRUTHERS, | MR. O'SULLIVAN. |

T. WALKER, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

The Honorable J. F. Burns, M.P., appeared in person.

Joseph Hector Carruthers, M.P., having been sworn, stated in his place:—

1. I am a Member for the Electoral District of Canterbury in the Legislative Assembly, and also a member of this Committee. In the Electoral District of Canterbury there is a municipality called Canterbury, within which there exists a road called Unwin's Road, which has a length of about 1 mile. It is the only road leading from the municipality to Tempe railway station, and is the only road leading to that station for an area of country which may be estimated at 6 square miles. It has been a main public road to my knowledge during the whole of my life and from tradition it has been a main public road of the Colony for something like seventy years. This road was the original main road from Sydney to Liverpool. It has been maintained by Government expenditure for all time past. During the past 15 years it was vested in three trustees—Mr. Campbell, of Wanstead, Cook's River, was one; Mr. Bradridge, the late city architect, was another. Trust votes were given to these gentlemen to be expended in the management and maintenance of the road. Mr. Campbell died, leaving Mr. Bradridge as the sole trustee. Mr. Bradridge fell into feeble health, and the management of the road remaining on his shoulders, seems to have been utterly neglected. The road in part runs through a steep cutting, and from neglect the water-tables at the side were choked up with *debris* of all descriptions, and heavy rains coming tore all the surface of the road away, leaving but the ballasting in a very rough shape. About five years ago the Government of the late Sir Alexander Stuart, at the request of the Members of the district for the time being, Mr. Stephen, Mr. Moses, Mr. Hammond, and Mr. Henson, agreed to place a sum of £3,000 on the Estimates to construct a bridge, called Unwin's Bridge, and thoroughly repair this road. From some cause or another, I think it was from the resignation of that Government, their estimates did not pass. A sum of money was afterwards offered by the succeeding Government to the Canterbury Council, to enable that council to repair the road. The Canterbury Council refused to take the money, inasmuch as the road was not a municipal road, being an old main road of the Colony, and a trust road exempted from their control by the Municipalities Act. On the 7th April, 1887, the then Mayor of Canterbury handed me a letter from the Department of Public Works, which I will read:

Sir,

Referring to your letter of the 8th ultimo, requesting that provision might be made on the Estimates for the repaid of Unwin's Bridge Road and construction of new bridge, I am directed to inform you that the sum of £2,000 has been suggested for the Draft Estimates for this work; but, in view of the present financial condition of the Colony it was decided that the work should stand over.

I have, &c.,
W. FORD.

J. H.
Carruthers,
M.P.
10 Jan., 1889.

J. H.
Carruthers.
M.P.
50 Jan., 1889.

That letter was brought to me, and the Mayor represented that there was great danger of serious accidents happening on the road and the bridge, as two or three carts had lately been capsized, loaded with wood, and the bridge was full of holes as large as this table. He did not use that illustration; but there were holes through which any horse and cart could fall; and he asked me to make representations to the Government on the subject. Shortly afterwards a petition was handed to me, signed by the Mayor and Aldermen of Canterbury, asking the Government to repair this road. I wrote in, on the strength of this representation, to the Government on the 3rd May, 1887, and I received a reply on the 19th May to this effect,—

Sir,

Referring to your letter of the 3rd instant respecting the state of the Unwin's Bridge and road, I am directed to inform you that provision for these works will be considered when the Estimates for next year are being prepared.

In the meantime the Secretary for Public Works has approved of £70 being handed over to the local Council for repair of the bridge and road on the distinct understanding that the Government are not to be held responsible for any accident which may occur.

I have, &c.,
JOHN RAE.

On receipt of this letter I forwarded a copy to the Canterbury Council. They refused to accept the money. They said they would have nothing to do with the road, as if they once touched it they would be responsible for any accidents that might occur on it, and it was a Government road. The maintenance of it had been for years past undertaken by the Government, and still remained an obligation on the Government. A conference was held between the St. Peter's and Canterbury Councils to consider the disgraceful state of the bridge, which ran between the two Municipalities, and also the road. It was decided to invite Mr. Carruthers, M.P., to impress upon the Government the necessity of erecting a new bridge as soon as possible, as the present one is in a fearfully dangerous state, and also to urge the Government, that as they had got a number of unemployed at work making road, to put some of these unemployed to work on the road." On the strength of this communication these resolutions and petitions, which were presented to me, I handed the petition in, so far as my recollection goes, without comment, or any letter from myself, to the Colonial Secretary's Office, and a little time afterwards a gang of men were put upon the road to effect the repairs. This cutting, which had been filled up and cut up by the rains, was renovated, and in course of renovation about 3 feet of stone was cut out, and was broken up into ballast and placed on the road at the foot of the cutting. The work that was done extended over a distance of, as far as my memory goes, about 300 yards. That was all the work done on the road. The road had already been ballasted, formed, and made years ago in every respect on all the other parts; but the making and formation in one part had been destroyed by the rains, and that was renovated. I own on that road a block of land having a frontage to the road of about 600 feet—nothing like 100 acres. My land fronting the road is, I should say, about 8 or 10 acres at the outside. I have some back lands which front Wollie Creek, and lands at Arncliffe, which I have underleased for ten years, to the extent of about 40 acres. These lands do not front the road, and have nothing to do with it. The remainder of the land is owned by a Mrs. Campbell, who owns about 250 acres; and a portion was owned by the City Permanent Building Society. The directors of that building society knew nothing whatever of the formation of this road, or of the work done upon it, so far as my knowledge goes. They never approached me as a Member in any way to get the road done. The first knowledge of them that I had in this matter was that an officer of the Government called upon me, and informed me that he wanted some gravel for the road, and that he had been told that there was some on my property—was I willing to give it to him? I said, "Yes; but I have very little property fronting the road. If there is any gravel there you are welcome to take it." A little while afterwards he came to me, and said that a man upon the ground had ordered him and his men off. I said I had no man there with authority to interfere with him or anybody in that respect. He asked me then if I would go out and see if he had made a mistake, and whether it was really my ground he was upon. I went out and saw that they had mistaken my ground. They thought I had more than I possessed, and were digging holes upon the neighbouring property of the building society. This building society refused to allow them to get any gravel. They did not know that the road was being made, and I think that the work was then stopped, so far as any further improvements were concerned. So far as I can judge, I am not a good judge of these things, I should say that the work done was under £200; it may have been under £100. There were about 300 yards touched, and since the work has been done there has been a very considerable traffic upon the road, which up to that time was absolutely impassable, owing to the condition of this one piece. The road itself would be one of the leading roads of the whole electorate, if it were not for the fact that at the present time there exists a bridge made at the gates of Tempe railway station, which has holes in it so large that a horse and any vehicle can pass through them. The bridge is in such a condition that no vehicle can possibly cross it. The consequence is, that traffic which would daily flow along that road in a very large stream is blocked by the existence of this bridge. Settlement is prevented in that neighbourhood to a similar extent, and that accounts for the fact that the road does not appear to be used by many, and that there does not appear to be much settlement along it. Behind that road there exist the suburbs of Kingsgrove, Moorfields, and part of Canterbury, and those people who use Tempe Railway Station leave their buggies across the bridge, and walk over on foot. Before the road was made they drove some 5 or 6 miles extra to get to Marrickville Station, a long round-about way. They travelled for less fare than

2. *Chairman.*] Is the road all through on private property? Private property fronts it like any other road, but it is a Government road.

3. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Is this road called Unwin's Bridge Road? Unwin's Road; then there is a bridge, Unwin's Bridge.

4. *Chairman.*] Is there another road called Unwin's Bridge Road? No.

5. The road is Unwin's Road, and you designate the bridge Unwin's Bridge? Exactly.

Alexander Walter Scott Gregg called in, sworn, and examined:—

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6. *Mr. Burns.*] You are a member of the firm of Richardson & Wrench? I am.
7. I think you conducted for the Government a land sale at Hornsby? I did.
8. Did you on that occasion see much land other than that where the sale took place? Not specifically every part of the estate.
9. How did you proceed from the station to the land? Directly over a slip-rail that was taken down.
10. You went from the western to the eastern side through a slip-rail? I went from the western to the eastern, according to the compass.
11. How did you get to the Government land? By Boundary Road.
12. Was Boundary Road then extended up to the station? It was.
13. Was there an opening made? Yes; some rails were down, and the people got through or over the fence.
14. An opening was made through lands adjoining the station to connect with the Boundary Road? Quite so.
15. As the auctioneer, did you approve of that opening being made there? As a matter of opinion, I did. I had no choice in approving. I had to take it as I found it.
16. You saw what had been done by making an opening to the land for sale? I did.
17. Did people pass through that opening? They followed me. I was pretty well the leader, or thereabouts.
18. Have you been at Hornsby since the sale? I have.
19. Have you been over the Hornsby Estate? What estate is that?
20. The estate known as Burns Withers, and Smith's land? I have not been over it. I know of it, of course; not only recently, but for some time back.
21. Did you observe the roads made through that property? In part through it; not wholly, I think.
22. Were you along the principal roads? I was.
23. Junction Road? Yes.
24. Boundary Road, which is between the Government land and private land? I went along it to the end of subdivision offered for sale by the Government.
25. As far as you could? As far as I could comfortably.
26. Any other roads? Yes; and across the Boundary Road to Burns Road.
27. Were you along Burns Road? Yes; a little way; not the full length.
28. Did you go right through Burns Road, to what they call the Bobbing Rock Road? I do not know it by that name.
29. *Mr. McMillan.*] Did you go along the Vanceville Road? No; I did not.
30. *Mr. Burns.*] Did you pass along the Lane Cove Road? You mean the road out to Hornsby? No, I did not, because I know the road well. I saw the road that runs to meet it, by the hotel.
31. Did you observe the condition of the roads made there, the class of work done, and generally what had been done in the way of improvements recently in making roads? I did, as far as I traversed, which was most of the way.
32. Did you also make observations of the improvements upon Government lands? Yes.
33. Did you see any difference between the improvements on the Government land and the roads through the private lands? There was a difference. I think there was more stone thrown on the roads outside the Government land. It is not very well done, in my opinion.
34. You think the class of work done on the roads was not of a good character? Not as a quality of work.
35. But would that apply to one or both? Generally. The best road is one of these cross-roads. There are rough large stones; larger than the orthodox gauge, I should say.
36. *Mr. McMillan.*] What they call ballasting? On a large scale.
37. *Mr. Burns.*] Roughly ballasted? Very roughly.
38. I want to ask you this question. You have been over the property generally, and have seen the Government lands? Not the wide range of Government land—that dealt with by auction only.
39. Have you seen the Government lands where roads were made recently? Yes.
40. *Chairman.*] You are alluding now to the subdivision, to the part that was sold? Yes.
41. *Mr. Burns.*] Do you think that the roads made through the private lands have added any great increment to their value; if so, to what extent? Perhaps, to some extent, they may. I suppose all improvements of that kind and means of access would naturally give a better attraction.
42. First, with regard to the Crown lands;—have the Crown lands been improved by these roads? They were, at the time they were made, because there was no direct road. This Boundary Road was only opened a little before the auction.
44. Let us have a clear understanding. You desire to say that the Crown lands have been improved by these roads? I take it when it was projected to sell the Crown lands there was no direct road from the station, *via* Boundary Road, and this portion from the Government end to the station certainly improved the value of the Government land.
45. *Chairman.*] You are speaking now of the continuation of Boundary Road? Yes.
45. *Mr. Burns.*] Is it your opinion that the road over the bridge was an advantage to the Crown lands? It was, because it was one of two ways of entrance to the Crown lands.
46. Were you on the Lane Cove Road during your visit? No; I have traversed that road so often.
47. Did you ascertain whether there was a railway platform at a place called Dobson's? No; I did not.
48. With regard to the Vanceville Road—you were on that road? No; I was not.
49. You did not know anything about that road? I know the road where it comes in here. I was not on that road. I may say that when I went out on New Year's Day I was suffering from an accident to my knee, and found it a great difficulty to carry myself over the roads, otherwise I should have gone further.
50. If 29 acres have been taken from the owners of these private lands for roads, what do you suppose is the average value of land in that locality? I suppose private owners have different standards of asking. I suppose from £80 to £100 an acre might be looked upon as a general asking. Sometimes the question of severance comes in. If a road is taken in a certain direction it may hamper a man's intention with a block.
51. If you had that land for sale, would you subdivide the estate in the way the roads are laid out here? I think it looks a feasible mode of subdivision.

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52. *Mr. Brunker.*] You do not mean to say that if that design was submitted to you by a principal you would accept it as the most profitable form of subdivision? I am not prepared to say, for I admitted at the beginning that I did not go over the whole of the land.
53. No. But looking over the plan, if that design were submitted to you by a principal would you accept it or suggest to him that it was the most profitable design of subdivision for his property. I suppose you have designs in that way? Yes; but I confess that I do not see anything objectionable in this.*
54. *Mr. Burns.*] The land that has been taken you average at from £80 to £100 an acre for your general land. What increment in value do you suppose will take effect from the expenditure on these roads in relation to these private estates? I do not think that it would be very marked. They were simply made a little before the time, some of them.
55. Do you think the land given will be worth the improvements? I do not know what the cost of the improvements is.
56. Supposing we assume that the improvements would not exceed £2,500. How many acres are concerned in the improvements? What is the holding?
57. Supposing we assume that the acreage is about 680? I daresay it would, although there is no great demand for present use for the land in that position. I do not know that speculators would give very much improved value, because the roads generally in this subdivision were made.
58. Then I gather from your evidence that you do not see that there is much advantage to this estate of 680 acres from the expenditure upon the land given without compensation? No; I think it would about equal it.
59. *Chairman.*] When you say that it would equal the amount of expenditure upon it, are you taking into consideration the fact that the unemployed work at a much lesser rate of wages than the ordinary road-makers? No; I am not supposed to know that; it did not enter into my calculations.
60. If £2,000 were spent on paying men at 3s. a day, would not that mean a greater amount of work than if £2,000 were spent at 8s. a day? But the cases might not be parallel.
61. But making allowances for the difference in the workmen? One working, and the other not supposed to be working?
62. No? I cannot presume to judge; my experience with labouring men has been so small.
63. Looking at the plan, you say you have seen the roads? I have in a large measure.
64. You have seen the roads on the Government subdivision? Yes.
65. Are any of the roads on the Government subdivision formed? One road is partly formed, and the rest are only cleared.
66. But on the private estates, did you find many roads formed? There are.
67. Did you find any ballasted? Yes, some.
68. Are the roads on the private lands superior to those on the Government subdivision? Well, there has been more labour expended.
69. The class of work is superior? There has been more labour. Whether that implied money, I would not like to say. The work is not well done, in my opinion. I do not think any gentleman would say that it was work that he could commend.
70. You say it is not well done on the Government subdivision? There has not been as much labour expended on one as on the other.
71. But to such a stage as the work has gone on the Government subdivision it is not well done? The roads are partly formed and cleared.
72. Are the roads on the private property better formed? I daresay they are, if you except that the metal is not put down as well as it ought to be.
73. There are some roads ballasted? I should not like to say that the formation is better than the other; but where the rough metal is put there is no doubt a visible amount of work that is not seen in the other case.
74. You say that you have not seen the character of the Crown lands with the exception of those you have mentioned? Not the land beyond the subdivision—not closely.
75. You can give no opinion as to the quality of the other? Well, their quality would not be good.
76. The remainder of the land is poor? Generally.
77. *Chairman.*] Do you say that all those roads that you see there are necessary as roads of access to the Crown lands? I would not like to say they were absolutely necessary. Of course, practically, my work for a long period tells me that the more means of access there are from one district to the other so much the better.
78. But is it not equally so much the better for the owners of the private estate? I suppose it would be.
79. Do you see that little part parallel with the railway station, between Junction-street and the A road. Are you aware that that was originally a subdivision of Burns, Withers, and Smith's property? I think, on going down that road, I saw some pegs put in.
80. Are the streets that you see there to your knowledge formed according to the plan of their original subdivision? I cannot speak of those interior ones. The road B is there, the extension of one of the boundaries of the Government land.
81. Can you see on the tracing before you any of the roads shown in the subdivision of the estate? Well, there is a junction street shown in the subdivision. I presume that is a continuation of Junction Road.
82. Is George street—the street parallel with the Great Northern Railway—shown upon the tracing? Yes.
83. Is Albert-street shown there? Yes, I should imagine so.
84. Is Burdett-street shown there? Yes, I suppose so. That would be the centre street.
85. Is a portion of Hunter-street shown there? Yes. Assuming that the roads are in the same position as on the plan.
86. Do you consider that all these roads are necessary as roads of access to the Crown land? I would not say that all of them were necessary.
87. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] What was the date of your last visit to the estate? On New Year's Day—a few days ago.
88. Did you then walk over the roads? Yes—as far as the pain in my knee would permit. I know I walked a considerable distance; I suppose I must have travelled about 2 miles.

* NOTE (on revision) :—I certainly thought Mr. Brunker meant merely as to the direction of the road for any subdivision.

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89. Are the roads in a state fit for the traffic of buggies and other vehicles? In dry weather the roads which are not ballasted would be a great deal more pleasant.
90. *Chairman.*] I understand that you have visited the estate since the sale. Did you find any new roads made on your second visit—that is roads which were not there when you were first on the land? I could not say. I had no means of comparing what was done on the occasion of my two visits.
91. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] I understood you to say just now that there was nothing objectionable in the mode of design? Well, looking at this plan, I do not see any objection to the design. Whether the roads were made upon the owner's judgment or otherwise, I could not of course say.
92. But you think it would be a fair subdivision for selling purposes? I should apprehend so. I see no reason to say anything to the contrary. I thought of design as to roads.
93. Did you see any settlement there? There were no people in the immediate neighbourhood.
94. Did you notice any settlement around the place? Well there is a settlement on the Lane Cove Road, at Irishtown, and those places. There is also settlement on the other side of the railway where the town will form.
95. If you had owned this property and had desired to sell it to the best advantage would you not have followed out the usual practice of subdividing it and laying out roads? I think that would be the best way to make money out of it.
96. Is it the usual practice in estates of this kind to do that? Yes.
97. Then I suppose that if the proprietors of this estate desired to sell it to the best advantage they would follow out the usual practice of subdividing it and laying out roads? I think so unless they wanted to reserve it for a vast domain which might at some future time have a use. Any large area of land must necessarily have roads made through it.
98. *Mr. Carruthers.*] Is it not your experience as an auctioneer and land agent, that when persons desire to purchase a large block of land they prefer to have it free of subdivision? Yes; in certain cases. Of course it would be so in every case where they found their mode of treatment differing from that contemplated by the vendor.
99. As a rule persons prefer to purchase perfectly free of subdivision? Yes; in many cases.
100. We have had it stated in evidence that it has been the custom in this Colony for persons subdividing land to go to the expense of forming and making roads; is that your experience? I do not think it is the custom, accepting the word in its usual sense. There have been exceptional cases where treatment of that kind has been resorted to.
101. What is the rule? The custom is merely to cut a line for the pegs, in order that people may pass through the scrub. Sometimes all the scrub is taken away. It depends upon the cost of the work and inclination of the seller.
102. In case where the land to be subdivided is worth £100 an acre is it the custom of the proprietors to go to any great expense? No; not to any great expense.
103. What would be the rule in the case of the subdivision of land of the value I have named? It depends upon the cost. In some cases the work would not exceed £2 an acre, in other cases it would be more.
104. But at all events in the case of land of this value is it not the practice to go to the expense of forming the roads? Well, the practice is partly one way and partly another.
105. There is no rule? Well, no fixed rule, I think. It is simply a question of expenditure with each vendor or interest selling.
106. *Mr. McMillan.*] You say that you have been over the Government land? Yes.
107. Do you know the land right through? No; but I have taken the question to be referring to the subdivision.
108. You are aware that the land is naturally subdivided by gullies running north and south? Yes. There are some very deep gullies.
109. Are you aware that the Boundary Road is a very difficult road—that it is very precipitous? Yes; beyond a certain point.
110. Have you ever held land of your own? A few allotments.
111. Suppose that you had 680 acres situated as the land of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, is situated, and that the Government wished to gain access to their land through your property, would you feel inclined to give them the roads for nothing? I think he would be a very liberal man who would do so.
112. Suppose you said to the Government—I will give you these roads provided you put them into a little better condition than that in which roads are generally made upon subdivisions, would you consider that you were making a fair and liberal offer to the Government? You mean of course that the roads would serve an extent of territory beyond.
113. I am supposing that your land blocked the way to the Government land? Well, there can be no doubt that the opening of Boundary Road for instance, was a material aid to the Government in the sale of their land.
114. I am talking now of the roads that lead on to the Government land from Junction Road for instance? I think the offer you make would be a liberal one. I am assuming that the parties owning the land proposed to give the Government free use of, and control over the roads.
115. Not only that—but supposing they left the Government free to arrange the roads in order to suit the conditions of their own land—would you think that if you gave the land to the Government gratis under these circumstances, you would be making a fair and reasonable request if you asked them to make the roads a little superior to those ordinarily formed upon subdivisions? I think so, because there would be a consideration implied in the exchange. The interests of the Government being served, I think it would be right to ask them to give some reward—that is bearing in mind the great advantages they would derive. I may say that there is a lot of table-land on the Government land which as far as I can see cannot be served by the Boundary Road.
116. Junction Road, I take it, was made as a substitute for Boundary Road as a basis of connection? Yes, I believe so; but whether it was designed by the Government or not I do not know.
117. Do you not know as a matter of fact that when it was found that the Boundary Road would be so enormously expensive this other road, the Junction Road, was formed as a base for the cross road? I should imagine that the reason of his extension was to give access to the Crown lands. I presume that Junction Road was adopted as the more practicable road of the two.

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118. Taking it for granted that it was a matter of good judgment to make the Junction Road as a basis of communication, do you see any roads there which are not absolutely necessary either to communicate with the main outlet at the Vanceville Road—the road leading to the new line—or with the Hornsby Junction;—what I want to get at is this, if the facts which I have put before you are correct, do you on that basis see any unnecessary roads—as a means of general communication with the Crown lands or as a means of communication elsewhere? As a general principle it is of course well to have various means of access. Having regard to the population, the Lane Cove road at Vanceville and at Hornsby Junction itself, I think that many of these roads are desirable. Hornsby will some day I presume be a junction of some importance, and I daresay that in time persons living at Vanceville and at Irishtown would prefer to go to Hornsby for the purpose of catching a train of an express character generally looked for at functions.

119. *Mr. Henry Clarke.*] I understood you to say that the Crown lands not included in the subdivision are not of a very valuable character? Yes; the unsold lot is not of so valuable a character as the sold land generally.

120. What do you think would be the value of that land? Well I have not been over the whole of it, and when you reach the table-land I do not know what you might find beyond. When I was there I really was not in a fit state, from my knee, to be going up and down the hills.

121. You say that this land is not as valuable as the land already sold? I should think not.

122. If the land is of so little value of what use was it to make roads through this private property to give access to it? It is probable that at the time the Junction Road was formed it was deemed wise to carry it to the full extent to which it has gone, for the purpose of reaching the lands at the back. Then I suppose there was the general principle that the district hereabout would open out on to a railway station or stations.

123. Have you been along the Boundary Road? I have been from the station down to the creek.

124. Do you think it possible at a reasonable expense to make Boundary Road passable? You would require an engineering feat something like that at the Zig-zag. Looking up from the hollow it would seem to require a series of slopes. Even then I do not think I should like to drive down. It would be like the Bulli Pass in some places.

125. *Mr. Bruncker.*] Are you aware that Messrs. Richardson and Wrench were asked to report upon the value of these Crown lands? Yes.

126. Do you know by whom the report was made? By Mr. Wrench.

127. Did he inspect the land? No, I think not.

128. Did you? No; but a good man—a thoroughly practical man—was sent.

129. The report was a reliable one? Yes; of course.

130. I believe you sold the land for Messrs. Richardson & Wrench? Yes.

131. Do you know whether the land was sold at the upset price? At more.

132. How much more? A good deal more in some cases.

133. It sold at 50 per cent. more? I will give you some of the prices:—Thirty-pound reserves brought £33; thirty brought £41; thirty brought par; some brought £61, and one lot as much as £77 per acre.

134. What was the upset price of the block which sold at £77? Twenty-five pounds per acre.

135. Then it fetched 300 per cent. above the upset price? Over 200 per cent.—that is, that lot. As I have already said the opening of the Boundary Road direct to the station gave to the Government a considerable advantage in the sale.

136. You think that the land obtained its increased value from the fact of the Boundary Road having been made? Not wholly; but the road undoubtedly assisted.

137. Before selling the Crown lands I suppose you traversed some portions of them? Yes.

138. Is the plan in the appendix No. 8 an accurate plan of the Crown lands? Do you mean of the whole of the Crown lands?

139. Does it show them in the state in which they were when you offered them for sale? Well, it shows no features whatever, with the exception of the gullies.

140. Then it is not a fair plan of the land as it was at the time you sold it? No; I could not say that it is. It is a mere skeleton boundary—if it be true—of the holding of the Crown.

141. It does not show the full area in accordance with the scale? What is the area of the Crown lands?

142. Say 4,000 acres? Taking the area shown to belong to Burns, Withers and Smith to 685 acres, the portion marked blue, if it is intended to show that area of Crown lands, should be six times the size of the other land according to scale.

143. The subdivision of the Crown land is not shown upon this plan in the appendix? No.

144. The plan does not show the land in the form in which it was when you offered it for sale? No.

145. Is the plan signed by Mr. Deering? It is represented to have been.

146. Are you aware that there is a large area of Crown lands to the eastward of the Vanceville Road? I am not aware of that.

147. In submitting land of this character in a similar position, what would be the usual area embodied in the lots? It would depend upon the use to which the land might be applied, I think that in this case the land near the railway station is likely to be thickly populated. Railway communication will make it a very attractive place. I presume that the railway will be taken down to the water at the North Shore and you will then be able to reach a considerable altitude above the sea within a comparatively short space of time.

148. Do you think that the construction of the line from the North Shore to Hornsby will increase the value of this land? I dare say it will.

149. The population is likely to be much more thick than it would be without the railway? I think so.

150. Would you consider the subdivision of this valuable block of land near the railway station a desirable form of subdivision—I refer to the piece of land between the Boundary Road and the continuation road over the bridge? No; I do not.

151. Take the subdivision of the block between road H and the continuation of road E;—do you consider that a desirable form of subdivision? No.

152. You have traversed the best portion of the Crown lands and the best portion of the land of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith;—which do you consider the more valuable of the two? The land of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith.

153. Dealing with the whole of the Crown lands offered in one block, what should you say would be the difference in the value between the two? I should think the private land would be fully double the value of the other.

154. *Chairman.*] Speaking of these subdivisions, you have been asked whether they are in a desirable form? I do not apprehend that that portion shown upon the plan near the railway station would be called a subdivision.

155. Are not some of the roads between Junction Road and road A shown upon the private subdivision? Yes.

156. Then they absolutely formed part of the subdivision? Apparently.

157. Then what you meant when you said just now that the form of subdivision was not desirable was that still further subdivision was required—that is all? Yes.

158. On the assumption that you owned a piece of property, if you could get roads made on it at somebody else's expense, of a better character than are usually made for subdivision purposes, would you get them made for you? I might or might not. There might be a question as to whether I should get them made or not.

159. But providing the roads were in a direction and position of which you approved? It would depend. It is a peculiar question.

160. Supposing it were your own case, and you could get a superior road in place of an inferior road, would you take it? If I were justified in having it done, I do not see why I should refuse. I think justification has been shown in this case.

161. Mr. Brunker has asked you if the map he showed you shows the Government subdivision? Yes; that does not show it in this form. That is clearly self-evident.

162. Do you wish us to understand that that map is incorrect, inasmuch as it does not show the subdivisions? Yes.

163. Do you see that this map purports to be a tracing forwarded to the Hon. John Davies, C.M.G., M.L.C., Chairman of the Casual Labour Board, to accompany my report of 28th January. That is a report showing the roads made by the unemployed in this neighbourhood through private lands. This is signed by Mr. Gordon, the surveyor. Mr. Deering only shows on this tracing additional roads, which were not shown by Mr. Gordon, and it does not profess to have anything to do with showing the Crown lands subdivision? Yes.

164. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] When you sold this land were the roads on the private estate of Burns, Withers, and Smith made? I believe they were. I did not go over them then. As I have said, my first visit to them was on New Year's Day.

165. You say that there was no access at that time? No access direct from the station to the Government ground, *via* Boundary Road.

166. That only referred to one road? Yes.

167. Referring to subdivision plan 8, does that show the whole county of Cumberland? It does not.

168. Is it only intended to show the private estate of Burns, Withers, and Smith? I apprehend it chiefly show that.

169. *Mr. Burns.*] Is it the case that many landed proprietors decline to allow roads to be made through their land to give access to Government lands, when they propose to sell their land in block? Yes, I suppose they expect the same reward from the Government as they would get from private people. I do not suppose the Government have the power to take any person's land without compensation.

170. *Mr. Brunker.*] As to the assumption of your having roads of a better character made at somebody else's expense through your land, if the Government or somebody else wanted to make a macadamized road through your property, which you did not choose to subdivide, and which you could realize on better in one block, would you permit that road to be made without compensation? No; because the question implies that there would be a loss if I allowed the best road to be made.

Wm. Christopher Bennett called in, sworn, and examined:—

171. *Mr. Burns.*] Do you hold the office of Commissioner and Engineer for Roads? Yes.

172. Have you recently visited the Hornsby district? Yes; I went there at the request of the Committee last New Year's day.

173. Did you go over the roads made there by the unemployed? Yes.

174. Had you paid a previous visit to that district on the same business? Yes.

175. Do you recollect that early last year, 1888, the Government asked you to make an inspection of the proposed roads through private lands to the Crown lands in that district? Yes. It was in connection with that that I had made a previous visit.

176. Did you furnish the Government with a report on those roads, dated 8th February, 1888? Yes.

177. Did you report to the Government that, in your opinion, Boundary Road was not practicable? Not economically practicable.

178. Unless at a large outlay? Yes.

179. Did you also state that you thought that Junction Road was a proper road to make? Yes. I thought it was a better road than Boundary Road, and more suitable for ultimate requirements.

180. Did you also report that you thought there ought to be five roads of access made? I did not mention five roads, but I said I thought the roads then cleared were all necessary, and there were five.

181. Does the last part of your report point out that if this land was reserved Crown land not to be sold all the roads would have been desirable in the interests of the Crown lands beyond them? Yes, all the roads then made and shown in the sketch attached to the report.

182. Had you a plan with you when you visited the property recently? Yes.

183. Did you go over the principal roads? I think I went over nearly all of them.

184. Did you observe the work done by the unemployed, both on Crown lands and private lands? I did not observe much of the Crown lands. I chiefly went over the roads that were made for access to the Crown lands.

185. What was the character of the work done by the unemployed on those roads? When I first visited the land the character of the work done was reasonably good and necessary. On my second visit I formed the opinion that the work done which is called ballasting simply spoils the roads that were made before.

186. Then you think the roads are of an inferior kind? Yes; you cannot drive on them. 187.

A. W. S.
Gregg.
10 Jan., 1889.

W.C. Bennett.
10 Jan., 1889.

- W.C. Bennett. 187. Are you of opinion that the roads of access leading to the Crown lands are required in the public interests? All the main roads are.
- 10 Jan., 1889. 188. Have you a plan before you attached to the report? The plan which I have was attached to my first report, in which I stated that all the roads tinted red were necessary.
189. Has the Vanceville Road, which is marked on the plan as a new road, been open and maintained by the Works Department up to a certain point for years past? Yes.
190. Then the extension where they had to open the road to the Crown lands was only for a short distance? About three-quarters of a mile.
191. Taking Burns' Road,—does the plan show the extension through to Bobbing Road? This plan does not show it; but I know it exists, and it was made to connect with Bobbing Road.
192. Are you aware that there are two railway stations to be served on the North Shore Railway? I think there are two railway stations and a platform.
193. Do you see a small road marked as ballasted and formed on the plan? I do not think it is ballasted and formed.
194. Do you think that the road shown on the plan exists? Yes; it is cleared.
195. It is what is called Mistake Road? I do not know.
196. Have you seen the report of Colonel Wells as to the costs of making these roads? Yes.
197. You see that his estimate of the total amount expended on these roads to Crown lands is £2,309. From what you have seen, do you think that is a fair estimate of the expenditure? I do not know what was expended, but I know that I would not value the ballasting at the high price he has placed upon it. That ballasting is simply an obstruction. Anyone driving on the roads is obliged to drive on the old cleared margin at considerable inconvenience, and I regard the ballasting as of value to the road only as raw material to make the road.
198. Is it your opinion that £2,309 is in excess of the value of the work done? I think Colonel Wells's estimate is rather high.
199. Then when you see the statement that the cost of these roads through private lands, owned by various owners besides Burns, Withers, and Smith, is said to be £2,309, you do not think the estimate can be excessive? Certainly not.*
200. Do you think it is too much? I do not think the estimate is a correct one. I think he has over-estimated the ballasting from 12s. to 15s. a chain.
201. What reduction would you make upon that estimate of £2,309? I would take off about £280 for the ballasting.
202. Then in your judgment about £2,000 would represent the whole expenditure on roads through this land, having regard to Colonel Wells's estimate? Yes, in round numbers.
203. Colonel Wells also states that Junction Road and Vanceville Road would most probably have been made by the Roads Department at an estimated cost of over £800. Do you agree with that opinion? I do not think they could have been made for that amount. They both lead to railway stations from the Government lands, and as approaches to the railway stations they would have to be properly metalled ultimately, and that at the lowest would cost £1,000 a mile. There appears to be a least $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of them, so that about £2,500 would have been the cost of those roads properly made.
204. Would your Department have felt called upon in the public interest to make Junction and Vanceville Roads to give access to the various railway stations if the unemployed had not done the work? Not immediately; but ultimately they would have to be made.
205. Have you formed any opinion as to any advantage that has accrued to Burns, Withers, and Smith, and other proprietors of land there, from the making of these roads? I do not think they have derived any other advantage than the exceptional position of the land absolutely rendered necessary to be conferred upon them, because you must give access to the Crown lands, no matter who owns the intervening land.
206. Have you had any difficulty in getting private proprietors to give you land for roads? I have had very great difficulty in carrying out works. Private proprietors are most grasping, and it is far more difficult to get possession of a bit of land here than it is in Ireland.
207. Is it your experience that private proprietors will not give land without a consideration? Yes; and they demand a consideration about ten times the real value of the land. The demands sometimes made upon the Government are disgraceful.
208. You do not think private proprietors of land are at all liberal to the Government? Quite the contrary.
209. Do they get all they possibly can? Yes.
210. From your experience do you think there is anything unreasonable in the request made by the owners of these private lands that if they gave the right to make roads through the land the Government should have the roads properly formed? No; I do not.
211. Do you think it is a fair thing? It is quite a fair equivalent.
212. Colonel Wells states here that if some of these roads had not been given, the Government would have been compelled to purchase land to make roads. Do you think that you would have had to do that? Not in the case of all the roads, but we would have had to do so in the case of the leading roads.
213. In the case of Junction and Vanceville Road? Yes.
214. Also the road to Dobson's platform? Yes; that would have to be given.
215. Do you get a vote every year for making approaches to railway stations? We used to; but it is now merged in the general vote for unclassified roads.
216. Do you get that money to make approaches to railway stations and platforms? Yes.
217. Out of that vote would you have given access to these railway stations? Yes; I would have recommended it.
218. In addition to which you would have had to obtain access through private lands to enable the public to get to the railway stations? Yes; otherwise it would have been no use of to make the railway.
219. *Chairman.*] Looking at the subdivision furnished by Mr. Deering, do you consider that all the roads shown there are roads of access? No; some of them might have been dispensed with. I think the small subdivision roads were not necessary.

220.

* NOTE (on revision) :—This answer, which is correctly reported, was given under a misapprehension, as the replies to the preceding and following questions will show. I understood the latter part of question to be: "You think the estimate correct."

220. Are the roads between Junction Road and A road bordering the station necessary? I think it has been usual to call those roads the T roads. I do not think they are necessary. W.C. Bennett.
221. Do you think that all those roads from Junction Road into the old Boundary Road are necessary? Yes; the peculiar nature of the country rendered them necessary. 10 Jan., 1889.
222. Was it necessary to bring them all south of Junction Road? No; I do not think that was necessary. The I road might be necessary to give access to the station. The continuation of E road to the south of Junction Road on plan 8 is not necessary.
223. Have you seen the roads on the Crown lands at all? Only just from the extremities of the other roads. I did not know that the Committee required any information from me about them.
224. Were you able to see whether the class of work on the Crown lands was inferior or superior to the work done on the roads you have been just enumerating? Taking it from my point of view the work was superior, because the roads on the Crown lands were not ballasted.
225. That is to say, there was not so much done on them? Yes.
226. You consider that Boundary Road is absolutely impracticable without an enormous expenditure of money? Yes, and even with a large expenditure the grades would not be so good as on Junction Road.
227. Are you aware of the character of the land through which these gullies run? Yes. It is pretty fair land on the ridges, and I have no doubt it is good land on the flat; but on the steep slopes the land is not of much value.
228. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] You have said that Boundary Road could not be economically made? Yes.
229. Are you aware that, on the Holt-Sutherland Estate, on the Woniara Road they are cutting down a hill and making a road almost if not quite as difficult as Boundary Road? I do not know that country at all.
230. You are not aware that the unemployed are cutting down a hill with the intention of building a bridge on this road, by order of the Casual Labour Board. No.
231. You have also stated that you could not drive on those roads on the Hornsby Estate? You cannot drive on the ballast; you are obliged to drive on the margin of cleared road.
232. Is not that the case with all roads newly ballasted, and does not everyone try to shirk the ballast? Not to such an extent as in this case.
233. As a matter of fact, have not vehicles passed over these roads? Very few. At one place where there is a quarry the vehicles have carted stone over the road; but that is the only bit of consolidated road.
234. Are you aware that Colonel Wells has left out of his estimate the cost of all bridges and culverts? I see that they are not included, but they are very small. I happen to know that the outside estimate for the bridges would be about £450.
235. Is your estimate and Colonel Wells'—estimate theoretical—that is to say, do they show what the cost would have been if the work were properly done? I do not know what his estimate is, but the estimate I give you reduces his estimate to what the value of the material on the road is approximately.
236. What I want to know is whether your estimate is merely a theoretical estimate according to the scale upon which you generally get your work done? Yes.
237. *Chairman.*] Is yours an estimate of the value of the work after it has been done? Yes; I have no knowledge of the actual cost.
238. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] With regard to the actual cost, Mr. O'Donnell and Mr. Little, the surveyors, ought to be better judges than you or Colonel Wells? Yes; because they know what the work cost.
239. *Mr. Carruthers.*] You have heard Mr. O'Sullivan speak of a cutting on the Holt-Sutherland Estate. I want to read to you, just for your opinion, a report from the superintendent of the Holt-Sutherland Estate on this Boundary Road, which is as follows:—

Sir,

Hurstville, 13 December, 1888.

In reply to yours of yesterday's date, requesting me to proceed to Hornsby, to report upon a portion of Boundary Road, I have the honor to state that I made a minute inspection of the road in question, and am of the opinion that it could not be made a traffic road without an enormous amount of money was expended thereon, the grade being exceedingly steep, about 1 in 6.

As regards the probable cost for the first 15 chains beyond the gully, I estimate that it would cost not less than £200 per chain; to give it a grade of 1 in 10 it would have to be a block cutting, and a high-level bridge across the gully.

I have, &c.,

E. M. BURROWES,

Superintendent, Southern District.

Thomas Walker, Esq., M.P.,
Chairman, &c., Select Committees, Legislative Assembly.

240. Do you coincide with the opinion expressed in that letter? Yes, generally. It would probably cost that amount.
241. Do you think that letter is fair? Yes.
242. You have read the schedule of roads and the statements made by Colonel Wells, and you observe a certificate under that by F. O'Donnell. Do you know this person O'Donnell? Yes; he was in a subordinate position in our own Department. I saw him over there.
243. Do you think that this certificate means to lead the Committee to believe that there is merely a theoretical estimate of the cost, seeing that it is made by the person who actually expended the money? I think Mr. O'Donnell will be better able to speak on that point than I am.
244. *Mr. McMillan.*] You stated to the Chairman that you thought some of the roads made on these private lands were unnecessary. Would it be safe to say that nine-tenths of the roads are absolutely necessary? I would say that a larger proportion are necessary. To give an exact answer I would require time to make a calculation; but I think that the roads that are unnecessary would hardly amount to one-tenth of the whole.
245. *Mr. Brunker.*] Have you had a great deal of experience in making roads and the cost of their construction? Yes; thirty-two years in this Colony.
246. What amount is placed at your disposal annually by the Government for expenditure on the roads of the Colony? Between loans and ordinary votes it amounts to something between three-quarters of a million and one million.
247. Have the estimates for the construction of roads and bridges to be approved by you before the money is expended? Yes.

248.

- W.C.Bennett. 248. Do you state that in your opinion the estimate of the cost of the roads on the estate of Burns, Withers and Smith, made by Colonel Wells, is excessive? Yes; we differ in the value of the so-called ballasting. I would not dignify it with the name of ballasting.
- 10 Jan., 1889. 249. Is the formation of the country such as to render it necessary to procure roads to give access to the Crown lands? Yes; and from Crown lands to the railway station. The railway stations are the great feature in the thing.
250. You think those roads were necessary? Yes; except the few short ones to which I have taken exception.
251. Are they necessary to give access to the railway stations from Crown lands? Yes.

FRIDAY, 11 JANUARY, 1889.

Present:—

MR. WALKER, | MR. O'SULLIVAN,
MR. M'MILLAN.

T. WALKER, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

The Hon. F. J. Burns appeared in person.

Charles Burford Dawson called in and further examined:—

- C.B.Dawson. 252. *Mr. Burns.*] You are surveyor to the estate of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, in the Lane Cove District? I am.
- 11 Jan., 1889. 253. You have held that position I believe from the time of the estate being first purchased by them? I think so.
254. And any subdivisions which they may have made have been carried out by you? Yes.
255. You recollect my writing to you, I think in the early part of 1888, about an application from the Casual Labour Board, for permission to extend Junction Road, from near the station, through our land to the Vanceville Road? About twelve months ago I think—at the beginning of last year.
256. Did you in consequence of what I wrote to you proceed to Hornsby to survey the Junction Road and the cross roads leading into that road? I did.
257. Were you also acting for Mrs. Edwards, whose representative was in the Colony, she being at the time in England? I was.
258. Did I instruct you to survey this road at right angles as near as possible? Yes.
259. And also to survey what is known as the road leading down to Noonan's? Yes; along the boundary of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith's land, and the land of Mrs. Edwards.
260. Did I make it a condition that the representative of Mrs. Edwards should give one half of the land for that road? Yes.
261. And you surveyed that cross road, taking half of the land from Mrs. Edwards and the other half from our property? Yes.
262. Had you any instructions to do any more than survey these roads for the unemployed? Nothing more.
263. Had you instructions at any time to make the subdivision of the area through which these roads are made? None at all.
264. Is there any subdivision on the eastern side of the railway except that adjoining the railway station? Not that I know of.
265. Of what does that subdivision consist? About 52 acres.
266. Have you at any time received instructions to make a subdivision of the land through which these roads have been made? Never.
267. Then if a statement has been made that these lands to the south of the Crown lands have been marked off by you in subdivision for Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, that statement cannot be correct? It is incorrect.
268. Have I mentioned anything to you about our desire to sell this land in a block? You said something about selling the whole of the land in one block to a syndicate some time ago.
269. Without any thought of subdivision? Yes.
270. In your previous examination you made some statement about orchard blocks being made fitting in with the Junction Road? I think I was asked how I would subdivide the land, and that I said I would subdivide into 10-acre orchard blocks.
271. But you never received instructions to make such a subdivision? No, I was asked by a member of the Committee how I would subdivide the land. I think that was how the matter arose.
272. It was a mere speculation of your own? Yes. I gave my opinion as to the way in which I would cut up the land.
273. If it had been your own property? Yes.
274. Do you know how much land was given to the Government for roads by Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith? Judging from the plan, I should say from 29 to 30 acres.
275. Are you aware that Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith sold some land to Mr. Suliman, the architect, on the eastern side of the railway? Yes; there was a 4-acre block marked out there.
276. Do you recollect the price per acre paid? I think it was £100.
277. Did you not hear it was £125? I never heard that price mentioned. I understood that the price was £100.
278. Has there been any sale of land close to Noonan's lately? Not that I know of.
279. Have you heard of any land being sold in that district for less than £100 an acre within the last twelve months? No. I believe a piece of land was put under offer at Noonan's a short time ago at £200 an acre.
280. Not far from the platform, I presume? No. I think there was from 36 to 40 acres offered to a Company at £200 an acre I believe.

281. You have not heard of lands being sold in that district lately for less than £100 per acre? No.
282. What do you estimate to be the value of the lands which the Government have taken for these roads? I should think it would be at least £100 per acre.
283. Then there would be close upon £3,000 worth? Yes.
284. Have you been to Hornsby lately? Not lately; not since I laid out the roads.
285. Look at this statement of expenditure furnished by Colonel Wells, and countersigned by Mr. O'Donnell, the road overseer, purporting to give the expenditure upon the roads in the Hornsby district, upon the property of Burns, Withers, and Smith. I want first to call your attention to the road leading from Junction Road to Pearson's corner;—you know that road? Yes.
286. Have Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith any land along that road? Your land is on the north of it.
287. But have we any land adjacent to the road? No.
288. Then any expenditure upon that road would not come within the category of the expenditure in which we are concerned? No.
289. Do you know the road leading from the Junction Road over the railway crossing to the hotel? Yes.
290. Have Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith any land adjacent to that road? None.
291. In any estimate of expenditure upon the roads in which we are concerned the expenditure upon these roads would have to be omitted? Yes.
292. Are you aware that the boundary road has been extended through the subdivision at the station to the railway line? I have not seen it.
293. You will see in the list before you the continuation of Boundary Road to Burdett-street;—do you observe the charge for the continuation of that road? Yes, £27.
294. Then as to the road adjoining the railway station in the plan of the estate George-street, what is the expenditure there? £67 10s.
295. The land adjoining the railway line is the property of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith? Yes.
296. And the extension of the Boundary Road to Burdett-street? That is on your land.
297. Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith had made a rough opening prior to the Government commencing to give work to the unemployed in that district;—this opening had been made through one or two streets in the subdivision? I think so, but I did not see them.
298. There had not been much expenditure there? There was an old man working there, but I do not know what he did there—very little, I should think.
299. If you look at the total of the expenditure shown in this list you will see that it is £2,309? To that there must be added something for culverts and some small bridges.
300. What proportion of the amount do you suppose would be chargeable to roads through the land of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, taking into consideration the fact that some portion of the expenditure is upon the old Vanceville Road? How much is expended upon the Vanceville Road?
301. Say about £262 10s.; that is partly for the opening of the new road to the back, and partly upon the old road. Both roads have been improved by this expenditure. Making the necessary exceptions what should you think would be the proportion of expenditure upon roads passing through our land? I should also have to deduct the expenditure upon Burns Road—that I think is outside of your land. That road was left a long time before you purchased the land. It was left in the Big Island Estate, about forty or fifty years ago.
302. I understand that Burns Road was laid out in the original sale of the property when it belonged to Mr. John Terry Hughes? Yes; it is just as old a road as the Vanceville Road.
303. I want you nevertheless to include that road in your estimate, because it has a frontage to our northern property. Including that what would be the proportion of expenditure in which we are concerned? About three-quarters of the expenditure, I should think.
304. That would be less than £2,000? It would be about £1,700, I suppose.
305. You have had large experience both as a surveyor and as a party concerned in properties;—do you think that Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith derive much benefit from the making of these roads through their property? I should say that the only benefit they would derive would consist of the amount expended in making the roads—that is, the amount actually spent. It must be borne in mind that they had given the land themselves. The expenditure upon the roads would be the actual value added to the estate.
306. Do you estimate that the lands given to these roads is worth more than the expenditure? Considerably more.
307. If it be a matter between the Government and Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, do you estimate that Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith would gain any advantage as against the Government from this expenditure? I do not think so.
308. No advantage? No.
309. Do you think that the plan before you, No. 8 in the Appendix, signed by Mr. Deering, gives a fair conception of the proportion of Crown lands to private lands? Decidedly not.
310. Have you any idea of the area of Crown lands at the back of these private lands? Between 3 and 4,000 acres.
311. Yet by this plan the private lands are made to assume a proportion about as large as that of the Government lands? Yes; and there is another thing, the roads through the Crown lands are not shown. There are roads between the gullies continuations of the cross roads leading up from Junction Road.
312. Do you know anything about the Mistake Road? Yes, it was made in mistake for the Burns Road.
313. Do you know anything of the continuation of the Burns Road towards the Bobbing Rock Road? No.
315. You have not been there? No.
316. *Chairman.*] You wrote a letter, I think, a short time ago to the *Herald*, in which you stated that there was no subdivision of the Burns, Withers, and Smith estate to the eastward of the station? Other than that which I had already subdivided. I do not think I said that there was no subdivision to the eastward of the station.
317. Has not the subdivision left by you roads in it which have been made by the unemployed? Not that I am aware of.
318. You made the subdivision for Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith? Yes.
319. Look at the plan in front of you. You see that George-street runs parallel with the railway line;—is not that shown on your subdivision? Yes, George-street is shown.

C. B. Dawson,
11 Jan., 1889.

- C. B. Dawson. 320. You see from the plan that it is one of the roads which had been made by the unemployed? Yes.
- 11 Jan., 1889. 321. Is not Burdett-street also shown in your subdivision? Yes.
322. And Junction-street? Yes.
323. Is not a portion of Hunter-street also shown? Yes.
324. The whole of these streets which I have named which have been made by the unemployed are shown upon the subdivision which you made? Parts of them. Burdett-street I take it as a continuation of Boundary Road.
325. But it is shown in the subdivision which you made? Yes.
326. You say that Mr. Burns wrote to you some time ago instructing you to go up to the estate and to lay out some roads? Yes.
327. So that you had the direction which the road should take in your own hands? Mr. Burns told me to leave the roads in the best possible places.
328. And you obeyed that instruction in consideration of the interests of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith? Yes.
329. I suppose that, having regard to those interests, you left the Junction Road where it is, and also road E? I did not lay out road E.
330. You say that there was a mistake in connection with the Estate Road? It is not what I surveyed. They cleared Mistake Road, thinking it was Burns Road.
331. Then evidently that portion Burns Road was not cleared at that time? Burns Road was not cleared at that end.
332. You have spoken upon the expenditure upon these roads; as a matter of fact do you know anything absolutely as to the expenditure which has taken place? Only from the Schedule which I see before me.
333. You know nothing as to the expenditure beyond that? Nothing at all. I have not seen the roads since they were cleared and made.
334. You are unable to form any actual conclusion? I am.
335. You said just now that it would be a loss for Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith to have made these roads themselves? I do not think I said that. At the same time I do not think that there would be any advantage to them in having the streets made like this if they were not going to sell in subdivisions.
336. But suppose they were going to sell would they be of any advantage? If they could make use of them in that position they would certainly be of advantage.
337. Have you not placed the roads in a good position for subdivisional purposes? Junction Road is the only one we could make use of.
338. If you were going to subdivide the block would you not have to have more roads than those shown upon the map? Not necessarily.
339. Would you not for instance have to have more roads between the roads H and G? Of course, if the land were to be cut up into small blocks you would have to have more roads, but I suggested that it should be cut up into larger blocks—the land is not suitable for little 50 feet blocks.
340. You said in your previous evidence that the roads had improved the estate—do you wish to withdraw that statement? I think I said that the roads had improved the estate to some extent, but that they were of very little advantage. I think that is what I said. I think I said that the roads had improved the estate to the extent of the amount which had been expended upon them.
341. Will you look at the answer you gave to question 1852.
1852. *Chairman.*] As a matter of fact, does not every road on that property, with the exception of Mistake Road, improve the value of Burns, Withers, and Smith's estate? To a certain extent, most decidedly.
- Do you wish to withdraw that statement or to adhere to it? No; I adhere to that statement.
342. What is the exact meaning which you wish to convey when you state that the improvements to the estate are represented exactly by the expenditure upon the roads. Do you mean to say that notwithstanding that the lands were given by the owners the estate has been improved to that value? If I owned the land and left the streets through it, and spent a certain amount upon those streets, the value by which the estate would be increased would be represented exactly by the amount of money which I expended. I do not think I could give you any better idea of what I mean.
343. Suppose this block of land were your own, that you desired to sell it, and that you subdivided it—if you cleared and made roads you would expect the property to increase in value to the extent of the amount which you had spent upon the roads? Yes.
344. Then this property has increased in value to the extent of the amount which the Government has expended upon these roads? I suppose it has.
345. If the Government had made better roads upon the estate than would be made by private owners in their subdivision would not the value of the property be enhanced proportionately? To the extent of the cost of the roads, but of course you could make a road too good.
346. But as a general rule the more valuable the road is the more the property is improved? I should not expend more than a certain amount upon roads in a locality like this; I should not put down kerbing and blue metal, for instance; that would not be necessary. These roads will be only roads of access for the next fifty years.
347. Still the roads have improved the selling capacity of the land? To a certain extent, of course.
348. Have you had any communication with anyone concerning this estate since you were last before the Committee? No.
349. You have not seen any member of the syndicate? Oh, yes; but I have had nothing to do with the estate.
350. Have you been up to see it since you were here? No.
351. *Mr. Burns.*] Do you consider that these cross roads from Junction Road are of any advantage to the estate? No, certainly not; not those short roads.
352. *Chairman.*] What do these black lines shown upon the plan indicate? They are the boundaries of the allotments in the old Big Island Estate.
353. That is an old subdivision? Yes; I should say it was fifty years old at least.
354. *Mr. McMillan.*] A good many of the questions you have been asked have been upon the basis of a certain supposititious subdivision. Now I want to bring you back to the original state of affairs. There

is a block of 680 acres owned by certain people; there are Government lands to the north of it. We will take it for granted—I believe it is in evidence—that there was no intention on the part of the private owners to subdivide immediately. Indeed, it is a question whether the owners would have subdivided at all. I want you to put yourself in the position of these proprietors. Would you, knowing the difficulties in which the Government were placed with regard to their property to the northward, have thought it to your interest to tell the Government that they could make any roads they liked in reason leading to their estate and that you would give them the ground you required for the roads? I should certainly make them resume. I would not give them any roads.

355. Suppose you were a little more patriotic than that, would you consider, taking these roads as a whole, which have been made by the Government, that they were roads which, in view of some future possible subdivision, were laid out in the best possible way? No; I think they are not.

356. I admit that there may be one or two unnecessary roads; but taking the bulk of them as necessary for access to the Crown lands, both from the junction at Hornsby and the Pearce's corner line, would you consider that you were compensated by the Government making these roads a little better than roads are generally made in such country—that is, would you regard them as a fair equivalent for the land which you had given? No; I do not think I should be sufficiently compensated; I do not think I should get the value of the land.

357. Your attention has been directed to the subdivision you made. Is it not a fact that when subdivisions are made in such country as this they are simply a sort of indication of roads made by trenches on each side marked by pegs, and in many instances scarcely cleared? They are very seldom cleared.

358. The roads are merely indicated? Yes.

359. Is it not a fact that all such roads and subdivisions are as a rule taken up ultimately by the municipalities or by the Government as settlement increases? Yes, in nearly all cases.

360. That is to say, whatever is done to the roads whether they are formed in an expensive or inexpensive manner the proprietors do not as a rule spend money in this way? I have never seen it.

361. *Chairman.*] But notwithstanding all that, you consider that these roads have benefited the private property of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith? I adhere to the statement which I have already made.

362. *Mr. Burns.*] Which was that the property was improved to a certain extent? Exactly.

TUESDAY, 15 JANUARY, 1889.

Present:—

| | | |
|-----------------|--|---------------|
| MR. WALKER, | \| | MR. McMILLAN, |
| MR. O'SULLIVAN, | \| | MR. STREET, |
| MR. CARRUTHERS, | \| | MR. BRUNKER. |

T. WALKER, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

The Hon. J. F. Burns appeared in person.

Critchett Walker called in, sworn, and examined:—

363. *Chairman.*] You are the Principal Under Secretary? Yes.

364. Have any recommendations come through your office in regard to the work done upon roads by the unemployed under the Casual Labour Board? Yes; but not in respect of every road.

365. But in regard to such roads as are of importance, I suppose you would say? No, I cannot say that. The roads upon the Holt-Sutherland Estate have come through the Department—in fact, roads in various parts of the Colony.

366. Does that apply to any of the Hornsby Roads? No.

367. None of them? Not that I am aware of.

368. In the case of the Holt-Sutherland Estate, what was the routine through which the roads had to pass in your Department? The Board would recommend the roads, and they would come to me. I would submit them to the Colonial Secretary, believing them to be public roads.

369. Were any representations of any kind made to you as to the nature of the roads, at any personal interview, or in any other manner, by the Chairman of the Casual Labour Board? No; nothing beyond the circumstance of the roads being public roads, and the work being necessary for the public convenience.

370. It was stated to you by the Chairman of the Board, either by letter or by personal interview, that the roads were for the public convenience? As a rule; but in one or two instances, I think it is stated in the papers laid before Parliament that the roads were works of public necessity.

371. Did you ever at any time have any suspicion as to the public necessity for any of the roads so submitted? No; certainly not. I took it as a matter of course that they were to be public roads, especially when a number of Members of Parliament signed the requisition and urged the matter.

372. Did you ever object to approve of any of them? Yes. On one occasion I heard—I cannot tell you from memory when—that the road was a private road. I immediately stopped the work and telegraphed to the Colonial Secretary, who approved of my action until he returned. On his return, upon proper representations being made, it was discovered that the road in question was not a private road—that it was a public road. It was, to the best of my recollection, the Malvern Road, on the Holt-Sutherland Estate.

373. That is the only road about the approval for which you hesitated? Yes.

374. You objected to it upon your own authority? Upon my own authority I stopped it, and two members of the Holt-Sutherland Company came to me. I cannot remember now who they were, but I think Mr. Murphy was one and that Mr. Jamieson was another. They were angry that I had stopped the road. I have not yet obtained a copy of the telegram, but I telegraphed immediately to Sir Henry Parkes, and I had received a reply when they came. Unfortunately I have since destroyed the telegram, but I have tried to get a copy of it, and I daresay I shall succeed in the course of a day or two. I remember the words as clearly as possible,—“Approve of your action *re* Holt-Sutherland Roads.”

375

C. B. Dawson
11 Jan., 1889.

C. Walker.
15 Jan., 1889.

- C. Walker. 375. Is that the only instance in which you disapproved? That was the only instance in which I had cause to disapprove, as far as my knowledge would permit.
- 15 Jan., 1889. 376. In no instance had you any knowledge? None whatever.
377. That is beyond the representations of the Board? Just so.
378. In each instance it was represented to you that the roads sent for approval were actually public roads or were roads of such a nature as to be of public convenience? Yes. The papers will show that, I think.
379. Had the Colonial Secretary, from your knowledge, any means of ascertaining the character of any of these roads? I do not think so; that is no more than I had.
380. Did he do more than act upon the representation which you conveyed to him from the Casual Labour Board? No more than that.
381. You acted upon the *bonâ fides* of the representations made to you? Yes; by the Board and other persons concerned in the roads. What I mean by that is, Members of Parliament and those who came upon deputations urging the making of these roads.
382. You refer, I suppose, to Members of Parliament signing petitions for roads. Can you recollect any instance in which a Member of Parliament signed for what might be termed a private road? I do not think I can. The papers will show you the names.
383. Have you seen the Progress Report of this Committee? Yes.
384. The signatures of the Members of Parliament, I suppose, would be in reference to roads of which the Committee approve? Yes; I imagine so.
385. And not in reference to other roads? No.
386. Perhaps you have in your mind the clearing of the railway track to the noxious trades sites? Yes. That was approved of, I think, upon the representation of some seventy-eight Members.
387. *Mr. Carruthers.*] I suppose that in your private capacity you know that locality pretty well? I know it now but I did not know it when the roads were being made.
388. You have frequently been in the Park? Since the roads were made, but not before.
389. I suppose you have seen the plan which has been placed before the Committee? Yes.
390. You know the extent of the settlement at Como? Yes.
391. Are there many people living there? I should not say very many.
392. Are there more than fifty people there? That would be as many as there are, I should think. I doubt if there are fifty, but there may be.
393. Is there any settlement at Sutherland? Yes.
394. How many people are living there? I should say there are over 100 there.
395. There are a couple of hotels there? I believe so. I should say there were between 100 and 150 people there.
396. You know Sylvania, where the punt crosses? Yes.
397. Are there many people living there? About as many people as at Como, I should think.
398. You think there are fifty people there? I should say there would be about fifty there and at Ewey Bay, because I suppose you would take in Mr. Frederick Want's place.
399. I suppose you know the locality from Richardson's place up to Davis' and Burraneer Bay;—are there fifty people in that locality? I do not think there are. I do not know the locality very well. I have not been down at Mr. Gannon's place. I have been in a boat in the Bay, but that is all.
400. You say that you have seen the Progress Report submitted by the Committee? Yes.
401. Did you observe the statement in the Report that there were only fifty families living in the vicinity of these roads? There are a great many more than that.
402. Are you aware that the main Illawarra Road is a road which has been maintained by the Government for some time? Yes.
403. For how many years can you remember that road being maintained by the Government? I think I remember it for something like fifteen or sixteen years, if not more. I cannot tell you the exact time, but I have always known it as a public road.
404. Maintained by the Government? Yes.
405. You know what is called the Port Hacking Road? I have never been over it, but I know where it turns off from the other road. It may have been a road for years, but it is only newly made. It may have been on the map for a number of years, laid out as a permanent road, but I do not think it has been made or used for more than (say) three or four years—perhaps a little more.
406. *Mr. McMillan.*] When this Board was appointed, consisting of two public officers and Mr. Davies, your Department looked upon it, not merely as an Executive carrying out this work, but also as affording some proof of the *bonâ-fides* of all the work done? Certainly.
407. So that when their reports came before the Colonial Secretary's Department, with the initials of these gentlemen appended, it was taken for granted in the main that full inquiry had been made, and that everything was perfectly correct? Certainly.
408. I take it that it would be absolutely impossible for a Department like yours, with such multifarious duties, to in any way go into detail? Quite so.
409. Especially in a case where a special Board has been provided to take the responsibility, more or less;—it was understood that you would have to carry out their recommendations? Yes.
410. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Referring to the statement in the Progress Report, that there are only about fifty families resident in the vicinity of these roads, are you aware that that statement was made by Mr. Murphy, the Manager of the Holt-Sutherland Estate? No; I was not aware of that. I have not read the whole of the evidence.
411. Who would be more likely to have the best knowledge of this fact—you yourself, or Mr. Murphy, the Manager of the estate? I think that I know just as much about it as Mr. Murphy, although he is the Manager of the estate.
412. Considering that Mr. Murphy is the gentleman who got all the petitions signed for these roads, do you not think that he will be in a better position than you are to give an opinion as to the number of residents? I do not think I can answer that question.
413. *Chairman.*] We do not want to get at the population surrounding the roads which are approved of. It is admitted that some of the main roads—the Sylvania Road, for instance—would serve a large population, but there are other roads—subsidiary roads, running north and south;—what about the population in their vicinity? I saw them for the first time on the plan. I certainly was not aware that they were the roads alluded to in the recommendations.

414. Would you say that there were over fifty families served by these subsidiary roads? I should say there certainly were, as far as my memory serves me. C. Walker.
415. You say that that there are over fifty families? I am certain there are. 15 Jan., 1889.
416. Are you aware if any audit has been made of the accounts of the Casual Labour Board? I understand from the Auditor-General that a number of accounts have been audited,—in fact they are going through them now.
417. Since this inquiry started? No; I think they have always been audited from the commencement.
418. But you say that they are going through them now? Not more than formerly, as I understand.
419. There has been no general audit? There has been no special audit on account of the sitting of this Committee.
420. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] What I want to arrive at is this—I do not want to know about the audit of detail payments;—has there been a general audit of the accounts of the Casual Labour Board? I do not quite understand you.
421. The Board has been in existence for twenty-two months;—has there been an audit of the accounts of the Board—that is, the whole of the accounts, for any specific time,—that is to say, a year or six months? I cannot say; the matter would not come through me.
422. *Mr. Burns.*] All payments in connection with the unemployed have been made upon the order of the Department of the Colonial Secretary? Yes; that is to say the Board would apply to us for a certain advance, ours being the office under which it is supervised. We approve, as a matter of form, and send the warrant back to the Treasury for payment.
423. Are you aware that these accounts of the Casual Labour Board have been regularly checked at the Treasury from time to time, and that a second advance would hardly be made unless the first account had been checked? That I believe is correct.
424. Are you aware also that the accounts, in the regular course, find their way into the hands of the Auditor-General? Yes.
425. There has been no special audit? No.
426. *Chairman.*] What is the form gone through in asking you for an advance? It is merely a formal request for a further advance of such and such an amount, as occasion may require. The last advance applied for I think was for about £6,000.
427. *Mr. Burns.*] Are you aware that there is an officer at the Treasury to examine all the accounts of this kind? Yes.
428. The accounts must pass through his hands? Yes.
429. *Mr. Carruthers.*] Do you remember when the unemployed were first banded together under the administration of Mr. G. F. Wise? I think, if my memory serves me right, that would be over three years ago.
430. Do you remember at that period what course was adopted for their relief? I think they were relieved principally by soup tickets.
431. And free feeding? Yes; they had orders upon Barnett's and some other eating-house. There was afterwards a special kitchen got up for them at the Hyde Park Barracks, where they used to be fed in grand style. They used afterwards to lie down in the park and enjoy their smoke.
432. Do you remember Mr. Wise complaining to the Government that some of these men were earning at the work upon which they were engaged as much as from 9s. to 15s. per day? Yes; I heard it, but I do not think it was correct.
433. At all events you remember Mr. Wise writing a letter to the Department? I could not say whether it was a letter or a memorandum, but I know there was some communication of the kind. I do not think the statement was correct—that is, it was not a fair way of putting it. Some of the men, it is true, used to work eighteen hours a day, and make sometimes 15s.; but you could not say that that was what they were making a day. Some of them would go to work grubbing trees by moonlight. They would work from a very early hour in the morning until late at night. These were a few honest hard working men who had got in among the unemployed.
434. Some of them at all events were doing very well? I should say that the greatest average from an ordinary day's work would be from 7s. to 8s.—anything beyond that would be overtime.
435. Are you not aware that a lot of the men were working overtime, and that it became a matter of current report that many of them were making these excessive wages? I know that that report got about; but the question is, whether it was true. I do not think it was.
436. Do you think it had any effect in attracting men to the body of the unemployed? Certainly it did. One object of spreading the report was to make more men throw up their billets. A lot of them I know did so.
437. How many of these feeding tickets as a rule were issued every day? A large number. It would not be safe for me to say how many.
438. Do you think the number went up to 1,000? I really could not say. If I said a 1,000, I might be making a mistake. I know that the number was very large.
439. Was any contract entered into with any person to supply these meals at a certain rate? Yes, with Mr. Kidman.
440. What was the rate? I do not know.
441. Was it 6d.? There were several people. I know that Mr. Barnett in Pitt-street did it for 6d., and there was another man higher up who also did it for 6d. The men used to come round twice and get several tickets; then they would dispose of them without going near the place at all. They would sell them to other men for 3d., and buy beer with the proceeds.
442. For how many months or weeks was this sort of thing going on? It would be hard for me to say; but I should think that it would be at least two or three months.
443. Was any work done in return for these tickets? No.
444. They were an absolute drag upon the State? Yes; the money was thrown away, so to speak.
445. I believe it was principally upon your recommendation that the men were sent to a depôt at the National Park? Yes.
446. From that time to this there has been no recurrence of the free feeding? No.
447. Has the work been rendered less attractive by lower wages? Yes.
448. And the anomalies to which I have referred have been removed? Yes; to a large extent.

- C. Walker.
15 Jan., 1889.
449. Has any report been made, showing that the unemployed have diminished in numbers? When they went out to the National Park, I think there was something like 2,500 or 3,000. They gradually increased until they reached about 5,500.
450. How long ago is it since the highest point was reached? About twelve months. When they found that it was not easy work they began to clear off. Now I believe there are not 1,000 left.
451. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] When the men were enjoying free feeds, and living in this sumptuous easy style, was it not while they were waiting for Crown land work to be prepared for them? That certainly might be said of them; but I do not know that there was any work for them to do.
452. *Chairman.*] Had you not great difficulty at first in the Colonial Secretary's Office in determining how you should dispose of the men? Yes.
453. It was a new difficulty springing up then? It was very great indeed.
454. It was not until you had time to mature your plans that anything could be done;—meanwhile you could not do otherwise than feed them in this way? Certainly not. I wanted for a long while to have them shunted out to a depôt away from the stump orations, which attracted a large number of men. They would listen to the speeches, and then they would telegraph over to Adelaide, "There is a good champion here," and so on.

George Withers, M.P., recalled, and further examined:—

- G. Withers,
M.P.
15 Jan., 1889.
455. *Mr. Burns.*] Do you recollect giving evidence on a previous occasion touching the matter referred to this Committee? I remember giving evidence and I have read it several times since.
456. On the 19th December you wrote a letter to the Chairman of the Committee, stating that when you were before the Committee you were led to believe that £5,000 or £6,000 had been expended upon these roads through the land of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith to the Crown lands in the Hornsby district? Yes.
457. You also stated in this letter that you had reason to believe that a much smaller sum had been expended upon these roads? Yes.
458. You also stated that you had discovered that the land on the eastern side of the Homebush and Waratah Railway belonging to Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith connected with these roads was under 700 acres in area? Yes.
459. And that you desired, in consequence, to be allowed to amend your evidence? Yes.
460. You stated in your letter that you wished to be recalled, and that before giving evidence you intended to go over the roads for your own satisfaction, in order that your evidence might be more decided? Yes.
461. Have you since then made a special visit to Hornsby to see these roads? Yes; on Saturday last.
462. Have you satisfied yourself approximately as to the amount expended upon these roads? Yes.
463. Have you also made inquiry with respect to the area held by Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith on this side of the line? Yes.
464. When you stated in your letter that you had ascertained that the area was under 700 acres, what did you mean by that? Of course that must be taken in conjunction with my previous statement. I based my estimate upon the increased area which I thought was there, and also upon the statement that £6,000 had been expended upon the property.
465. When you made that estimate, how much land did you suppose was held by Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith on that side of the railway? I always thought there were some 1,000 or 1,200 acres. I never knew the exact area until now.
466. What did you ascertain the area to be? 680 acres.
467. Then your estimate of £10,000 increment in value by reason of this expenditure is based upon the statement made by you to this Committee that £6,000 had been spent upon the roads, and also upon the supposition that the area of the land was 1,000 or 1,200 acres? Yes.
468. Was your application to be allowed to amend your evidence agreed to by the Committee? It was not at that time.
469. It was refused? Yes.
470. Have you observed a paragraph in the Progress Reports which states that a member of the firm of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith had admitted that the property had been enhanced in value to the extent of at least £10,000 by the construction of these roads? Yes.
471. That statement is, I presume, based upon your evidence? I took it as such.
472. When you went to Hornsby to make an inspection of these roads, were you accompanied by any person who knew the roads and the locality? Yes; I accidentally picked up an old resident. I intended to go single-handed, but I was driven round by an old resident of the district.
473. Did you make a general inspection of the roads? Yes.
474. I think you said that previously you knew little about them? I never saw the roads until Saturday last, with the exception of the Junction Road, and what little might be seen by passing of the Cross Roads.
475. What member of the Committee led you to believe that £5,000 or £6,000 had been expended upon these roads? As far as my memory serves me, I think the question came from Mr. Copeland. I think I was asked whether I thought the estate had been increased in value by the roads to the extent of £20,000. The evidence shows how I dealt with that question. I was quite at sea as to what had been spent, and could give no estimate from my personal knowledge. I had no knowledge of the work. I think Mr. Copeland observed that the Chairman could inform me that between £5,000 and £6,000 had been expended upon the property.
476. As a matter of fact, three members of the Committee put questions to you about this expenditure;—do you recollect who they were? Mr. Copeland, Mr. O'Sullivan, and the Chairman.
477. On the occasion of your special visit to these roads, I suppose you saw most of them? Yes.
478. Did you see both the roads on the Government subdivision and the roads through the private land? I did not get down to what is known as the Great Eastern Road. I omitted what I had seen on previous occasions.
479. Will you tell the Committee your opinion as to the construction of these roads, and as to their formation;—will you say whether you think them good or bad—First, what is your opinion with regard to the roads passing through the private land? I took a plan with me and I made a few notes. I may say in passing that the plan is very inaccurate. With respect to the roads which are said to be ballasted, I think

G. Withers,
M.P.
15 Jan., 1889.

think it is the most inferior work I ever saw. I should imagine that about 13 or 14 feet in the centre of those roads, where the land is alluvial, is ballasted. That occurs in Junction Road and in Burns' Road, where it passes through land which is more alluvial than the other. The roads which are formed on the harder formation are the best roads—in other words, the roads which are not ballasted are the best. It would have been a mistake to ballast the roads formed on the ironstone gravel.

480. Which are they? I could not give you their names.

481. Are the best roads on the private land or on the Government land? The roads on the gravel formation are the best. They occur principally on the Government lands. The Government lands just about there are of a harder formation.

482. You have seen some of the roads in a casual way previous to this special visit? Yes.

483. Having seen the roads on this inspection, generally, your observation as to their inferiority applies to the roads made by the unemployed? I understood that all these roads had been made by the unemployed.

484. Are the roads which have been made by the unemployed of an inferior kind? They are all very inferior roads. As I said just now, the best roads are those which had required least formation.

485. I wish you to look at the account of the expenditure furnished by Colonel Wells and Mr. O'Donnell, the Road Overseer? I have seen that account.

486. You will see that they estimate that the total expenditure upon all roads through these private lands to the Crown lands is, approximately, £2,300? Yes.

487. You will see that the schedule includes the expenditure upon the road from Junction Road to Pearce's Corner to the church? Yes.

488. I presume you are aware that Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith have no land upon that road? Yes; I am aware of that.

489. Do you know the road from the Junction Road across the railway bridge to the "Junction Hotel"? Yes. I did not go over it the other day, but I know it well.

490. You are aware that Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith have no land along that road? That, I think, will be seen from the plan.

491. Are you aware whether a road has been made close to the "Junction Hotel," down in the direction of a line with the property of Mr. Higgins, by the unemployed, and that Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith have no interest in it, having no land there? Decidedly; I know that very well.

492. We have no land there? No.

493. There is among the papers a petition from a number of residents, in which your name is included, for the improvement of the old Vanceville Road? Yes.

494. That was an application simply to improve the old road? Yes.

495. There was no question of extension? No.

496. That petition was referred by the Department of Works, to whom it was addressed, to the Casual Labour Board? Yes.

497. You have observed that the Vanceville Road, as far as it was maintained by the Works Department, has been improved by the unemployed? Yes; I saw that on my previous visit.

498. Does not the evidence of Mr. Bennett show that that portion of the road has been maintained by the Department for some years past? Yes. I believe there is a good deal of settlement on either side.

499. Have you observed that Burns' Road is also shown by the evidence to have been an old road which has been improved by the unemployed? Yes.

500. It has been extended in the direction of Noonan's? Yes.

501. Have you any information as to how that road came to be improved by the unemployed? From inquiries I made, I find it has been improved in response to a deputation of the residents, of which I had no knowledge, through the Casual Labour Board.

502. Headed by Mr. Noonan? Yes.

503. Are you aware that Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith have no interest in the road leading from the road by Noonan's on to the Lane Cove Road? Decidedly.

504. We have no land fronting it? None whatever.

505. Are you aware that Mr. Noonan offered to give evidence that he was the most active agent in inducing the Casual Labour Board to improve these two roads? I learnt that from Mr. Noonan on Saturday last. He seemed anxious to give evidence.

506. Are you aware that Colonel Wells has stated that £800 out of the £2,300 said to have been expended in connection with the unemployed would have had to be expended by the Public Works Department themselves, in order to make approaches to the railway station? Yes; I understand so.

507. Perhaps you are also aware that Mr. Bennett, the Chief Commissioner for Roads, has said that by-and-bye the Department will have to expend at least £2,000 in making roads for the railway station? I did not know that.

508. Are you aware that a station or platform is now being built close to Noonan's and Dobson's, on the North Shore line? Yes; I saw it on Saturday for the first time.

509. A road leading from that station to the Lane Cove Road has been widened and improved by the unemployed? Yes—up past Noonan's.

510. Are you also aware that a station is being built at the corner of the Vanceville and Lane Cove Road's? Yes.

511. Are you aware that there is also a station close to "Porter's Hotel"? I have not been that way for years, but I have heard something of it.

512. Have you any idea of the extent of the Crown lands on the northern side of the property of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith? I have not.

513. You do not know the area of the land? No, but they seem to have a large area. I think it goes pretty well down to Peat's Ferry.

514. Is it your opinion that these Crown lands have been improved in value by these roads of access through the private land? Undoubtedly.

515. Do you recollect the first application we received for permission to make a road through the land of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith? Yes; but I do not recollect the date.

516. Do you remember my consulting you about it? Yes.

517. Do you know who was in office as Minister for Lands then? I was always under the impression that Mr. Copeland was Minister of Lands. I know that the Dibbs or Stuart Government sent the application.

518.

- G. Withers,
M.P.
15 Jan., 1889.
518. Did I write to you or see you as to whether you concurred in the application of the Government for this first road of access? You either wrote to me or saw me personally. I remember the three of us signing a letter.
519. Do you not recollect the first letter I wrote to you, stating that an application had been made to me by a surveyor on behalf of the Government for the road over the bridge near Hornsby? I cannot say whether you wrote a letter or whether you produced a letter and asked me to sign it; but I remember your communicating with me in some way with regard to an application by the Government of the day for land for a road or roads required to give access to the railway station.
520. Do you recollect if Mr. Smith was opposed to giving land for these roads? I know that he was always opposed to giving land for any purpose of that kind.
521. Are you aware that Mr. Bennett, after the applications came from the Casual Labour Board for some of these roads, furnished an independent report to the Government as to their necessity? I think I saw it in January last.
522. Having ascertained the expenditure upon these roads, as far as it can be ascertained, and also the area of land held by Messrs Burns, Withers, and Smith, can you tell the Committee whether, in your opinion, their estate has derived any great advantage from the construction of the roads? I see very little special benefit derived by the estate myself, after looking into the matter.
523. Do you know how much land has been given for these roads? I believe 29 acres has been given. I do not know whether it has been given or taken. I understand that some of the land has been taken, and that we have not given it.
524. What is your estimate of the value of this land? I put the land in that part of the estate at £125 per acre. A leading architect in the city secured, after very great trouble, a block of 4 acres at £125 per acre. We consider that we made a concession in allowing him to have the land at that price for the construction of what was considered a good residence. I also have regard to the fact that 40 acres near Noonan's was bought at £150 per acre within the last two months. Estimating our 29 acres to be worth £125 an acre, you have a sum of £3,625.
525. Do you know who purchased the land near Noonan's? Mr. Lyne, M.P., I believe, and some Melbourne friends.
526. What proportion of the £2,300, alleged by Colonel Wells to have been expended upon these roads, has been expended upon roads in which Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith are directly or indirectly interested? I should say the sum would be considerably less than that given in the Schedule. I could not say how much less.
527. Would it be £500 less? I think there is no doubt about that.
528. Then you estimate the land which has been taken as being worth £3,625, while there has been an expenditure upon the roads in which we are interested of about £1,800? Yes; about that, in round numbers.
529. You think that would be allowing a very full amount? Yes.
530. Do you think Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith obtained an increment in value by this expenditure outside what you now state? Decidedly not.
531. Then you wish to withdraw altogether the statement you made about this increase in value of £10,000? Decidedly.
532. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Let me refer you now to your previous evidence. Look at question 2191;—
2191. Do you think £20,000 would be too high an estimate? It is a difficult thing for me to say; you can probably form as good an opinion as I can. I do not think it would be at all unreasonable to suppose that the property had received that increase in value;—
Do you adhere to that? That is simply ridiculous.
533. I am about to ask you a question concerning the value of the roads;—up to that time not a word had been said about the money expended on them, yet in reply to this question you say that you do not think it would be at all unreasonable to suppose that the property had been increased in value by £20,000? That was based upon the representations made in the House by the Chairman when the matter was brought before it, and also upon general rumour.
534. Up to the time that question was put to you you had not been told by the Committee that £5,000 or £6,000 had been expended on the roads? That I think is correct.
535. Notwithstanding that, you said that the increment in value had been £20,000? I never said £20,000. A member of the Committee suggested that value.
536. Yet you admitted that it was not unreasonable? Yes. From the impression made upon me by the report of the proceedings in the House, and from the rumours as to what was going on up there.
537. Further on you were told that the cost of the roads, as the Committee were informed, was from £5,000 to £3,000; and you said, in reply to that, you were not at all surprised? Of course, if I assented to the suggestion that £20,000 was the increment in value I could not be surprised at hearing that £5,000 or £6,000 had been expended. Besides, I could not know whether the money had been judiciously or injudiciously expended.
538. Having discovered that a smaller sum than £5,000 or £6,000 had been expended upon the roads, do you still hold that one half of £20,000 would be too high an estimate? Decidedly.
539. In corroboration of the statement that the roads had cost £5,000 or £6,000, and that there was a reliable reason for the question put to you, let me refer you to the evidence of Mr. Deering. He is asked what, roughly, has been the expenditure upon the whole of these roads on private property; and he says, in reply, that they have cost £5,000 if they have cost a shilling. Further on he is asked by Mr. McMillan whether the expenditure is really £5,000, and he says that he is sure it is? Yes; I observe that evidence.
540. At the conclusion of his evidence he is asked whether he can give the Committee anything like an idea of the proportion of money spent upon Crown lands at Hornsby to that spent upon the private property there; and he says that they could not have spent more than £700 or £800 upon the whole of the Government subdivision, whereas he was confident that they had not spent less than £6,000 upon the property of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith? Yes; I see he gives that evidence.
541. Had you been a member of this Committee, having that evidence before you, would you not have felt justified in putting the question which was put to you as to the amount of money spent upon these roads? Yes. I am pleased to find that you had some justification for putting it.

542. *Mr. Burns.*] Are you aware that Mr. Howison, Colonel Wells, Mr. O'Donnell; and Mr. Gordon, the surveyor, dissent from the evidence of Mr. Deering? I have not read all the evidence, but I have become aware of what you state. G. Withers,
M.P.
543. Are you aware that Mr. Deering stands alone in his statement about this large expenditure on these roads through private property? I understand that to be the case. 15 Jan., 1889.
544. Following up Mr. O'Sullivan's question, do you think that any member of the Committee is justified in making this statement to you upon the evidence of one witness only, that the roads had cost between £5,000 and £6,000? I do not think they were, unless they had the information officially. Decidedly not. Mr. Deering, I understand, was not the responsible officer.
545. Are you aware that the gentlemen I have named have all given evidence in opposition to Mr. Deering's statement? Yes; I am aware of that.
546. *Chairman.*] You said just now that when you said that £20,000 increment in value was not an unreasonable estimate, you based that statement upon some representations which I have made in the House. I have here the *Hansard* report of my speech. Will you point out in it the representations to which you refer? I do not think I can do that. I simply stated the impression made upon my mind. I could not refer to any particular portion of your speech. I thought, from the manner in which you had addressed the House on that question, and from general rumours which were abroad at that time, that there was a much greater expenditure going on than that which I have discovered to be made.
547. You cannot point to anything in my speech which warranted you in assuming that the increase in value to the estate would be £20,000? No.
548. Do you see that I state that £20,000 would be my estimate of the value? Very likely that part of the speech made the impression upon me to which I refer.
549. Are you aware that I was quoting what you had already communicated to a *Star* reporter? I do not think I can have said that.
550. Are you aware that your estimate was already in print when I made this statement? I know the interview to which you refer. I am not prepared to admit that I could be in a position to form an estimate even now, to say nothing of that time. I knew then even less than I know now.
551. Did you make your estimate before I made this statement in the House? I fail to see how it is possible for me to make any estimate, not having the slightest knowledge of the work which is going on. I had nothing but rumour to guide me.
552. Whatever rumours you heard was not your interview with the *Star* reporter prior to my speech in the House? Two days before. Does it state in that interview that I gave an estimate of £20,000?
553. Yes? Well it is absurd.
554. Mr. Burns asked you just now whether the Committee were justified in taking the estimate of Mr. Deering;—are you aware that when you gave your evidence the Committee had not before them the schedule of Colonel Wells? I was not aware of that.
555. Are you aware, from the evidence, that the schedule of Colonel Wells was put in subsequently? Yes, I see that is so; but I concluded when you put the question to me that the amount was authentic.
556. Are you aware that Mr. Little, the paymaster, estimates the expenditure upon the private land as £3,700? No; I have not read his evidence.
557. Let me refer you to question 2,447? Yes, I see that; but you will see that Mr. Little refers to the expenditure upon private lands altogether.
558. If you read the next question you will see that Mr. Little is asked whether £3,700 at least has not been spent on all the land south of Boundary Road and including that road, and that he says he thinks that amount will cover it? Yes; but there are a lot of private lands there besides ours.
559. Are you not aware that the estimate of Colonel Wells refers to the same roads? Yes. In that case a very expensive road on the other side of Pearce's Corner, which I understand has been constructed by the unemployed, would be included.
560. Assuming that Mr. Little is correct, would not that alter the estimate you have just given? Judging from the plan, a great deal of expenditure upon private land affects other peoples property.
561. But you said just now that you deducted £500 from the £2,300 in Colonel Wells' estimate. Suppose you deduct £500 from Mr. Little's estimate, which is £3,700, leaving £3,200? I do not think I could give you an answer as to value haphazard in that way.
562. You see the difference between the two estimates. One is the estimate of an officer who has had charge of the expenditure of the money, while the other is that of an officer who sees the work after it has been done? Yes, of course there is that difference.
563. Even if a less amount has been expended, is not the making of these roads of additional value to your property? They must give some value to the property, I presume; but I think that more than the full value is balanced by our allowing the Government to take the land free of charge.
564. But, as a matter of fact, the land is required for the roads in every case? We had no intention whatever of subdividing this property.
565. But would it not be rendered more valuable from the fact that it contains these roads. We subdivided what we considered sufficient for settlement near the railway station. It was our intention to deal with the rest of the property on this side in one lot. It was never our intention to subdivide any more.
566. But is it not more valuable subdivided in the form in which it now stands? I do not attach any importance whatever to that. I consider that the work is of much greater value to the Crown, especially as Junction Road is admitted by all to be a necessary one.
567. Do you consider that if you increased the number of roads on the property, running them all at right angles, and making them equi-distant, it would decrease the value of your land? I should object to any further cutting up of the property. I was very much annoyed about one of the existing roads. I did not know that it existed. I knew nothing about it until I saw it on Saturday.
568. Is that Mistake Road? I am referring to road HH. I think it is an outrageous thing. I do not know who consented to it. I certainly have not been a party to it.
569. Are you aware that its peculiar shape is owing to a mistake made by the unemployed? I am not.
570. When you say that we refused to further examine you, do you bear in mind that your letter, containing in substance your corrections of the increase in value, is appended to the evidence? I was informed by Mr. Copeland that that was the case when the Progress Report was submitted; but he did not give the particulars of the letter.

- G. Withers,
M.P.
15 Jan., 1889.
571. Is not the substance of the letter a correction of your estimate of the increase in value? Yes.
572. Mr. Burns asked you just now whether your statement as to the increase in value did not appear in the Progress Report;—you are aware, as a Member of Parliament, that when an amendment is moved in Committee omitting certain words, and is not carried, you cannot go back and alter any portion of the words which the amendment proposed to omit? I believe that is so.
573. Therefore it would have been impossible for the Committee, having dealt with this particular paragraph in that way, to make any alteration after the reception of your letter? Yes; I see that.
574. *Mr. Carruthers.*] At the time you were examined by Mr. O'Sullivan as to the cost of the roads, were you informed that one witness had given evidence to the effect that the cost was a little over £2,000? No.
575. If you refer to the evidence of Mr. Davies, you will find he says, at question 944, that the cost of the whole of the work through the property of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith is a little over £2,000. If you refer to the evidence of Mr. O'Donnell, you will find he says that the cost of improving and making roads on private property is £2,079, and that £4,186 has been expended upon the Crown lands? Yes; I see that is so.
576. Having looked at these questions in the evidence, given prior to your examination, do you think it would have adduced more accurate evidence from you if you had been informed of the replies to these questions? If I had known that one gentleman represented the cost to be £6,000, while another represented it to be £2,000 or £3,000, I should not have offered any opinion at all by way of an estimate.
577. You are aware that Mr. O'Donnell gave this answer, having acted as Superintendent of the unemployed at Hornsby? I was not aware of his position. I do not know him.
578. If you had been informed that the gentleman in charge of the works had stated that the cost of the roads was only £2,079, would your answer have been different? Decidedly.

1888-9.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

WORK OF UNEMPLOYED ON ROADS AT HORNSBY AND
HOLT-SUTHERLAND ESTATE.

PETITION FROM HON. J. F. BURNS, PRAYING TO BE HEARD EITHER IN PERSON OR BY COUNSEL OR ATTORNEY BEFORE SELECT COMMITTEE SITTING ON.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 8 January, 1889.

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

The humble Petition of the Honorable John Fitzgerald Burns, a Member of the Legislative
Assembly,—

HUMBLY SHOWETH:—

1. That on the fourteenth day of November last your Honorable House appointed a Select Committee, with power to send for persons and papers, and to visit the ground, to inquire into and report upon the work of the unemployed in clearing, forming, and making roads through the property near Hornsby owned by Messieurs Burns, Withers, and R. Burdett Smith, and also those made through the Holt-Sutherland Estate and other private properties, with power to sit during any adjournment.

2. That your Petitioner is deeply interested in the question of the inquiry relating to the roads at Hornsby, and is anxious to place before the said Committee all the facts within his knowledge relating to the same, as also all the evidence which he can in any way offer upon the subject of inquiry referred to your Committee.

3. That your Petitioner is anxious to appear before your said Committee by himself, counsel, or attorney.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays that your Honorable House will grant to him leave to appear before your said Committee, either personally or by counsel or attorney.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

J. F. BURNS.

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(ROAD AT HORNSBY.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 8 November, 1888.

Minute Paper.

Subject:—Road at Hornsby, through W. Bellamy's (now Burns, Withers, and Smith's) 100 acres, and through Crown Lands for sale.

(No. 125.)

Department of Lands, Sydney, 17 January, 1888.

1. IN accordance with the request of the Under Secretary for Lands, the following *Précis* Report is submitted.

Lands, 1886,
236-3.
Roads, Aln.
87-4,039

2. Tracing herewith in illustration.

3. In 1884 certain surveys of old grant boundaries disclosed strong evidence that a strip of Crown Land existed along the north boundary of Bellamy's 100-acre grant (Aln. 84-4,045).

4. It was proposed to utilize this strip of land for the purpose of a road; but after further inspection by an officer of Public Works Department, a better road was found a quarter of a mile further to the south, and where a bridge over the railway had already been erected. This bridge was in the best possible position to connect the main Peat's Ferry Road and Hornsby Station with the Crown Land to the eastward, about to be subdivided for sale at public auction (Roads 86-236-1).

5. All that was required was that the owners of Bellamy's 100 acres should consent to the road being taken through that land. The owners did consent upon the condition that "the new line is surveyed and cleared for traffic in a reasonable time, and that the Government relinquish all claim in respect of the former line" of proposed road. (Roads 1886-236-3).

6. The dedication of the road was soon afterwards signed by the owners without any proviso as to clearing being inserted (Roads 1886-236-7), and on 19th August, 1887, dedication was officially published in the *Government Gazette*.

7. Early in 1877 the Crown Land coloured green upon enclosed tracing, was subdivided for sale at public auction (Aln. 87-4,039), and upon receipt of the plan lithos. were forwarded by me to the Under Secretary for Lands, suggesting that the leading roads through the surveyed but not sold Crown Lands should be cleared and grubbed whilst a part of the unemployed were in the locality. (5th May, 1887; Misc. 87-5,757.) This suggestion received Ministerial approval on the same date and paper, and the Casual Labour Board were requested to carry out the work, and to continue the clearing of the road bounding the Crown Lands through to the Eastern Road (Misc. 87-5,757) in order to afford access to the Crown Lands for sale, and in accordance with previous similar action at the Field of Mars, at Como, at Heathcote, at Dobroyd, at Gordon, and at Peakhurst, George's River. It also became necessary to clear and form the surveyed and proclaimed road through Bellamy's 100 acres in order to give good access to the Crown Lands for sale, from the Hornsby Railway Station, and as was done at the Field of Mars, in connection with adjoining roads. The only roads authorized as requested, to be cleared, &c., by any officer of the Department of Lands, were those referred to, viz.:—The roads through the public estate about to be sold, including the road from the Hornsby Railway Station, through and along Crown Lands to the Eastern or Vanceville Road.

8. After perusing an article in a newspaper called the *Sunday Times*, of 8th January, 1888, and which is both malicious and untrue, it is only just and right to state that, whilst the clearing operations were under consideration or proceeding, not the slightest communication was received by me from Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith. The work was initiated solely by myself, and solely in the interest of the Crown, who alone I serve. I neither knew of, nor cared about, the lands of Burns, Withers, and Smith. At the present time I have no knowledge of any of the properties of that firm beyond the "Hornsby Junction Estate" (in a different direction to these roads cleared) and Bellamy's 100 acres, and which I only learned was their property by reason of the negotiation for the survey and opening of the road first referred to.

My only aim was to improve the Crown Lands for sale, and obtain a better return for the public revenue, and the properties of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith are matters of indifference to me, and never for one moment became an element of consideration; nor would any consideration for any person or persons existing, of any class or degree whatsoever, induce me to depart an iota from my public duty to the Crown.

The Under Secretary for Lands.

JOHN W. DEERING,
Metropolitan and Coast District Surveyor.

Sir,

"Adace Villa," North Shore, 28 January, 1888.

Tracing here,
with Appendix
B.

Acting in accordance with your verbal request, I proceeded to Gordon and Hornsby and inspected roads cleared and formed by the "unemployed" and have the honor to report as follows:—

- 1st. The road marked A was recommended by the Roads Department some years ago, and the clearing of it was commenced by the unemployed, during Mr. Deering's *regimé*. This is the main road of access from the Peat's Ferry Road to the Crown Lands, easterly.
- 2nd. The road marked G, called Junction Road, runs from the railway line easterly to Vanceville Road, passing through slightly undulating country, and crosses the heads of creeks and gullies which present very precipitous banks after running to Boundary Road (Government).
- 3rd. The roads marked B, C, D, E, F, are all practicable and fairly level.
- 4th. The roads H and I are also good and practicable.
- 5th. The other roads in the Vanceville Estate were cleared some years ago.

Boundary Road, being intersected by several rough creeks and gullies, from which the banks rise precipitously on either side, it was considered advisable to clear and form Junction Road, as the main road of access from the Hornsby Station, both from a pecuniary as well as an engineering point of view. The owners of part of the property, Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, then dedicated to the Crown the roads B, C, D, E, and F, as roads of access from the main road (Junction Road) to the Crown Lands between the various gullies.

The access to the Lane Cove Road was next completed by the clearing of roads H and I, and also a continuation of the Vanceville Road, southerly, to meet the part already cleared, and formed some years ago, from the Lane Cove Road to Billyard-street. The works carried out on roads coloured red on tracing are for the most part through private lands (various owners), but when it is pointed out that the Crown Lands, tinted blue, were totally inaccessible, the opening of the various roads will prove an invaluable boon in the alienation of the Crown Lands.

Previous to the unemployed works, some three years ago, I had the honor to recommend to the then Metropolitan District Surveyor, Mr. F. B. Woolrych, the opening of the roads from the various corners of the Vanceville Estate to the Boundary Road, which forms the boundary between the alienated and Crown Lands, and the recommendations would most certainly have been carried out had not the Casual Labour Board accepted the roads of access given by the various owners.

In conclusion, I may state that the road formation and clearing is of a reproductive and useful nature, taking into consideration the large area of Crown Lands on the north, and its proximity to both railway lines, as well as such main roads as the Lane Cove, Peat's Ferry, and Pennant Hills.

In summarising: The constructing Boundary-street being impossible, Junction Road made in lieu. B, C, D, E, F cleared to give access to Crown Lands. H, I, J, cleared and formed to give access from Crown Lands by way of B, C, D, E, F, to Lane Cove, Peat's Ferry, and Pennant Hills Roads.

I have, &c.,

W. M. GORDON,

Government Surveyor.

The Hon. John Davies, C.M.G., M.L.C.,
Chairman, Casual Labour Board, Sydney.

I HAVE examined the locality of Hornsby, and the roads works done by the Department and the unemployed.

The roads from the main or Junction Road to the Peat's Ferry Road have been cleared at private cost by the owners of land on either side.

The Boundary Road, which has been cleared to show more definitely the Crown Lands, is impracticable unless at a large outlay, and has no direct access to the station, as private property intervenes. This Boundary Road, crossing the gullies low down, has undulations which can only be made passable at great cost, and even then with very steep grades and extensive bridges over the gullies which intersect it.

To obviate this, on the representations of the officer of the Survey Department, Junction-street was made the main road to those back lands from the station; the owners of the lands, Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, having given five roads of access, which have all been cleared so as to give access to eligible points for the continuation of roads at summits of ranges through the expanse of Crown Lands to Cowan Creek. By this arrangement the public estate is decidedly benefited, as easy roads with practicable grades are obtained to this Crown Land, and direct access given to the station without necessity for passing through other private property.

The Vanceville Road, joining this Junction Road, was made by the Department two years ago as far as Billyard Road or Street, and was recently extended by the unemployed to afford direct access by one of the short branch roads to the Crown Lands from the Lane Cove Road and the Gordon Railway Station. One of the other two cross roads recently cleared was to give direct access from the church and junction of the Lane Cove Road and Peat's Ferry Road, Pearce's Corner, to the Crown Lands. The other intermediate road gives access from Lane Cove Road, half-way between Gordon and Hornsby, to the land in question. All will be ultimately required, and will enhance the value of the Crown Land beyond by rendering it easy of access, and have been located in the best positions and defined by clearing, instead of their selection in the future being hampered by sale of allotments through which it might be necessary to force the roads at considerable cost for compensation and fencing.

If it had been possible to exercise this provision and precaution in other cases, miles of bad road, large outlay for works and compensation, would have been saved, and larger revenue from land sales would have been secured.

Had this land been reserved Crown Land not to be sold, all the roads would have been desirable in the interests of the Crown Lands beyond, and I fail to see why the possession of the property in question by private individuals should be a bar to necessary improvements because they incidentally enhance its value.

WILLIAM C. BENNETT.

8 February, 1888.

Sydney: Charles Potter, Government Printer. —1888.

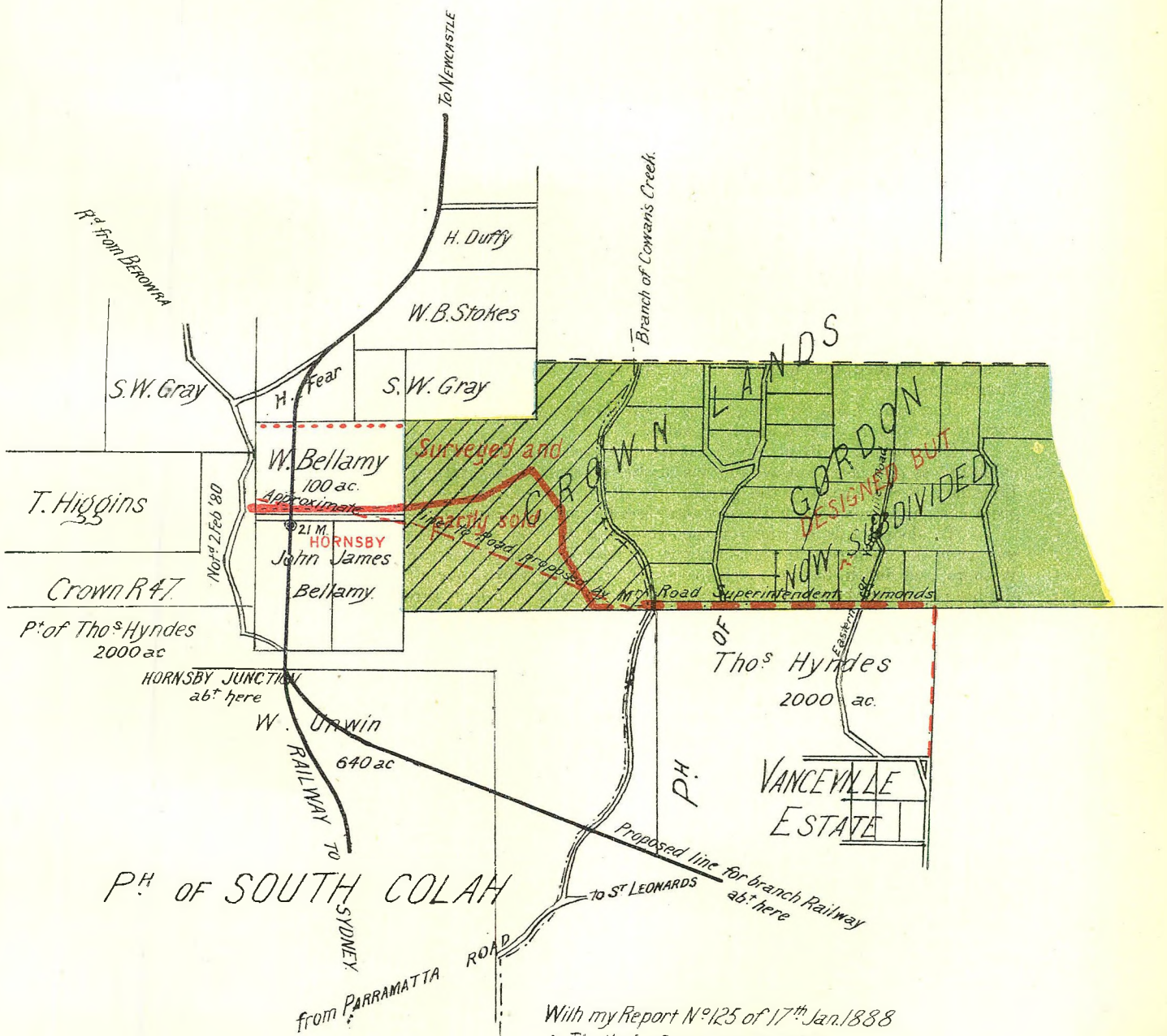
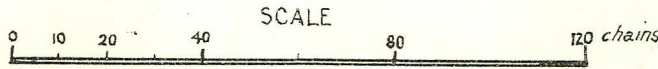
[1s.]

[Two plans.]

PLAN

SHOWING LAND IN THE VICINITY OF HORNSBY JUNCTION

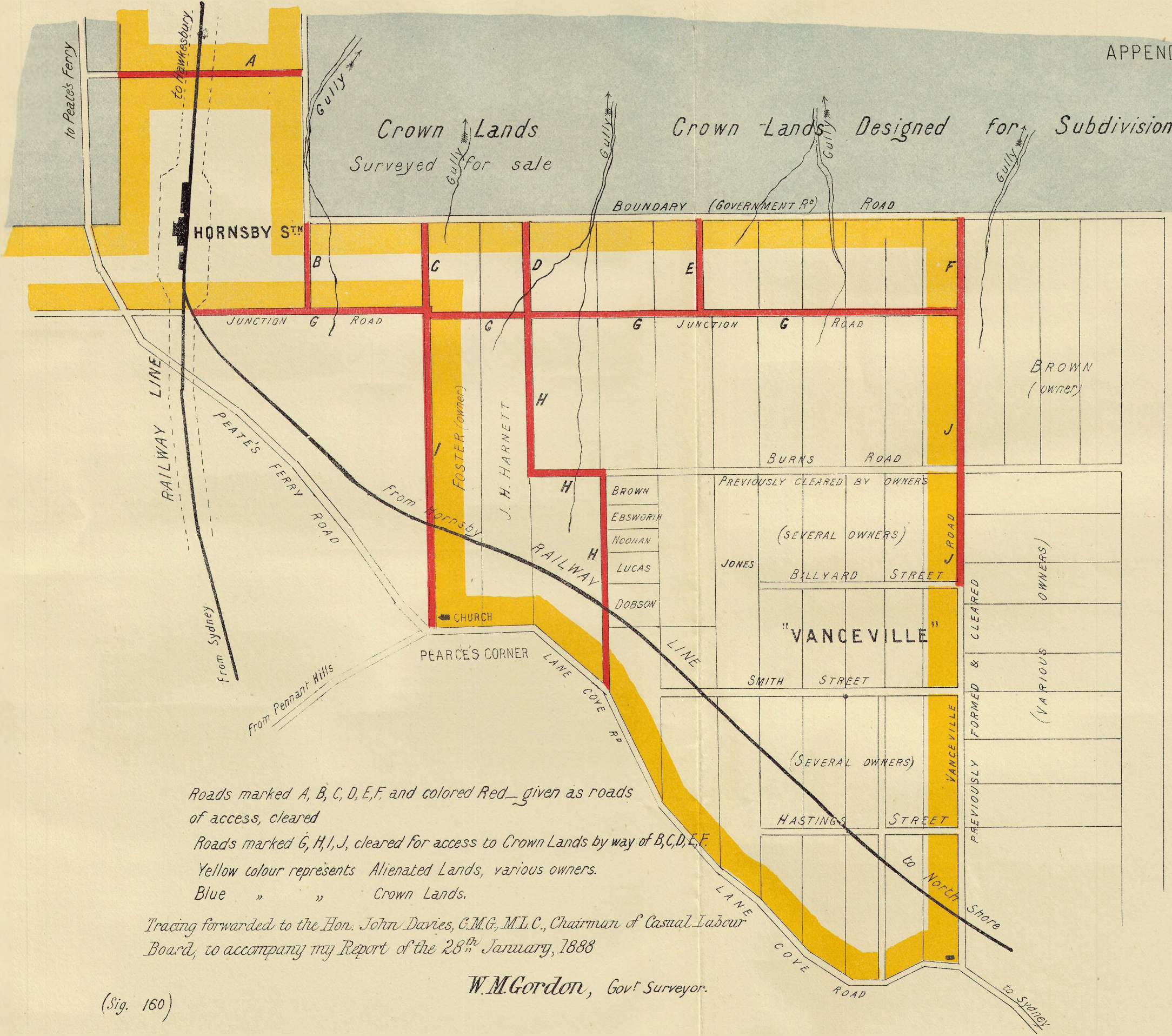
PHS OF GORDON AND SOUTH COLAH,
CO OF CUMBERLAND.



With my Report N^o 125 of 17th Jan. 1888
to The Under Secretary for Lands
John W. Deering

(Sig. 184-)

The Red line shows the Road as surveyed through Crown Land, and through Bellamy's 100 ac, to the bridge erected over the Railway, by that Dept
J.W. Deering. 17/1/88.



Roads marked A, B, C, D, E, F and colored Red— given as roads of access, cleared

Roads marked G, H, I, J, cleared for access to Crown Lands by way of B, C, D, E, F.

Yellow colour represents Alienated Lands, various owners.

Blue " " Crown Lands.

Tracing forwarded to the Hon. John Davies, C.M.G., M.L.C., Chairman of Casual Labour Board, to accompany my Report of the 28th January, 1888

W.M. Gordon, Govt Surveyor.

(Sig. 160)

Scale, 20 chains to an inch

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

ROADS AT HORNSBY.
(PETITIONS AND SURVEYORS' REPORTS RESPECTING.)

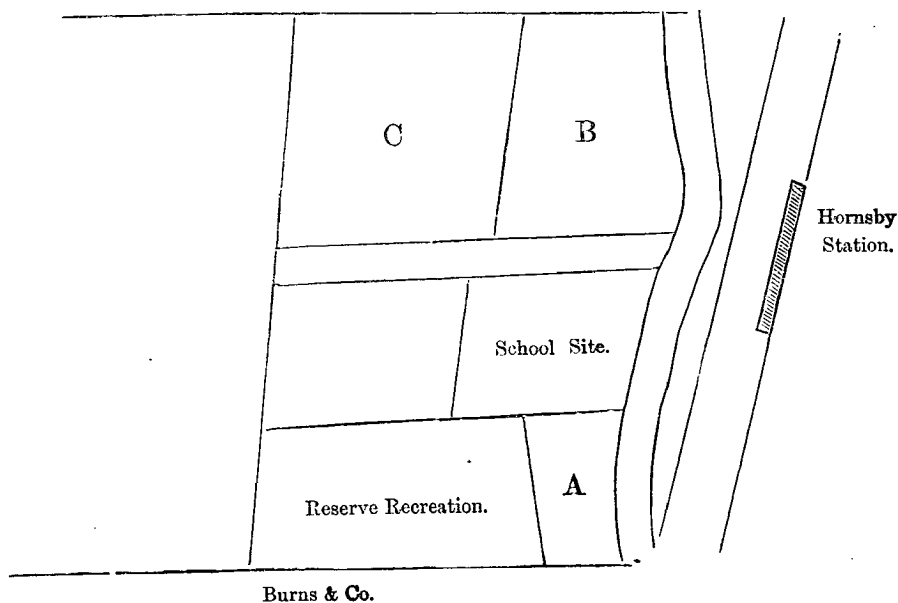
Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 13 November, 1888.

SCHEDULE.

- A.—Metropolitan District-Surveyor Deering's memo. *re* Crown lands to be cleared for sale, adjoining Burns & Co.'s land, Hornsby.
- B.—Surveyor Perdriau's memo. to Mr. Deering *re* reserve at Hornsby.
- C.—Surveyor Gordon's letter to Casual Labour Board *re* roads from Hornsby to Crown lands.
- D.—Surveyor Gordon's letter to Chairman, Casual Labour Board, stating that he had surveyed and laid out these roads.
- E.—Petition from landowners at Hornsby to have the Vanceville or Great Eastern Road and Boundary Road formed, so as to give access to railway station. Superintendent O'Donnell's report thereon, with plan. Letter to Hon. J. F. Burns *re* land for road, and his consent.
- F.—Surveyor Gordon's letter to Chairman, Casual Labour Board, *re* road to Crown lands at Gordon; outlet from the said land to Hornsby Railway Station (and tracing).
- G.—Reports of Metropolitan District-Surveyor Deering, Government-Surveyor Gordon, and Mr. W. C. Bennett, Commissioner for Roads, *re* roads at Hornsby, with plans attached.

A.

Memo. from Mr. Metropolitan District-Surveyor Deering to Mr. Surveyor Palmer.



MR. PALMER,—Refer this firstly to Mr. O'Donnell. The Minister has decided that A is to be temporarily reserved for public requirements. (This land you are now clearing.) Also that allotments B are to be surveyed and sold. Clear this land, and let me know when done, so that Mr. Perdriau can make survey. Look at land "C," and, if not too rough for sale, clear that also; but if you think it would not sell—refer to Mr. O'Donnell—do not clear it. You have a good tracing.

9 April, 1887.

J.W.D.

B.

B.

Memo. from Government-Surveyor Perdriau to Mr. Metropolitan District-Surveyor Deering.

Re clearing portion of Reserve No. 48, near Hornsby Junction.

HEREWITH I forward tracing showing that portion of the reserve on both sides of the Peat's Ferry Road which should be cleared, about 40 acres. The tracing shows clearly the boundaries of the grants bounding the reserve, viz., on the west Higgins' 250 acres, and on the east Bellamy's grants (now Burns, Withers, and Smith).

Higgins, who lives on his farm, will point out his corners and his eastern boundary line, and the western boundary line of Burns, Withers, and Smith's land was cleared by me and chained, and should now be easily discernable; if not, I could send a man to point it out if you think it necessary.

STEPHEN E. PERDRIAU,
Government Surveyor.

The enclosed tracing has been prepared at my request for the Chairman of the Casual Labour Board, and upon tracing will be found a description of the corners of the land to be cleared and boundary lines thereof. I strongly recommend that the area of 40 acres, including reserve for public recreation, be cleared by unemployed labour.—JOHN W. DEERING, Metrop. D. Surveyor, 3 June, 1887. The Chairman Casual Labour Board.

C.

Mr. Government-Surveyor Gordon to The Chairman Casual Labour Board.

Re Roads to Crown lands, Parish of Gordon.

Sir,

"Adare Villa," North Shore, 17 October, 1887.

I have the honor to inform you that I visited the works now being carried out by the unemployed in the Parish of Gordon, with regard to the further clearing of roads giving access to the Crown lands.

To illustrate my report more clearly, I furnish herewith tracing showing, by a red colour, roads cleared and in course of completion.

I have the honor to propose that the roads coloured brown on tracing be cleared. It will be seen at once the necessity of clearing roads marked A, B, C, to give access from the Junction Road to Crown lands. The roads marked D and E will also tap the Lane Cove Road, *via* Vanceville Road, which is a first-class road from Billyard-street to the Lane Cove Road.

As Junction Road has been cleared throughout from the Hornsby Railway Station, and is a very good road as regards gradients and crossings at the gullies, I have the honor to recommend that it (Junction Road) be formed and ballasted throughout, and culverts erected in about the positions shown on tracing, over the gullies, and over a gully on Boundary Road.

W. M. GORDON,
Government Surveyor.

D.

Mr. Government-Surveyor Gordon to The Chairman Casual Labour Board.

Re Road at Hornsby.

Sir,

"Adare Villa," North Shore, 25 October, 1887.

I proceeded to-day to Hornsby, and laid out work on roads for O'Donnell, he was not there himself as he was away measuring some of the work, but I have pointed it out to Noonan, the ranger, who is thoroughly conversant with the line, and will point it out to Superintendent O'Donnell to-morrow. If O'Donnell wants any further information he may refer to me.

W. M. GORDON,
Government Surveyor.

E.

Mr. Superintendent O'Donnell to The Chairman Casual Labour Board.

Re enclosed petition, and Junction and Boundary Roads.

Sir,

Hornsby Junction, 1 December, 1887.

I have the honor to report *re* petition attached, and for Casual Labour Boards' information, that I am forming Junction-street and Vanceville Road, and when ballasted, I believe will answer the requirements of the district for some time.

By referring to the plan* you will see that Boundary Road is a parrallel road to Junction Road, it would take an immense amount of money to make it available for traffic.

Therefore, I will not do anything further to same until I hear from the Board.

F. O'DONNELL,
Superintendent.

[Presented by Mr. Ives, M.P., 11 November, 1887.]

Petition for Repairs to Road known as the Great Eastern or Vanceville Road.

To the Honorable John Sutherland, Minister for Works.

WE, the undersigned landowners and others, have the honor to request that you will be good enough to grant a sum of money for the repair and improvement of the road known as the Great Eastern or Vanceville Road, from the Lane Cove Road to the new road, recently cleared by the Government, from Hornsby Railway Bridge.

The

Appendix A.

* Appendix B.

The Great Eastern Road has to bear a large amount of traffic, which will be increased by the opening of the new road above referred to, and which is known as Boundary Road.

We are, Sir,

Yours obediently,

E. K. Wilson,
T. Hall,
J. Biffen,
F. Chilton,
John Bourke,
R. Brodie,
J. Foster,
Jno. Horsley,
J. Kenney,
Rich. Courdice,
W. H. Sargeant,

Geo. Sainty,
W. J. Cook,
L. Hay,
J. Cunningham,
F. Elgar,
F. Chamberlain,
O. Sleeman,
V. Elms,
Joe. Sainty,
Arthur Sainty,
Hy. Bryant,

Hy. Harditch,
W. Harditch,
Edw. Gatter,
A. Cornwell,
A. W. Grenhalgh,
S. W. Cormach,
W. Ray,
A. Ray,
P. Gilroy,
F. Brodie,
T. Gilroy,

Jno. Brodie,
L. Howard,
Jos. Boyd,
Thos. Mason,
John Coke,
S. Muddon,
Jno. Atkin,
H. Hazlet,
G. Withers,
J. P. Wright.

Works Department, 87-10,597, 11/11. Roads, B.C., 12/11/87. Public Works, 87-17,387, 15 November. Colonial Secretary, 87-12,830, 21 November.

This is a paper which should be sent to the Casual Labour Board, as work is being done by the unemployed in this vicinity.—W.C.B., 14/11/87. Under Secretary, B.C., 16/11/87. Refer to Casual Labour Board, 22/11/87.

The Casual Labour Board to The Honorable J. F. Burns, *re* land for Roads at Hornsby, with minute attached.

Sir, Casual Labour Board, 82, Goulburn-street, Sydney, 18 October, 1887.

Enclosed herewith you will please find tracing of roads recommended to the Board by their local officer at Hornsby to give better access to the adjacent Crown lands. Should yourself and co-partners have no objection to the opening of these roads marked A, B, C, instructions will be given to have them commenced forthwith.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS C. HINCHCLIFFE,
Secretary.

Copy minute attached:—19th October, 1887.

In reply to your letter of yesterday's date, I beg to say, on behalf of Burns, Withers, and Smith, that I have no objection to the roads shown on tracing therein enclosed being opened for the public use.

F.

Mr. Government-Surveyor Gordon to The Chairman, Casual Labour Board.

Re Road at Gordon—Outlet from Hornsby Station.

Sir,

"Adare Villa," North Shore, 19 May, 1888.

In compliance with your verbal request I do myself the honor to transmit herewith a tracing showing by a brown tint the Bobbin Rock Road, proposed to be cleared as access to Crown lands, from the length already cleared and maintained by the Roads Department. Appendix C.

It would also be a most desirable thing to clear the most accessible route along the roads I have shown in red, to give access past Richardson's orchard on to the Stoney Creek Road. Further it will give increased access to the Crown lands as well as the Government quarry now in use by the Roads Department.

Colonel Wells is well acquainted with this locality and will, no doubt, bear me out in the latter suggestion.

W. M. GORDON,
Government Surveyor.

G.

Minute by Mr. Metropolitan District-Surveyor Deering.

Subject:—Road at Hornsby, through W. Bellamy's (now Burns, Withers, and Smith's) 100 acres, and through Crown lands for sale.

(No. 125.)

Department of Lands, Sydney, 17 January, 1888.

1. In accordance with the request of the Under Secretary for Lands, the following *Précis* Report is submitted.

2. Tracing herewith in illustration.

3. In 1884 certain surveys of old grant boundaries disclosed strong evidence that a strip of Crown land existed along the north boundary of Bellamy's 100-acre grant (Aln. 84-4,045).

4. It was proposed to utilize this strip of land for the purpose of a road; but, after further inspection by an officer of Public Works Department, a better road was found a quarter of a mile further to the south, and where a bridge over the railway had already been erected. This bridge was in the best possible position to connect the main Peat's Ferry Road and Hornsby Station with the Crown land to the eastward, about to be subdivided for sale at public auction (Roads 86-236-1).

5. All that was required was that the owners of Bellamy's 100 acres should consent to the road being taken through that land. The owners did consent upon the condition that "the new line is surveyed and cleared for traffic in a reasonable time, and that the Government relinquish all claim in respect of the former line" of proposed road (Roads 1886-236-3).

6. The dedication of the road was soon afterwards signed by the owners without any proviso as to clearing being inserted (Roads 1886-236-7), and on 19th August, 1887, dedication was officially published in the *Government Gazette*.

7. Early in 1877 the Crown land coloured green upon enclosed tracing, was subdivided for sale at public auction (Aln. 87-4,039), and upon receipt of the plan lithos. were forwarded by me to the Under Secretary for Lands, suggesting that the leading roads through the surveyed, but not sold Crown lands, should be cleared and grubbed whilst a part of the unemployed were in the locality (5th May, 1887; Misc. 87-5,757). This suggestion received Ministerial approval on the same date and paper, and the Casual Labour Board were requested to carry out the work, and to continue the clearing of the road bounding the Crown lands through to the Eastern Road (Misc. 87-5,757), in order to afford access to the Crown lands for sale, and in accordance with previous similar action at the Field of Mars, at Como, at Heathcote, at Dobroyd, at Gordon, and at Peakhurst, George's River. It also became necessary to clear and form the surveyed and proclaimed road through Bellamy's 100 acres in order to give good access to the Crown lands for sale, from the Hornsby Railway Station, and as was done at the Field of Mars, in connection with adjoining roads. The only roads authorized as requested, to be cleared, &c., by any officer of the Department of Lands, were those referred to, viz. :—The roads through the public estate about to be sold, including the road from the Hornsby Railway Station, through and along Crown lands to the Eastern or Vanceville Road.

8. After perusing an article in a newspaper called the *Sunday Times*, of 8th January, 1888, and which is both malicious and untrue, it is only just and right to state that, whilst the clearing operations were under consideration or proceeding, not the slightest communication was received by me from Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith. The work was initiated solely by myself, and solely in the interest of the Crown, who alone I serve. I neither knew of, nor cared about, the lands of Burns, Withers, and Smith. At the present time I have no knowledge of any of the properties of that firm beyond the "Hornsby Junction Estate" (in a different direction to these roads cleared) and Bellamy's 100 acres, and which I only learned was their property by reason of the negotiation for the survey and opening of the road first referred to.

My only aim was to improve the Crown lands for sale, and obtain a better return for the public revenue, and the properties of Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith are matters of indifference to me, and never for one moment became an element of consideration; nor would any consideration for any person or persons existing, of any class or degree whatsoever, induce me to depart an iota from my public duty to the Crown.

JOHN W. DEERING,
Metropolitan and Coast District Surveyor.

The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

"Adare Villa," North Shore, 28 January, 1888.

Acting in accordance with your verbal request, I proceeded to Gordon and Hornsby and inspected roads cleared and formed by the "unemployed," and have the honor to report as follows:—

- 1st. The road marked A was recommended by the Roads Department some years ago, and the clearing of it was commenced by the unemployed, during Mr. Deering's régime. This is the main road of access from the Peat's Ferry Road to the Crown lands, easterly.
- 2nd. The road marked G, called Junction Road, runs from the railway line easterly to Vanceville Road, passing through slightly undulating country, and crosses the heads of creeks and gullies which present very precipitous banks after running to Boundary Road (Government).
- 3rd. The roads marked B, C, D, E, F, are all practicable and fairly level.
- 4th. The roads H and I are also good and practicable.
- 5th. The other roads in the Vanceville Estate were cleared some years ago.

Boundary Road, being intersected by several rough creeks and gullies, from which the banks rise precipitously on either side, it was considered advisable to clear and form Junction Road, as the main road of access from the Hornsby Station, both from a pecuniary as well as an engineering point of view. The owners of part of the property, Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, then dedicated to the Crown the roads B, C, D, E, and F, as roads of access from the main road (Junction Road) to the Crown lands between the various gullies.

The access to the Lane Cove Road was next completed by the clearing of roads H and I, and also a continuation of the Vanceville Road, southerly, to meet the part already cleared, and formed some years ago, from the Lane Cove Road to Billyard-street. The works carried out on roads coloured red on tracing are for the most part through private lands (various owners), but when it is pointed out that the Crown lands, tinted blue, were totally inaccessible, the opening of the various roads will prove an invaluable boon in the alienation of the Crown lands.

Previous to the unemployed works, some three years ago, I had the honor to recommend to the then Metropolitan District Surveyor, Mr. F. B. Woolrych, the opening of the roads from the various corners of the Vanceville Estate to the Boundary Road, which forms the boundary between the alienated and Crown lands, and the recommendations would most certainly have been carried out had not the Casual Labour Board accepted the roads of access given by the various owners.

In conclusion, I may state that the road formation and clearing is of a reproductive and useful nature, taking into consideration the large area of Crown lands on the north, and its proximity to both railway lines, as well as such main roads as the Lane Cove, Peat's Ferry, and Pennant Hills.

In summarising: The constructing Boundary-street being impossible, Junction Road made in lieu. B, C, D, E, F cleared to give access to Crown lands. H, I, J, cleared and formed to give access from Crown lands by way of B, C, D, E, F, to Lane Cove, Peat's Ferry, and Pennant Hills Roads.

I have, &c.,

W. M. GORDON,
Government Surveyor.

The Hon. John Davies, C.M.G., M.L.C.,
Chairman, Casual Labour Board, Sydney.

I HAVE examined the locality of Hornsby, and the roads works done by the Department and the unemployed.

The roads from the main or Junction Road to the Peat's Ferry Road have been cleared at private cost by the owners of land on either side.

The

The Boundary Road, which has been cleared to show more definitely the Crown lands, is impracticable unless at a large outlay, and has no direct access to the station, as private property intervenes. This Boundary Road, crossing the gullies low down, has undulations which can only be made passable at great cost, and even then with very steep grades and extensive bridges over the gullies which intersect it.

To obviate this, on the representations of the officer of the Survey Department, Junction-street was made the main road to those back lands from the station; the owners of the lands, Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, having given five roads of access, which have all been cleared so as to give access to eligible points for the continuation of roads at summits of ranges through the expanse of Crown lands to Cowan Creek. By this arrangement the public estate is decidedly benefited, as easy roads with practicable grades are obtained to this Crown land, and direct access given to the station without necessity for passing through other private property.

The Vanceville Road, joining this Junction Road, was made by the Department two years ago as far as Billyard Road or Street, and was recently extended by the unemployed to afford direct access by one of the short branch roads to the Crown lands from the Lane Cove Road and the Gordon Railway Station. One of the other two cross roads recently cleared was to give direct access from the church and junction of the Lane Cove Road and Peat's Ferry Road, Pearce's Corner, to the Crown lands. The other intermediate road gives access from Lane Cove Road, half-way between Gordon and Hornsby, to the land in question. All will be ultimately required, and will enhance the value of the Crown land beyond by rendering it easy of access, and have been located in the best positions and defined by clearing, instead of their selection in the future being hampered by sale of allotments through which it might be necessary to force the roads at considerable cost for compensation and fencing.

If it had been possible to exercise this provision and precaution in other cases, miles of bad road, large outlay for works and compensation, would have been saved, and larger revenue from land sales would have been secured.

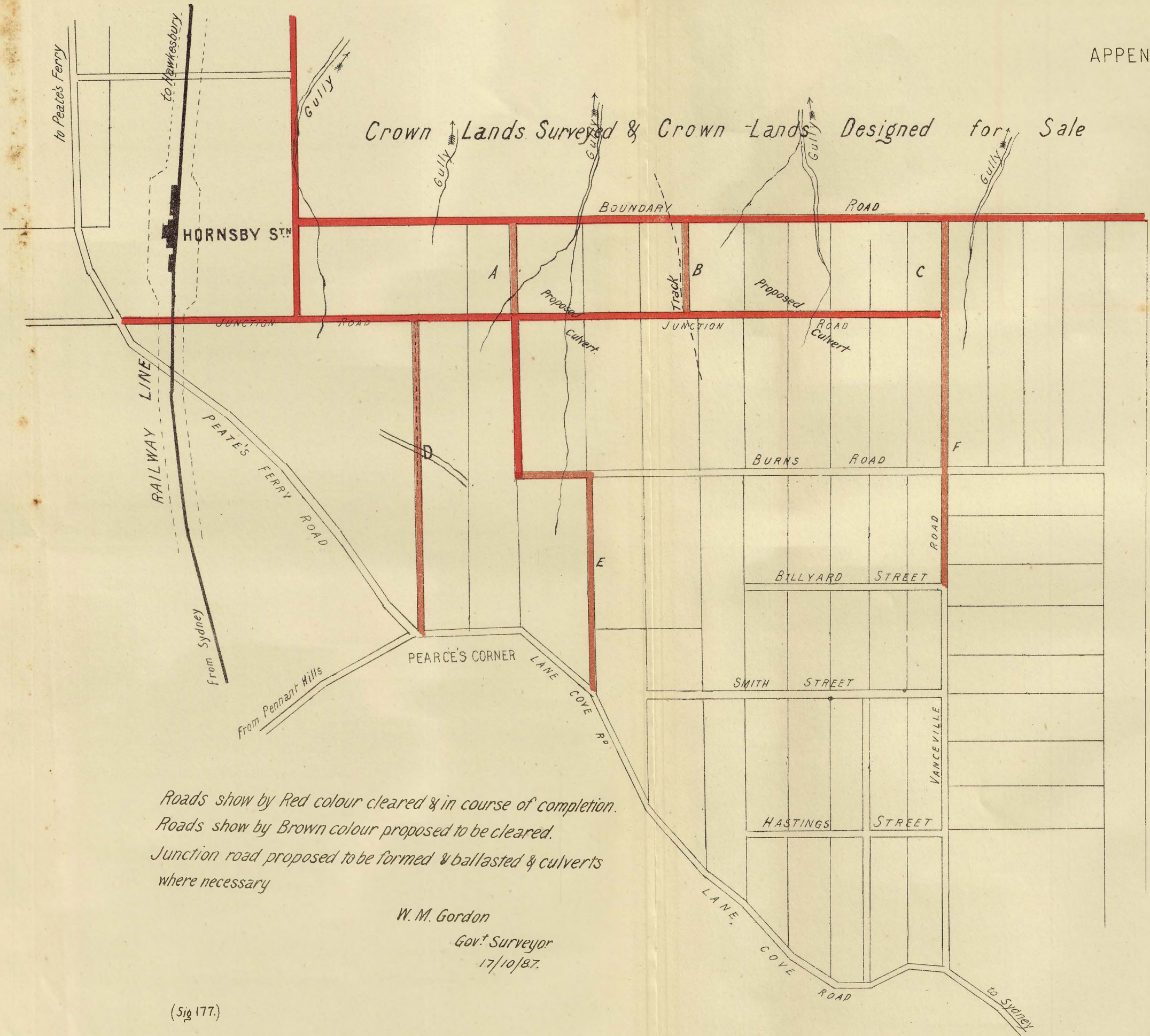
Had this land been reserved Crown land not to be sold, all the roads would have been desirable in the interests of the Crown lands beyond, and I fail to see why the possession of the property in question by private individuals should be a bar to necessary improvements because they incidentally enhance its value.

WILLIAM C. BENNETT.

8 February, 1888.

[Five plans.]

Crown Lands Surveyed & Crown Lands Designed for Sale



Roads show by Red colour cleared & in course of completion.
 Roads show by Brown colour proposed to be cleared.
 Junction road proposed to be formed & ballasted & culverts
 where necessary

W. M. Gordon
 Gov't Surveyor
 17/10/87.

(Sig 177.)

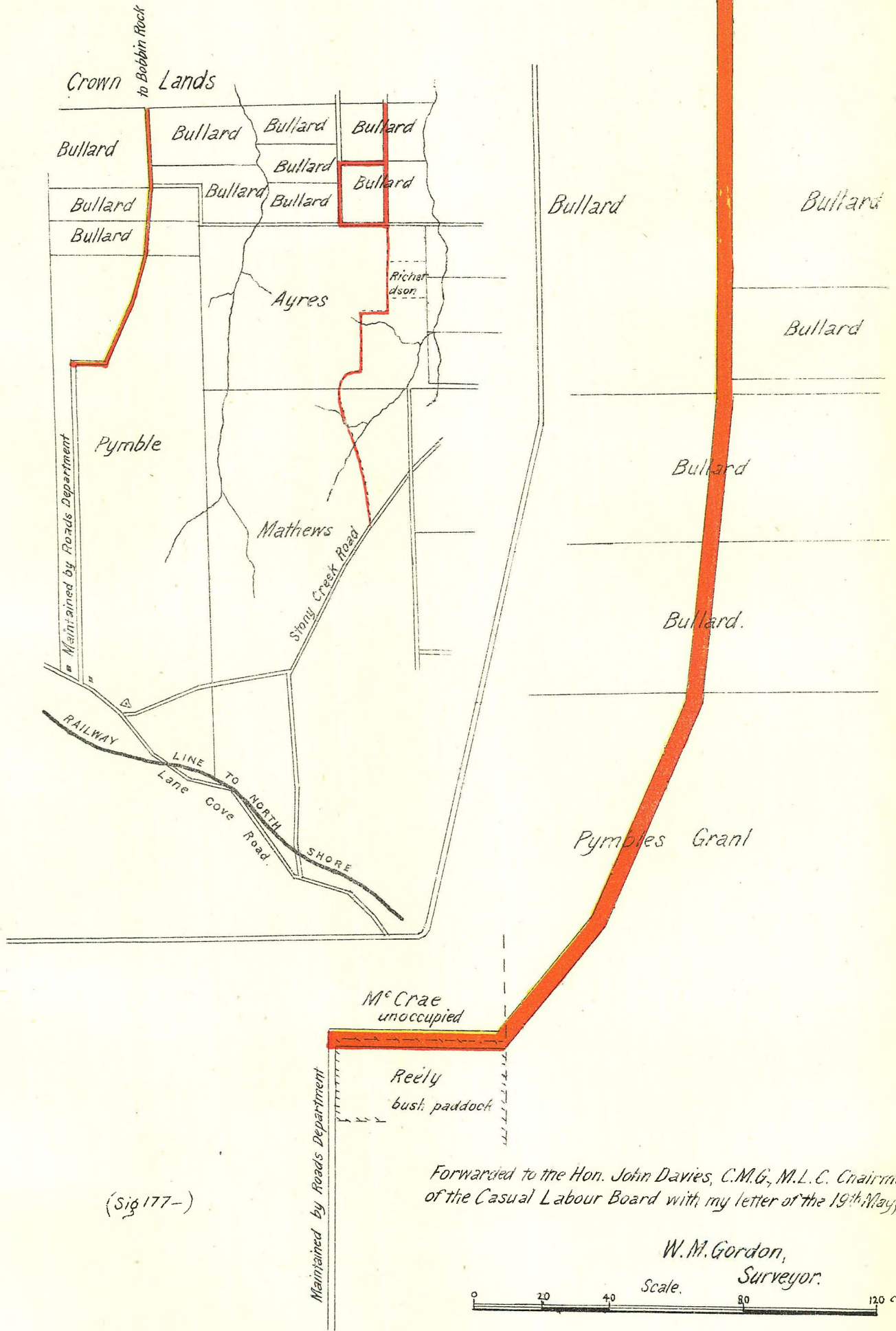
Crown Lands Surveyed & Crown Lands Designed for Sale



Roads coloured required to give access to Crown Lands from Roads already laid out.

Scale, 20 chains to an inch

Crown Lands cleared by
Casual Labour Board



(Sig 177-)

Forwarded to the Hon. John Davies, C.M.G., M.L.C. Chairman
of the Casual Labour Board with my letter of the 19th May, 1888.

W. M. Gordon,
Surveyor.

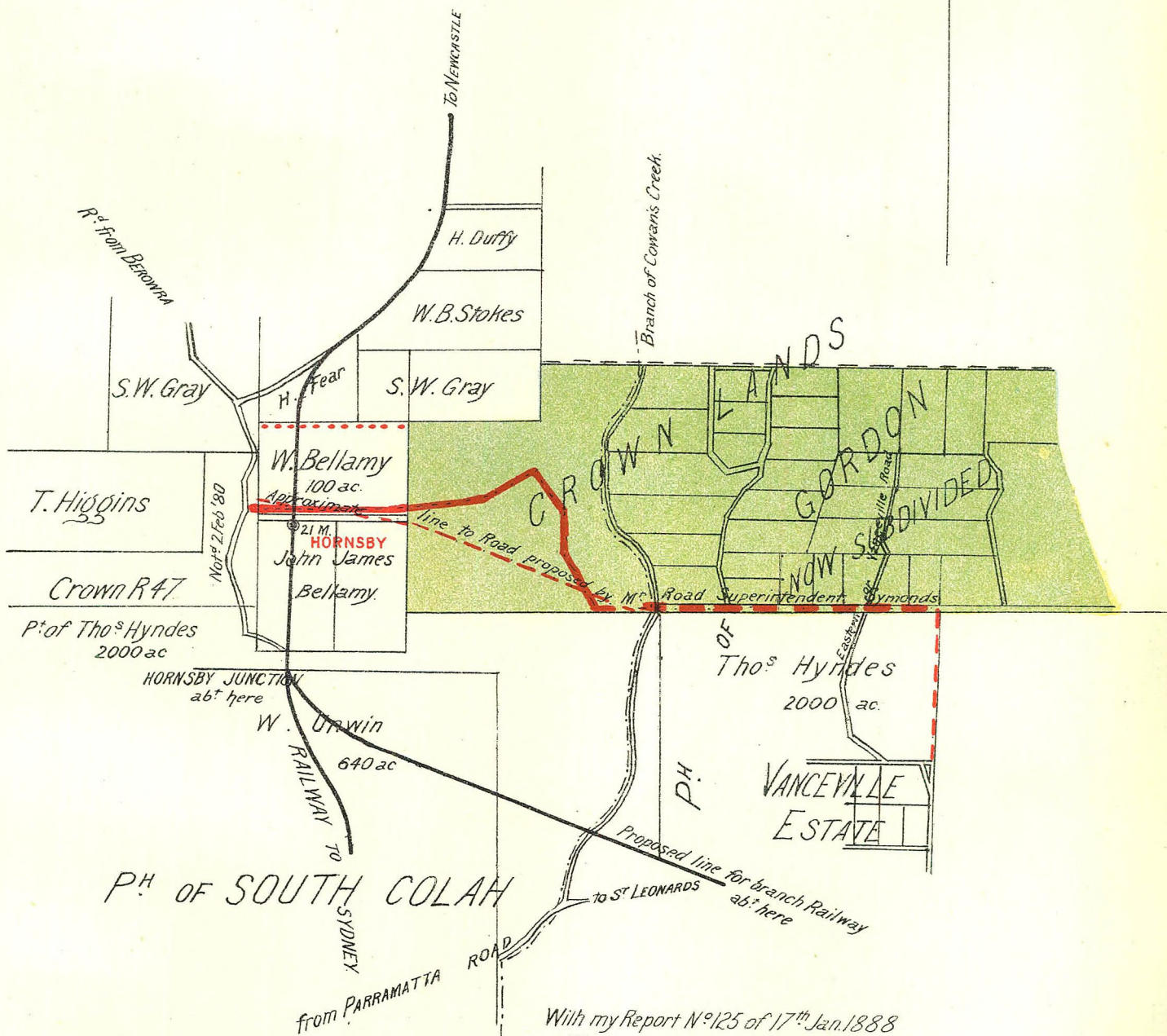
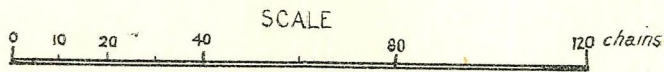
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PLAN

SHOWING LAND IN THE VICINITY OF HORNSBY JUNCTION

PHS OF GORDON AND SOUTH COLAH,

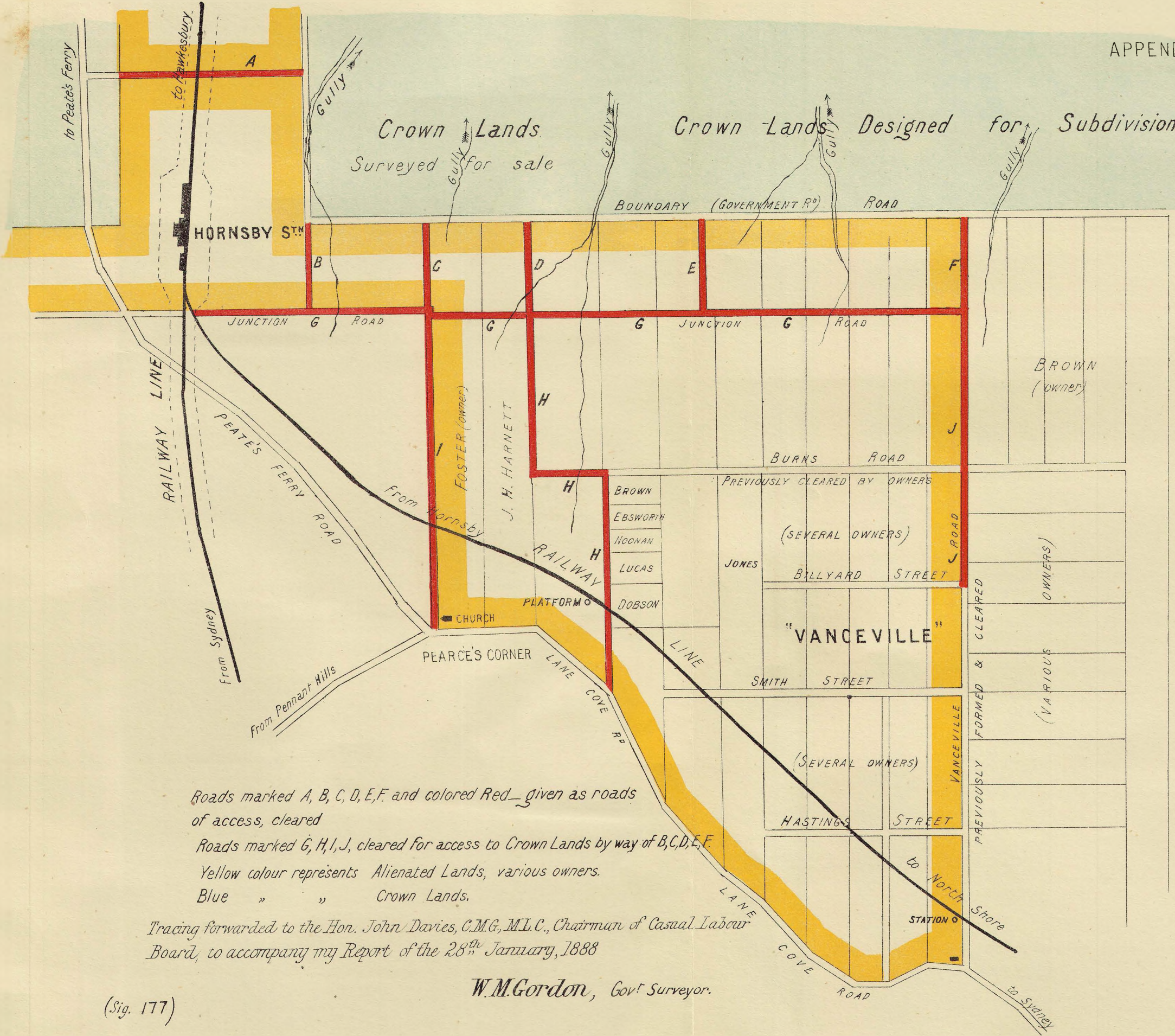
C^o OF CUMBERLAND.



With my Report N^o 125 of 17th Jan. 1888
to The Under Secretary for Lands
John W. Deering

(Sig. 177.)

The Red line shows the Road as surveyed through Crown Land, and through Bellamy's 100 ac, to the bridge erected over the Railway, by that Dep^t
J.W. Deering. 17/1/88.



Roads marked A, B, C, D, E, F and colored Red—given as roads of access, cleared

Roads marked G, H, I, J, cleared for access to Crown Lands by way of B, C, D, E, F.

Yellow colour represents Alienated Lands, various owners.

Blue " " Crown Lands.

Tracing forwarded to the Hon. John Davies, C.M.G., M.L.C., Chairman of Casual Labour Board, to accompany my Report of the 28th January, 1888

W.M. Gordon, Govt Surveyor.

(Sig. 177)

Scale, 20 chains to an inch

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(CORRESPONDENCE, &c., RESPECTING ROADS THROUGH—AT HORNSBY.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 14 November, 1888.

Minute by Mr. Metropolitan District-Surveyor Deering,

Subject:—Clearing, forming, and metalling of roads at Hornsby.

In reply to the personal inquiry of the Under Secretary for Lands, I beg to state that the only road I have any knowledge of, as having been cleared and formed, is that leading from the Peat's Ferry Road through Bellamy's grant, now Burns & Co.'s land, and across the bridge over the railway, into the Crown land recently sold in part, and marked "A" on lithograph herewith.

The roads to the south of the Crown land were cleared, formed, and metalled, by direction of the Casual Labour Board, I have been informed.

JOHN W. DEERING.

The Under Secretary for Lands.

Immediate.—The enclosed is all the information available in this Department as to the roads at Hornsby cleared by the unemployed.—S.F., B.C., 13/11/88. The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Minute by Mr. Metropolitan District-Surveyor Deering.

Subject:—Road at Hornsby, through W. Bellamy's (now Burns, Withers, and Smith's) 100 acres, and through Crown lands for sale.

(No. 125.)

Department of Lands, Sydney, 17 January, 1888.

1. In accordance with the request of the Under Secretary for Lands, the following *Précis* Report is submitted.

2. Tracing herewith in illustration.*

3. In 1884 certain surveys of old grant boundaries disclosed strong evidence that a strip of Crown land existed along the north boundary of Bellamy's 100-acre grant (Aln. 84-4,045).

4. It was proposed to utilize this strip of land for the purpose of a road; but, after further inspection by an officer of Public Works Department, a better road was found a quarter of a mile further to the south, and where a bridge over the railway had already been erected. This bridge was in the best possible position to connect the main Peat's Ferry Road and Hornsby Station with the Crown land to the eastward, about to be subdivided for sale at public auction (Roads 86-236-1).

5. All that was required was that the owners of Bellamy's 100 acres should consent to the road being taken through that land. The owners did consent upon the condition that "the new line is surveyed and cleared for traffic in a reasonable time, and that the Government relinquish all claim in respect of the former line" of proposed road (Roads 1886-236-3).

6. The dedication of the road was soon afterwards signed by the owners without any proviso as to clearing being inserted (Roads 1886-236-7), and on 19th August, 1887, dedication was officially published in the *Government Gazette*.

7. Early in 1877 the Crown land coloured green upon enclosed tracing, was subdivided for sale at public auction (Aln. 87-4,039), and upon receipt of the plan, lithos. were forwarded by me to the Under Secretary for Lands, suggesting that the leading roads through the surveyed, but not sold Crown lands, should be cleared and grubbed whilst a part of the unemployed were in the locality (5th May, 1887; Misc. 87-5,757). This suggestion received Ministerial approval on the same date and paper, and the Casual Labour Board were requested to carry out the work, and to continue the clearing of the road bounding the Crown lands through to the Eastern Road (Misc. 87-5,757), in order to afford access to the Crown lands for sale, and in accordance with previous similar action at the Field of Mars, at Como, at Heathcote, at Dobroyd, at Gordon, and at Peakhurst, George's River. It also became necessary to clear and form the surveyed and proclaimed road through Bellamy's 100 acres in order to give good access to the Crown lands for sale, from the Hornsby Railway Station, and as was done at the Field of Mars, in connection

connection with adjoining roads. The only roads authorized as requested, to be cleared, &c., by any officer of the Department of Lands, were those referred to, viz. :—The roads through the public estate about to be sold, including the road from the Hornsby Railway Station, through and along Crown lands to the Eastern or Vanceville Road.

8. After perusing an article in a newspaper called the *Sunday Times*, of 8th January, 1888, and which is both malicious and untrue, it is only just and right to state that, whilst the clearing operations were under consideration or proceeding, not the slightest communication was received by me from Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith. The work was initiated solely by myself, and solely in the interest of the Crown, who alone I serve. I neither knew of, nor cared about, the lands of Burns, Withers, and Smith. At the present time I have no knowledge of any of the properties of that firm beyond the "Hornsby Junction Estate" (in a different direction to these roads cleared) and Bellamy's 100 acres, and which I only learned was their property by reason of the negotiation for the survey and opening of the road first referred to.

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JOHN W. DEERING,
Metropolitan and Coast District-Surveyor.

The Under Secretary for Lands.

Mr. Government-Surveyor Gordon to The Chairman, Casual Labour Board.

Sir,

"Adare Villa," North Shore, 28 January, 1888.

Acting in accordance with your verbal request, I proceeded to Gordon and Hornsby and inspected roads cleared and formed by the "unemployed," and have the honor to report as follows:—

- 1st. The road marked A was recommended by the Roads Department some years ago, and the clearing of it was commenced by the unemployed, during Mr. Deering's régime. This is the main road of access from the Peat's Ferry Road to the Crown lands, easterly.
- 2nd. The road marked G, called Junction Road, runs from the railway line easterly to Vanceville Road, passing through slightly undulating country, and crosses the heads of creeks and gullies which present very precipitous banks after running to Boundary Road (Government).
- 3rd. The roads marked B, C, D, E, F, are all practicable and fairly level.
- 4th. The roads H and I are also good and practicable.
- 5th. The other roads in the Vanceville Estate were cleared some years ago.

Boundary Road, being intersected by several rough creeks and gullies, from which the banks rise precipitously on either side, it was considered advisable to clear and form Junction Road, as the main road of access from the Hornsby Station, both from a pecuniary as well as an engineering point of view. The owners of part of the property, Messrs. Burns, Withers, and Smith, then dedicated to the Crown the roads B, C, D, E, and F, as roads of access from the main road (Junction Road) to the Crown lands between the various gullies.

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I have, &c.,

W. M. GORDON,
Government Surveyor.

Minute by The Engineer-in-Chief.

I HAVE examined the locality of Hornsby, and the roads works done by the Department and the unemployed.

The roads from the main or Junction Road to the Peat's Ferry Road have been cleared at private cost by the owners of land on either side.

The Boundary Road, which has been cleared to show more definitely the Crown lands, is impracticable unless at a large outlay, and has no direct access to the station, as private property intervenes. This Boundary Road, crossing the gullies low down, has undulations which can only be made passable at great cost, and even then with very steep grades and extensive bridges over the gullies which intersect it.

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If it had been possible to exercise this provision and precaution in other cases, miles of bad road, large outlay for works and compensation, would have been saved, and larger revenue from land sales would have been secured.

Had this land been reserved Crown land not to be sold, all the roads would have been desirable in the interests of the Crown lands beyond, and I fail to see why the possession of the property in question by private individuals should be a bar to necessary improvements because they incidentally enhance its value.

WILLIAM C. BENNETT.

8 February, 1888.

Minute by H. Copeland, Esq.

EXTRACT from a general minute of Mr. Secretary Copeland upon the subject of auction sales of Crown lands during 1887.

THE unsold portions at Harbord, Heathcote, and Field of Mars, also the subdivision near the Como Station, may be advertised for sale at some one of the auction rooms in the city, the particular auctioneer to be forthwith decided on.

Sales at Beecroft, Stockton, Wilberforce, Katoomba, parish of Gordon, and other places where the subdivisions are ready, should be brought forward as quickly as possible, to be sold on the ground. Auctioneers, in these cases, can be appointed later on. In many cases town and suburban lands have been offered at country towns; but it is thought the upset price, having been fixed too high, has precluded sales taking place. These lands should again be brought forward at a reduced upset.

3 January, 1887.

HENRY COPELAND.

Generally I concur with Mr. Copeland's minute. I desire, if action has not been taken to carry it out already, that such action may be taken with as least delay as possible under the circumstances.—T.G., 26/2/87.

Minute by Mr. Metropolitan District-Surveyor Deering.

14 June, 1887.

Clearing of Roads through Crown lands now being subdivided at Hornsby.

THE enclosed paper refers to the clearing of roads at Hornsby, as above; and concerning which Mr. Surveyor King has already received verbal instructions by me.

It is very desirable that advantage should be taken of the "unemployed" being in the locality to mark out the leading roads through the Crown land, so that the work of clearing and grubbing may be carried out by that class of labour, to the advantage of Government, as being reproductive work. The Casual Labour Board has promised me (by Mr. Davies) to do this work, if the various lines of road are marked upon the ground.

JOHN W. DEERING,

Mr. Surveyor W. L. King.

Metropolitan District-Surveyor.

J. W. Deering, Esq., Metropolitan District-Surveyor,—Plan transmitted with my letter No. 87-6 of 26th August. The whole of the roads to the south of the creek are either cleared or being cleared by the unemployed, who are now on the ground.—WILLIAM L. KING, Temporary Surveyor, 29 August, 1887.

Minute by The Secretary for Lands.

CONTINUATION of road through Crown lands at Hornsby of the road recently cleared through Burns and Withers' land at Hornsby. I should like to know whether it would be advisable to continue above road through the Crown lands adjoining, and to what point.

T.G., 5/5/87.

Mr. District-Surveyor Deering.—C.O., 5/5/87. Mr. O'Donnell, Field of Mars,—To continue clearing of road through to the Eastern Road. Mr. Palmer has already received verbal instructions.—J. W. DEERING, 10 May, 1887. To be returned on completion of work. Road named herein now completed.—F.O.D., 21/5/87. Transmitted to Mr. Surveyor King with my instructions 1451 of this date.—JOHN W. DEERING, 14 June, 1887. Returned to the Metropolitan District-Surveyor.—WILLIAM L. KING, Temporary Surveyor, 29 August, 1887.

Memo. by Mr. Metropolitan District-Surveyor Deering.

THE intention in clearing the Public Road through Bellamy's grant was to open up a main road to the Hornsby Station from the Crown lands. The road through the latter has not yet been laid out; but when such is done and the surrounding Crown lands are subdivided, it will be most advisable to have the continuation of the above road cleared; and, in fact, to have all the roads cleared prior to sale. The road was cleared, not because it was through Bellamy's land (which I have heard is the property of Burns, Withers, and Co.), but because it is the leading road to the Railway Station.

5 May, 1887.

J. W. DEERING.

Submitted.—C.O., 5/5/87. This matter must be kept in view when subdivision is being made if it would not be a better course to have the road marked out and cleared before subdivision.—T.G., 5/5/87.

Mr. District-Surveyor Deering.—C.O., 5/5/87.

Mr.

Mr. Temporary-Surveyor W. L. King to Mr. Metropolitan District-Surveyor Deering.

Minto, 26 August, 1887.

Transmitting plan of portions numbered 178 to 232, in the parish of South Colah, county of Cumberland, measured for sale.

Sir,

In accordance with your verbal instructions, I have the honor to transmit herewith plan of 55 portions numbered 178 to 232, in the parish of South Colah, county of Cumberland, measured for sale.

2. Portions 230, 231, and 232, should be withheld from sale until access is provided. The only practicable access is through S. W. Gray's grant, the property of the Hornsby Land Company.

3. The northern boundary of Hyndes' 2,000 acres has been marked in accordance with the decision on Aln. 86-4,128 returned with my letter No. 87-9 of this date.

4. The eastern boundary of Bellamy's grants I have made parallel to the western boundary in accordance with Mr. Surveyor S. E. Perdriau's reports, *vide* your instructions No. 87-1887 of 2nd August, returned with my letter 87-9 of this date.

5. I made a very careful search for the south-east and north-east corners of S. W. Gray's 57 acres 2 roods 16 perches, but was unsuccessful; they are shown on the original as broad-arrows. I found a peg at the north-east corner of W. B. Stokes' grant, and the north-western corner is well established. I have, therefore, made the east and south boundaries of Gray's and Stokes' grants equal and parallel to the north and west boundaries. I found several old marked trees very close to the lines as now marked.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM L. KING,
Temporary Surveyor.

Plan herewith, C, 1,176-2,030, executed and chartered.—C. S. SPENCER, 12 January, 1888. Plan approved.—WILLIAM FREEMAN, for Metropolitan District-Surveyor, 13 March, 1888. J.W.D.

Memo. from Mr. District-Surveyor Deering to Mr. Government Surveyor King.

5 September, 1887.

Plan of portions 178 to 232, parish of South Colah, county Cumberland.

In Mr. King's plan of above surveyed lands for sale, it is to be regretted that he did not show the position of the Railway and the Hornsby Station.

All such advantageous conditions, as showing to the public the special value of the lands offered for sale, should be set forth upon the plan, as would be done in the case of a private estate for sale.

JOHN W. DEERING,
Metropolitan District-Surveyor.

When making this plan I contemplated extending the plan to show the Railway Station, &c., but on the large scale to which the plan is drawn it would have made the paper so much wider than was necessary that I concluded the case would be better met by a "local sketch," which could be made on the sale plan. I was under the impression that this was the usual course, unless a railway or road adjoined. In future I shall attend to this instruction.—WILLIAM L. KING, Temporary Surveyor, 10 September, 1887. J. W. Deering, Esq., Metropolitan District-Surveyor. It would very little have increased size of the plan to have shown the railway. However, a local sketch on sale plan now.—J.W.D., 15/9/87.

Memo. from Mr. District-Surveyor Deering to Mr. Taylor.

5 September, 1887.

WHEN plan of portions 178 to 232, parish of South Colah, county of Cumberland (which has this day been forwarded to the Government Printer) reaches you, will you be good enough to communicate with this office before drawing it on to stone, so that arrangements may be made for showing the railway line, which at present is not shown on plan.

H. SELKIRK,
(For the District Surveyor.)

Mr. Selkirk,—The best plan will be to make the additions on the proof copy now forwarded to the Metropolitan District-Surveyor, and it can be drawn on the stone at the same time, with any other necessary alterations or additions after the examination of the proof has been completed.—J. TAYLOR, 22 Sept., 1887.

The Chief Draftsman.—H.S., 22 Sept., 1887. I am afraid sufficient space has not been left to the west on the stone. It would have been better if Mr. Taylor had sent for you before transferring to the stone.—W.F., 22 Sept., 1887.

Memo. from Mr. District-Surveyor Deering to Mr. Surveyor King.

21 December, 1887.

Mr. KING is requested to forward his field notes of the survey of portions 178 to 232, parish of South Colah, county of Cumberland. Plan transmitted with letter, No. 87-6, of 26th August.

JOHN W. DEERING.

This book will be in constant use next week in connection with survey of roads through Gray's grant. I will transmit the book with plan of roads as soon as possible.—WILLIAM L. KING, Surveyor, 23 December, 1887.

Memo.

Memo. by Mr. Metropolitan District-Surveyor Deering to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Hornsby (Parramatta), 16 July, 1888.

Auction sale, portions 178 to 232, parish of South Colah, county of Cumberland.

THE portions of land above referred to, and situated about 1 mile easterly from Hornsby Railway Station, which is the junction of the Great Northern Railway line and the railway line from Pearce's Corner to St. Leonards, are distant about 21 miles from Sydney and about 10½ miles north-westerly from St. Leonards, have now been marked upon the ground, and it is proposed to submit them for sale by auction at the upset prices shown upon enclosed lithograph.

JOHN W. DEERING,
Metropolitan District Surveyor.

The area for sale is about 232 acres. On the 13th instant I again examined the whole of it. The land has been under-scrubbed and the roads cleared and formed. Culverts have been erected where necessary. The estate now presents an attractive appearance. On the north side of Hornsby Creek the land is rocky and steep, but on the south side the area mostly consists of a broad plateau of admirable orchard soil, and only lightly timbered. I do not recommend any higher upset prices than those given in red upon litho. herewith. At these upset prices the whole of the portions on south side of the creek should sell readily and at an advance. The land District is "Parramatta," but it is recommended that the estate should be sold upon the ground.—JOHN W. DEERING, 16th July, 1888. The Under Secretary for Lands.

The land may be offered for sale on the ground at the upset prices proposed. Terms, 25 per cent. cash, 25 per cent. in three months, 25 per cent. in nine months, 25 per cent. in twelve months.—C.O., 23/7/88.

Approved.—H.P., 25/7/88. Mr. District-Surveyor Deering.—E.C.M. (*pro* R.H.D.), 25/7/88. Sale on the ground, at Hornsby, on Saturday, 29th September, 1888, at 3 p.m. Country lots, portions 178 to 232. Sale litho. and papers herewith.—JOHN W. DEERING, Metropolitan District Surveyor. No. 2,142. The Under Secretary for Lands. Aln. 88-4,813.

Terms of sale:—25 per cent., cash deposit; 25 per cent., one year; 25 per cent., two years; 25 per cent., three years, *vide* Aln. 88-5,264.—E.C.M.

Minute by the Secretary for Lands.

Crown Lands, near Hornsby Railway Station, county of Cumberland—Report* of Messrs. Richardson and Wrench, 10 September, 1888.

So far as the Hornsby sale is concerned, the only objection stated in this report is that the upset prices are too high. I am of opinion that this question should be tested at auction.

The land should be fully advertised for a month previous to sale.

J.N.B., 13/9/88.

* Report not herewith; it was sent to the Colonial Secretary.—R.H.D., 14/9/88.

Sale of 29th September to be postponed till Saturday, 27th October, 1888.—By order, R.H. DELOW, 14 Sept., 1888. Notify postponement in Gazettes of Tuesday, 18th, and Friday, 21st. Same already notified in *Herald* and *Telegraph*.—R.H.D., 14/9/88; C.W.C. (*pro* R.H.D.), 14/9/88. Notices of postponement to Government Printer, and sale schedules noted, 15/9/88. Sale postponed to 27th October, 1888. Mr. Dis.-Sur. Deering.—R.H.D. (for the U.S.), 17/9/88. To note and for sale—note.

J. F. Burns, Esq., to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

75, Elizabeth-street, Sydney, 16 November, 1886.

With reference to my letter of 8th July, 1885, addressed to the Surveyor-General, and to your communication to me of the 29th August following, numbered 85-1,615, I beg now to state, for your information, that as it appears the Government would much prefer a direct road from Peat's Ferry Road across the railway bridge at Hornsby—through the lands of Burns, Withers, and Smith, to the Crown lands adjoining—in lieu of the road we first mutually agreed upon, Burns, Withers, and Smith are prepared to assent to the proposed change, provided that the new line is surveyed and cleared for traffic in a reasonable time, and that the Government relinquish all claim in respect of the former line.

I am, &c.,

J. F. BURNS.

Mr. J. W. Deering, in connection with previous papers in the case referring to instructions 86-57 and 86-100.—A.J. STOPPS (for Sur.-General), 24 Nov., 1886. J. W. Deering Esq., Metropolitan Dist. Surv. *Vide* instructions on paper S.-G.O., 1886, 236-1 herewith.—JOHN W. DEERING, 26 Nov., 1886.

[Two plans.]

[1s. 6d.]

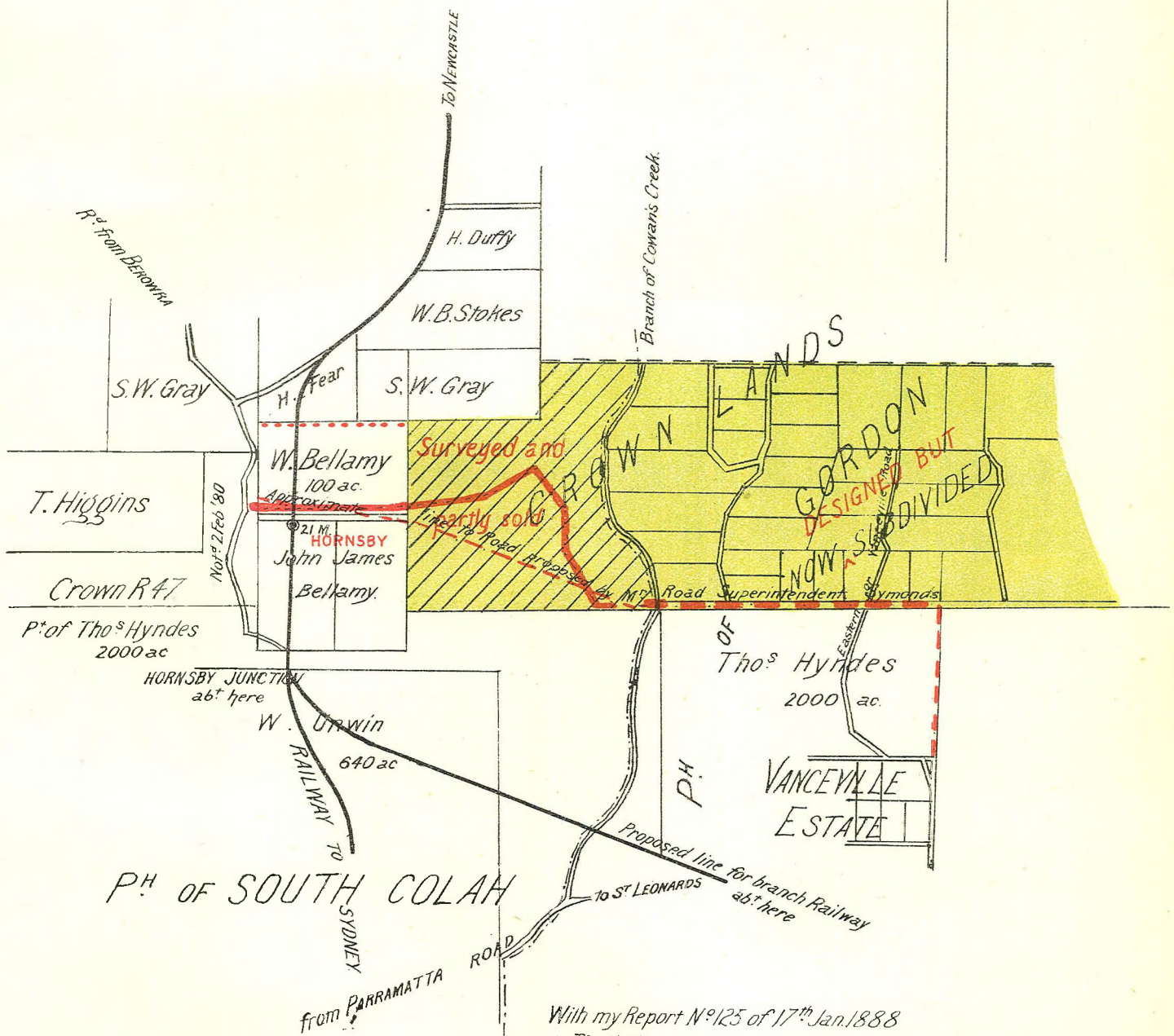
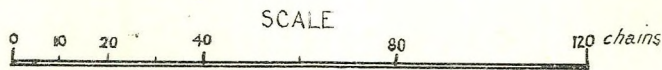
Sydney: Charles Potter, Government Printer.—1888.

PLAN

SHOWING LAND IN THE VICINITY OF HORNSBY JUNCTION

PHS OF GORDON AND SOUTH COLAH,

C^o OF CUMBERLAND.

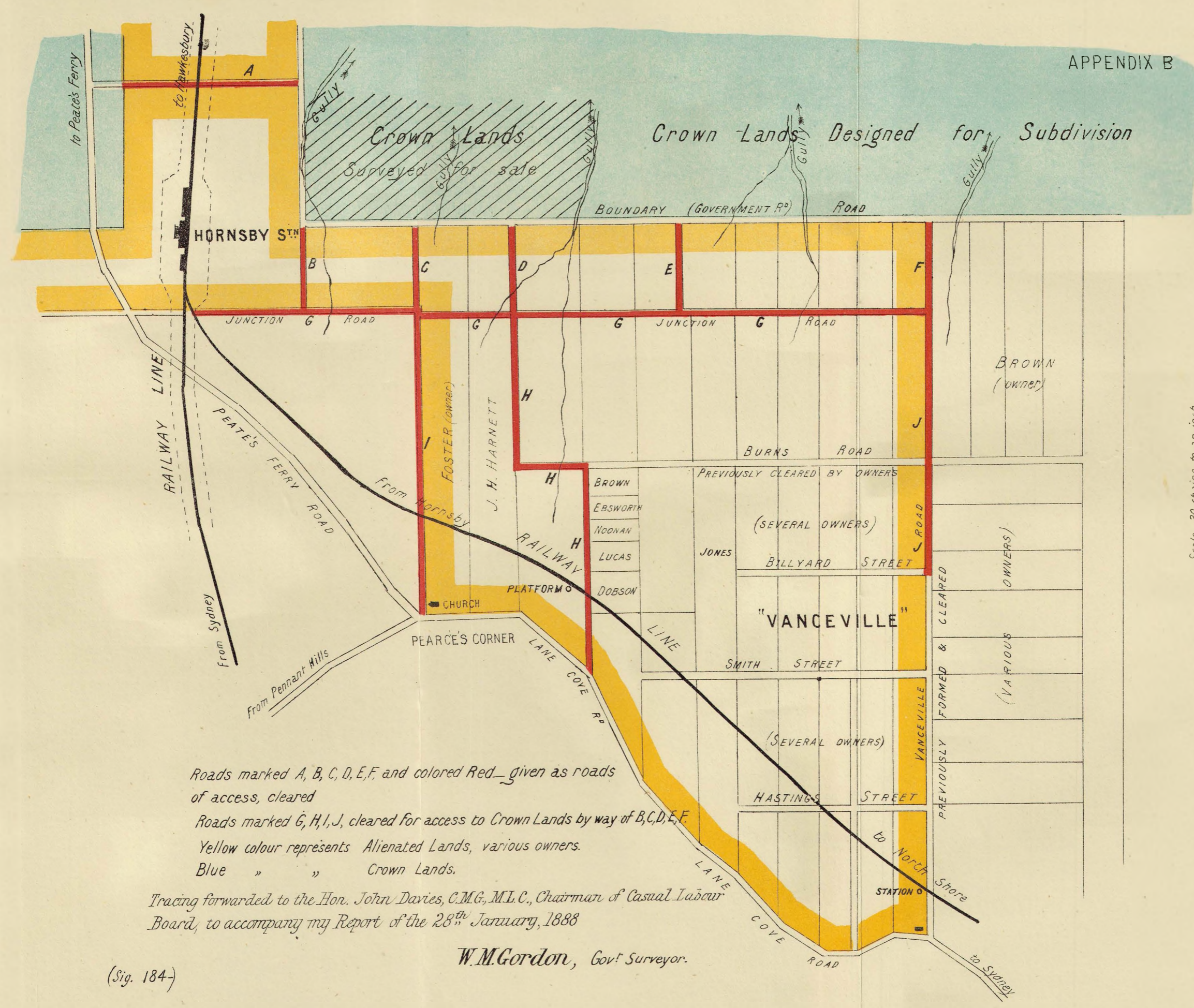


With my Report N^o 125 of 17th Jan. 1888
 to The Under Secretary for Lands
 John W. Deering

(Sig. 184-)

The Red line shows the Road as surveyed through Crown Land, and through Bellamy's 100 ac, to the bridge erected over the Railway, by that Dep^t

J.W. Deering. 17/1/88.



Roads marked A, B, C, D, E, F, and colored Red—given as roads of access, cleared
 Roads marked G, H, I, J, cleared for access to Crown Lands by way of B, C, D, E, F.
 Yellow colour represents Alienated Lands, various owners.
 Blue " " Crown Lands.

Tracing forwarded to the Hon. John Davies, C.M.G., M.L.C., Chairman of Casual Labour Board, to accompany my Report of the 28th January, 1888

W.M. Gordon, Govt Surveyor.

(Sig. 184-)

Scale, 20 chains to an inch

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

ROADS.

(CORRESPONDENCE, PLANS, &c., RESPECTING ROADS PASSING THROUGH HOLT-SUTHERLAND ESTATE.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 13 December, 1888.

SCHEDULE.

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A.

Petition.

Re Noxious Trades Site and road thereto.

Sydney, June, 1887.

WE have the honor to respectfully request that a survey may be at once made for a Railway from the Illawarra line to proposed site for Noxious Trades, viz., the Government Reserve of 1,640 acres at Kurnell, recently cleared by the unemployed, and that as soon as the route is determined upon, some of the unemployed labour may be immediately utilized in clearing and stumping the track.

The subject of setting apart this site has for years been before Parliament and the public, as set forth in your Botany address, published in the *Herald* of 5th February last, which we read with great interest, as inspiring a hope that the completion of this important work would not be much longer delayed.

The "Noxious Trades Site Bill" was passed by the Legislative Assembly last Session, but nothing has been done beyond clearing the site.

The delay in utilizing this site has caused capital, energy, and enterprise to become idle, and numbers of men to be thrown into the already numerous numbers of the "unemployed."

The employers who continue working do so only at the risk of being prosecuted, imprisoned, and ruined, for creating nuisances in the eye of the law.

Under these conditions their appliances are imperfect, causing a great waste of valuable material, which is a national loss.

This has long been a question of pressing urgency, and delay only intensifies the necessity for settlement.

In the present depressed state of the labor market it is surely not wise to have more men in this way thrown out of work by the closing of these factories through having no place to remove to.

The utilization of this site, which has been chosen and approved by the manufacturers themselves, will cause the expenditure of large private capital in erecting and working the new and extensive factories, which manufacturers are only waiting to bring into existence as soon as the site is ready.

We respectfully submit that the present is a favourable opportunity for carrying on this highly reproductive work at an economical cost, and at the same time finding employment for the surplus labour of the community.

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| J. H. Carruthers, M.P. | Thos. Walker, M.P. | E. J. Ball, M.P. |
| W. H. M'Millan, " | G. Withers, " | J. Creer, " |
| J. Penzer, " | J. Macfarlane, " | W. F. Schey, " |
| John Hurley, " | W. R. Cortis, " | J. Tonkin, " |
| R. Stevenson, " | S. E. Lees, " | J. Jones, " |
| W. L. Davis, " | Jno. Haynes, " | Thos. Goodwin, " |
| A. Wilson, " | S. Smith, " | Thos. Colls, " |
| S. W. Moore, " | F. Farnell, " | A. Hutchison, " |
| J. S. Hawthorne, " | A. J. Gould, " | N. Hawkin, " |
| W. Henson, " | C. S. Garland, " | A. Kethel, " |
| H. Dawson, " | D. O'Connor, " | J. Seaver, " |
| W. S. Dowell, " | C. A. Lee, " | R. Barbour, " |
| Jas. Fletcher, " | Jno. See, " | J. R. Street, " |
| J. H. Want, " | W. J. Trickett, " | C. E. Jeanneret, " |
| Jno. Gale, " | R. J. Black, " | M. Chapman, " |
| W. C. Wall, " | F. J. Smith, " | G. Merriman, " |
| J. P. Abbott, " | G. R. Dibbs, " | R. H. Levien, " |
| J. H. Hassall, " | W. J. Lyne, " | R. Vaughn, " |
| N. Melville, " | A. H. M'Culloch, " | G. Matheson, " |
| Thos. Dalton, " | Varney Parkes, " | J. E. Ives, " |
| H. Copeland, " | F. G. Crouch, " | J. S. Farnell, " |
| E. W. O'Sullivan, " | W. C. Wilkinson, " | Geo. Day, " |
| Thos. Ewing, " | H. H. Brown, " | |

B.

V. Parkes, Esq., M.P., to The Chairman, Casual Labour Board.

Re Petition for Roads off Illawarra Road.

Sir,

Will you kindly give attention to this Petition, because the work cannot be performed unless the sanction of your Board is obtained.

I wish you would give it all the consideration you can, and if possible recommend.

VARNEY PARKES.

6 July, 1887.

C.

Petition.

Re Illawarra Road.

Chairman, Casual Labour Board,

Sydney, 7 July, 1888.

We have the honor to call your attention to the fact that the main Illawarra Road, from the George's River Ferry to the National Park, is in a very unsatisfactory state. It was a good deal cut up by the traffic of the Easter encampment; the heavy rains following it have still further damaged it.

It is a Government road, 2 chains wide, but it is cleared only 12 feet or so in some places, and the running room is confined to that space, making it unsafe to travel on. This being the only drive to the park, and the main road to the south coast, it is much used.

We have to respectfully request that your Board may be good enough to have it aligned by the Government surveyors, and then allow some of the unemployed to clear and stump it for its full width of 2 chains, and to properly form the road for (say) $\frac{1}{2}$ chain.

This would be a great public convenience, and would be a most useful and permanent work on which to utilize some of the surplus labour.

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| J. H. Carruthers, M.P. | W. B. Thame. | H. Tillidge. |
| Hry. Prince. | A. Mackay. | R. C. Nicol. |
| A. W. Francis. | A. J. Pring. | E. Woolnough. |
| R. Shankland. | T. Richardson. | S. Bullock. |
| W. G. Whiting. | Thos. Smalley. | R. Wilkinson. |
| W. B. Jamieson. | T. Wilkes. | W. M'Murtrie. |
| C. W. Norris. | C. J. Pengrase. | T. Hynard. |
| J. E. Shant. | J. Doyle. | C. Millen. |
| G. Jamieson. | C. Cooper. | C. W. Bullock. |
| A. S. Bennett. | W. E. Shearsby. | J. Westwood. |
| J. Watkins. | S. C. Brees. | B. J. Hogg. |
| W. R. Jamieson. | W. F. Brown. | E. Deakin. |
| J. R. Robinson. | W. C. Black. | G. Hutton. |
| J. E. Clapperton. | F. Gurney. | W. B. Williams. |
| R. Grant. | J. B. Butters. | F. Brodman. |
| J. B. Tucker. | C. Bourne. | Varney Parkes, M.P. |

This work being in the opinion of the Board of great utility, they submit it for the approval of the Colonial Secretary.—J.D., Chairman, 7/7/87. B.C., Principal Under Sec. Approved.—H.P., 8/7/87.

D.

D.

Petition.

Re Malvern and Sylvania Roads.

Chairman, Casual Labour Board,—

19 August, 1887.

We have the honor to request that your Board may have the goodness to grant the use of some of the men under your charge to clear, stump, and form Malvern Road from Illawarra Road, and also the road known as Sylvania Road, which leaves the main Illawarra Road at a point about a mile from the punt, and runs in a straight line southerly to the north-west arm of Port Hacking, viz., to Yowie Bay and to Yowie Head.

These are the nearest landing places for visitors returning from the park by water and thence by road to Sydney. His Excellency the Governor and party, the trustees, and many visitors return to Sydney this way.

They are public roads, but as they have not been properly cleared and formed, the greater part of them cannot be used, and a long detour between the punt and the park is thus necessitated.

We respectfully urge that the making of these additional highways to the Park would be a useful and permanent work and a great public convenience, and we earnestly hope your Board will see fit to have it carried out.

A. H. M'Culloch, M.P.
 Varney Parkes, M.P.
 Frank Farnell, M.P.
 G. F. Want.
 J. S. Jamieson.
 J. H. Carruthers, M.P.
 W. Newton.
 S. Newton.
 E. Newton.
 J. Stephen.
 Geo. Senior.
 W. Cubitt.
 A. Ramsay.
 J. Davison.
 Myles M'Rae.

E. Reading.
 F. J. Jackson.
 S. A. Want.
 O. J. Dalton.
 H. Tinder.
 S. R. Geddes.
 R. Nott.
 C. C. Smith.
 Hry. Prince.
 R. Rosenfeld.
 A. W. Francis.
 S. Shankland.
 E. Salier.
 W. Jones.
 C. W. Morris.

H. B. Jamieson.
 J. Murphy.
 C. Byrne.
 Syd. Smith.
 W. E. Johnstone.
 J. F. Murphy.
 J. Roberts.
 J. Armstrong.
 C. M'Clure.
 S. Munden.
 A. G. Lee.
 Thos. Strickland.
 R. Engehan.
 M. Moloney.
 G. Wheatley.

Recommended for the approval of the Colonial Secretary.—J. D., Chairman. B.C., Principal Under Secretary. Approved.—H.P., 22/8/87. This work to be put in hand at once, and carried out under piece-work. Roads marked in red on plan to be cleared.—J.D., 23/8/87. To Mr. E. W. Appendix A. Burrowes.

E.

J. H. Carruthers, Esq., M.P., to The Colonial Secretary.

Re Road, Sylvania to Port Hacking.

C.L. Bd.,
 87-944,
 10 September.

Sir,

16 September, 1887.

I beg to request that you will be pleased to give the necessary authority to the Casual Labor Board to put a number of men to work on the Sylvania Road, Port Hacking. This is the only road for the residents of Port Hacking, Kurnell, and the south shores of Botany to Sydney; it is about four (4) miles in length, and portion of it is uncleared and totally unmade.

There is a considerable traffic on it, and the persons using it complain bitterly of the present unformed state. The landowners and residents recently subscribed £100 towards its improvement, and the representative of the Hon. T. Holt gave the necessary land to make the road more convenient to the travellers. The clearing and formation of the road will be a very great boon to the residents, and will enable them to obtain their goods and convey their produce with more ease than before, whilst it will open up the locality to the Sydney public.

J. H. CARRUTHERS.

As, these are, I am informed, public roads, the Casual Labor Board might be instructed to place the men on them.—C.W., 6/9/87. Yes.—H.P., 6/9/87. Chairman, Casual Labor Board, 7 September, 1887. The Chairman, Casual Labor Board.—I have examined the road to Port Hacking mentioned by Mr. Carruthers, M.P., and think it most desirable to put men on at once to do the work. Men could be sent from the Main Illawarra Road to do the work as they complete what they are now at, besides sending a few from the Park.—E. W. BURROWES, Superintendent, 15/9/87.

E 2.

Sir Geo. Long Innes and Mr. Myles M'Rae to The Colonial Secretary.

Re Road Como.

Sir,

15 September, 1887.

At a Government land sale in March last we bought various allotments of Government land at Como, George's River. The auctioneer stated when putting the lots up that the Government reserve would be improved by the Government, and that the road leading to the punt would be made accessible. Nothing has yet been done in fulfilment of those promises.

May we suggest that some of the unemployed hands from the National Park may be put on to the reserve at Como and the Punt Road, to carry out the promise made by the Government auctioneer.

J. GEO. LONG INNES
 MYLES M'RAE.

Submitted

Submitted for approval.—C.W., 22/9/87. Approved.—H.P., 23/9/87.
 The Chairman Casual Labour Board,—Some little time ago I explored a road leading to the land referred to, passing through Crown lands, which I intended to ask your permission to clear; this can now be done, as the main road is cleared to the turning off point. It will materially enhance the value of property at Como, giving carriage by land access.—E. W. BURROWES, 2/11/87.

F. Petition.

Re roads branching from main Illawarra Road.

Chairman Casual Labour Board,— 22 September, 1887.

The plan adopted by your Board of employing the surplus labour in opening up new roads and thus making useful and permanent improvements is regarded by the public with general satisfaction and approval.

We have now the honor to respectfully request that your Board may be good enough to have the undermentioned roads cleared and stumped to their full width and properly formed with water-tables, &c., fit for vehicular traffic for (say) 33 feet wide on each road, viz.:—Eton-street, Woronora, Cronulla, Lilli Pilli and Eurunga Roads, and the Boulevard.

Eton-street runs from the Illawarra Road to the park, and would be the best carriage entrance to the park, avoiding the crossing of the railway line in two places, which is rendered necessary by the present road.

Woronora road runs from Eton-street to Sylvania road, and would be the nearest way from the Railway or the Park to the deep waters of Port Hacking. We ask that this may be cut down and graded where necessary.

Cronulla road runs from Tyreal public road to Cronulla Beach.

Lilli Pilli road runs from Tyreal road to east head of Yowie Bay.

Eurunga road runs from Lilli Pilli road to east side of Yowie Bay.

The Boulevard leads from a large tract of country to the Railway line, where a platform is to be erected, and it will open up the large Government reserve of which it is the boundary.

These are all public roads which will lead to the Park and bring a great increase of traffic to the Railways.

A. H. M'Culloch, M.P.
 Frank Farnell, M.P.
 Myles M'Rae.
 J. S. Jamieson.
 S. A. Want.
 E. S. Daniell.

J. H. Potter.
 W. T. Davey.
 N. Moriarty.
 H. Salwey.
 H. Geddes.
 O. J. Dalton.

Jno. Davison.
 C. Stephens.
 D. Bucknell.
 G. W. Ash.
 J. Murphy.

Connecting paper, 87-1,003. Approve of together.

G. Petition.

87/1003.

Re Illawarra Road, from George's River to National Park.

To Casual Labour Board,—

We have to thank your Board for the very useful and permanent improvement which you have effected by the clearing of the Illawarra Road, between George's River and National Park.

In order, however, that the public may avail themselves of the full advantages of this grand highway to the Park, we have to respectfully request that your Board may have the road completed and made fit for carriages and light vehicle traffic to the Park by immediately carrying out the works suggested below:—

To burn off clean the whole of the logs, stumps, and parts of trees left within 10 ft. of the sides of the road.

To form ballast and blind the road, commencing at the end near the railway station, where the surface is clay, and the road very bad.

To put on fifty men used to stone-work at Kangaroo Hill, and fifty men at Sylvania Hill, on this road to cut down the former hill 10 feet and the latter 5 feet in the deepest part. The work in both cases to be first properly designed and graded.

The material from these cuttings to be used for ballasting the other portions of the road.

The junction of Venetia-street with the Illawarra Road, near Kangaroo Hill, to be suitably graded.

Venetia-street and Sylvania Road to be cut down where necessary and graded. On the short piece of road between the goods shed and the gate house at Sutherland a few stumps have been left. These should be taken out to the full width of the road, and the road blinded so that vehicles may be able to run on the metalled portions.

The adoption of these suggestions would render the road to the park one of the most attractive drives out of Sydney, and a credit to your Board. We therefore hope you may approve of the works being carried out.

A. H. M'Culloch, M.P.,
 F. Farnell, M.P.,
 John Higgerson,
 John Davison,
 M. M'Rae,
 S. A. Want,
 E. S. Daniell,
 J. H. Potter,

W. Davey,
 N. Moriarty,
 G. W. Ash,
 H. Salwey,
 S. R. Geddes,
 D. Bucknell,
 A. Dalton,
 C. Stephens,

J. Murphy,
 S. Thompson,
 A. Walton,
 E. Graham,
 W. Silson,
 M. Maloney,
 F. J. Jackson,

W. R. Jones,
 E. M'Kenny,
 Arthur W. Cooper,
 J. Roberts,
 B. W. Campbell,
 O. S. Pedley,
 J. A. Armstrong.

Forwarded for the favourable consideration of the Colonial Secretary, so far only as the road-making is concerned.—J.D., Chairman C.L. Board, B.C., 22/9/87. Principal Under Secretary. Submitted, 29/9/87. Approved.—H.P., 31/9/87. To be noted and returned.—J.D., Chairman, B.C., 5/10/87. E. W. Burrowes.

5

H.

J. H. Carruthers, Esq., M.P., to The Chairman, Casual Labour Board.

Re Port Hacking Road.

Sir,

9 September, 1887.

I presume you have already received the necessary authority to proceed with the work of the Port Hacking Road. I enclose a plan showing the position of the road from A to B and C to D; Appendix B. it is 100 feet wide, and I will get a strip for the rest of the way from the Holt-Sutherland Estate Company to make it 100 feet wide—in fact, I have the manager's consent already. The road wants to be cleared the full 100 feet in width, and tabled and formed about 30 feet. There is plenty of ballast available, and good gravel.

I should recommend that the men be set to work (in sectional work) as follows:—

1. Where the road is already cleared 33 feet wide, piece-work—so much per chain for formation, ballasting, and gravel. The distance to be done is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile, and it is ready for working on at once.
2. Where the road is totally uncleared piece-work clearing and stumping 100 feet wide; formation, 30 feet in centre; distance, about 1 mile.
3. Clearing and stumping, 33 feet on either side where track is already cleared on E side only.
4. Gravel and ballast, according to grades, from C to D.
5. Large culvert near Holt's fence and small one about midway.

I will meet your overseer with a surveyor to go over the road, and I would recommend that Mr. Knibbs, of the Survey Department, who surveyed the road, be asked to accompany us.

J. H. CARRUTHERS.

For report.—J.D., Chairman, 14/9/87. See recommendation on letter 87/944 attached.—
E.W.B., 18/9/87.

I.

J. H. Carruthers, Esq., M.P., to The Chairman, Casual Labour Board.

Re Port Hacking Road.

Sir,

I hope that you will see that there is no undue delay in the work being carried out on the Port Hacking Road, inasmuch that it is perfectly impassable at present. I have heard from several gentlemen that some unauthorized person is interfering with Mr. Burrowes and the unemployed, and is ordering them not to work on roads as authorized. I trust you will see that no one is allowed to interfere with the men in these cases. I have not heard from you as to this road at all, and trust you will put the men on at once.

J. H. CARRUTHERS.

J.

Mr. J. Murphy to The Chairman, Casual Labour Board.

Road George's River to Port Hacking.

Sir,

5 October, 1887.

I address you at the instance of Mr. Carruthers, M.P., whose letter I herewith enclose. He has requested me to forward on his behalf, for your information, the following particulars on the subject:—

The road is 150 links wide from Gawley's Creek, eastward; but Mr. Knibbs, the Government surveyor, has marked it (from the Illawarra Road) 1 chain wide only. The extra half chain should in some parts be added to the south and west sides of Mr. Knibbs' pegs, and in others on the north and east sides of them. Hoping this information may be of some use to you.

J. MURPHY.

[Enclosure.]

Letter from Mr. Carruthers, M.P.

Sir,

I understand that the unemployed are clearing the Port Hacking Road 1 chain wide. I understood from you that it was to be 99 feet wide in the greater part. I think you should write to Mr. Davies, and inform him the road ought to be cleared the full length.

30 September, 1887. To J. Murphy, Esq.

J. H. CARRUTHERS.

For information. J.D., Chairman, 18/10/1887. B.C., Mr. Burrowes.

J. H. Carruthers, Esq., M.P., to The Chairman, Casual Labour Board.

Re Port Hacking Road.

Sir,

11 November, 1887.

I wish you would instruct Mr. Burrowes, or the chief man of the unemployed on the Port Hacking Road, to set some of the men to work on the very bad portion near Mr. Holt's fence. There will be great traffic there at Christmas, and the road is something terrible for about one mile, all sand and stumpholes; all that is required is the tabling and gravelling with one large culvert and a few side drains. I am sure if you ask Mr. Burrowes to set at it at once he can have it all nicely finished in about three weeks.

J. H. CARRUTHERS.

Mr. Burrowes,—To be done at once.—J.D., Chairman, B.C., 12 Nov., 1887. Mr. Frazer to lay out road at once and measure for culvert.—E.W.B., 16/11/87. To be done by Mr. Buller's men.—
E.W.B., 19/11/87.

K.

K.

W. L. Davis, Esq., M.P., to The Principal Under Secretary.

Re having Gannon's Road cleared and formed.

Sir,

Sydney, 23 January, 1888.

I have the honor to request that you will permit the gang of unemployed now at work on the road to Port Hacking from the Holt-Sutherland Estate to be put on to clear and form the Government Road, about 1 mile in length, running from aforesaid road to another point of the said river, as shown on plan forwarded in my letter* of 16th instant, before being removed from the locality.

I have, &c.,

W. LOVEL DAVIS.

Refer to Casual Labour Board.—C.W., B.C., 23/1/88. Recommended for approval, having a large number of men working in the vicinity.—J. DAVIES, Chairman, B.C., 9/2/88. Principal Under Secretary. For approval.—C.W., 20/2/88. Approved.—H.P., 20/2/88.

* The letter referred to cannot be traced as having been received at the Colonial Secretary's office.

L.

Petition

Re various roads branching from the Illawarra Road and Illawarra Railway Line.

The Chairman, Casual Labour Board,—

10 May, 1888.

We have the honor to respectfully request that your Board may be good enough to clear and stump, and gravel where necessary, the undermentioned roads in the County of Cumberland.

The opening of these roads would be a great public convenience; would provide useful and reproductive work for some of the men under your control; give access to the main roads and railway stations of the district; and would increase settlement, communication, and traffic, and become feeders which would greatly swell the earnings of the railway.

We understand that a quarry of superior road metal has been found on Government Reserve, Sutherland, and we respectfully suggest that profitable employment can be found for a large number of your men in breaking this stone for use on the railways and public roads.

The following are the roads referred to:—Kurrajong, Bittogi, Yanda, Yallaroi, Bath, Holt, Crystal, Box, the Boulevard, Yarra, Burrawong, Illeroo, Burraneer, Woolaware, Wotonga, Kanura, Willaree Cowarra, Orara, Karimbla, Canoona, Montrose, Glenwood Roads.

F. Farrell, M.P.,

R. J. Hogg,

J. Blenksoph,

C. W. Norris,

J. Nobbs, M.P.,

C. Bourne,

H. Taylor,

R. Shanklands,

S. A. Want,

A. M. Steer,

J. Dunlop,

W. M'Murtrie,

F. J. Jackson,

J. E. Chant,

E. Mullens,

R. Neill,

J. Davison,

J. E. Gowing,

J. Harber,

J. Gemmell,

E. Reading,

J. P. Davey,

W. Thame,

J. Hatton,

R. Adrain,

C. Bullock,

J. Parfett,

E. Warren,

J. M'Carty,

J. Hynard,

C. Price,

G. Roberts.

Recommended for the approval of the Colonial Secretary.—J.D., Chairman. B.C., Principal Under Secretary, 15/5/88. Submitted for approval.—C.W., 18/5/88. Approved.—H.P., 21/5/88.

M.

Mr. Superintendent Burrowes to The Chairman, Casual Labour Board.

Report *re* public roads that pass through the Holt-Sutherland Estate.

Sir,

12 November, 1888.

In compliance with your request to report upon these various roads, cleared, formed, &c., under my immediate supervision, I have the honor to furnish you herewith, separate reports upon each road.

No. 1.—Main Illawarra or Military Road.

This road, before I received authority, was very heavily timbered and dangerous in places, having only a single dray track denoting the road, since which time I have cleared it the full width and have nearly completed the formation throughout, and have placed several culverts where necessary. I commenced operations at the railway gates near Sutherland, and am finishing up at George's River Steam Ferry; this road is the main artery to Wollongong and Kiama District, and is very much used for heavy traffic.

No. 2.—Malvern Road.

This being a very necessary road, being a connecting link between the main *Illawarra Road* and the main *Port Hacking Road*, it has been cleared, formed, and heavily gravelled throughout and forms the principal outlet from the *Sutherland Railway Station*, and until *Woronora Road* is finished is the only exit.

No. 3.—Woronora Road.

This road is in a direct line from the *Sutherland Station Goods-shed*; thence crosses the main *Port Hacking Road*, and junctions with the *Cromella Road* which leads to the *Noxious Trades Site*, and which will be the *principal road* in the district; it has been formed $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. *Dent's Creek* is spanned by a bridge, and various culverts have been erected; a bridge across every creek is in course of construction, which upon completion will be greatly used.

No. 4.—

No. 4.—Main Port Hacking Road.

Being a *main public thoroughfare*, I was directed to clear this road to its full width, after which I formed, bridged, and culverted, where and now this road is admitted to be one of the best in the district and is very much used by the inhabitants and excursionists, and will give access to a large portion of the district, which only recently was almost unknown.

No. 5.—Boulevard Road.

This road runs from the Illawarra line crossing the main *Illawarra Road*, and joins the *Port Hacking Road*. This road is the only access to a *Government reserve*, the *northern side of the road being the boundary line of the reserve*, which if subdivided and sold would return a very high figure; this road is only cleared.

No. 6.—Ewey Road.

Is only a short road diverging from the Woronora Road, and leads to the first available deepwater at Port Hacking, which is a great boon to the residents in the district, as likewise to those who visit this neighbourhood for fishing; it has been formed and cleared.

No. 7.—Coronulla Road.

This in my opinion is one of the most important roads in the district, as it leads directly to the *Coronulla Beach* and also to a *large Government reserve* at the *northern entrance to Port Hacking, which is required for fortification purposes*, and will then make this road a great military one. It is likewise the direct road to the *Noxious Trades Site*. It has been cleared and formed, and is greatly used by the public in visiting one of the finest beaches on the eastern coast of Australia.

No. 8.—Station-street.

Extends from the main Illawarra Road to the railway station at Sutherland and the National Park eastern gates; is very much used in connection the railway goods-shed.

No. 9.—Sylvannia Road.

Extends from the main Illawarra Road to the north-west arm of Port Hacking; will be an important thoroughfare, as it opens up the Government reserve at Huntsman's Hill.

E. M. BURROWES,
Superintendent.

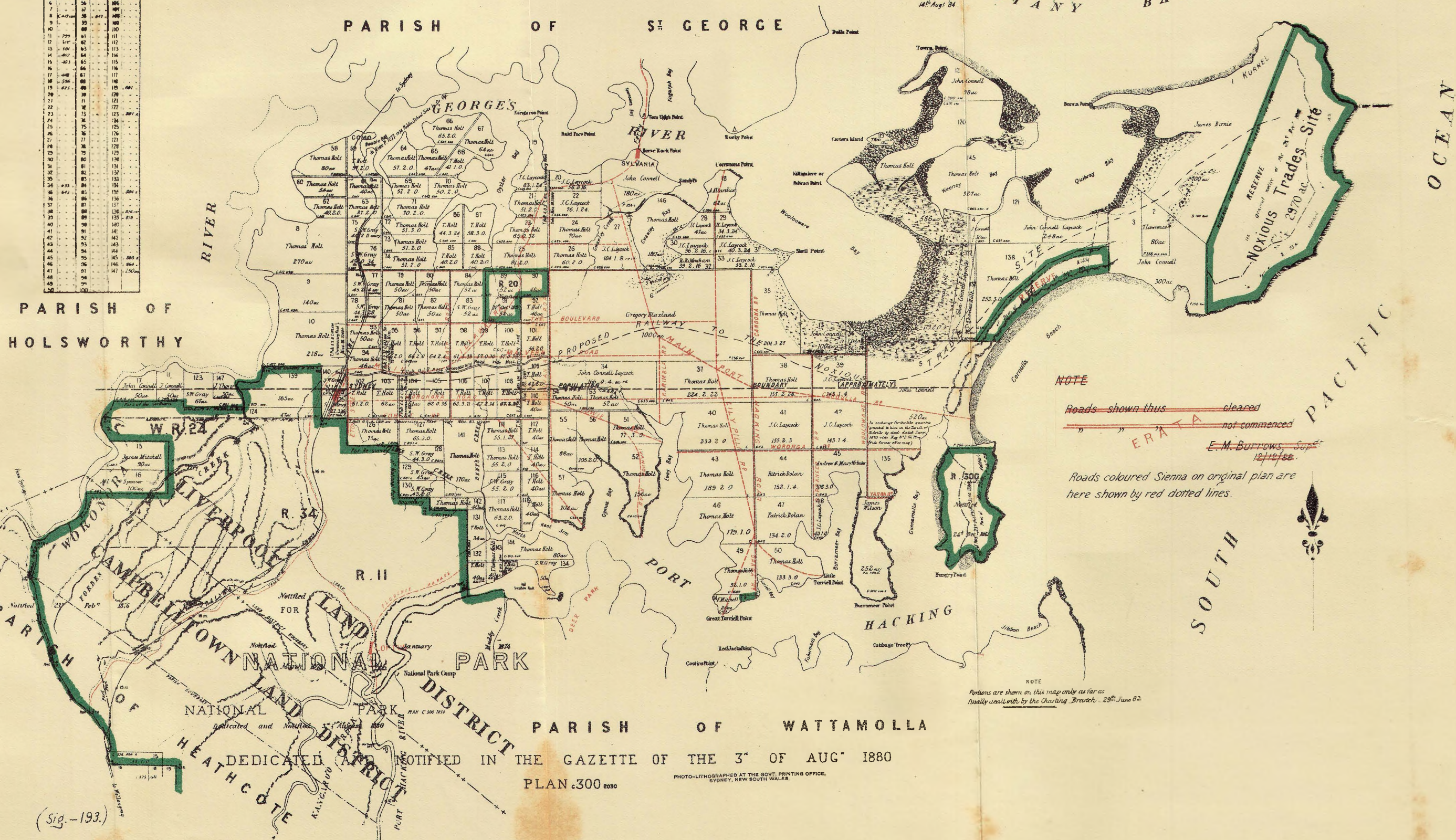
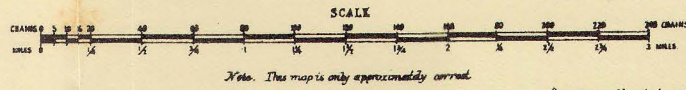
[Two plans.]

Sketch Map for Office use only
Copied from Office Map June 1884

APPENDIX A.

PARISH OF SUTHERLAND COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND LAND DISTRICTS OF LIVERPOOL & CAMPBELLTOWN

| PARISH | NO. | USED |
|--------|-----|------|
| 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 7 | 7 | 7 |
| 8 | 8 | 8 |
| 9 | 9 | 9 |
| 10 | 10 | 10 |
| 11 | 11 | 11 |
| 12 | 12 | 12 |
| 13 | 13 | 13 |
| 14 | 14 | 14 |
| 15 | 15 | 15 |
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| 31 | 31 | 31 |
| 32 | 32 | 32 |
| 33 | 33 | 33 |
| 34 | 34 | 34 |
| 35 | 35 | 35 |
| 36 | 36 | 36 |
| 37 | 37 | 37 |
| 38 | 38 | 38 |
| 39 | 39 | 39 |
| 40 | 40 | 40 |
| 41 | 41 | 41 |
| 42 | 42 | 42 |
| 43 | 43 | 43 |
| 44 | 44 | 44 |
| 45 | 45 | 45 |
| 46 | 46 | 46 |
| 47 | 47 | 47 |
| 48 | 48 | 48 |
| 49 | 49 | 49 |
| 50 | 50 | 50 |



NOTE
Roads shown thus cleared
" not commenced
ERA
E.M. Burrows, Sup^t
12/12/88.
Roads coloured Sienna on original plan are here shown by red dotted lines.

NOTE
Portions are shown on this map only as far as finally dealt with by the Charting Branch. 29th June 82

(Sig. -193.)

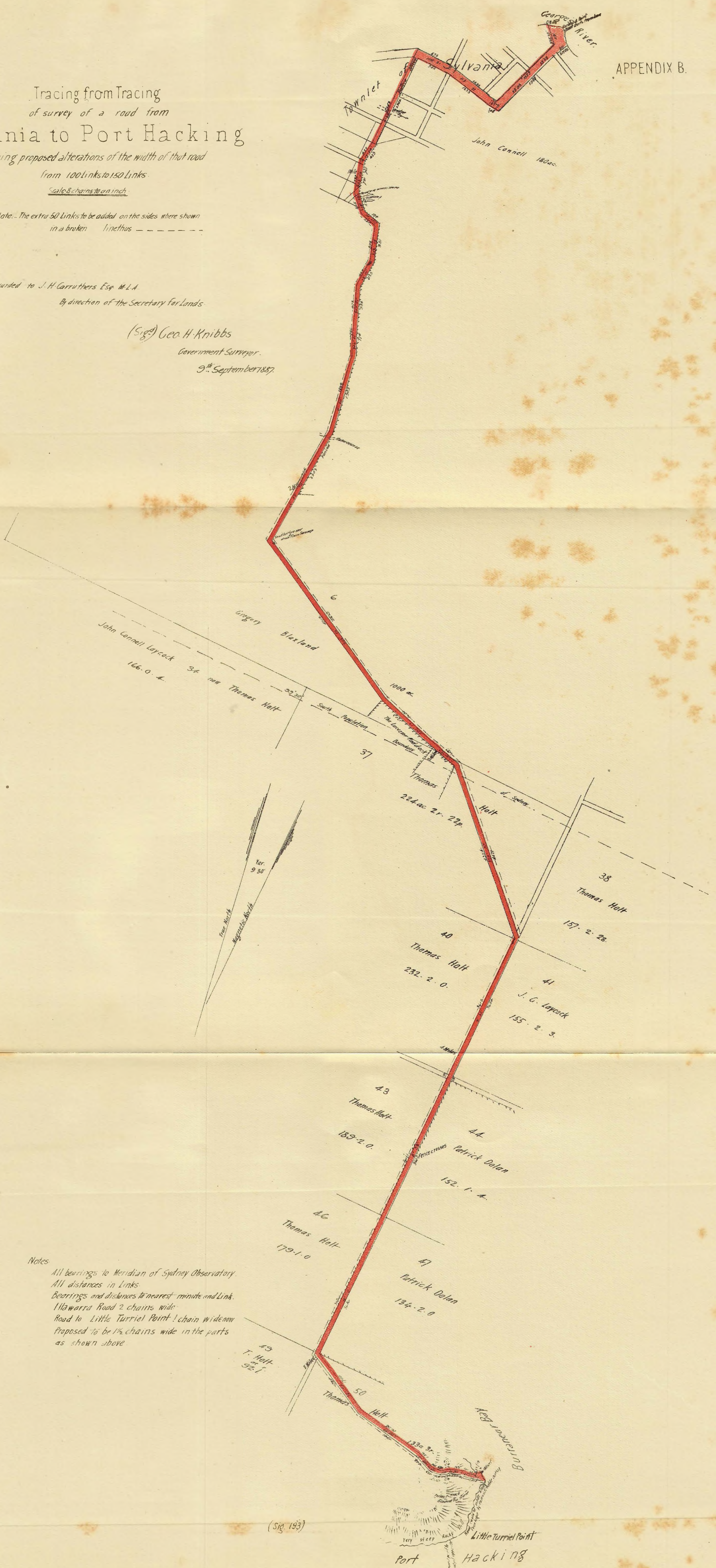
Tracing from Tracing of survey of a road from Sylvania to Port Hacking showing proposed alterations of the width of that road from 100 links to 150 Links.

Scale 8 chains to an inch

Note: The extra 50 Links to be added on the sides where shown
in a broken line thus -----

(Copy) Forwarded to J. H. Carruthers Esq. M.L.A.
By direction of the Secretary for Lands.

(Sig^d) Geo. H. Knibbs
Government Surveyor.
9th September 1887.



Notes
 All bearings to Meridian of Sydney Observatory.
 All distances in Links.
 Bearings and distances to nearest minute and Link.
 Hawarra Road 2 chains wide.
 Road to Little Turriel Point 1 chain wide new
 Proposed to be 1 1/2 chains wide in the parts
 as shown above.

(Sig. 193)

1888-9.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE COLONY OF AUSTRALIA.

(CORRESPONDENCE RESPECTING A BILL TO CONFER ON THE COLONY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
THE NAME OF AUSTRALIA.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 15 January, 1889.

Telegram from the Honorable Duncan Gillies, M.P., Victoria, to The Colonial
Secretary, New South Wales.

Melbourne, 30 November, 1887.

In the name of Australia. The Governments of Queensland, South Australia, and Victoria have observed from the public Press that it is proposed to change the name of New South Wales into that of "Australia." Although they have not received any communication from the Government of New South Wales upon the subject, they feel it due to that Colony to notify before it is formally committed to the proposal the strong public feeling of their respective Colonies on the question. The Governments associated in this memorandum fully recognise the right of New South Wales to adopt any designation which may be available without infringing existing rights. But the name proposed to be taken is the name of the entire Continent, and as such it is the common property of all the continental Colonies, and the Governments of those Colonies now beg to represent to that of New South Wales, in the most friendly spirit, that the appropriation of the name of "Australia" by any individual Colony is a measure to which the others cannot consent. First, the name is one which belongs to all Australia and all Australians. Second, whether the idea be to abandon the name of Australia as that of the continent, or to continue it as such, and to have two Australias, one within the other, either change would lead to very great confusion. If the former, a new name would be required to designate the continent, the name of which would be changed practically for the third time in a hundred years. If the latter, regrettable complications must ensue from the existence of two Australias. In postal and telegraph business, in commerce and in law, in social as well as public affairs in connection with statistics and public documents, innumerable complications and even losses may be easily foreseen. Third, the possession of one common name by these Colonies is certainly a very real bond of union. To interfere with that name runs counter to the federal spirit which all the Colonies profess to cherish, and tends directly against the cordial and friendly feeling between them. Fourth, there are historical considerations which all point to the same conclusion that the name "Australia" has never been applied either in legal documents or by popular usage to New South Wales. At the time when New South Wales was first colonised the continent was known, and is referred to in the Orders in Council and Imperial Statutes, as New Holland. New South Wales never possessed any jurisdiction over any part of the continent by whatever name was known beyond the 141st meridian of longitude. The name Australia has uniformly been applied in legal documents and by popular usage to the whole of the continent, and the name "Australian" to the different colonies that occupy it. A prospect of losing their national and historical name cannot be treated merely as a matter of sentiment by the Colonies interested. To conclude, it is observed from the newspaper reports that it was assumed by the Government of New South Wales that the other Colonies would not object. As, however, it is now officially announced to New South Wales that the sister Colonies do seriously and strongly deprecate the proposal, it is hoped that New South Wales will, in deference to their sentiments, frankly and promptly abandon all attempt to interfere with the name of Australia. For and on behalf of the Governments of Queensland, South Australia, and Victoria.

D. GILLIES.

Telegram from The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to The Honorable Duncan Gillies, M.P., Victoria.

Sydney, 1 December, 1887.

HAVE received telegram of three colonies respecting name "Australia." Owing to extreme pressure of business cannot possibly reply to-day.

Telegram from The Colonial Secretary to The Agent-General.

Sydney, 2 December, 1887.

A PRESS Telegram states that Sir Graham Berry has waited upon Secretary of State to protest, on behalf of Victoria, against the action of this Colony in change of name. You will be good enough to see Secretary of State, and represent that this Government regards this proceeding as premature, uncalled for, and calculated to disturb the cordial relations between the two Colonies.

The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to The Honorable Duncan Gillies, M.P., Victoria.

Sir,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 5 December, 1887.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, late on the evening of the 30th ultimo, of your telegraphic "Memorandum," transmitted in the names of the Governments of Queensland, South Australia, and Victoria, with reference to the Bill before Parliament to adopt the name of "Australia" as the name of this Colony. I am informed from other sources that before sending this "Memorandum" to me you had instructed your Agent-General to lodge with the Secretary of State what is called a "Protest" against our Parliamentary action; and I learn that your "Memorandum," now under notice, was hurriedly handed to the public press on the following day, without affording sufficient time for it to be considered by this Government. As your apparent object of immediate publicity was already secured, it did not appear to me that there was any necessity for an immediate reply to your message, in the presence of much more important matters requiring my attention.

2. Having pointed out these peculiar features of your mode of "friendly" intercourse, I will proceed to offer some comments on the substance of your extraordinary communication. In the first place I observe with a becoming sense of gratitude that you "recognise the right of this Colony to adopt any designation" so long as the new name does not interfere with your notions of existing rights. The Colony of New South Wales has under that name a noble record of services to the cause of English settlement in Australia, extending over a hundred years; and in the view of this Government it cannot from a sense of patriotism adopt any new name whatever, such as a young Colony, one of its offshoots, might with propriety adopt. Long before Victoria was ever dreamt of, the struggle for British liberty for ourselves and the later born Colonies was fought out here by a band of gifted men, all belonging to the parent Colony, with William Charles Wentworth and John Dunmore Lang at their head. But our services to the cause of colonization in your part of the Australian world have not been less conspicuous and valuable. For more than sixty years every acre of land of what is now known as Victoria was within the limits of New South Wales, and under the jurisdiction of this Government. You are in error in supposing that our jurisdiction was confined within the 141st meridian of longitude. By Governor Phillip's Commission, issued in 1787, the territory of this Colony is described as "extending from the Northern Cape, or the extremity of the coast called Cape York, in the latitude of 10 degrees 37 minutes south, to the southern extremity of the said territory of New South Wales, or South Cape, in the latitude of 43 degrees 39 minutes south, and of all the country inland to the westward as far as the 135th degree of east longitude, reckoning from the meridian of Greenwich, including all the islands adjacent in the Pacific Ocean within the latitudes aforesaid." The district where Melbourne now stands became known as Bear-Grass, Batmania, and by other rather uncouth names. About fifty years ago Governor Sir Richard Bourke caused it to be selected as a suitable site for a new town, and under the personal inspection of that Governor, aided by the Surveyor-General of the day, Sir Thomas Mitchell, your city was surveyed and laid out, receiving from our hands the name of the Prime Minister of England. So that Melbourne owes its site, its design, including its wide streets, and its very existence to the Government of New South Wales. In like manner the Government of this Colony, under the personal inspection of Sir George Gipps, aided by the Surveyor-General, Sir Thomas Mitchell, selected the site of, laid out, and named the present city of Brisbane: every acre of what is now known as Queensland was within the limits of this Colony, and both Melbourne and Brisbane were large and prosperous towns of New South Wales for many years before the two new Colonies were created. This Colony also contained the richest part of South Australia. The country west of the 135th degree of longitude was for many years designated New Holland, and was destitute of settlement. I attach hereto a map showing the authorised divisions of the country.

3. During the greater part of this long period the name of "Australia" was specially applied to the country which remains under the jurisdiction of this Government. In connection with his important surveys and explorations in 1801-1803, Captain Flinders, one of the early Australian benefactors, suggested the application of the name "Australia" to New South Wales. From that time forward the name has been interchangeably employed with the name of New South Wales, both in designating the territory and the inhabitants of this Colony. While the people of the new Colonies on the north and on the south have rejoiced in calling themselves "Queenslanders" and "Victorians," the people of the parent Colony have clung from the first with justifiable pride to the designation of "Australians." The name has been used with us in "social as well as public affairs," in "connection with statistics and public documents," and in "popular usage;" and men amongst us who have no superiors in experience, weight, and authority, maintain our historic right to the name.

4. You will observe that no question of a new name for this Colony is raised. We are proud, and may well be proud, of the name of New South Wales, under which we have done so much towards building up a free nation within our own limits, so much for the benefit of the young Colonies on the north and south of us, and so much for the civilized world. Even the condition of earliest settlement which was inflicted upon the embryo Australian commonwealth by the policy of the British Government afforded so many examples of heroic trial and sacrifice for the public good, so many brave and enlightened efforts to collect the means of implanting and supporting civilized life, where all around the struggling pioneers was wild and desolate, that the highest moral sense may find grounds for just pride in the retrospect. Certainly all the other Colonies owe some of their greatest advantages to the achievements of those early days. You will observe further that we do not seek to deprive the Continent of the name "Australia," but we merely propose to legally designate ourselves the Colony of Australia as the first in the group of Australian Colonies or States, and as the Colony which exclusively enjoyed that name in "popular usage" for many years. Any postal or telegraphic confusion that could arise, for which you express so much concern, could only affect ourselves, and with us it awakens but little apprehension. It could not affect the Colonies which have deliberately chosen the distinctive designations of "Queensland" and "Victoria."

5. You must permit me in conclusion to say that, with the sincerest desire to be on good terms with all our neighbours, this Government fails to appreciate the "friendly" attitude you have assumed in this matter. Considering the professed cordiality of your relations to this Colony, and the frank and ungrudging manner in which we at the present time are supporting you in your Exhibition, you might at least have done us the slight favour of communicating with us before resorting to outside assistance. We are not disposed to accept the substitution of pressure for courtesy. We can excuse your hastening to the Secretary of State for support when we recollect that on one occasion the Government of Victoria set so high a value upon its charter of self-government that it appealed to the Secretary of State for protection against the Constitutional action of one of its own Houses of Parliament. But we can see no occasion for your hasty, and, we think, unreasonable proceedings, however associated you may be with the other Colonies, in endeavouring to overbear the views of this Government of its duty to advance the interests of New South Wales.

I have, &c.,

HENRY PARKES.

Telegram from The Agent-General, London, to The Colonial Secretary,
New South Wales.

London, 5 December, 1887.

HAD an interview with Secretary of State for the Colonies, and delivered your message respecting name of Colony.

Telegram from the Honorable Duncan Gillies, M.P., Victoria, to The Colonial
Secretary, New South Wales.

Melbourne, 5 December, 1887.

Re the name "Australia," I have received a telegram from the Government of Western Australia expressing its concurrence in the views of the other Colonies respecting the name of Australia. I have also received a letter from the Government of Tasmania indicating that it also is in accordance with the Continental Colonies in the matter. A copy of this will be forwarded to you.

D. GILLIES.

Seen.—H.P., 6/12/87.

The Honorable Duncan Gillies, M.P., Victoria, to The Colonial Secretary,
New South Wales.

Sir,

Premier's Office, Melbourne, 6 December, 1887.

With reference to my telegram of yesterday's date, I have the honor to forward herewith a copy of the letter which I have received from the Honorable the Premier of Tasmania, on the subject of the proposed change of the name of New South Wales to "Australia." Dated 2 Dec

I have, &c.,

D. GILLIES,

Premier.

[Enclosure.]

Sir,

Premier's Office, Hobart, 2 December, 1887.

In reference to the action of the Government of New South Wales respecting the change of the name of that Colony to Australia, I have the honor to inform you that the proposal has been received with expressions of very grave disapprobation from all classes of the Tasmanian public.

This Government have not thought it necessary to communicate with Sir Henry Parkes on the subject, but should the Governments of the Colonies more immediately interested consider it advisable that a united protest from the Australian Colonies be addressed to Her Majesty's Government against the assumption of this collective title by any one Colony, I can assure you of the hearty support of the Government and people of Tasmania in urging that Imperial sanction be withheld from any measure which may be passed by the Legislature of New South Wales authorising the proposed change.

I have, &c.,

P. O. FYSH.

The Honorable the Premier, Victoria.

Telegram

Telegram from The Honorable Duncan Gillies, M.P., Victoria, to The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

Melbourne, 6 December, 1887.

Your letter of 5th *re* name of Australia received. I will immediately communicate it to the other Governments concerned.

D. GILLIES.

The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to The Agent-General, London.

Sir,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 6 December, 1887.

I have the honor to enclose six copies of the Colony of Australia Bill now before the Parliament of this Colony, and also six copies of correspondence between the Premier of Victoria and this Government on the subject of that Bill.

You will be good enough on an early date after receipt to lay copies of this Bill and the correspondence relating to it before the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.,

HENRY PARKES.

The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to The Colonial Secretary, Queensland.

Sir,

Colonial Secretary Office, Sydney, 7 December, 1887.

I have the honor to transmit, for the information of your Government, copies of a Bill that has recently been introduced into our Parliament for the purpose of conferring upon this Colony the name of "Australia," together with a copy of the correspondence on the subject, which has been laid before Parliament.

I have, &c.,

HENRY PARKES.

[Similar letters were addressed on same date to the Colonial Secretary, Western Australia, the Chief Secretary, South Australia, and the Honourable P. O. Fysh, M.L.C., Tasmania.]

The Honorable Duncan Gillies, M.P., Victoria, to The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

Sir,

Premier's Office, Melbourne, 10 December, 1887.

By my telegram of 6th December I acknowledged the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, in which you replied to the joint communication of the other Australian Colonies on the subject of the proposed assumption by New South Wales of the name of Australia.

As there are some statements in your letter which have a personal reference to this Government, it appears to me desirable that I should very shortly refer to them, and but for the pressure of public business this would have been done earlier.

As to the statement that I instructed the Agent-General to lodge with the Secretary of State for the Colonies a protest against your Parliamentary action, it is quite a mistake.

When I became acquainted with your proposal, it brought to my recollection a similar one made by Sir Alfred Stephen in your Legislative Council in July last, which proposal was withdrawn, after a discussion in which every Member who spoke intimated his disapproval of the proposal, principally on the grounds that it would be strongly opposed by the other Colonies on this Continent. Under these circumstances I thought it not unlikely that, before submitting such a proposal to Parliament, you would have taken means to ascertain the views of the Imperial Government, whose ultimate sanction is necessary. I therefore requested the Agent-General to ascertain if this had been done. As this Government intended to act in concert with the other Colonies it would not have been consistent with that intention to have entered on its own account a protest at the Colonial Office.

Moreover, I had great faith that no such course would be necessary. I believed that, whatever little differences there may occasionally be amongst the Colonies, on questions such as this, there would be no serious difficulty in coming to an understanding amongst ourselves. It was wholly in that spirit that this Government took action.

There is evidently a misapprehension in your mind as to what you are pleased to call the hurried manner in which the memorandum was handed to the press. There was deep interest felt in all the Colonies on the subject, and frequent inquiries made as to what was being done. South Australia, therefore, asked me when it was proposed to publish the Memorandum, to which I replied that it could not be published until it reached your hands. It is difficult to keep from the public and from Parliament matters of deep public interest; and it certainly never suggested itself to me or others that the publication of the Memorandum—after it had reached your hands—would be considered by you an unfriendly act.

I very much regret that you should think that you have cause to complain of any unfriendly attitude assumed by this Government, or of any absence of real cordiality on our part. It has always been my desire and effort to cultivate the most friendly relations, and I have always been prepared to put aside any small or personal considerations I may have, to advance the common good.

It is true that we differ seriously as to this proposal you have submitted to your Parliament. We are of opinion that in a matter which we believe will seriously affect our interests we have a right to be consulted and to be heard. This was the view urged almost without exception by Members of your own Legislative Council not six months ago.

On ascertaining, therefore, that all the other Colonies held like views with us, it was thought the simplest and most effective course that united, instead of separate, representations should be made to you; and with every respect for your judgment, I fail to see how that course can be characterised as substituting pressure for courtesy.

I

I would fain hope that these explanations will remove from your mind any idea that, in the action of this Government, there was contemplated either dictation, or the slightest approach to discourtesy, and I can assure you that I should not for a moment hesitate to express my regrets did I think that you had just cause of complaint.

I have, &c.,

D. GILLIES,
Premier.

The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to The Honorable Duncan Gillies, M.P.,
Victoria.

Sir,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 19 December, 1887.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst., in reply to mine of the 5th, on the subject of the Bill introduced into Parliament to confer the name of "Australia" upon this Colony. I also have to acknowledge your letter of the 6th, covering copy of a letter from the Government of Tasmania, addressed to you on the same subject.

2. It affords me much gratification to acknowledge the frank and friendly spirit in which you explain the course you have felt it your duty to take in this matter, and I accept your explanations with a sincere desire to preserve the cordiality hitherto characterising the relations of the two Colonies. I fear, however, it will be hardly possible for me to sympathise with some of the views which you express on the larger questions brought under partial notice by this correspondence. It would never have occurred to me, with my interpretation of the spirit and letter of our constitution, to "take means to ascertain the views of the Imperial Government" on a matter which in no practical sense concerns Her Majesty's Imperial advisers. I cannot refrain from giving special notice to this point in our interchange of views in consequence of receiving from you a copy of the singular letter addressed to you by Mr. P. O. Fysh in the name of the Government of Tasmania. Mr. Fysh admits inferentially that Tasmania is *not* "immediately interested" in the matter on which, nevertheless, he virtually invites the other Australian Governments to enter into a hostile combination against this Colony by what he is pleased to call a "united protest to Her Majesty's Government." With every expression of loyalty, I must be permitted to intimate that the responsible Ministers in this Colony would be unable to recognize any justifiable ground for Her Majesty's Secretary of State to advise the withholding of the Royal Assent from any Act of the Parliament of New South Wales of the character of the one contemplated.

3. I must be permitted to express my extreme regret that a feeling should so readily exhibit itself among the other Colonies to join, without inquiry, or, as in the case of Tasmania, any sense of "immediate interest" in the particular question raised, to overbear the independent action of the Government and Parliament of New South Wales. Though I fully accept your present language as disclaiming any intention on your part to resort to "pressure," the conduct to which I call attention can hardly be characterized as anything other than an attempt at it. If this is to be understood as the manner in which we are to be invited to enter into federal relations, I fear this Colony must rest upon its own resources (which are ample for independent and progressive existence), and that the realization of any hope of concert with our sister Colonies is in the far future.

4. It will be best, for the sake of a clear understanding, that I should explain that the name of "Australia" has not arisen with this Government. We have merely yielded to urgent representations made to us by many men of long service and large influence to change the name of the Colony as one of the acts of centennial celebration, and by a less number of such men to select the name of "Australia." For the past ten years or more I have been appealed to many hundreds of times to change the name; but being myself content with the name of New South Wales, as I stated on the introduction of the present Bill, I have hitherto declined to take any step in the matter. Some months ago, before bringing the question before the Legislative Council himself, Sir Alfred Stephen urged me to take steps to assume the name of "Australia" for the Colony; and, in a letter addressed to me on the 29th ultimo, this eminent man maintains our title to the name in the following words:—"It never entered my head until the objection was started, that to adopt the name 'Australia,' simply and alone, would (or could reasonably) be regarded as an invasion of the right of any other portion of the Continent—or as an assumption in any way likely to offend our sister Colonies. And after hearing all that has subsequently been said on the subject, I am unable to think the objection a reasonable one. For admitting that Victoria and Queensland have always been included under the general geographical term of Australia, neither of those Colonies has ever been known by it—or has so called itself—any more than Tasmania has, although equally entitled. They have had specific names from their birth, and in manhood have adopted others equally removed from the original; New South Wales, on the contrary (including in common acceptation both those divisions, and legislatively in *fact* including them), has always been known as Australia, and you have asked only its perpetuation." In the cases of Victoria and Queensland, both, on their creation as separate Colonies, adopted names of purely Imperial significance derived from the same illustrious source, apparently without even a thought of any Australian interest or aspiration. But in the case of this Colony we have a goodly record of pioneer service, extending over a hundred years, and we cannot start afresh in the world with a new name. We must go on with one or other of the two names, "New South Wales" and "Australia," by which we have been familiarly known throughout our history. For myself I should resist to the utmost any attempt to attach a new name to the Colony.

5. When the present Bill was submitted I had never entertained a thought that it would be strongly opposed by a few persons. If I could have foreseen this opposition I should have declined to move, not on the merits of the question involved, but under a sense of obligation to devote the public time to other and more important business. The first reading of the Bill was, however, carried by 59 to 18 votes; in the presence of measures of much urgency demanding the attention of Parliament it is not likely to be further dealt with for some time to come.

6. You will observe from what I have said that the unexpected treatment this Bill has received outside the Colony has given birth to considerations which in our estimation far transcend in importance the character or objects of the measure itself.

I have, &c.,

HENRY PARKES.

Telegram

Telegram from The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to The Honorable
Duncan Gillies, M.P., Victoria.

Sydney, 20 December, 1887.

Re correspondence on Colony of Australia Bill, you can give it publicity or not, as you please, but kindly inform me what you do.

Telegram from The Honorable Duncan Gillies, M.P., Victoria, to The Colonial
Secretary, New South Wales.

Melbourne, 20 December, 1887.

It was not my intention to give the correspondence to the Press, and unless you desire it do not propose to do so.

D. GILLIES,
Premier.

Telegram from The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to The Honorable
Duncan Gillies, M.P., Victoria.

Sydney, 20 December, 1887.

The question of publicity rests with you, only be good enough to inform us of what you do.

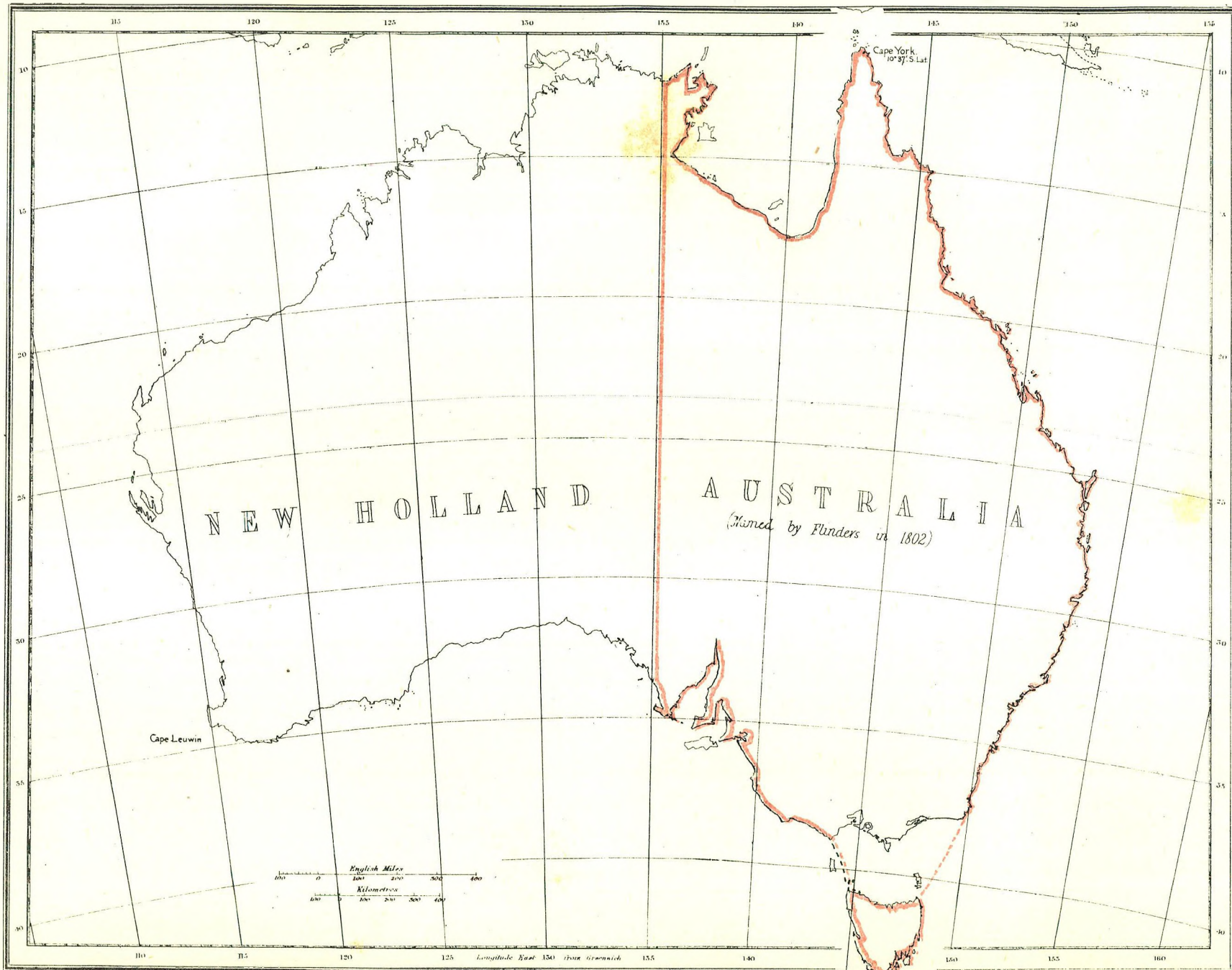
Telegram from The Honorable Duncan Gillies, M.P., Victoria, to The Colonial
Secretary, New South Wales.

Melbourne, 21 December, 1887.

I do not intend to publish.

D. GILLIES,
Premier.

[Map.]



(Sig 351-)

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

DIVORCE EXTENSION BILL.

(PETITION FROM W. M. COWPER, COMMISSARY FOR BISHOP OF SYDNEY, AGAINST.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 30 October, 1888.

To the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of the Colony of New South Wales in Parliament assembled. :

The Petition of the undersigned William Macquarie Cowper, M.A., Commissary of the Bishop of Sydney, with the advice of the Standing Committee of the Synod of the Church of England in the Diocese of Sydney, within the said Colony,—

HUMBLY SHOWETH :—

That your Petitioner is conscientiously opposed to the provisions of the Divorce Extension Bill now before your Honorable House :—

1. Because he believes that the proposed extension of the conditions of divorce is at variance with the Christian law as laid down in the New Testament.

2. Because he believes that it is likely to impair the sense of the sacredness of marriage and of the responsibility of entrance upon the married state, to introduce dangerous facilities for disruption of the marriage tie, and so to inflict a serious injury upon the domestic and social welfare of the whole community.

3. Because he considers that variation upon so important a matter from the law established in England and in other colonies of the British Empire is in itself undesirable, and is likely to introduce serious difficulties into family and social life.

Your Petitioner, therefore, earnestly prays that your Honorable House will be pleased to refuse your assent to the said Bill.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

WILLIAM M. COWPER,

With the advice and by the desire of the Standing Committee of the Synod.

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

DIVORCE EXTENSION BILL.

(PETITION FROM CERTAIN MINISTERS OF RELIGION AGAINST.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 20 November, 1888.

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

The respectful Memorial of the undersigned Ministers of Religion of various religious denominations in this Colony,—

HUMBLY SHOWETH:—

That your Petitioners are much concerned to learn that the Bill intituled the “Divorce Extension Bill” has been again introduced into your Honorable House.

That your Petitioners strongly object to the provisions of the said Bill by which divorce is facilitated, and especially to that which provides for the remarriage of the persons divorced—the guilty as well as the innocent.

That your Petitioners feel the greatest repugnance to this provision, inasmuch as it gives to those who have been guilty of the greatest cruelty and sin opportunity to repeat their offences on fresh victims of their licentiousness.

That your Petitioners, accepting the solemn declaration of our Lord Jesus Christ, that “Whosoever marrieth her that is put away committeth adultery,” as the law of the Christian Church, are of opinion that any legislation which provides for the remarriage of one who is put away affords a direct sanction to sin, and is opposed to the Divine law in the Seventh Commandment.

Your Petitioners therefore pray your Honorable House to withhold your assent from the aforesaid Bill.

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

[*Here follow 174 signatures.*]

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

DIVORCE EXTENSION BILL.

(PETITION FROM MODERATOR OF SYNOD OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AGAINST.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 20 November, 1888.

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

The respectful Memorial of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, in this Colony,—

HUMBLY SHOWETH:—

That your Petitioners regard with much concern the reintroduction into your Honorable House of the Bill intituled the Divorce Extension Bill.

That your Petitioners believe that the facilities for obtaining divorce, already legalised, cannot be further increased or extended, save in direct opposition to the word and will of Christ, who, as "Governor among the Nations," claims the homage and allegiance of all rulers and legislators.

That your Petitioners believe that the inevitable tendency of affording increased facilities for dissolving the marriage tie will be as it has always been, to create and foster loose views and practice as to the sacredness of marriage vows and the purity of family life.

That your Petitioners regard the principles on which the passing of the said Bill is advocated as devoid of finality, and are of opinion that should the said Bill become law its adoption would pave the way for further demands in the direction of increasing the facilities for obtaining divorce.

That your Petitioners strongly object to the provision in the said Bill which allows the remarriage of persons divorced, the guilty as well as the innocent, as being in direct opposition to the explicit declaration of the Divine law-giver, that "whosoever marrieth her that is put away committeth adultery," and also to the spirit of the Seventh Commandment.

That your Petitioners therefore pray your Honorable House to withhold your assent from the aforesaid Bill.

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

Signed in name of and by authority of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, in New South Wales.

[2 signatures.]

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

ELECTRIC LIGHT APPARATUS PURCHASED BY GOVERNMENT.
(RETURN SHOWING.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 21 November, 1888.

RETURN to an *Order* of the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 10th February, 1888, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“ A Return of all electric light apparatus purchased by the Government
“ on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Telegraphs or any
“ other person, giving the dates on which purchased, the time of delivery,
“ the names of the makers of the dynamos and lamps and other plant
“ connected therewith, the names of the persons supplying the same, and
“ the authority under which each plant was purchased, the use to which it
“ was intended to be put when recommended, the use actually made of it,
“ its present condition and position, stating whether in actual use or
“ merely stored.”

(Mr. Wall.)

RETURN of all Electric Light Apparatus purchased by the Government.

| Apparatus purchased | On whose recommendation. | Date of purchase | Date of delivery. | Names of makers of dynamos, &c. | Names of persons supplying same. | Authority under which purchased. | Use to which intended to be put when recommended. | Use actually made of apparatus. | Present condition and position. | Whether in actual use, or merely stored. |
|--|--|------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| 1 Wylde dynamo, with spare armature. 1 Foucault Dubovgs lamp | So many years have elapsed since this machine was purchased that it has not been possible to obtain all the information in regard to it without delaying the completion of the Return still further. In cases where no special use is now set down it may be generally stated that some of the uses for which the apparatus has been obtained has been for experiment, for testing, and as a means for keeping the officials in touch with the progress being made in other parts of the world in this field of electrical research. | | | | | | Lighting at Exhibition, Prince Alfred Park. | Good condition | In store. | |
| horizontal Siemens dynamos 7 Siemens arc lamps 3 do do 4 field reflectors 2 holophotes | Handed over to the Telegraph Dept. by the Government after the Exhibition, 1879. | | Three shipments—May and August, 1878, March, 1879. | Siemens Bros. | Siemens Bros, London. | | For lighting the Exhibition of 1879 during its erection. | Were used during the building of the Sydney International Exhibition, 1879; also for the Volunteer encampments to 1883 | As it has not been found necessary to use them since 1883, no tests have been made as to their condition; lamps and reflectors in good order | Stored in cases in electric light store since handed over after completion of Exhibition. |
| 1 6-light Brush dynamo 7 Brush lamps 300 yards cable 1,000 carbons | Supt of Telegraphs | Ordered, 23 July, 1881 | Delivered, 14 April, 1882 | Brush Manufacturing Co. | Anglo-American Electric Light Co, London. | Postmaster-General. | Not stated in recommendation | For temporary installations, encampments of military forces, Exhibition, Jubilee and Centennial celebrations, &c. | In good condition | Stored. |
| 1 Siemens compound dynamo 2 sets brushes 2 lubricators 2 Siemens alternators 2 small exciters 4 large do 3 holophotes and lamps complete 1 large holophote 2 Brush dynamo, 16 lights each 84 Brush lamps and cable | | Ordered, 30 Dec., 1882 | 14 May, 1883 | Siemens Bros & Co, Ld., London. | Siemens Bros. & Co., Ld., London | Colonial Secretary. | For military work at the encampments of the Forces, &c. | As stated in previous column. | Good condition | In store. |
| 1 Edison dynamo, 60 lights each Cable and fittings for 300 lights 260 incandescent lamps | Supt of Telegraphs | Ordered, Aug., 1883. | Handed over, Oct., 1883. | Edison Co. | Australasian Electric Light Power and Storage Co. | Colonial Treasurer | For lighting Circular Quay | For lighting Circular Quay | Fixed at Circular Quay; good order and condition. | In use. |
| 1 Edison dynamo, 60 lights 1 Weston dynamo, 5 lights 5 arc lamps 19 globes 1,000 carbons 60 incandescent lamps | do | Ordered, Aug., 1883. | Handed over, Oct., 1883. | Edison Co. | H. H. Kingsbury & Co. | The Cabinet, Sir A Stuart, Premier. | For lighting the Legislative Assembly and Council Chambers and offices. | As stated in previous column. | In good condition | do |
| 1 Edison dynamo, 60 lights 1 Weston dynamo, 5 lights 5 arc lamps 19 globes 1,000 carbons 60 incandescent lamps | Supt. of Telegraphs, 21 Jan., 1882. | 31 Jan., 1882 | 27 Feb., 1884 | Edison Co & Weston Co. | do do | Postmaster-General, 25 Jan., 1882 | For lighting front and side of General Post Office. | For internal lighting of General Post Office. | do | do |
| 1 Gulcher dynamo 8 lamps, 4 sets brushes 9 switches, 3 miles cable 500 Siemens cored carbons 250 Siemens solid do 5 large Gramme dynamos 5 small do 2 sets brushes for each 2 animeters 2 speedometers 12 Frye man arc lamps 1,000 feet cored carbons 1,000 solid carbons 3 miles cable | Supt. of Telegraphs | 4 July, 1884 | 22 July, 1884 | Gulcher Co. | New South Wales Electric Light Co., Geo. Hardie, Secretary. | Postmaster-General, 4 July, 1884. | For lighting the arcades of General Post Office. | For Centennial illuminations, military encampment at Middle Head, for working the Mangin projector (large search light). Portion of cable has been used for Jenolan Caves electric lights; also for electric light in George-street, near railway station. | In good condition with exception of animeters, which have been fused, and are useless Now being fixed for lighting new operating room, G.P.O | The dynamos, &c. with portion of cable are in store. |
| 1 Edison machine, 60 lights | | | 14 Sept., 1884 | Edison Co. | H. H. Kingsbury | | For lighting the railway station at Albury. | | Machine is in good condition, portion of it (the armature) is in use at Parliament House. | In store. |
| 1 Edison dynamo, 25 lights 100 lamps, 16-c p, cleats, blocks, and plugs 1 mile cable, 1 mile connecting wire 150 sockets for lamps | Supt. of Telegraphs | 16 Jan., 1885 | 19 June, 1885 | do | do do | Minister for Mines, 31 Dec., 1884 | For lighting the Jenolan Caves. | Lighting caves | Good condition | In use. |

1284

2

RETURN of all Electric Light Apparatus—continued.

| Apparatus purchased | On whose recommendation | Date of purchase | Date of delivery | Names of makers of dynamos, &c | Names of persons supplying same | Authority under which purchased | Use to which intended to be put when recommended | Use actually made of apparatus | Present condition and position | Whether in actual use, or merely stored |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|---|---------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| 1 Victoria Brush dynamo 4 Cardew arc lamps 1 magnin projector 1 hand lamp 2 Volt meters 6 reflectors 1 drum cable 150 carbons 1 Elwell Parker dynamo and spare armature 104 E P storage cells 1 petroleum engine, Spiels patent | Supt of Telegraphs do | 23 Aug, 1886 1 May, 1885 | 15 July, 1885 18 to 20 May, 1887 | Brush Manufacturing Co Halleische Maschinenfabrik und Eisengieserei | Messrs Elwell Parker & Co, Ltd, Wolverhampton | Postmaster General do | For military search lighting, and incandescent lighting, has been used at encampments for both purposes also for charging accumulators for lighting magazines For extending the lighting of G P O the engine is to drive dynamo for charging the accumulators | As stated in previous column Charging cells at the General Post Office | In good condition, except globes for lamps, which were broken in transit from England Good condition engine and portion of cells is at the Melbourne Exhibition | In store Engine and portion of cells being at Exhibition, is not in actual use |
| 1 Edison dynamo, 60 lights | | | 31 Mar, 1886 | | H H Kingsbury | | For emergencies | For lighting Parliament Houses | Good condition | In use |
| 13 Brockie Pell arc lamps 12 globes 1,000 carbons | Supt of Telegraphs | | One lamp received, 9 June, 1886, balance of lamps, &c, 24 to 29 July, 1886 | Edison Co | Johnson & Phillips, London | Postmaster General, 9 Feb, 1886 | For lighting the arcade of General Post Office | The lamps were used for lighting the Engineering Association's Exhibition Jubilee and Centennial illuminations, State banquet Government House and grounds, and for several balls | In good condition, but can not be used for lighting G P O until the required motive power is provided | In store |
| 5,000 cored carbons 5,000 solid carbons 12 globes 1 Brush dynamo, No 7 11 Brush lamps, with necessary cable, &c | Supt of Telegraphs | Ordered, 16 July, 1886 | Handed over, 28 Oct, 1886 | Brush Manufacturing Co | Australasian Electric Light Power and Storage Co, Ltd, Sydney | Colonial Treasurer | For lighting Cowper Wharf, Woolloomooloo Bay | Lighting Cowper Wharf | In good order and fixed at Cowper Wharf | In use |
| 100 Electrical Power Storage Company's cells | | Ordered, 30 Dec, 1885 | Received, 25 Oct, 1885 | Electrical Power Storage Co, Ltd, London | Electrical Power Storage Co, Ltd, London | | For lighting Powder Magazines | As stated in previous column | Majority in good order at Middle Head Batteries | do |
| 1 Mackie Brockie arc lamp | Acting Supt of Telegraphs | 2 Oct, 1885 | 2 Oct, 1885 | Brockie Pell Co | Australasian Electric Light Power and Storage Co | Postmaster General | For lighting General Post Office | Has not been used | Good condition | In store |
| Electric light engine dynamo 3 lamps, carbons, &c | Inspector of Telegraphs | 16 Feb, 1888 | 16 Feb, 1888 | Excelsior Co | Anderson & Barr | Commissioner for Railways | For lighting the ferry boat "General Gordon" | As stated in the previous column | In good order | In use |
| 1 20 h p engine 1 Victoria Brush dynamo 350 lights 1 Brush dynamo, 6 lights 6 Brush lamps, incandescent lamps, &c | Acting Supt of Telegraphs | 2 and 3 June, 1885 | 2 and 3 June, 1885 | Rush & Proctor, Victoria Co, and Brush Manufacturing Co | Australasian Electric Light Power and Storage Co | Minister for Works | Lighting Randwick running sheds and yards | do do | In good condition | do |
| 2 250 light Edison dynamos 3 400 light do 1,500 Edison lamps | Commissioner for Railways | 1884 | 1885 | Edison Co | H H Kingsbury | do | For lighting the Eveleigh locomotive sheds | do do | 3 dynamos in good order, 2 fat order | In actual use |
| 4 50 light Weston arc machines 1 10 light do 30 single carbons, lamps, cable, &c | Supt of Telegraphs | 1883 | 1883 | Weston Electric Light Co | do | do | For lighting Redfern Station and yards | do do | Armature of 10 light machine and 11 lamps damaged, the remainder in good order | 4 machines and 19 lamps in use |
| 1 16 light Brush dynamo 17 double carbons lamps, with fittings complete 1 mile cable | Acting Supt of Telegraphs | April, 1885 | | Brush Manufacturing Co | Australasian Electric Light Power and Storage Co | do | For lighting Eveleigh yards | do do | Good order | In use |

NOTE—In addition to the apparatus above named, the Department has purchased cables, lamps, globes, carbons, &c, for use as required

E C CRACKNELL,
Superintendent of Telegraphs.

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

EXEMPTION OF THE KINGDOM OF TONGA FROM THE
PROVISIONS OF THE "ARMS REGULATION OF 1884."

Presented to Parliament by Command.

The Treasury, New South Wales,
30th July, 1888.

His Excellency the Governor directs the publication for general information of the following letter, received from the High Commissioner, Western Pacific, enclosing a copy of a Regulation exempting the Kingdom of Tonga from the provisions of the "Arms Regulation of 1884."

J. F. BURNS.

High Commissioner's Office, Western Pacific,
Suva, Fiji, 20th June, 1888.

My Lord,

I have the honor to enclose herewith copies of a Regulation which I have passed exempting the Kingdom of Tonga from the provisions of the "Arms Regulation of 1884."

The object of the enclosed Regulation is to allow British subjects to share with persons of other nationalities the limited and legitimate trade permitted by a law recently enacted by the Tongan Government.

I have, &c.,

JOHN B. THURSTON.

His Excellency, The Right Honourable
Lord Carrington, G.C.M.G., &c., &c., &c.,
Governor of New South Wales.

No. 1 of 1888.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, Empress of India, &c., &c.

A REGULATION

(Made in the name and on behalf of Her Britannic Majesty by Her Majesty's High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, under the provisions of the Western Pacific Order in Council of 1879)

TO AMEND REGULATION NO. 1 OF 1884, INTITULED "A REGULATION TO PROHIBIT THE SUPPLY OF ARMS AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVE SUBSTANCES TO NATIVES OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC ISLANDS."

[L.S.] JOHN B. THURSTON.

12th May, 1888.

WHEREAS by an Ordinance of His Majesty George Tubou, King of Tonga, dated the 28th day of May, 1887, provision is made for the restriction and regulation of the sale of Firearms and Ammunition in the Kingdom of Tonga; and whereas such Ordinance is sufficient to prevent any breach of the peace arising in Tonga from the sale of Arms and Ammunition; and whereas it is expedient to amend Regulation No. 1 of 1884 by exempting the Kingdom of Tonga from the operation of the said Regulation: Now, therefore, I, under the power and authority vested in me as Her Majesty's High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, revoke the said Regulation No. 1 of 1884 in so far as it extends to the said Kingdom of Tonga, and declare that the said Regulation shall be hereafter read as if the words "Friendly Islands" in the fourth subsection of section 1 did not appear therein.

This Regulation shall come into force on the first day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight, and may be cited as "The Arms Regulation Amendment Regulation, 1888."

By Command,

WILFRED COLLET,
Secretary to the High Commissioner.

1888-9.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

FOREIGN DESERTERS ACT OF 1852.

(DESPATCHES RESPECTING.)

Presented to Parliament by Command.

The Treasury, New South Wales,
15th November, 1888.

His Excellency the Governor directs the publication, for general information, of the following Circular Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, transmitting a copy of an Order of Her Majesty in Council, dated the 29th day of December, 1887, extending the provisions of the "Foreign Deserters Act, 1852," to the Republic of Paraguay.

J. F. BURNS.

(Circular.)

Downing-street,
9th January, 1888.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you, for publication in the Colony under your Government, a copy of an Order of Her Majesty in Council (29th December, 1887), extending the provisions of the "Foreign Deserters Act, 1852," to the Republic of Paraguay.

I have, &c.,
H. T. HOLLAND.

The Officer Administering the
Government of New South Wales.

At the Court at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, the 29th day
of December, 1837.

Present:

The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS by the "Foreign Deserters Act, 1852," it is provided that whenever it is made to appear to Her Majesty that due facilities are or will be given for recovering and apprehending seamen who desert from British merchant ships in the territories of any foreign power, Her Majesty may, by Order in Council stating that such facilities are or will be given, declare that seamen, not being slaves, who desert from merchant ships belonging to a subject of such Power when within Her Majesty's dominions shall be liable to be apprehended and

carried on board their respective ships, and may limit the operation of such Order, and may render the operation thereof subject to such conditions and qualifications, if any, as may be deemed expedient:

And whereas it hath been made to appear to Her Majesty that due facilities for recovering and apprehending seamen who desert from British merchant ships in the territories of the Republic of Paraguay will be given under a Treaty between the Governments of Great Britain and Paraguay, signed at Assumption on the 16th October, 1884:

Now, therefore, Her Majesty, by virtue of the powers vested in Her by the said "Foreign Deserters Act, 1852," and by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, is pleased to order and declare, and it is hereby ordered and declared, that, from and after the publication hereof in the London Gazette, seamen, not being slaves and not being British subjects, who desert from merchant ships belonging to the Republic of Paraguay within Her Majesty's dominions shall be liable to be apprehended and carried on board their respective ships: Provided always, that if any such deserter has committed any crime in Her Majesty's dominions he may be detained until he has been tried by a competent Court, and until his sentence, if any, has been fully carried into effect.

And the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and the Secretary of State for India in Council are to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

C. L. PEEL.

The Treasury, New South Wales,
15th November, 1888.

His Excellency the Governor directs the publication, for general information, of the following Circular Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, transmitting a copy of an Order of Her Majesty in Council, dated the 10th day of August last, extending the provisions of the "Foreign Deserters Act, 1852," to the Independent State of the Congo.

J. F. BURNS.

(Circular.)

Downing-street,
30th August, 1888.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you, for publication in the Colony under your Government, a copy of an Order of Her Majesty in Council (10th August, 1888), extending the provisions of the "Foreign Deserters Act, 1852," to the Independent State of the Congo.

I have, &c.,
KNUTSFORD.

The Officer Administering the
Government of New South Wales.

At the Court at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, the 10th day of
August, 1888.

Present :

The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS by the "Foreign Deserters Act, 1852," it is provided that whenever it is made to appear to Her Majesty that due facilities are or will be given for recovering and apprehending seamen who desert from British merchant ships in the territories of any foreign power, Her Majesty may, by Order in Council stating that such facilities are or will be given, declare that seamen, not being slaves, who desert from merchant ships belonging to a subject of such power when within Her Majesty's

dominions shall be liable to be apprehended and carried on board their respective ships, and may limit the operation of such Order, and may render the operation thereof subject to such conditions and qualifications, if any, as may be deemed expedient :

And whereas it has been made to appear to Her Majesty that due facilities will be given for recovering and apprehending seamen who desert from British merchant ships in the territories of the Independent State of the Congo :

Now, therefore, Her Majesty, by virtue of the power vested in Her by the said "Foreign Deserters Act, 1852," and by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, is pleased to order and declare, and it is hereby ordered and declared, that, from and after the publication hereof in the London Gazette, seamen, not being slaves and not being British subjects, who within Her Majesty's dominions desert from merchant ships belonging to citizens of the Independent State of the Congo shall be liable to be apprehended and carried on board their respective ships : Provided always, that if any such deserter has committed any crime in Her Majesty's dominions he may be detained till he has been tried by a competent Court, and until his sentence, if any, has been carried into effect.

And the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and the Secretary of State for India in Council are to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

C. L. PEEL.

1888.

 NEW SOUTH WALES.

FRENCH LAW ON THE RETURN OF CONVICTS TO FRANCE.
(DESPATCH RESPECTING.)

 Presented to Parliament by Command.

Department of Justice,

Sydney, 10th September, 1888.

HIS Excellency the Governor directs the publication, for general information, of the following Despatch dated the 27th February, 1888, from the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

WILLIAM CLARKE.

[Circular.]

Downing-street,

27th February, 1888.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you, for communication to your Government, a copy of a Memorandum (24th December, 1887) received at the Foreign Office from Her Majesty's Minister at Paris, respecting the conditions imposed by French Law on the return of Convicts to France.

I have, &c.,

KNUTSFORD.

The Officer Administering
the Government of New South Wales.

NOTE

On the conditions imposed by the French law upon the return to France of transported criminals, habitual offenders, and exiles.

The convicts who undergo their sentence in the Colonies may be divided into three classes:—

1. Those under sentence of hard labour or transported ones.
2. Habitual offenders.
3. Exiles, properly speaking.

The condition of those sentenced to hard labour, or the transported ones, is regulated by the law of May 30th, 1854, which says, that henceforth the sentence of hard labour shall be served at the establishments created by decree on the territory of one or more French possessions other than Algeria.

The return to France of an individual who has been under sentence is only authorized if this sentence has been one of less than eight years. Moreover it is necessary that the convict, before he can avail himself of this disposition of the law, should, after the expiration of his sentence, reside in the Colony for a period similar to that of his sentence. The Art. 6 of the law of May, 1854, runs thus:—

“Art. 6. Every individual sentenced to less than eight years hard labour shall be compelled, at the termination of his sentence, to reside in the Colony for a period equal to that of his sentence. If the sentence is one of eight years, he shall be compelled to reside there for the whole of his life.”

It is true, the Governor may grant to the discharged individual authority temporarily to leave the Colony; but in no case can he be authorized to return to France before the term stipulated by Art. 6.

The law of May 28th, 1855, regarding habitual offenders, which has organized deportation, decrees by its Art. 1 that this sentence shall be perpetual, at least in principle. The question of a possible return to France should therefore never occur, as far as convicts are concerned to whom this law refers, if Art. 1 were considered by itself. But the law itself modifies the principle laid down in its initial Article. The Art. 13 gives indeed to the Minister alone and under his responsibility the power to permit an exile's return to France, but for six months only. Lastly, Art. 16 of the same law enables the exiles to obtain a kind of partial rehabilitation for the purpose of relieving them from banishment, and to permit their return to France. Here is what Art. 16 says:—

“The exile may, from the sixth year after his discharge, present a petition to the local tribunal for the remission of his banishment, supporting it by his good conduct, of services rendered to the colonization, and means of living.”

The sentence of deportation is a perpetual one, whether pure and simple or undergone within a fortified place. (Art. 17 Penal Code.)

The character of perpetuity is absolute and admits of no exception. Consequently, those condemned to deportation can never hope to return to France unless by an amnesty or a pardon.

Deportation is at present carried out in New Caledonia.

The regulation of the deported one has been framed by the law of March 25th, 1873, which has nothing by way of statute relating to the return of deported ones by reason of the very perpetual character of the sentence.

Given in Paris, on the 24th December, 1887.

(Sd.) ED. CLUNET,
Advocate at the Court of Paris.

NOTE

Sur les conditions imposées par la loi française au retour en France des Transportés, des Rélégés et des Déportés.

Les condamnés qui subissent leur peine dans les Colonies peuvent se diviser en trois catégories:—

1. Les condamnés aux travaux forcés ou Transportés.
2. Les Rélégés ou récidivistes.
3. Les Déportés proprement dits.

La condition des condamnés aux travaux forcés ou transportés est réglée par la loi du 30 Mai 1854, qui a décidé qu'à l'avenir la peine des travaux forcés serait subie dans les établissements créés par décret sur le territoire d'une ou de plusieurs possessions françaises autre que l'Algérie.

Le retour en France du condamné après l'expiration de sa peine n'est autorisé que si cette peine est de moins de huit années; et encore faut-il que le condamné, avant de bénéficier de cette disposition de la loi, réside dans la Colonie, après l'expiration de sa peine, pendant un temps égal à la durée de sa condamnation. L'Art. 6 de la loi du 30 Mai 1854, étant ainsi conçu:—

“Art. 6. Tout individu condamné à moins de huit années de travaux forcés sera tenu, à l'expiration de sa peine, de résider dans la Colonie pendant un temps égal à la durée de sa condamnation. Si la peine est de huit années, il sera tenu d'y résider pendant toute sa vie. . . .”

Le Gouverneur peut, il est vrai, accorder au libéré l'autorisation de quitter momentanément la Colonie; mais en aucun cas il ne pourra être autorisé à rentrer en France avant l'expiration du délai fixé par l'Art. 6.

La loi du 28 Mai 1855, sur les récidivistes qui a organisé la Rélégation décide, dans son Art. 1, que cette peine doit être perpétuelle au moins en principe. La question d'un retour possible en France ne devrait donc pas se poser pour les condamnés auxquels s'applique cette loi, si l'on n'envisageait que l'Article 1. Mais la loi elle-même apporte un tempérament au principe posé dans son article initial. L'Article 13, en effet, donne au Ministre seul, et sous sa responsabilité, le pouvoir de permettre au rélégué le retour en France, mais pour six mois seulement. Enfin, l'Art. 16 de la même loi donne aux rélégués les moyens d'obtenir une sorte de réhabilitation partielle, qui a pour effet de les relever de la rélévation, et de leur permettre de rentrer en France. Voici comment s'exprime l'Art. 16:—

“Le rélégué pourra, à partir de la sixième année de sa libération, introduire devant le tribunal de la localité une demande tendant à se faire relever de la rélévation, en justifiant de sa bonne conduite, des services rendus à la Colonisation et de moyens d'existence. . . .”

La peine de la déportation est une peine perpétuelle, qu'elle soit pure et simple, qu'elle soit subie dans une enceinte fortifiée (Art. 17, Code pénal).

Le caractère de perpétuité est absolu et ne souffre aucune exception. Par conséquent, les condamnés à la déportation ne peuvent jamais espérer rentrer en France à moins d'une amnistie ou d'une grâce.

La déportation s'exerce actuellement dans la Nouvelle-Calédonie.

Le régime des déportés a été organisé par la loi du 25 Mars 1873, qui n'a rien statué relativement au retour des déportés en France, à raison même du caractère de perpétuité de la peine.

Fait à Paris le 24 Décembre, 1887.

(Sd.) ED. CLUNET,
Avocat à la Cour de Paris.

1888-9.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

LANDS FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES ACQUISITION ACT.

(RESUMPTION FOR EXTENSION OF PUBLIC CEMETERY, BALLINA.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 44 Vic. No. 16, sec. 6.

NOTIFICATION OF RESUMPTION OF LAND UNDER
44 VICTORIA No. 16.

NEW SOUTH WALES, } By His Excellency The Right Honourable
to wit. } CHARLES ROBERT, BARON CARRINGTON,
a Member of Her Majesty's Most
Honourable Privy Council, Knight
(L.S.) Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished
CARRINGTON, Order of Saint Michael and Saint
Governor. George, Governor and Commander-in-
Chief of the Colony of New South
Wales and its Dependencies.

WHEREAS I, the Governor aforesaid, with the advice of the Executive Council of the said Colony, have duly sanctioned the carrying out of certain works for and in connection with the extension of the Public Cemetery at Ballina, in the said Colony, for and towards the completion of which said works public funds are available; and whereas the lands hereinafter described are required for the construction of the said Works: Now I, the Governor of the said Colony, with the advice of the Executive Council of the said Colony, in pursuance of the powers in this behalf given to or vested in me by the "Lands for Public Purposes Acquisition Act," do, by this notification published in the Gazette and in a newspaper, that is to say, in the "Ballina Pilot," circulated in the Police District wherein the said lands are situated, declare that the lands hereinafter described have been resumed for the public purpose hereinafter mentioned, that is to say, for and in connection with the establishment and construction of a Public Cemetery at Ballina, in the said Colony, to the intent that upon the publication of this notification in the Gazette, the legal estate in the said lands shall

forthwith be vested in the Minister for Public Works and his successors on behalf of Her Majesty for the purpose of the said last-mentioned Act, for an estate of inheritance in fee-simple in possession, freed and discharged from all trusts, obligations, estate, interests, contracts, charges, rates, rights-of-way, or other easements whatsoever, and to the intent further that the legal estate therein, together with all powers incident thereto or conferred by the said Act, shall be vested in the said Minister as a trustee with the powers stated in the said last-mentioned Act: And I declare that the following are the descriptions of the lands hereinbefore referred to, that is to say:—

All that piece or parcel of land situate in the town of Ballina, parish of Ballina, county of Ross, being allotment No. 1, section No. 12, town of Ballina, an area of 1 rood 32 perches: Commencing on the left bank of the Richmond River, at the south-western corner of allotment No. 2; thence on the east by the western boundary line of that allotment bearing north 4 chains and 25 links; on the north by Port-street bearing west 1 chain; on the west by a line bearing south 4 chains and 80 links to the left bank of the aforesaid river; thence by that river downwards, to the point of commencement,—as shown on plan catalogued B 1 (1,612), Surveyor General's Office.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand, and caused the Great Seal of the Colony to be hereto affixed, at Government House, Sydney, this seventeenth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight, and in the fifty-second year of Her Majesty's Reign.

By His Excellency's Command,
JOHN SUTHERLAND.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MANUFACTORIES.

PARTICULARS RESPECTING, IN NEW SOUTH WALES AND VICTORIA.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 28 November, 1888.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 13th November, 1888, That there be laid upon the Table of this House, a Return showing,—

“The number of Manufactories and persons employed therein in New South Wales and Victoria, respectively, for the past five years.”

(*Mr. See.*)

MANUFACTORIES, WORKS, &c.

| Year. | NEW SOUTH WALES. | | VICTORIA. | |
|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Number of Establishments. | Number of hands employed. | Number of Establishments. | Number of hands employed. |
| 1883 | 3,266 | 35,242 | 2,765 | 46,857 |
| 1884 | 3,498 | 39,602 | 2,841 | 49,393 |
| 1885 | 3,612 | 42,829 | 2,813 | 49,297 |
| 1886 | 3,694 | 45,783 | 2,770 | 45,773 |
| 1887 | 3,508 | 44,360 | 2,854 | 49,084 |

1888-9.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

PREMISES RENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT.
(INFORMATION RESPECTING.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 9 January, 1889.

FURTHER RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 22nd March, 1887, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“ A Return showing the number of houses rented by the various Ministerial Departments, showing the rent paid for each house, with the landlord's name in each case, and total rent paid by each Department, and the total rental paid by all the Departments, and the period for which each has been rented.”

(Mr. McElhone.)

PREMISES rented by the Department of Lands.

| Landlord. | Locality. | Period of Lease. | | Rent. | Remarks. |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|---|
| | | Terms. | Date of Expiry. | | |
| Gibbs, Bright, & Co. | 37 & 39 Pitt-street, Sydney | 3 years | 30 Sept., 1891 | £ 1,100 per ann. | Portion of premises. |
| Gilchrist, Watt, & Co. | 7 Bent-street, Sydney | 3 years | 31 Mar., 1891 | 250 .. | Portion of premises. |
| Gilchrist, Watt, & Co. | 5 O'Connell-street, Sydney. | 3 years | 31 Mar., 1891 | 125 .. | Portion of premises. |
| Stephen, Jaques, & Stephen | 7 O'Connell-street, Sydney. | 3 months ... | 25 Feb., 1889 | 45/- per week. | For Board of Inquiry —portion of premises. |
| Steamship Owners' Association | 5 O'Connell-street, Sydney. | 12 months .. | 11 Dec., 1889 | 52 per ann. | Portion of premises. |
| The Bank of New South Wales | Glen Innes | Annual ..... | ..... | 80 .. | |
| James Cummerford | Wilcannia | 5 years | 20 Aug., 1890 | 260 .. | Portion sublet at £100 per annum. |
| C. Rogers | Goulburn | Monthly ..... | ..... | 120 .. | |
| W. F. Martin | Corowa | Monthly ..... | ..... | 70 .. | |
| J. Bodel | Forbes | 3 years | 17 Nov., 1889 | 180 .. | |
| James Bates | Seven Hills | 5 years | 31 Dec., 1888 | 100 .. | |
| Orange School of Arts | Orange | 3 years | 7 Jan., 1891 | 250 .. | |
| P. Hickey | Coonamble | Annual ..... | ..... | 52 .. | |
| V. B. Riley | Bowral | Quarterly ..... | ..... | 50 .. | |
| C. J. Skinner | Muswellbrook | Quarterly ..... | ..... | 20/16/- .. | |
| Cudgegong Municipal Council | Mudgee | 3 years | 21 Jan., 1891 | 52 .. | |
| Doyle & Baldwin | Tamworth | 5 years | 20 Dec., 1889 | 350 .. | |
| E. J. Carter | Lismore | Weekly ..... | ..... | 78 .. | |
| W. F. Martin | Corowa | Quarterly ..... | ..... | 70 .. | |
| Churchwarden of St. Peters | East Maitland | 5 years | 30 Nov., 1889 | 120 .. | |
| Mechanics' Institute | Bourke | 12 months .. | 30 April, 1889 | 150 .. | |
| Witcombe & Fullarton | Hillston | 5 years | 30 Nov., 1889 | 85 .. | |
| Australian Mutual Provident Society | Grafton | 3 years | 1 Feb., 1891 | 325 .. | |
| Thos. Deans | Coonabarabran | Annual ..... | ..... | 31/4/- .. | |
| The Protestant Hall Co. | Dubbo | 12 months .. | 13 Aug., 1889 | 235 .. | Sublet at £52 per ann. |

[3d.]

354—

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1888.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

PURCHASE OF LAND ADJOINING HOSPITAL FOR
INSANE, GLADESVILLE.

(CORRESPONDENCE RESPECTING.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 20 December, 1888.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 12th December, 1888, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“Copies of all papers connected with the purchase of 22 acres of land at
“Gladesville, adjoining the Hospital for the Insane.”

(*Mr. Neild.*)

Mr. T. Salter to The Colonial Secretary.

Sir,

Longueville Chambers, Young-street, Sydney, 2 March, 1887.

I have the honor to inform you that being about to take my family to Europe I purpose selling or disposing of my house and about 22 acres of land at Gladesville.

I address you on the subject because the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane at Gladesville spoke to me on the subject some time ago, on hearing that there was a probability of the property being for disposal.

Reference to a plan will show how my property cuts into the hospital grounds, separating portions of the land, and how the addition of my land will make available portion of the hospital reserve, at present useless. My house is of considerable size, and, I understand, could be rendered of service in connection with the Hospital. If the property were now sold, and the land subdivided, the Government could obtain the land in the future only upon payment of a sum far in advance of its present value.

I have no wish to extract from the Government a larger price for the property than the actual value, and am willing that such value be ascertained by the Government's own arbitrators, with whose valuation I should probably be satisfied, provided the matter be at once carried through and completed, as I want to do something with the place before leaving.

I have, &c.,

THOS. SALTER.

The Medical Superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane, Gladesville, to The
Principal Under Secretary.

Sir,

Lunacy Department, Hospital for the Insane, Gladesville, 10 March, 1887.

I have the honor to call your attention to the fact that Thomas Salter, Esq., who owns land adjoining this hospital, is leaving for England, and is offering his property for sale. The property consists of 30 acres of good arable land, a large house, two small cottages, and several outbuildings. The land is completely surrounded by the hospital reserve, and breaks the continuity of the reserve.

The hospital gasworks are built close to its boundary fence.

It is extremely desirable that this property should, if possible, be acquired by the Government. Mr. Salter wishes to sell it absolutely, and if it is cut up into allotments the presence of numerous holdings in our reserve, and close to the gasworks, and farm buildings will be a constant source of annoyance and expense. The land will be a valuable addition to the very limited area of good farm land we at present possess, and will materially reduce the maintenance rate, and at the same time give employment to the patients.

309—A

The

[830 copies—Approximate cost of Printing (labour and material), £12 10s. 10d.]

The house and cottages will accommodate the overflow of the hospital for some time without more alteration than our own carpenter can effect. It is situated within a few minutes walk of the main division of the hospital, and could be utilised without increase of staff.

I understand from Mr. Salter that he has offered the property to the Government by letter, and that he is so wishful to have it purchased for the use of the hospital that he will sell it at a lower price.

I have, &c.,

ERIC SINCLAIR,

Medical Superintendent.

The Principal Under Secretary,—Mr. Salter's property would form a valuable addition to the hospital grounds, and the house could be used instead of the one which is now rented at a cost of £72 per annum (£60 for rent and £12 for caretaker), and which accommodates only twelve patients, and they only sleep there. If the property is not purchased now it will probably be cut up into small allotments, which will greatly increase its price if it should hereafter seem desirable to annex it.—HERBERT BLAXLAND, Acting Inspector-General of the Insane, B.C., 10/3/87.

The Medical Superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane, Gladesville, to The Principal Under Secretary.

Sir,

Lunacy Department, Hospital for the Insane, Gladesville, 16 April, 1887.

Referring to the subject of the purchase of the property of Mr. Thomas Salter, adjoining this hospital, I do myself the honor to submit, for the consideration of the Colonial Secretary, a communication from that gentleman, enclosing a letter from Messrs. Richardson and Wrench valuing the land and buildings at £7,400, and I am authorised by Mr. Salter to say he will accept that sum; and in order to allow time for the further consideration of the matter he will let the property to the hospital for one year rent free, with the option of purchase at the end of that time, on condition that it is kept in order. This arrangement will, if approved by Sir Henry Parkes, give time for any further inspection of the property that may be deemed necessary, and, if the purchase is decided on, allow a vote to be taken to provide the funds.

I am particularly anxious that this land should not be cut up and sold in allotments, as I am sure that the settlement of a population on it in the centre of the reserve, and so close to the hospital buildings, will be a source of great trouble and annoyance in the working of the institution, and a hindrance to the employment of the patients in outdoor labour. Further, its purchase will provide accommodation for at least forty of the quieter male patients, and so relieve the Government from making other provision to meet the annual increase in the number of the insane for some time. For many years Dr. Manning has wished to start a farm and keep cows on the reserve, and so find greater scope for the employment of the patients, and reduce the cost by producing the milk used at the institution. This will involve some outlay for buildings; but the purchase of Mr. Salter's property would provide all that are required, and the keeping of cows could be commenced at once.

In 1886 we paid for milk £1,483 12s., and out of this alone I estimate that a saving of at least £500 per annum can be effected by starting a dairy and working it in conjunction with Mr. Salter's land and the reserve, and this without involving any addition to the present staff. As Mr. Salter leaves for England on the 23rd instant I am anxious that some decision may be come to at once.

I have, &c.,

ERIC SINCLAIR,

Medical Superintendent.

[Enclosure.]

Dear Sinclair,

To get an idea of the present saleable value of my Priory property, I got Richardson and Wrench to value it yesterday. I enclose their report. You will see they put the value if sold as a whole at £7,400. I expected their estimate to be considerably higher, but they are known to value lower than nearly every one else. It may be that the nuisances you have made round me have lowered their estimate. I expect to get at least £9,000 by cutting the place up; at same time, if the present market value of the place as a whole is offered to me, I should likely accept it, as, situate as I am just now I do not want any trouble or worry that I can avoid. You can make any use of this you think well. I am just starting for a drive up to Varroville.

Yours sincerely,

T. SALTER.

Eric Sinclair, Esq., M.D.

[Sub-Enclosure.]

Dear Sir,

98 Pitt-street, Sydney, 1 April, 1887.

Re "The Priory," this morning we inspected your residence and grounds of 22 acres fronting the Great North Road, two other roads, and Tarban Creek, at Gladesville.

The house is substantial, well finished, and in good order. The shape and position of the land would warrant a liberal subdivision of it.

Our opinion is that it would be advisable to offer the property in one or three lots, the latter to be as follows:—

1st. The house and all outbuildings with the ground to the east, and taking in part of the creek frontage.

2nd. The hill fronting the main road and extending to the man's residence.

3rd. The hill adjoining the hospital reserve, with entrance from a street off the main road.

As a whole we estimate the value at £7,400.

RICHARDSON & WRENCH.

In subdivision we cannot give an idea till areas be known.—R. & W.
Thos. Salter, Esq., Young-street.

The Principal Under Secretary,—The acquirement of this property would prove a most valuable addition to the hospital grounds, and afford work of a very beneficial character for the patients. I would strongly urge its purchase.—HERBERT BLAXLAND, Acting Inspector-General of the Insane, B.C., 18/4/87.

Mr. Salter leaves for England on Saturday, and is anxious to get a reply to this matter before he goes.—C.W., 19/4/87. I approve of entering into agreement to occupy land for twelve months, with option of purchase; and my present opinion is that the Government should purchase the land.—H.P., 20/4/87. Acting Inspector-General of the Insane.

The

The Principal Under Secretary to Mr. T. Salter.

Sir, Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 20 April, 1887.
Referring to your letter of the 2nd ultimo, I am directed to inform you that the Colonial Secretary approves of the entering into an agreement to occupy the land owned by you adjoining the Hospital for the Insane, Gladesville, for twelve months, with the option of purchase.

I have, &c.,
CRITCHETT WALKER,
Principal Under Secretary.

The Principal Under Secretary to The Acting Inspector-General of the Insane.

Sir, Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 20 April, 1887.
In reply to your blank cover communication of the 18th instant, I am directed to inform you that the Colonial Secretary approves of the entering into an agreement to occupy the land owned by Mr. Thomas Salter, adjoining the Hospital for the Insane at Gladesville, for twelve months, with the option of purchase, and that Mr. Salter has been apprised accordingly; and to state that Sir Henry Parkes is of opinion that the Government should purchase the land.

I have, &c.,
CRITCHETT WALKER,
Principal Under Secretary.

The Medical Superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane, Gladesville, to The Principal Under Secretary.

Sir, Lunacy Department, Hospital for the Insane, Gladesville, 26 April, 1887.
Referring to your letter of the 20th instant, on the subject of the purchase of the land adjoining this Institution, owned by Mr. Thomas Salter, I do myself the honor to report that I have arranged with Mr. Salter to occupy the property for one year from yesterday, rent free, with the option of purchase, on the understanding that the house and grounds are kept in good order and taken care of.

I have, &c.,
ERIC SINCLAIR,
Medical Superintendent.

Forwarded to the Principal Under Secretary.—HERBERT BLAXLAND, Acting Inspector-General of the Insane, B.C., 3/5/87.

The Inspector-General of the Insane to The Principal Under Secretary.

Sir, Lunacy Department, Inspector-General's Office,
Gladesville, 3 November, 1887.

I do myself the honor to suggest that the sum of £7,400 may be placed on the Miscellaneous Estimates for the Colonial Secretary's Department, for the purchase of the property belonging to Mr. Thomas Salter at Gladesville, consisting of 20 acres of land, with house and other buildings. In a letter dated 20th April, 1887, you informed me that "Sir Henry Parkes is of opinion that the Government should purchase the land," and the Government is, under your authority, now in possession of the property, free of rent for one year, on condition of keeping the house, &c., in repair and good order, with the option of purchase.

The desirability of purchasing this property has already been placed before the Colonial Secretary, but I would desire to point out,—

- 1st. That as will be seen from the plan herewith, Mr. Salter's land (which was alienated before the remainder of the land was set apart for Asylum purposes) is the very eye of the estate, and is surrounded on all sides by the Asylum Reserve. Appendix B.
- 2nd. That an opportunity is not likely to occur again of purchasing this property in one block.
- 3rd. That it would form a most desirable and, I believe, profitable addition to the asylum property, the land adding greatly to the quantity available for cultivation, and the house serving for the accommodation of patients and their better classification.
- 4th. That unless Mr. Salter had been an excellent and most considerate neighbour he might have objected to the hospital gas works, and to other more or less unavoidable nuisances in connection with the hospital; that any future proprietors are not likely to be so complaisant; and that if the land is cut up and sold to a number of proprietors the employment of the patients in out-door labour, and their general liberty, must be much restricted.

I have, &c.,
F. NORTON MANNING,
Inspector-General.

Approved.—H.P., 12/5/88.

Messrs. Salter and Barker to The Principal Under Secretary.

Sir, Longueville Chambers, Young-street, Sydney, 5 April, 1888.
We have the honor to call your attention to the fact that the term for which it was arranged the authorities for the Hospital for the Insane, Gladesville, should occupy the property of Mr. Thomas Salter, at Gladesville, will expire on the 24th instant, and to request that you will be good enough to inform us whether the Government intend to avail themselves of the option of purchase, and if not, whether they propose to give up possession on the 24th instant. We would also remind you that this property has been occupied for twelve months rent free, and that some definite arrangement must now be come to.

We have, &c.,
SALTER & BARKER.

The Inspector-General of the Insane to The Principal Under Secretary.

Sir, Lunacy Department, Inspector-General's Office, Gladesville, 7 May, 1888.

With reference to your letter of the 20th April, 1887, approving of the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane, Gladesville, entering into an agreement to occupy the house and land owned by Mr. Thomas Salter, adjoining the hospital, for twelve months, with the option of purchase, and stating the opinion of Sir Henry Parkes that the Government should purchase the property, I do myself the honor to point out that the agreement entered into by Dr. Sinclair, and reported to you in his letter of the 26th April, 1887, to occupy the property for one year, rent free, from April 25, 1887, with the option of purchase, on the understanding that the house and grounds were kept in good order, and taken care of, has expired, and that it is necessary that some further arrangements should be made. The house has been throughout the past year occupied as dormitory accommodation by between thirty and forty patients and their attendants, and the overcrowded condition of the male wards at the hospital renders it very desirable that this relief should be continued. I would beg, therefore, to recommend that the property should either be purchased at once, or that an agreement should be made to rent it, with the option of purchase, for a further term of one or two years.

In many respects the purchase would be more advantageous than renting the property. Under the latter arrangement it is impossible to make alterations which are necessary to secure the safety and comfort of the patients occupying the buildings, or to make these accommodate the full number who could, with some alterations, be comfortably housed.

I have, &c.,
F. NORTON MANNING,
Inspector-General.

As the purchase of the property has been approved, the necessary steps may be taken for the conveyance of the same to the Crown, and Dr. Manning so informed.—C.W., 16/5/88. The Crown Solicitor, B.C., 26/5/88.—C.W., P.U.S.

Telegram from The Principal Under Secretary to The Inspector-General of the Insane.

Sydney, 17 May, 1888.

PURCHASE of Salter's property approved.

The Crown Solicitor to The Principal Under Secretary.

Sir, Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 12 June, 1888.

I have the honor to return herewith the pages relating to the purchase of land at Gladesville from Mr. Thomas Salter, and also abstract of the title furnished me, and to request that you will be so good as to inform me whether the land described in the abstract is identical with that intended to be purchased.

I have, &c.,
JOHN WILLIAMS,
Crown Solicitor.

Refer to Dr. Manning.—C.W., 13/6/88. The Inspector-General of the Insane, B.C., 14 June, 1888.—C.W., P.U.S. Yes. The land described is identical with that intended to be purchased.—F. NORTON MANNING, 17/6/88. The Principal Under Secretary. The Crown Solicitor, B.C., 19/6/88.—C.W., P.U.S.

The Crown Solicitor to The Principal Under Secretary.

Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 3 July, 1888.

Purchase of land at Gladesville—Thomas Salter to the Queen.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that this matter has been completed, and to return herewith the papers herein.

I have, &c.,
JOHN WILLIAMS,
Crown Solicitor.

The Crown Solicitor to The Principal Under Secretary.

Gladesville Asylum—Thomas Salter to the Queen.

Sir,

Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 3 July, 1888.

I have the honor to inform you that this matter has been completed, and to forward herewith voucher for payment of the purchase money, the amount of which may be paid to Messrs. Salter and Barker or their order, as is therein authorized.

I have, &c.,
JOHN WILLIAMS,
Crown Solicitor.

Approved.—H.P., 6/7/88.

[Enclosure.]

[Enclosure.]

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Pay Voucher—Department of Colonial Secretary.

Claimant—Thomas Salter, Sydney.

| Date of Service. | | Amount. |
|------------------|---|---------|
| 1888. | | £ |
| June 23 | To amount of purchase money, 22 acres of land at Gladesville, adjoining the Hospital for the Insane | 7,400 |

THOMAS SALTER,
By his Attorneys,
W. MANDEVILLE BARKER,
JAMES C. TAYLOR.

I hereby authorize the amount of the above certificate in my favour to be paid on my behalf to Messrs. Salter & Barker.

By his Attorney,
W. MANDEVILLE BARKER,
JAMES C. TAYLOR.

The Principal Under Secretary to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Sir,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 11 July, 1888.

In transmitting to you the accompanying account in favour of Mr. Thomas Salter for £7,400, the amount of purchase money for 22 acres of land at Gladesville, adjoining the Hospital for the Insane, I am directed to state that the Colonial Secretary approves of the payment of the amount in question, and to request that you will invite the Colonial Treasurer to have the goodness to cause the sum to be paid from the Advance Account, and provision to be made on the Supplementary Estimates.

I have, &c.,

CRITCHETT WALKER,
Principal Under Secretary.

The Principal Under Secretary to The Inspector-General of the Insane.

Sir,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 12 July, 1888.

With reference to the purchase of certain land at Parramatta from Mr. Thomas Salter, I am directed to inform you that the Colonial Secretary has approved of the payment of the purchase money, £7,400, and that the Colonial Treasurer has been invited to cause the same to be met from the Advance Account, and provision made on the Supplementary Estimates.

I have, &c.,

CRITCHETT WALKER,
Principal Under Secretary.

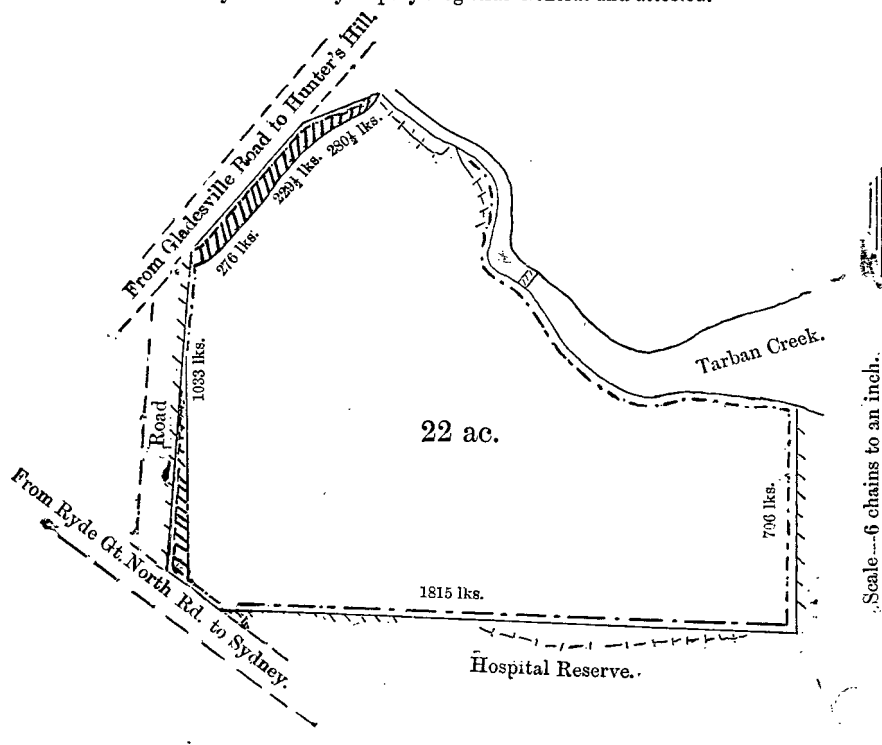
APPENDIX A.


ABSTRACT of the Title of Thomas Salter to land at Hunter's Hill.

17 June, 1885—Vol. 744, folio 162.

CERTIFICATE of Title in favour of Thomas Salter, to 22 acres of land in the parish of Hunter's Hill, county of Cumberland, excepting thereout the land coloured yellow on plan, which said parcel of land is shown on plan thereon and edged red.

Duly executed by Deputy Registrar-General and attested.



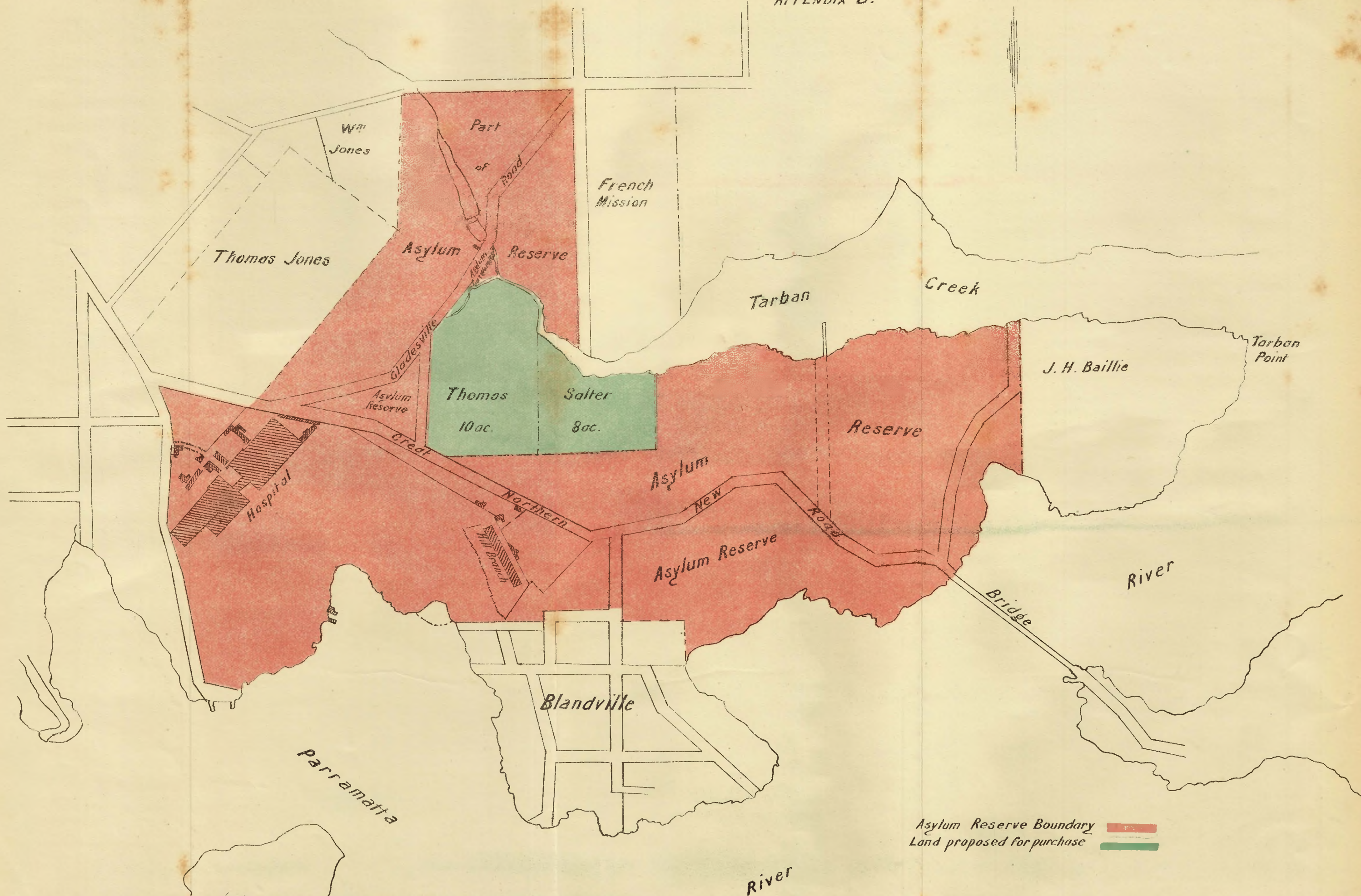
The part coloured yellow on original diagram is here shown thus 

Red edging shown thus 

[1 Plan.]

Sydney: Charles Potter, Government Printer.—1888.

APPENDIX B.



Asylum Reserve Boundary
 Land proposed for purchase

(Sig 309)

1888-9.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

THEATRICAL LICENSES.

(AMENDED FORMS OF, AND REGULATIONS RESPECTING.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 15 January, 1889.

Minute for The Executive Council.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 23 June, 1887.

License for Theatrical Performances in Buildings, &c.

I RECOMMEND to His Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council the approval of the minute submitted by me to a meeting of the Cabinet on the 20th June instant (herewith marked A), as prescribing the conditions for the issue of theatrical licenses, and also for orders of permission in certain cases for religious services and concerts to be held on Sundays in buildings so licensed. I also recommend, under the opinion of the Attorney-General, the form of license (herewith marked B) as the form of theatrical license to be issued in future. I further recommend the form of order of permission (herewith marked C) as the form of order of permission to be issued for religious services or concerts on Sundays in buildings licensed by the Colonial Secretary.

HENRY PARKES.

A.

Minute by The Colonial Secretary.

REFERRING to my course of action on the 11th instant in stopping certain entertainments and lectures in the theatres, I desire to submit to the Cabinet the following suggestions:—

1st.—That the license for theatrical representations in buildings issued by the Colonial Secretary should be strictly limited to the six working days of the week, exclusive of Sunday.

2nd.—That, on application from the proprietors or lessees of theatres or other buildings holding licenses, the Colonial Secretary may, under such conditions and restrictions as he shall think fit, grant permission for religious services in connection with Christian churches, or sacred concerts, or concerts not objectionable on moral grounds, to be held in licensed buildings on Sundays.

3rd.—That the Government is not called upon to authorize, by either its license or permission, the delivery of public lectures, and the persons interested in the delivery of any such lectures should be left to make their own arrangements, subject to the laws of the country.

HENRY PARKES,

20/6/87.

Cabinet approve.—H.P., 20/6/87.

B.



LICENSE FOR THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES IN BUILDINGS, &c.

WHEREAS by an Act of the Governor and Legislative Council of New South Wales, passed in the 14th year of the Reign of Her present Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled "*An Act to amend the Law for Regulating Places of Public Exhibition and Entertainment*," certain penalties and liabilities are imposed in respect of, and in relation to the Theatrical Entertainments and Exhibitions hereinafter particularly mentioned, to which admission shall or may be procured by payment of money, or by tickets, or by any other means, token, or consideration, as the price, hire, or rent of admission in case the Theatre, House, Room,

Room, Building, Garden, or place wherein the same shall be acted, represented, performed, or exhibited, shall be without the written authority or License of the Colonial Secretary; and whereas

of _____ has applied to me to grant to him a License and authority to give Public Exhibitions and Entertainments in the said Colony under and in pursuance of the provisions of the said Act: Now I, the Honorable

Colonial Secretary for the time being of the Colony of New South Wales, in virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the said Act, do hereby grant unto the said

a License to give Public Exhibitions and Entertainments under and in pursuance of the Provisions of the said Act, on the Premises known as

_____ situated in the _____ of _____ and wherein it shall be lawful for him to act, represent, or perform, or cause to be acted, represented, or performed, for hire, gain, or reward, on such day or days in every week as he may think proper, any Interlude, Tragedy, Opera, Comedy, Stage Play, Farce, Burletta, Melodrama, Pantomime, or any Stage Dancing, Tumbling, or Horsemanship, or any other Entertainment of the Stage whatsoever: Provided that such Theatre, House, Room, Building, Garden, or place used by the person so licensed shall not be used for any performance or purpose whatsoever on Sundays, Good Friday, or Christmas Day, without special permission being first obtained for the particular day and purpose fully specified in written application to the Colonial Secretary: And I declare and direct that this License shall continue in force for the period of _____ calendar months, unless the same shall be sooner revoked by the Colonial Secretary for the time being of the said Colony.

Given under my hand at the Colonial Secretary's Office, at Sydney, this _____ day of _____ in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-

Colonial Secretary.

C.

PERMISSION TO USE LICENSED THEATRES AND BUILDINGS ON SUNDAYS.

SUBJECT to the Regulations passed by the Governor-in-Council so far as they apply in such case, I, the Colonial Secretary of New South Wales, do hereby authorize you to use the building known as _____ for the purpose of holding _____ on Sunday,

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 188 .

Colonial Secretary.

Minute of The Executive Council.

THE Executive Council advise that the course herein recommended, with respect to issue of Licenses for Theatrical Performances, and orders of permission in certain cases for Religious Services and Concerts on Sundays, be approved.

2. The Council also advise that the form of Theatrical License and form of Order of Permission for Religious Services or Concerts on Sundays be approved.

ALEX. C. BUDGE,
Clerk of the Council.

Approved.—CARRINGTON, 24/6/87. Min. 87-38, 24/6/87. Confirmed—28/6/87.

Minute for The Executive Council.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 23 June, 1887.

Regulations for Issue of Theatrical Licenses.

I RECOMMEND the accompanying Amended Regulations for the issue of Theatrical Licenses for the approval of the Governor-in-Council in substitution of those published in the Government Gazette of the 14th November, 1884.

HENRY PARKES.

[Enclosure.]

REGULATIONS FOR ISSUE OF THEATRICAL LICENSES.

1. Before a theatrical license is granted for any building, it shall be determined, after the report of the Colonial Architect, the number of persons that can be safely and conveniently seated in the building. The area for each individual not to be less than four square feet.

2. Every application for a license shall state the number of seats in each section of the auditorium, and such seats shall be marked with consecutive numbers.

3. Every such application shall be accompanied by plans giving the above particulars, also showing the position of exit doors, stairs, gangways, fireplugs, buckets, hose, and gascocks, with such other information as may be required.

4. Copies of the above-mentioned plans to be constantly exhibited in the vestibules, and in each section of the theatre, for the information of the public.

5. No deviation from these plans, or alteration in the buildings or arrangements as before referred to, to be permitted during the currency of the license, without sanction in writing from the Colonial Secretary.

6. All gas and other lights throughout the building and its precincts to be efficiently protected by approved fire-guards.

7. The lighting to be under the control of a properly qualified person, and gas-fittings and other lighting apparatus periodically examined. Separate stop-cocks shall be provided for the various divisions of the building, and also stop-cocks in the mains on the outside of the buildings, to admit of the gas being entirely shut off when necessary.

8. A sufficient number of lamps, burning animal or vegetable oil, to be provided within the building and precincts, to prevent panic which might arise from darkness consequent on the sudden extinction of the gas or other lights by accident or otherwise.

9. A sufficient number of buckets, painted red and labelled "Fire-buckets," to be always kept full of water and in such positions as would be most serviceable in cases of emergency, and maintained solely for such purpose.

10. Approved water-hose (with nozzles) to be attached to the water-service pipes ready for instant use, and the employees of the theatres instructed how to act in case of panic in the use of the hose and plugs, and drilled to the performance of firemen's duty, unless members of the Fire Brigade be constantly in attendance.

11. Whenever practicable, a water-tank, of adequate capacity, and with proper appliances, to be fixed at such a height as to command by gravitation the whole of the premises and precincts. Such tanks shall be kept constantly full of water solely for use in case of fire.

12. Intimation to be made by fire-alarm communication to the Fire Brigade Station, Police Office, or such other place as may be directed.

13. Gangways of sufficient width (not less than two feet six inches) to be reserved in convenient lines to facilitate the passage of persons to and from their seats, and such gangways shall not be occupied either by chairs or by persons standing.

14. All carpets or other floor or stair coverings to be kept in good condition, to prevent accident by persons tripping.

15. Strong hand-rails of approved construction to be securely fixed on each side of every stairway.

16. All doors to be constructed to open outwards, and the words "The way out" written upon and over the doors in conspicuous characters; and, in order to accustom the public to these doors, they should be opened for use at the close of every performance.

17. All seats to be securely fixed, and under no circumstances shall chairs or movable seats be placed in the gangways or elsewhere.

18. All holders of theatrical licenses shall maintain their respective theatres and precincts in good repair and in a constant state of cleanliness and ventilation.

19. All licenses for theatres shall be issued subject to such limitations as regards occupation on Sundays as the Colonial Secretary may think fit.

20. An inspector appointed by the Government to be permitted by the lessee to have access at all times to all parts of the building.

HENRY PARKES,
Colonial Secretary.

Minute of The Executive Council.

The Executive Council advise that the Regulations herewith submitted for the issue of theatrical licenses be approved, in lieu of those published on the 14th November, 1884.

ALEX. C. BUDGE,
Clerk of the Council.

Approved.—CARRINGTON, 24/6/87. Min. 87/38.—24/6/87. Confirmed.—28/6/87.

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

TONNAGE ADMEASUREMENT OF NETHERLANDS VESSELS.

(DESPATCH RESPECTING.)

Presented to Parliament by Command.

The Treasury, New South Wales,
16th August, 1888.

His Excellency the Governor directs the publication of the following Circular Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies respecting the Tonnage Admeasurement of Netherlands vessels.

J. F. BURNS.

(Circular.)

Downing-street,
28th May, 1888.

Sir,

With reference to Lord Carnarvon's Circular Despatch of the 19th of November, 1875, I have the honor to transmit to you, for publication in the Colony under your Government, a copy of an Order of the Queen in Council of the 3rd instant (Order in Council, 3rd May, 1888), revoking the Order in Council of the 26th October, 1875, respecting the tonnage admeasurement of Netherlands vessels, and substituting other provisions for the same.

I have, &c.,
KNUTSFORD.

The Officer administering the Government
of New South Wales.

At the Court at Windsor, the 3rd day of May, 1888.

Present:—

The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS by the Merchant Shipping Act Amendment Act, 1862, it is enacted that whenever it is made to appear to Her Majesty that the Rules concerning the measurement of tonnage of merchant ships for the time being in force under the principal Act have been adopted by the Government of any foreign country, and are in force in that country, it shall be lawful for Her Majesty by Order in Council to direct that the ships of such foreign country shall be deemed to be of the tonnage denoted in their certificates of registry or other national papers, and thereupon it shall no longer be necessary for such ships to be remeasured in any port or place in Her Majesty's dominions, but such ships shall be deemed to be of the tonnage denoted in their certificates of registry or other papers in the same manner, to the same extent, and for the same purposes, in, to, and for which the tonnage denoted in the certificates of registry of British ships is to be deemed the tonnage of such ships:

And whereas by the Merchant Shipping Act, 1876, it is enacted that "where Her Majesty has power, under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854," or any Act passed or hereafter to be passed amending the same, to make an Order in Council, it shall be lawful for Her Majesty from time to time to make such Order in Council, and by Order in Council to revoke, alter, or add to any Order so made."

And whereas it was made to appear to Her Majesty that the rules concerning the measurement of tonnage of merchant ships in force under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, had been adopted by the Government of His Majesty the King of the Netherlands, with the exception of a difference in the mode in certain steamers of estimating the allowance for engine-room, and such rules were in force in that country, and came into operation on the 1st day of January, 1876:

And whereas by Order in Council dated the 26th day of October, 1875, Her Majesty was pleased to direct as follows:—

1. As regards sailing ships, that merchant sailing ships of the said Kingdom of the Netherlands, the measurement whereof should, after the said 1st day of January, 1876, have been ascertained and denoted in the registers and other national papers of such sailing ships, testified by the date thereof, should be deemed to be of the tonnage denoted in such registers and other national papers in the same manner, and to the same extent, and for the same purpose, in, to, and for which the tonnage denoted in the certificate of registry of British sailing ships is deemed to be the tonnage of such ships.
2. As regards steam-ships, that merchant ships belonging to the said kingdom of the Netherlands which are propelled by steam or any other power requiring engine-room, the measurement whereof should, after the said 1st day of January, 1876, have been ascertained and denoted in the registers and other national papers of such steam-ships, testified by the dates thereof, should be deemed to be of the tonnage denoted on such registers or other national papers in the same manner, and to the same extent, and for the same purpose in, to, and for which the tonnage denoted in the certificate of registry of British ships is deemed to be the tonnage of such ships: Provided nevertheless, that should the owner or master of any such Dutch steam-ship desire the deduction for engine-room in his ship to be estimated under the rules for engine-room measurement and deduction applicable to British ships instead of under the Dutch rule, the engine-room should be measured and the deduction calculated according to the British rules.

And whereas it has been made to appear to Her Majesty that a new Royal Ordinance, which came into operation on the 6th day of January, 1888, stipulates that the owners of Dutch steam-ships may have the net tonnage of their vessels calculated according to British as well as according to Dutch rules,

and shall have issued to them a separate certificate to be used in foreign countries, showing the net tonnage calculated according to British rules :

And whereas it has been made to appear desirable to Her Majesty that the provisions of the said recited Order in Council of the 26th day of October, 1875, should be revoked, and a new Order in Council made and substituted in lieu thereof :

Now, therefore, Her Majesty, in virtue of the powers vested in Her by the said recited Acts, and by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, is pleased to direct that the said recited Order of the 26th day of October, 1875, shall be and the same is hereby revoked, and in lieu thereof, and in substitution therefor, Her Majesty is hereby pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to direct as follows :—

1. As regards sailing ships, that merchant sailing ships of the said Kingdom of the Netherlands, the measurement whereof, after the said 1st day of January, 1876, has been ascertained and denoted in the registers and other national papers of such sailing ships, testified by the date thereof, shall be deemed to be of the tonnage denoted in such registers and other national papers in the same manner, and to the same extent, and for the same purpose, in, to, and for which the tonnage denoted in the certificate of registry of British sailing ships is deemed to be the tonnage of such ships.

2. As regards steam-ships, that merchant ships belonging to the said Kingdom of the Netherlands which are propelled by steam or any other power requiring engine-room, the measurement whereof shall, after the said 1st day of January, 1876, have been ascertained and denoted in the registers and other national papers of such steam-ships, testified by the dates thereof, shall be deemed to be of the tonnage denoted on such registers or other national papers in the same manner, and to the same extent, and for the same purpose, in, to, and for which the tonnage denoted in the certificate of registry of British ships is deemed to be the tonnage of such ships : Provided nevertheless, that if the owner or master of any such Dutch steam-ship desires the deduction for engine-room in his ship to be estimated under the rules for engine-room measurement and deduction applicable to British ships instead of under the Dutch rule, the engine-room shall be measured and the deduction calculated according to the British rules, and that in the event of any such steam-ship possessing a certificate of tonnage or other national paper issued as aforesaid on or after the 6th day of January, 1888, denoting the net registered tonnage of such ship under the British rules, the ship shall be deemed to be of the tonnage so denoted thereon.

C. L. PEEL.

1888.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

TRADE WITH THE MARSHALL ISLANDS.

(DESPATCH RESPECTING.)

Presented to Parliament by Command.

The Treasury, New South Wales, .
28th August, 1888.

His Excellency the Governor directs the publication for general information, of the following Despatch received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of Trade with the Marshall Islands.

J. F. BURNS.

(Circular.)

Downing-street,
30th June, 1888.

My Lord,

I have the honor to transmit to you, for communication to your Government, a copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, forwarding one from Her Majesty's Consul at San Francisco, on the subject of trade with the Marshall Islands.

I have, &c.,
KNUTSFORD.

Governor, the Right Honourable
Lord Carrington, G.C.M.G.

No. 1.

Sir L. West to the Marquis of Salisbury—(Received May 28.)
(No. 150—Commercial.)
Washington, May 18, 1888.

My Lord,

I have the honor to enclose to your Lordship herewith copy of a Despatch, as well as copy of enclosure, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at San Francisco relative to trade with the Marshall Islands.

I have, &c.,
L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

[Enclosure 1 in No. 1.]
Consul Donohoe to Sir L. West.

San Francisco, May 10, 1888.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose copy of a letter which I received this morning from the Imperial German Consul relative to trade with the Marshall Islands.

There is some trade in schooners from San Francisco with these islands, but the vessels are under the American flag. Upon making inquiries here I find that the vessels under the British flag trading there usually hail from the Australian Colonies.

I have, &c.,
D. DONOHOE.

[Enclosure 2 in No. 1.]

M. Rosenthal to Consul Donohoe.

San Francisco, May 1, 1888.

Sir,

The Imperial German Government has declared the port of Yalint to be the only port of entry of the Marshall Islands.

The masters of those ships which come from any port outside of said islands have to enter the port of Yalint, and to report to the Imperial Commissioner at said last-mentioned port before touching any other one of the said islands.

Any violation of any of the foregoing provisions shall be punishable by fine not exceeding 6,000 marks. This fine may be enforced against the ship and cargo without regard to the owner of the same, and the forfeiture of the ship may be adjudged.

It being desirable that all parties concerned receive timely notice of the foregoing, I would most respectfully request you to have the masters of such ships as are under your official control and may go to the Marshall Islands informed of the above requirements.

I am, &c.,
A. ROSENTHAL,
Imperial German Consul.

C. C. C.

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